



Georgia Department of Transportation



• ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR •  
**COLUMBUS AIRPORT**



September 2020

According to Site Selection Magazine, Georgia is **ranked as the #1 state** for doing business.

## Georgia Airports Mean Business.

Airports in Georgia generate positive economic impacts as well as support many other sectors of local and state economies. In the summer of 2019, the Georgia Department of Transportation undertook a statewide study to estimate the annual economic impact of 102 study airports. The study estimated economic impacts for seven commercial airports and 95 general aviation airports. This report includes impacts related to **Columbus Airport** and summarizes all Statewide Airport Economic Impacts.

## Annual Economic Impacts for Columbus Airport

Residents, businesses, and visitors benefit from the state's well-developed airport system. While supporting transportation, healthcare, tourism, and commerce, airports contribute to the economy. The Economic Impact Study identified specific economic impacts associated with the **Columbus Airport** and other airport benefits. Key impacts for the **Columbus Airport** follow.

Annual General Aviation Visitors  
**23,169**

Annual Commercial Visitors  
**29,810**

Employment Supported  
**711**

Annual Payroll  
**\$28,528,300**

Annual Spending  
**\$66,025,100**

Annual Economic Impact  
**\$94,553,400**

Airport-Supported Annual State & Local Sales & Income Tax Revenues  
**\$4,155,450**

## Economic Impacts for Columbus Airport

The table below provides information on the sources of annual economic impact estimated for the **Columbus Airport**. For more information on the impacts reported here, consult the study's Technical Report available at [dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid](http://dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid).

### Annual Economic Impacts for Columbus Airport

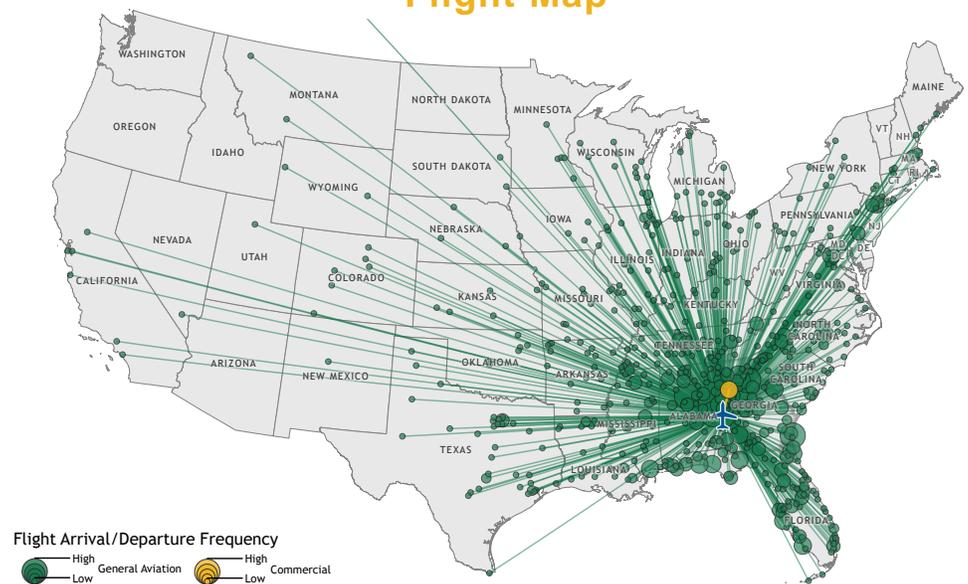
	Employment	Payroll	Spending	Total Economic Activity
Airport Management & Business Tenants	383	\$19,577,800	\$41,506,100	\$61,083,900
Capital Investment	33	\$1,014,600	\$4,153,500	\$5,168,100
General Aviation Visitor Expenditures	88	\$2,381,600	\$3,691,800	\$6,073,400
Commercial Visitor Expenditures	207	\$5,554,300	\$16,673,700	\$22,228,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>\$28,528,300</b>	<b>\$66,025,100</b>	<b>\$94,553,400</b>

## Georgia Airports Support Connectivity

A flight from a Georgia airport is a gateway to over 40,000 worldwide airports, including over 19,000 airports in the US alone. When employers seek to relocate or expand, proximity to an airport is among the top 10 factors they consider in their decision making. Georgia's tourist industry also depends on the efficiency of air travel.

This map depicts destinations for flights departing from and arriving at **Columbus Airport** on any given day. This information is generated from the FAA's National Offload Program (NOP). Flights represent only a fraction of all destinations that can be reached directly from the airport. The map helps to show how the airport supports the travel needs of businesses, visitors, and residents of the airport's service area.

