



# Baker Municipal 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**  
**\$2,189,000**

**Construction**  
**\$1,522,000**

**Visitor Spending**  
**\$999,000**



**SPIN-OFF ECONOMIC EFFECT**  
**\$4,710,000**

## BHK TOTAL IMPACTS

An infographic box containing three elements: a person icon with the number '57', a green dollar sign icon with '\$2,106,000', and a blue gear icon with '\$7,818,000'.

Agricultural Spraying



Corporate/ Business Activity



Aerial/Wildland Firefighting



Emergency Medical Aviation



Police/Law Enforcement



# Baker Municipal Airport



Baker Municipal Airport (BHK) is a general aviation airport located one mile southeast of Baker in Fallon County, Montana.

Fallon County is in the eastern region of the state near the North and South Dakota borders. Like many areas in Montana, Baker offers plentiful outdoor recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, and hiking. Baker Lake is adjacent to the city, drawing locals for all types of recreational activities.

Baker Municipal Airport is an all-weather airport that can support a wide variety of aircraft with multiple instrument approaches and a 6,000-foot, grooved-surface runway. Since the 1930s, the oil and gas industries have been the primary economic bases of the region. These industries frequently utilize Baker Municipal Airport and operate more than 650 business jet operations annually.

Baker Municipal Airport also serves emergency medical flights necessitated by the limited services offered at the local hospital. Other activities at the airport consist of:

- Aerial pipeline patrol by Baker Air Service
- Agricultural spraying
- Search and rescue
- Aerial surveying and firefighting
- Public charters

Because Baker Municipal Airport is the only public transportation system available to reach the city, the community is heavily reliant on the airport to provide access to this otherwise remote area. The airport serves hunters and world-class cowboys drawn to the annual Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Rodeo. It also hosts periodic airshows.

Providing critical gateway to the region and serving as an important link in the regional economy, Baker Municipal Airport is an invaluable asset to the Baker community.

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