2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Grand Junction Regional (GJT)

Grand Junction Regional Airport (GJT) is a commercial service airport in western Colorado, located three miles from downtown Grand Junction. GJT is the busiest airport between Denver and Salt Lake City and is used as a gateway to western Colorado and eastern Utah, boasting six national parks within a three-hour drive. The Airport annually serves over half a million passengers, processes 10 million pounds of air cargo, and facilitates 60,000 aircraft operations. GJT is served by four airlines providing passenger flights to destinations around the country. The Airport is home to West Star Aviation, a fixed-base operator (FBO) and maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) provider that is the largest private employer in Mesa County. Each year, thousands of private and corporate jet aircraft fly to GJT to be served by West Star, bringing considerable economic activity to the community. GJT also hosts a large and growing U.S. Wildland Firefighting Air Tanker Base, a National Weather Service Station, two flight schools, and several other aviation businesses. GJT is currently completing a $200 million Capital Improvement Program that includes building a replacement primary runway to support commercial, cargo, and military aircraft. The new runway is anticipated to be completed in 2030.

Top Activities

- Commercial Service
- Aerial Medical Operations
- Aerial/ Wildland Firefighting
- Military Activities
- Flight Training



Economic Impacts of

Grand Junction Regional (GJT)

Grand Junction Regional is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how GJT 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 GJT generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $817.0 million of total business revenues generated by GJT, $692.2 million were generated by on-airport activities and $124.8 million generated by visitor spending.[1]

3,398 total jobs

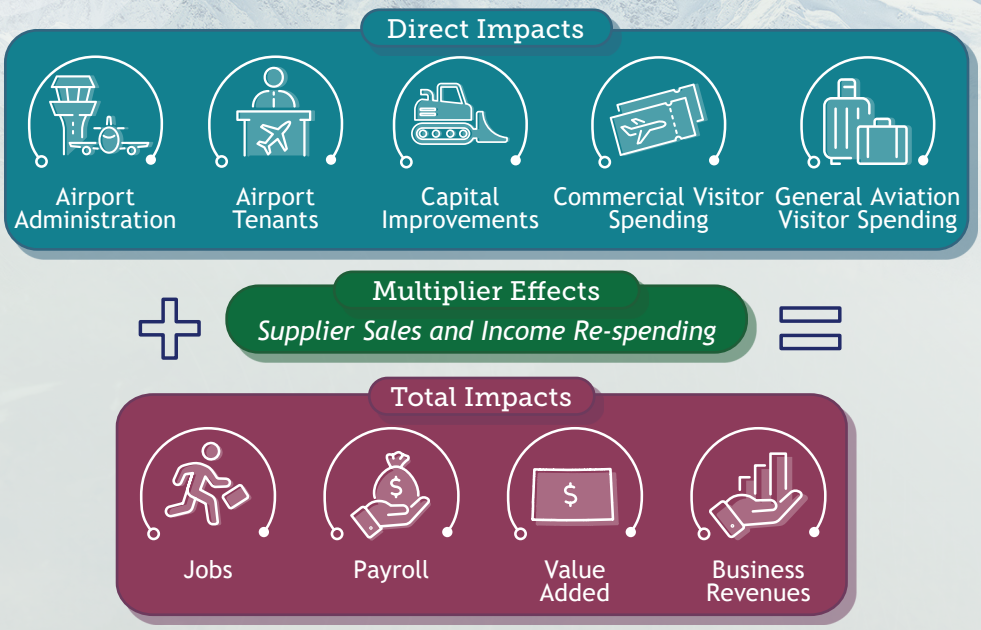
$255.3M total payroll

$445.8M total value added

$817.0M 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/*