2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Lake County (LXV)

Lake County Airport (LXV) is a general aviation airport in the central Rocky Mountains, located two miles southwest of Leadville. The airport is owned and operated by Lake County. With a field elevation of 9,934 feet, LXV is the highest elevation airport in North America. The airport has leveraged its high elevation to transform into a hub for aircraft performance testing, as aircraft manufacturers such as Bell Helicopters, Airbus, and Cessna come to LXV to test new aircraft and technologies. Military helicopters from the nearby Colorado Army National Guard High-Altitude Aviation Training Site (HAATS) also use LXV for training in a 'high, hot, and heavy' environment. Visiting pilots can earn a certificate for landing at North America's highest airport, making LXV a popular destination for transient recreational flying and flight training activities. During the summer months, high-altitude training crews conduct operations for multiple weeks or even months at a time, providing additional economic benefits to Leadville and surrounding area. LXV can support year-round traffic from piston aircraft to midsize jets and facilities at the airport include a fixed-based operator (FBO), snow removal equipment building, and 11,000-square-foot hangar. The airport also supports occasional aerial/wildland firefighting and emergency medical evacuations.

Top Activities

- Recreational Flying
- Military Activities
- Flight Training
- Corporate/ Business Activity
- Flight Testing



Economic Impacts of

Lake County (LXV)

Lake County is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how LXV 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 LXV generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $5.8 million of total business revenues generated by LXV, $5.2 million were generated by on-airport activities and $574 thousand generated by visitor spending.[1]

32 total jobs

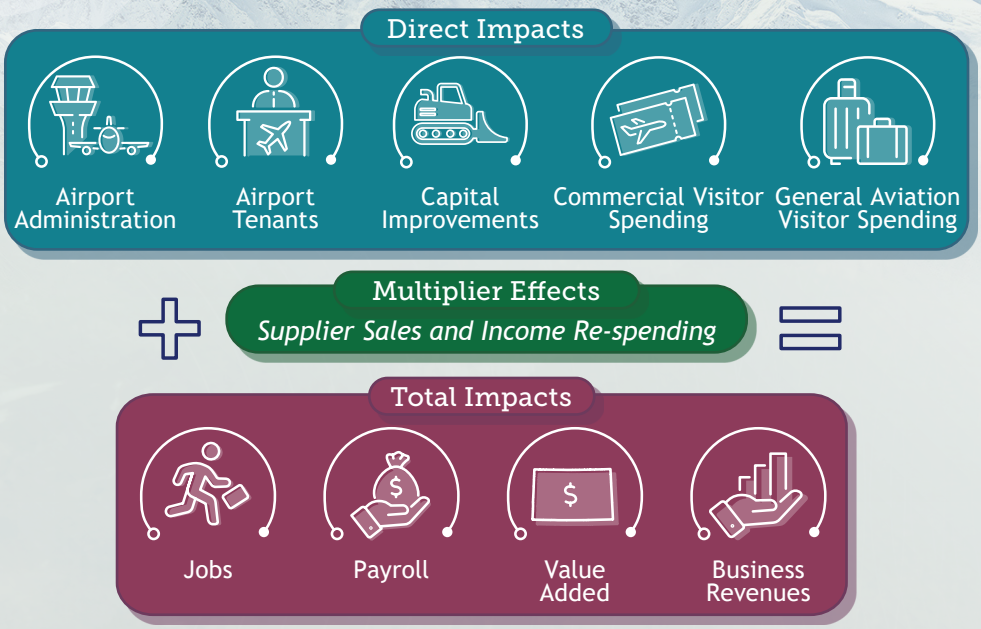
$2.0M total payroll

$3.1M total value added

$5.8M 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/*