2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Sterling Municipal (STK)

Located three miles west of the City of Sterling, Sterling Municipal Airport (STK) serves northeastern Colorado's general aviation needs. STK has two runways, 15/33 is 5,210 feet and 04/22 is a turf/gravel runway with a length of 2,809 feet. Aerial seeding operations are conducted from the airport on an annual basis to the benefit of farmers of northeast Colorado and the companies they supply. This operation plays a significant part in ensuring the success of the numerous crops of northeastern Colorado. Due to the airport's rural location, the airport also hosts frequent transient flight training activities for students seeking an uncongested airport and airspace. STK has a recognized aerobatic box which allows pilots to practice their flying skills. STK also hosts an annual three-day aerobatic competition for the International Aerobatics Club. The City of Sterling serves as the airport's fixed-base operator has plans to further develop the airport's infrastructure including rehabilitating the apron to accommodate business and military turbine aircraft and flight for life services.

Top Activities

- Flight Training
- Aerial Medical Operations
- Agricultural Application
- Corporate/ Business Activity
- Aircraft Maintenance



Economic Impacts of

Sterling Municipal (STK)

Sterling Municipal is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how STK 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 STK generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $11.3 million of total business revenues generated by STK, $10.3 million were generated by on-airport activities and $995 thousand generated by visitor spending.[1]

48 total jobs

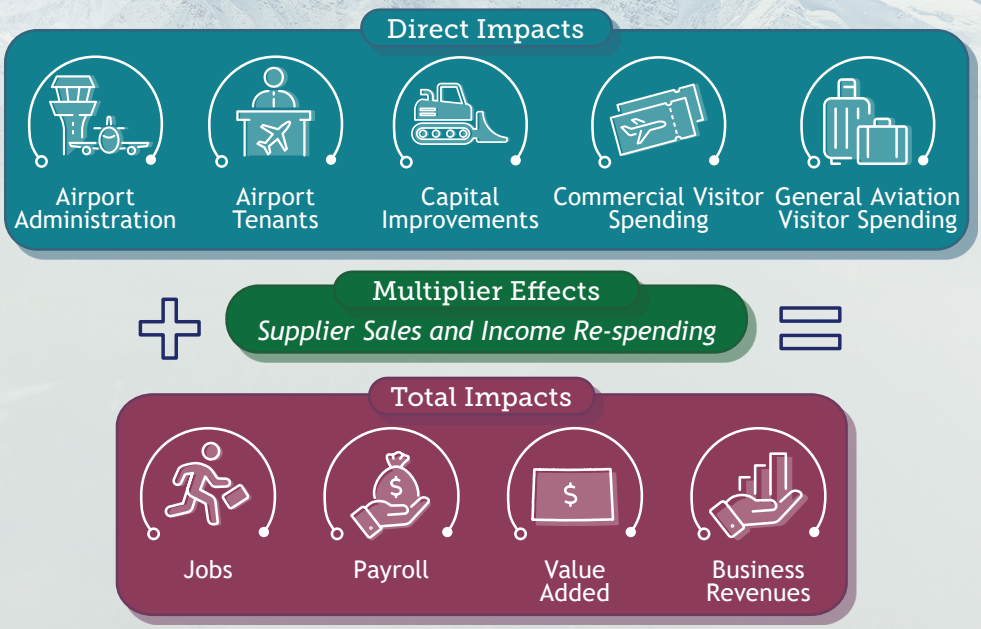
$3.8M total payroll

$5.9M total value added

$11.3M 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/*