2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Montrose Regional (MTJ)

Montrose Regional Airport (MTJ) lies at the base of the majestic San Juan Mountains in southwest Colorado. The airport is served by four airlines that fly to five different destinations across the country with three having service year-round. MTJ offers commercial and general aviation visitors quick access to spectacular hiking, fishing, camping, golfing, skiing, theaters, museums, hotels, and delicious Colorado cuisine. In addition to commercial service operations, the airport also supports military flight training operations and the annual Colorado Tribute to Aviation event. The airport completed a $40 million north terminal expansion project, providing numerous jobs and capital spending from planning through implementation. The economic benefits of Montrose Regional Airport extend beyond the direct impact on tourism and hospitality. The airport also plays a crucial role in supporting local businesses and industries by providing convenient air transportation for both passengers and cargo. This accessibility enhances the region's connectivity to national and international markets, facilitating trade and business opportunities.

Top Activities

- Commercial Service
- Recreational Activities
- Corporate/ Business Activity
- Recreational Flying
- Military Activities



Economic Impacts of

Montrose Regional (MTJ)

Montrose Regional is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how MTJ 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 MTJ generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $713.1 million of total business revenues generated by MTJ, $221.5 million were generated by on-airport activities and $491.6 million generated by visitor spending.[1]

4,323 total jobs

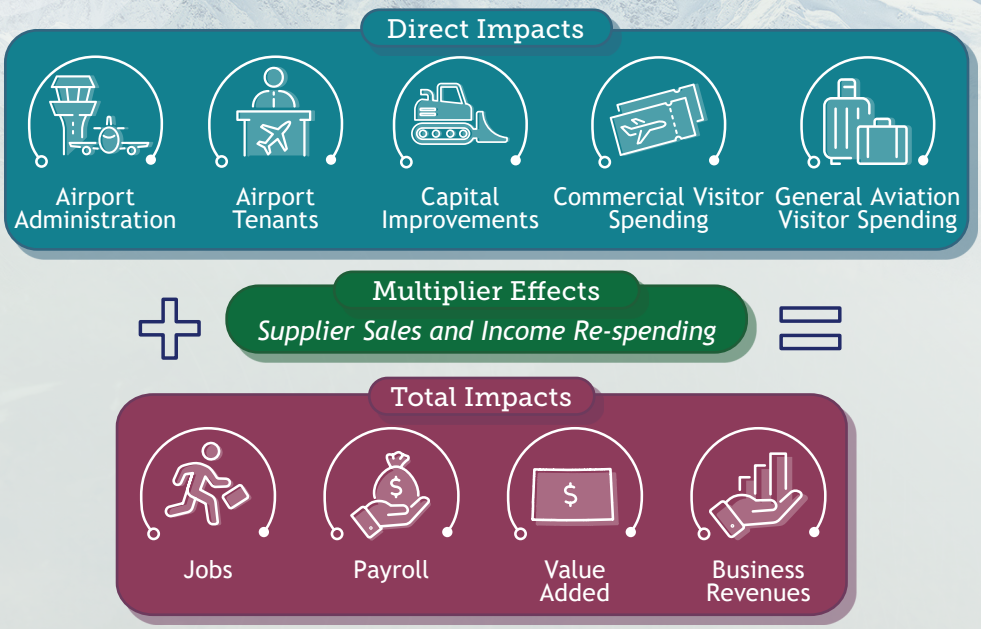
$231.0M total payroll

$421.5M total value added

$713.1M 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/*