## Columbus Airport Flight Map



Data Source: FAA Traffic Flight Management System (TFMS); CY 2018

## Top Five Destinations for Columbus Airport

- 1** Atlanta, Georgia
- 2** Savannah, Georgia
- 3** Birmingham, Alabama
- 4** Athens, Georgia
- 5** Brunswick, Georgia

## Statewide Economic Impacts

Shown below are total annual statewide economic impacts. All economic impacts shown in this report for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport were obtained from a separate study for that airport conducted by the City of Atlanta. As shown, when all Georgia airports are considered, total annual statewide economic impacts are estimated at 450,502 jobs, \$9.2 billion in annual payroll, and \$73.7 billion in annual economic activity.

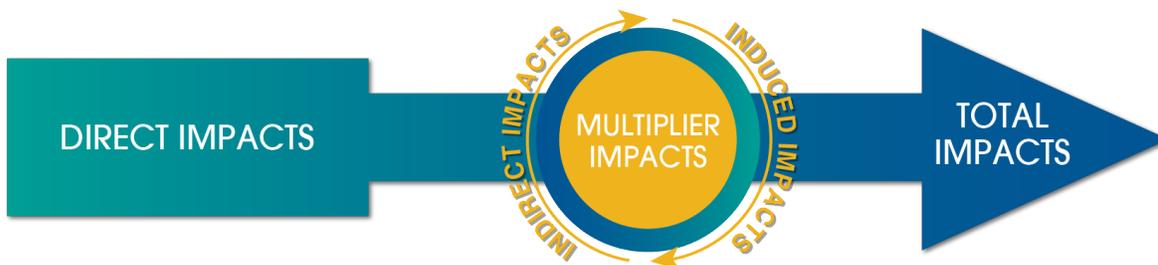
### Statewide Economic Impacts All System Airports

	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport*	Commercial Study Airports	General Aviation Study Airports	State Total
Employment	383,242	52,376	14,893	450,502
Payroll	\$16.7 billion	\$1.3 billion	\$271 million	\$9.2 billion
Economic Activity	\$66.8 billion	\$2.2 billion	\$828 million	\$73.7 billion

\*2016-2017 Technical Report, City of Atlanta Economic Impact Study

## Economic Impact Categories and Measurements

The study identified impacts related to airport management (day-to-day airport operations), aviation-related business tenants, average annual capital investment, expenditures from visitors arriving on general aviation aircraft, and expenditures by visitors arriving on scheduled commercial airline flights. For each of these five categories, impacts were measured for **employment, payroll, spending, and annual economic activity**. Annual economic activity is the sum of payroll and spending. In addition, the study estimated state and local tax revenues that are generated by airport-supported activities.



Airport Management



Aviation-Related Business Tenants



Average Annual Capital Investment



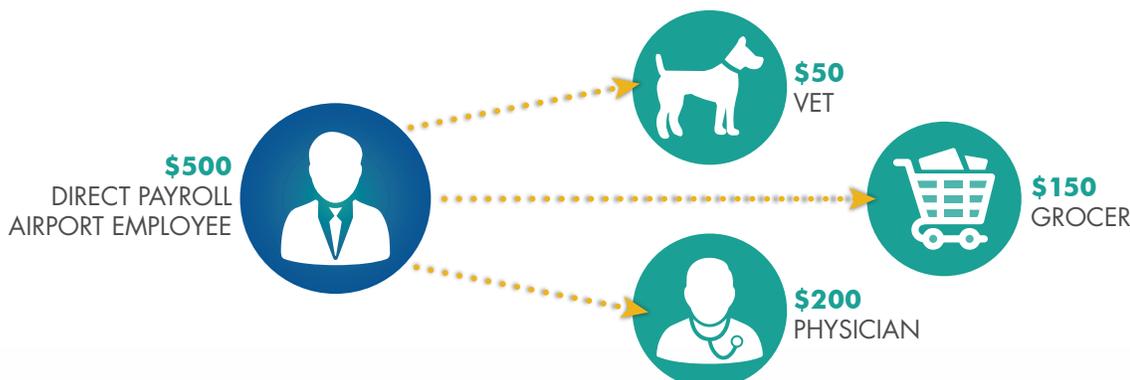
Visitors Arriving on General Aviation Aircrafts



Visitors Arriving on Commercial Flights

## Study Methodology

Data collection and survey efforts identified **direct** economic impacts in each of the five impact categories using an approved FAA methodology. A state input/output model (**IMPLAN**) was used to estimate additional **indirect and induced** impacts, sometimes referred to as multiplier impacts. Combined, direct plus indirect/induced impacts equal total state or airport specific economic impacts.

