2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Meadow Lake (FLY)

Meadow Lake Airport (FLY), the only privately owned and public use general aviation airport in Colorado that is included in the Federal Aviation Administration's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). FLY is located approximately 15 miles northeast of downtown Colorado Springs in El Paso County. FLY is operated by the Meadows Lake Airport Association and serves as the primary general aviation airport for El Paso County. FLY has two runways, 15/33 is an asphalt runway with length of 6,001 feet and runway 08/26 spans 2,126 feet in length and is asphalt and gravel. The airport is designated as a reliever airport to Colorado Springs Municipal Airport (COS) and plays a crucial role in providing general aviation operators a nearby alternative, alleviating congestion at COS. Meadow Lake has approximately 500 based aircraft with a quarter of these aircraft experimental and home built. The airport's strategic location and infrastructure make FLY a popular choice for recreational fliers, aviation businesses, flight training operations, and glider enthusiasts. Meadow Lake Airport is a vital hub for general aviation in the region, supporting a wide range of activities and contributing to the local and statewide aviation network.

Top Activities

- Recreational Flying
- Flight Training
- Military Activities
- Aerial Medical Operations
- Gliders/ Soaring



Economic Impacts of

Meadow Lake (FLY)

Meadow Lake is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how FLY and other airports support economic activity, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Division of Aeronautics undertook the 2025 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study (CEIS). The study determined that FLY generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $54.1 million of total business revenues generated by FLY, $45.5 million were generated by on-airport activities and $8.6 million generated by visitor spending.[1]

248 total jobs

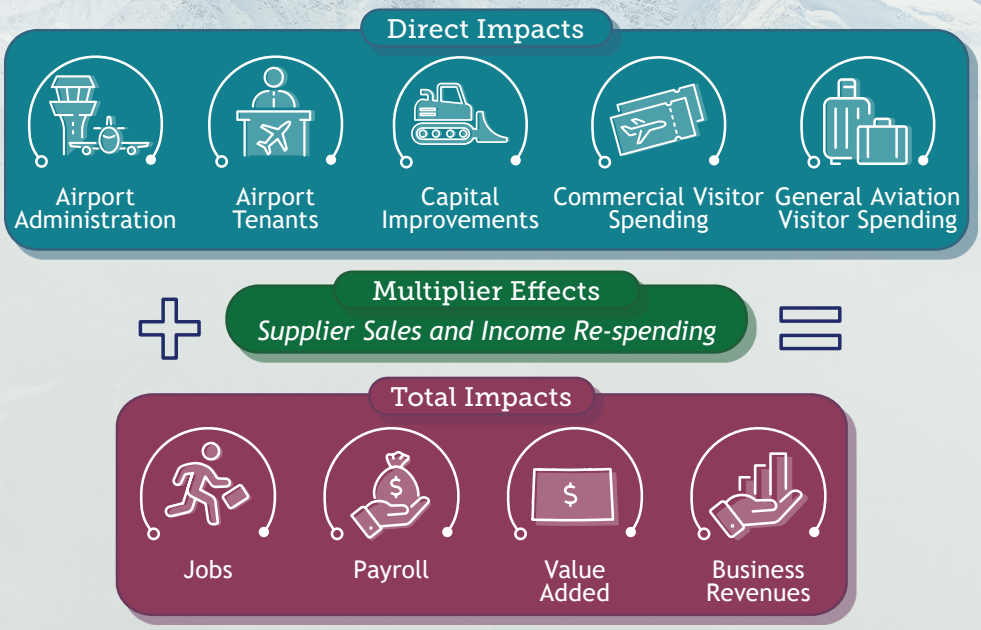
$16.8M total payroll

$29.2M total value added

$54.1M total business revenues

[1] *Totals may not sum due to rounding*

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What is Economic Impact?

Two types of economic impacts are generated as a result of airport activity: Direct Impacts and Multiplier Effects (supplier sales and income re-spending). Direct impacts come from the activities of the airport administration, on-airport tenants, capital improvement spending, and spending by visitors arriving on commercial and general aviation aircraft. Multiplier effects are generated when portions of direct revenues are used to purchase goods and services from Colorado businesses (supplier sales), and when income earned by workers in airport-supported jobs is spent at Colorado businesses (income re-spending). Total Impacts represent the summation of the direct impacts, supplier sales, and income re-spending effects for the state.

Economic Impact Measures

Economic Impacts are communicated by the total jobs, payroll, value added, and business revenues generated by each airport. These are defined as:

Jobs
Total number of people employed, both full-time and part-time.

Payroll
Total employment compensation, including wages, benefits, and taxes paid on behalf of employees.

Value Added
Total contribution to the Gross State Product. It includes all payroll, profits, and business taxes paid.

Business Revenues
Total expenditures for airport administration, capital projects and tenant sales of goods and services, as well as visitor spending in Colorado's hospitality-related sectors. Also referred to as "output," "sales," or "economic activity/impact."

Statewide Aviation Economic Impacts

Colorado's 66 public use airports range from small GA airports to a major international airline hub, all of which contribute to the state's economy. The impacts of on-airport activities and visitor spending associated with each airport, combined with the statewide impacts of off-airport air cargo operations, helped Colorado's aviation system generate $68.9 billion in total economic activity (business revenues) in 2023.

348,466 total jobs

$23.5B total payroll

$40.3B total value added

$68.9B total business revenues

For more information on the Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study, please visit our webpage at *https://www.coloradoaviationsystem.com/*