Stevensville 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:

Jobs
23,849

Payroll
$838,510,000

Economic Impact
$2,779,115,000

DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS

On-Airport
$3,374,000

Construction
$314,000

Visitor Spending
$1,380,000

Agricultural Spraying

Corporate/ Business Activity

Aerial/Wildland Firefighting

Emergency Medical Aviation

Police/Law Enforcement

SPIN-OFF ECONOMIC EFFECT
$5,068,000

32S TOTAL IMPACTS

68

$1,933,000

$7,780,000

Stevensville Airport

Stevensville Airport (32S) is a general aviation airport located two miles northeast of Stevensville in Ravalli County, Montana. The airport is nestled in a valley in the heart of the Rocky Mountains 14 miles from the Idaho border. Stevensville is an outdoorsperson's paradise, drawing visitors from all directions.

Stevensville Airport supports numerous aviation activities, including recreational flying, agricultural spraying, corporate and business aviation, environmental patrol, aerial surveying and inspections, aerial wildland firefighting, flight training, and emergency medical flights. Backcountry pilots and aircraft use the airport to access hunting, fishing, and rafting in the region, and many professionals use the facility and its aircraft to expand their business reaches. The Stevensville Airport also plays an important role in the U.S. Forest Service's firefighting heli-attack operation due to its location in the Bitterroot Valley.

The airport is home to an active chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). Each year, the EAA and Stevensville Airport host an open house and fly-in to showcase the airport and the town. The EAA also organizes multiple Young Eagles weekend flying events during the summer to expose youth to aviation.

Stevensville Airport hosts tenants including Aircraft Structural Repairs, Inc.; Bitterroot Aviation; Blue Sky MT, LLC; Choice Aviation, LLC; Western Montana Aviation, LLC; and Mountain Aero. These tenants provide services such as aircraft metal fabrication, flight training, aircraft maintenance, hangar rentals, and charter flights.

Like many general aviation airports in Montana, Stevensville Airport supports its local community and serves as a gateway to an otherwise remote location.

MDT

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