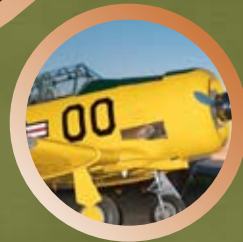


COLUMBUS AIRPORT – COLUMBUS

QUALITATIVE BENEFITS

In addition to the benefits described above, Columbus Airport offers a variety of qualitative benefits to the area. The most common activity at the airport is recreational flying by itinerant pilots and by local owners of the airport's 29 based aircraft. Itinerant pilots use the airport as a gateway for recreational activities, due to the airport's close proximity to Gallatin National Forest, Custer National Forest, and Yellowstone National Park. Itinerant pilots also regularly fly into the airport to dine at cafes, stay at local hotels, or visit shops in Columbus, as the town is an easy walk from the airport. The airport is seen as a community center to Columbus. Each Fourth of July, the airport hosts fireworks that last for four days.

Another activity at Columbus Airport is flight training, which takes place on a daily basis. Other activities that occur on an occasional basis are law enforcement operations, aerial inspections, emergency medical evacuation, patient transfer, aerial firefighting, and aerial photography or surveying. FAA data reveal that destinations from Columbus Airport include other Montana airports in Missoula and Helena, but also out of state locations in Bismarck, North Dakota and even as far as away as Florida.



Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue | PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001
406.444.6200

Prepared by
WilburSmith
ASSOCIATES

COLUMBUS AIRPORT COLUMBUS



M O N T A N A
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS STUDY

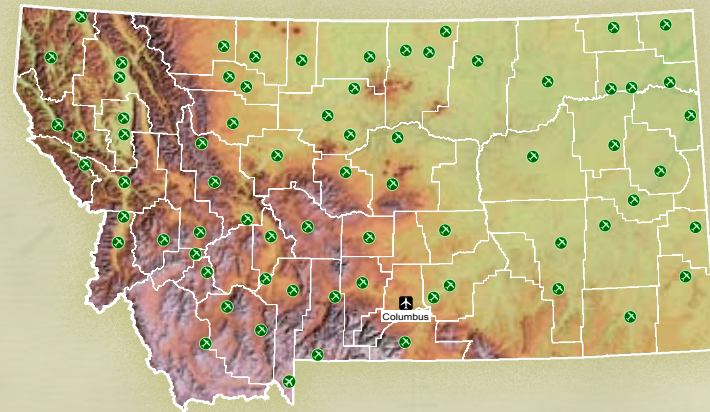
COLUMBUS AIRPORT – COLUMBUS

AIRPORT LOCATION

Columbus Airport is located less than one mile southeast of Columbus, Montana, in Stillwater County. Situated in the foothills of the Beartooth Mountains and at the confluence of the Stillwater and Yellowstone Rivers, Columbus offers plenty of outdoor recreation activities, including whitewater rafting, fishing, and camping at Itch-Kep-Pe Park. History buffs will enjoy exploring the Museum of the Beartooths to learn about the history of the Columbus area. The Yellowstone ecosystem is in close proximity to Columbus and can be accessed via the scenic route comprised of Montana Highway 78 and US Highway 212, which traverses the Beartooth Pass. Columbus is the county seat of Stillwater County.

Columbus has a population of approximately 1,930. Major employers in the area include Stillwater Mining Company, Montana Silversmiths, Stillwater County, and Stillwater Community Hospital.

The 120-acre airport's primary runway, Runway 10/28, measures 3,800 feet in length and 75 feet in width. The airport, with 33 based aircraft, experiences approximately 9,050 aircraft operations annually.



STATEWIDE RESULTS

Economic benefits in the Montana Economic Impact of Airports Study are expressed in terms of jobs, payroll, and annual economic activity or output.

Jobs/Employment

An estimated 18,800 jobs in Montana are in some way supported by the commercial and general aviation airports. These are jobs that are associated with on-airport businesses, tenants, and other activities that are located on commercial or general aviation airports in the State. In addition, spending by visitors arriving in Montana by air helps to support other jobs. When airport improvements are made, additional jobs are supported by the airports over the duration of these projects.

