ECONOMIC IMPACT OF
Covington Municipal Airport
Statewide Economic Impact Study

The Georgia Department of Transportation commissioned this Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-funded study to quantify the economic contribution of the state’s airport system using an FAA-approved methodology of survey data and modeling estimates. The economic impacts are categorized by on-airport, visitor, and multiplier impacts to measure the total jobs, payroll, and total economic output of each of the 104 airports in this study.

The economic benefits calculated for each of the airports was based on comprehensive survey data provided by airport managers, airport tenants, non-aviation businesses who utilize the airport, and airport visitors. The multiplier effect of these direct impacts was calculated using Georgia-specific regional multipliers. For example, if an airport employee purchases groceries, those dollars may support a grocer’s payroll, the grocer may spend money on child care, and so on, until those payroll dollars originating from airport activity leave the community and state. The spending and re-spending generates additional economic activity in the region.

The total economic impact of $62.6 billion is the sum of all direct airport and visitor impacts combining with the multiplier effects and presented in terms of jobs, payroll, and total economic output.

Georgia Airports Mean Business

Georgia’s airport system of 104 publicly-owned, public-use airports – nine commercial service airports and 95 general aviation airports – are essential to the state’s transportation and economic infrastructure, supporting its diversified industries including technology, manufacturing, distribution, tourism, and agriculture. These businesses utilize Georgia’s airports to transport employees, customers, vendors and goods, which spur economic development. Airports support on-site and local jobs by providing aviation-related goods and services to aircraft and passengers. Additionally, on-airport capital improvements promote economic activity in the community through increased construction jobs and the purchase of goods and services. Georgia’s business and leisure visitors, who regularly arrive on commercial airlines and general aviation aircraft, stimulate local economies by spending money for lodging, food, other transportation, shopping, recreation, and entertainment.

Georgia’s airports, by means of on and off-site businesses, visitors, and aviation-related organizations, contribute significantly to the state’s economy, supporting 471,175 jobs, $17.7 billion in payroll, and $62.6 billion in statewide economic impact.

Statewide Economic Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International</th>
<th>Other Commercial Service Airports</th>
<th>General Aviation Airports</th>
<th>Statewide Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jobs</td>
<td>434,434</td>
<td>26,451</td>
<td>10,290</td>
<td>471,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>$16.3 billion</td>
<td>$1.1 billion</td>
<td>$354.4 million</td>
<td>$17.8 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Output</td>
<td>$58.2 billion</td>
<td>$3.2 billion</td>
<td>$1.2 billion</td>
<td>$62.6 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport data is from 2009 Economic Impact Study. All other data is based on CY2010.
Benefits of Covington Municipal Airport

The City of Covington is located in Newton County in north central Georgia at the convergence of U.S. Highway 278 and Interstate 20, 36 miles east of Atlanta. With a population estimate of 15,315 as of 2009, Covington is the largest city and county seat of Newton County. Covington has a thriving industrial base that includes the manufacturing of food products, plastics, golf balls, and automotive supplies. The Newton County area has served as the filming location for The Dukes of Hazzard, The Vampire Diaries and the remake of the popular film Footloose, and is often referred to as “Hollywood South.”

Covington Municipal Airport, owned and operated by the City of Covington, is situated three miles north of Covington’s central business district. The airport has one paved runway, Runway 10/28, 5,500 feet long, is complimented by a full-parallel taxiway and can accommodate 95 percent of all general aviation aircraft. The City owns and operates the airport’s fixed base operator providing fuel, tie-downs, and hangar storage. The terminal amenities include a pilot’s lounge and courtesy transportation.

Covington Municipal Airport supports area businesses and a wide spectrum of aviation activities. Standridge Color Corporation, a leader in providing services to the thermoplastics processing industry, is headquartered 10 miles northeast in Social Circle and bases their corporate flight department and four aircraft at the Covington Municipal Airport. Ruby Tuesday, Pike Electric Inc, Big Lots, Dixieland Embryo, General Mills, and Bard Medical use the airport regularly to conduct business. The airport also supports aerial inspections and surveys, air cargo, law enforcement flights, military exercises, aerial advertising, flight training, and film and television industries during local filming. The airport helps improve the quality of life by supporting emergency medical evacuations as well as Civil Air Patrol search and rescue operations when necessary.

Covington Municipal Airport serves as a gateway for visitors to area attractions such as Main Street Covington, Factory Shoals Park, Turner Lake, and metropolitan Atlanta. The local EAA chapter hosts a monthly pancake breakfast, attracting dozens of aircraft and participants and the airport sponsors annual youth outreach events every fall.

Airports connect Georgia’s citizens and businesses to the rest of the state, our nation, and the global economy. Covington Municipal Airport plays a vital role in supporting the region with 77 jobs with an annual payroll of $2,717,500, and $7,661,000 in economic output for the local and regional economies.

### Economic Impact of Covington Municipal Airport

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<tr>
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<th>On-Airport</th>
<th>Visitor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Jobs</td>
<td>$4.4 million</td>
<td>$1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Payroll</td>
<td>$2.7 million</td>
<td>$2.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Economic Output</td>
<td>$7.7 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Multiplier**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Jobs</th>
<th>77</th>
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</table>

**Jobs** measures the number of full-time equivalent jobs where a part-time employee counts as half a full-time employee.

**Payroll** measures the total annual wages and benefits paid to all workers whose salaries are directly attributable to airport activity.

**Economic Output** measures the value of goods and services related to the airport.
Georgia Airports

• Georgia is served by 104 publicly-owned, public-use airports:
  – Nine commercial service airports, including Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International, and
  – 95 general aviation airports.

• Airports in Georgia (excluding Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International) support:
  – 1.2 million annual boarded passengers.
  – 720,000 commercial service visitors.
  – 1.1 million general aviation visitors.
  – More than 500 on-airport businesses.

• Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport:
  – Supports more than 46 million annual boarded passengers; that’s nearly 12,700 daily boarded passengers.
  – Provides nonstop service to 156 U.S. cities and more than 80 international destinations in 52 countries.
  – Supports nearly 60 passenger and cargo airlines.
  – Is the busiest passenger and operations airport in the world.

Note: Calendar Year 2010 data.