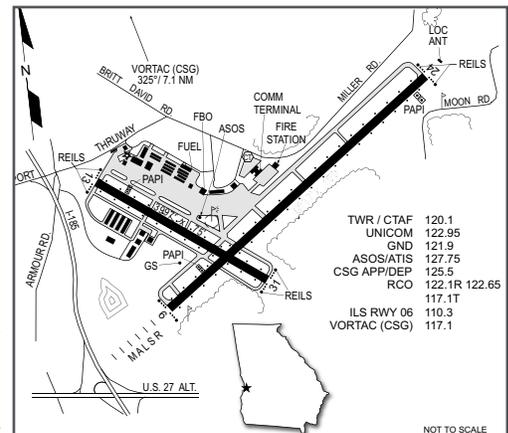


The direct impacts that start at the airport multiply within the state economy. The \$150 of direct impact spent with the grocery results in additional payroll (induced impacts) for the grocer's employees. As the grocery buys supplies, this additional business to business spending results in indirect impacts.

Columbus is Georgia's third largest city with a population of approximately 460,000 people. The city is located along the Georgia-Alabama border near Interstate 185 and US Highway 80. Columbus's diverse economic base includes Fort Benning and a variety of corporate headquarters.

The Columbus Airport is located three miles northeast of the City of Columbus; the airport serves the Chattahoochee Valley Region of Alabama and Georgia. The airport has two runways, primary runway, Runway 6/24, is 6,997 feet long and the secondary runway, Runway 13/31, is 3,997 feet long. Flights to the airport are supported by a precision instrument landing system, an air traffic control tower, and aircraft rescue and firefighting station. The airport is one of Georgia's airports that has scheduled commercial airline flights. Delta Air Lines provides daily flights between the airport and its primary connecting hub in Atlanta. There are 15 different businesses tenants that operate at the airport. Many provide services to support the airport's commercial airline services. Services include rental car and TSA services.

There are several companies that have corporate flight departments at the airport. Other businesses provide aircraft maintenance services and flight training. Columbus Aero Service, Flightways Columbus, Airventures, and Stark Avionics are examples of aviation-related businesses operating at the airport. The military and many area businesses rely on the airport to transport people, equipment, and goods in and out of the region. The Columbus Airport provides other benefits and opportunities to the area including recreational flying, flight training, and emergency medical evacuations.



### Examples of How Columbus Airport Supports its Community

There is a good chance you benefit from different activities that the airport supports. Airports support healthcare and emergency services. Airports support the state's agricultural and forestry industries, and power companies rely on airports to keep electricity flowing. State and federal agencies use airports to protect the environment, and law enforcement benefits from airports. Businesses throughout Georgia rely on airports to improve their efficiency. Examples of how the airport benefits the community follow.



**Business Use:** Airports are tools used by a wide variety of employers to increase many aspects of their efficiency. When businesses consider where they locate or expand, proximity to an airport is often a top consideration. Airports are also a contributor to an area's economic diversification and growth. Both local and visiting businesses rely on air travel to increase their efficiency. Airports can be used to help companies expand their market areas, reduce employee travel time, provide access for customers and suppliers, and tie together offices in multiple locations. Businesses that rely on and benefit from the airport include AFLAC, Synovus, and TSYS. In addition, Fort Benning with over 120,000 active military, retired military, and family members relies on the airport. The airport assists many sectors of the local economy.

**Educational Support:** Local airports often support area colleges and universities. There are many ways educational institutions benefit from local airports. Institutions use airports to support their philanthropic outreach efforts. Sports teams (including visiting teams) use the local airport. Visiting professors or lecturers use local airports to decrease their travel time. Students themselves and their parents sometimes use general aviation air travel. Local airports can be used to support the travel and training needs of college staff; airports are used in student recruitment efforts to expand and diversify a college's market area. Columbus State University, with an enrollment of over 8,000, often relies on and benefits from the airport.

**Medical/Healthcare Support:** Local airports play a role in supporting area healthcare and medical needs. Teams of doctors from St. Francis-Emory Healthcare and Piedmont Columbus Regional hospitals often travel from the airport to procure organs for heart transplants. These doctors are operating within a defined window of time in which they can travel from Columbus to harvest organs and return to Columbus to perform a life-saving heart transplant. By supporting these teams of doctors, the airport helps to improve healthcare services.

**Film Industry:** Georgia's film industry is the largest among all states to produce feature films. Turner Broadcasting System, Tyler Perry, and EUE/Screen Gems all have studios in Georgia. The industry was boosted substantially by state tax incentives introduced in 2002 and strengthened in 2008. The film and TV production industries have an annual economic impact in Georgia of \$9.5 billion, while the tax subsidy cost is estimated at \$141 million. This growing industry has opened new job opportunities around the state and relies on airports and air travel. Through Columbus State University, the Georgia Film Academy is helping to fill the workforce needs of the industry. Columbus was one of the first cities that the Georgia Film Commission certified as 'Camera Ready' - a plus for production companies looking at destinations to make a movie. There have been several major movie scenes shot in Columbus over the years including "Need for Speed," "We Were Soldiers," and "The Fighting Temptations." Recently, Columbus has been garnering attention for film production. A company called Fun Academy Motion Pictures began laying the groundwork to become a major player in the animated motion-picture industry, with plans to launch an animation studio locally. Air access is important to all types of production companies.

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