



Ronan Airport

2016 Economic Impact Study for
MONTANA AIRPORTS



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
\$4,299,000

Construction
\$122,000

Visitor Spending
\$166,000



750 TOTAL IMPACTS

84
\$4,045,000
\$7,999,000

A box containing three icons: a person icon with the number '84', a green dollar sign icon with '\$4,045,000', and a blue gear icon with '\$7,999,000'.

Agricultural Spraying



Corporate/ Business Activity



Aerial/Wildland Firefighting



Military Exercise/ Training



Emergency Medical Aviation



Police/Law Enforcement



Ronan Airport



Ronan Airport (750) is a general aviation airport three miles north of Ronan in Lake County, Montana. The airport is in the northwest region of the state 12 miles south of Flathead Lake along Highway 93.

Ronan Airport primarily serves local general aviation traffic, as well aircraft serving visitors traveling to Flathead Lake during the tourist season. The airport is home to the CSKT Tribe Fire Fighting Base, which is active with single-engine and helicopter aircrafts from April through September (depending on the fire season). The airport also serves as a pick-up or drop-off point for fixed- or rotary-wing air ambulance flight operations year-round. A parachuting operation on the airfield offers single and tandem jumps during the spring and summer months. One flight training company operates on the airfield from spring to early winter. The airport offers self-service credit card 100LL and Jet-A fuel for sale 24 hours a day, along with three airport cars and a pilot's lounge next to the fuel farm. An agricultural spraying operation is based at the airfield that flies from spring to fall. The airport also hosts Young Eagles flights for the public each spring, which positivity reflects on aviation within the community.

Like many small general aviation airports in Montana, Ronan Airport provides an accommodating destination for local recreational and utility aircraft operations in the area.

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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.