Payroll/Earnings

The 18,800 jobs in Montana that are linked to the commercial and general aviation airports account for over \$600 million in annual payroll. Airport related payroll is a key component of the economic benefit cycle that starts at the airport. It was this economic cycle that was measured by this study's induced benefits. When those employed by on-airport businesses use their paycheck to

purchase groceries, new clothes, or household items, their spending helps to support other jobs in the community and the payroll associated with these jobs. The initial benefits that start at the airports continue to multiply once they enter the State's economy.

Annual Economic Activity/Output

To operate Montana's airports, businesses located on the airports and businesses that support visitors who arrive in Montana via the airports all require the purchase of goods and services. These expenditures are most often in addition to those benefits identified in the payroll and earnings category. Benefits in this category are expressed in this study as total annual economic activity or output. Annual economic output related to the airports is typically assumed to be the sum of annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures, including capital improvement projects.

JOBS..... 18,800

PAYROLL.....\$600 MILLION

OUTPUT.....\$1.56 BILLION

MONTANA ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS STUDY

ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Economic impacts at an airport are measured through employment, payroll, and output (spending). On-airport business and government activities (direct impacts) account for a significant portion of an airport's first-round economic benefits. Additional first-round benefits are also linked to visitors who arrive via the State's system of airports (indirect impacts). Spending by these visitors supports additional employment and associated annual payroll. These first-round impacts create additional spin-off benefits that ripple through the economy. These second-round or induced benefits were measured with Montana-specific IMPLAN multipliers. When combined, first-round and second-round benefits equal the total economic impact associated with each airport.

First-Round Impact

In 2008, there was one aviation-related tenant located on the airport. This tenant functions as the as the FBO and as airport management for the airport sponsor. In order to preserve tenant confidentiality, total tenant and visitor impacts have been combined. This tenant's direct employment, payroll, and output impacts were derived from survey data. For 2008, the total combined first-round output stemming from all on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors to Columbus Airport was approximately \$361,200. Total first-round full-time employment related to airport tenants and general aviation visitors is estimated at seven persons with a total first-round payroll of approximately \$182,200 annually. Survey data indicated that approximately 2,130 visitors used the airport in 2008.

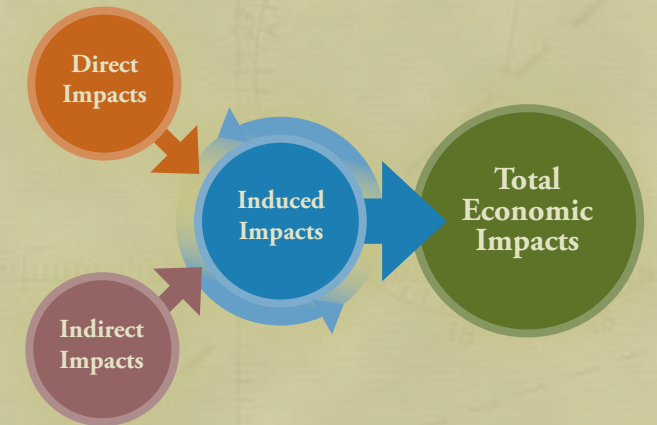
Second-Round Impact

The first-round impacts associated with on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors also create second-round impacts throughout the State. Second-round impacts are induced impacts calculated using the Montana specific IMPLAN multipliers. The accompanying table presents the 2008 first-round, second-round, and total impacts for output, payroll, and employment as they relate to on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors.

Total Impact

For 2008, the total output (including first-round and second-round impacts) stemming from all on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors to Columbus Airport was approximately \$589,000. Total full-time employment related to airport tenants and general aviation visitors, including all second-round impacts, is estimated at approximately 11 persons, with a total annual payroll (first-round and second-round) of approximately \$300,900 associated with these jobs.

METHODOLOGY



AIRPORT SUMMARY TABLE

FIRST-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

On-Airport	Visitor Spending
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAA, Other Government • Airport Management • Aircraft maintenance • Vendors • Retail & Restaurant • Car Rental • Parking • Other Ground Transportation • Fixed Based Operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotels • Retail & Restaurants • Travel Agents • Convention Centers • Tourist Destinations
7.0 Jobs \$182,200 in Payroll \$361,200 in Economic Output	

SECOND-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppliers of Materials & Services to Airports • Air Dependent Businesses • Visitor Dependent Businesses • Consumer Product and Service Sales
3.5 Jobs \$118,700 in Payroll \$227,800 in Economic Output

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

10.5 Jobs \$300,900 in Wages \$589,000 in Economic Activity
--