2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Kit Carson County (ITR)

In the eastern plains town of Burlington, Kit Carson County Airport (ITR) is a vital lifeline that supports the community of just over 3,000 residents. Serving as a crucial airport for healthcare transport, ITR enables swift air ambulance services and provides a gateway for doctors delivering specialized care to the area. Beyond healthcare, the airport plays an important role in supporting the local economy. Aerial agricultural applicators use the airport to ensure crops are efficiently treated, while companies involved in construction, ranching, and energy rely on the airport for business travel and logistics. This connectivity is essential for sustaining the diverse industries that drive the local economy. From a recreational perspective, the airport attracts hunters from across the region who use ITR as a convenient entry point to explore Burlington's abundant outdoor opportunities. This influx of visitors further enriches the community's vibrancy. For Burlington's residents, Kit Carson County Airport is more than a transportation hub, it is an essential asset that embodies the spirit of rural living. ITR provides vital healthcare access, sustains economic activity, and promotes tourism, enhancing the overall quality of life and solidifying its importance in the Colorado aviation system.

Top Activities

- Agricultural Application
- Aerial Medical Operations
- Corporate/ Business Activity
- Recreational Activities
- Aerial Inspection



Economic Impacts of

Kit Carson County (ITR)

Kit Carson County is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how ITR 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 ITR generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $3.9 million of total business revenues generated by ITR, $3.3 million were generated by on-airport activities and $649 thousand generated by visitor spending.[1]

28 total jobs

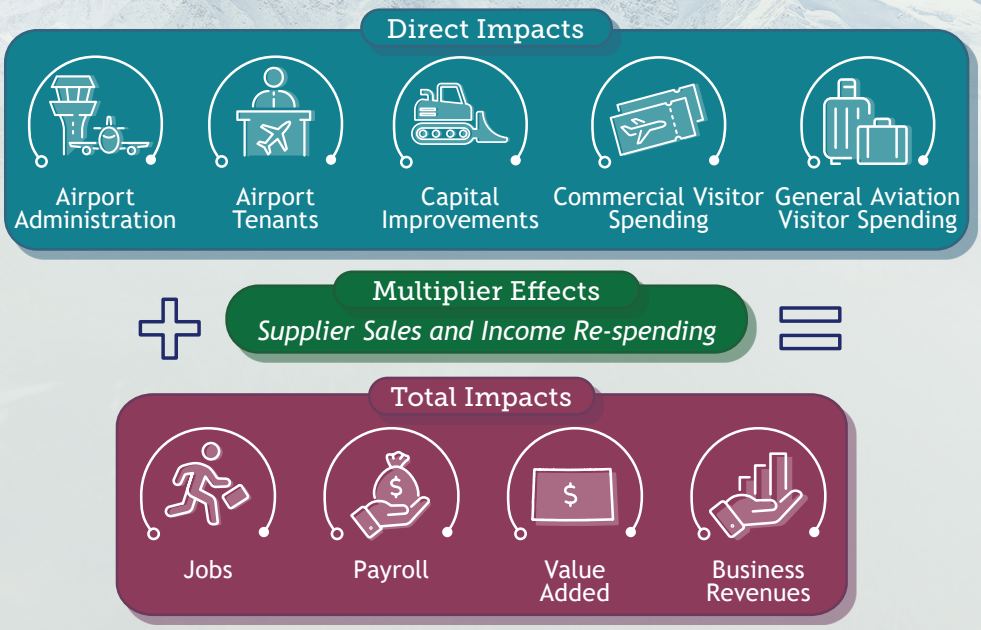
$1.5M total payroll

$2.3M total value added

$3.9M 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/*