2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional (GUC)

Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport (GUC) is a commercial service airport located in the southwestern part of Colorado, located just one mile from downtown Gunnison and 28 miles from the world class ski resort of Crested Butte. During peak season, the airport is served by three different airlines providing service to three different destinations nationwide. The unique positioning of the airport places it right at the start of the only major road going to and from the Crested Butte Ski Resort, making most ski and recreational tourists and other visitors or residents aware of its presence. GUC's geographic location is also an ideal location for aerospace companies to conduct high altitude testing. Situated in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, the airport's elevation of 7,675 feet above sea level provides the perfect conditions for testing aircraft performance and maneuverability at high altitudes. GUC also supports a 9,400-foot-long runway (06/24) and spacious facilities which allow for safe and efficient testing to be conducted. Other operations that are accommodated at the airport include recreational, corporate business, aerial inspection, military, and emergency medical operations.

Top Activities

- Commercial Service
- Corporate/ Business Activity
- Aerial Inspection
- Military Activities
- Aerial Medical Operations



Economic Impacts of

Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional (GUC)

Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how GUC 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 GUC generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $154.9 million of total business revenues generated by GUC, $70.9 million were generated by on-airport activities and $84.1 million generated by visitor spending.[1]

958 total jobs

$54.5M total payroll

$91.9M total value added

$154.9M total business revenues

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

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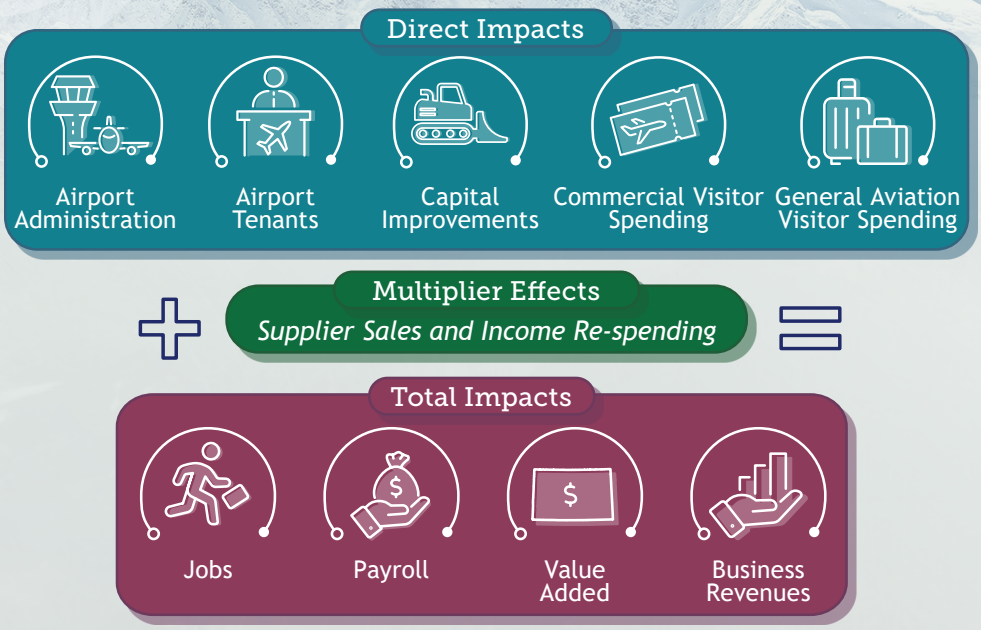

What is Economic Impact?

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/*