



Big Timber Airport



2016 Economic Impact Study for
MONTANA AIRPORTS

MONTANA
MDT ★
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Montana's Airports Support Our State

Montana's airports play an integral role in our transportation system by providing access to destinations within the state, throughout the country, and across the globe. Airports also offer significant economic benefits to our communities by supporting jobs; generating payroll; paying taxes; and triggering spending at local, regional, and state levels.

The importance of airports goes beyond transportation and economics. Airports offer services and other attributes of value that cannot always be easily measured in dollars and cents. Residents and visitors use airports for leisure and business travel, and airports serve as the base for a wide range of critical activities such as wildland firefighting, search and rescue operations, and training for future aviators. Airports are the starting point for aircraft that conduct utility inspections, provide medical evacuation services, and transport staff and executives for business activity.

To better understand the value of Montana's airports from the perspective of both economics and community benefits, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) conducted a comprehensive study of the state's aviation facilities. The study analyzed the contributions of the Montana airport system, including aviation-related and non-aviation-related businesses, visitor spending, capital expenditures on construction, and additional spin-off (or "multiplier") effects. The study also examined specific activities and uses at each airport to identify how these facilities support Montana's residents and visitors.

Methodology

This study expresses the economic benefits of Montana's airports in terms of jobs, payroll, and total annual economic impact derived from the activities that occur at aviation facilities. Direct impacts include those from on-airport businesses, construction-related activities, and spending from visitors who travel through an airport. Airports host on-airport businesses that serve aircraft or passengers such as:

- Administration
- Military
- Airlines
- Maintenance
- Parking
- Concessions
- Car rental
- General aviation
- Air tours
- Air cargo

Additionally, airside and landside construction projects require continuous investments, many of which are high-dollar, long-term undertakings. Because commercial service and general aviation airports are essential to visitors' abilities to conduct business or vacation in Montana, airports support the hospitality industry through lodging, restaurant, retail, and entertainment spending.

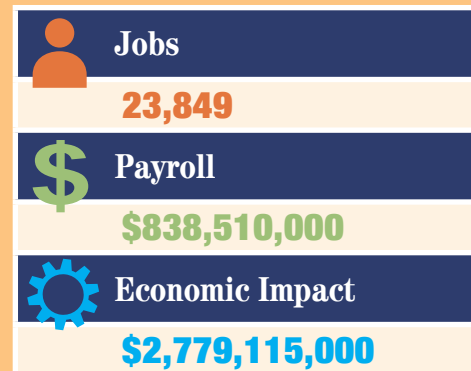
Airports' direct impacts also have spin-off effects throughout Montana, as dollars spent at an airport and by visitors off-airport are re-spent locally, regionally, and statewide. Spin-off effects are caused when a portion of direct business revenues are used to purchase goods and services in Montana (i.e., indirect effects) and when the portion of revenues paid as wages to workers are spent within the state (i.e., induced effects).

Combined, direct impacts and spin-off effects compose the total contribution of an individual airport and determine the statewide impact of Montana's airport system.



STATEWIDE IMPACTS

Aviation is a vital key to Montana's economic activity and transportation network. The public-use airports in the state contribute:



DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS

On-Airport
\$1,005,000

Construction
\$225,000

Visitor Spending
\$140,000



650 TOTAL IMPACTS

12

\$513,000

\$2,176,000

The total impacts section features three icons: a person icon with the number 12, a green dollar sign icon with \$513,000, and a blue gear icon with \$2,176,000.

- Agricultural Spraying
- Aerial/Wildland Firefighting
- Emergency Medical Aviation

Big Timber Airport



Big Timber Airport (650) is located three miles southwest of Big Timber in sweet Grass County, Montana. With a population of 1,700, the Town of Big Timber is positioned along Interstate 90 in the valley formed by the confluence of the Boulder and Yellowstone rivers. The town is nestled between the Crazy Mountains to the north and west and the Absaroka Mountains to the south.

Big Timber Airport is primarily used for recreational and charter flights for travelers visiting ranches in the area. Yellowstone Air Service, the airfield's sole tenant, supports these efforts with charter flights, aircraft maintenance, fuel sales, and other services such as agricultural spraying and manufacturing. The runway is sufficiently long to support corporate jet companies like Net Jet and Flex Jet. Other activities at the airfield include aerial wildland firefighting and emergency medical flights.

Like many other small general aviation airports in Montana, Big Timber Airport offers a gateway to the rest of the state in an otherwise isolated region.

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With additional support provided by EDR Group,
KLJ Engineering, and the University of Montana.



This document is printed at state expense. Information on the cost of producing this publication may be obtained by contacting the Department of Administration.