



Georgia Department of Transportation



• ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR •
**POLK COUNTY AIRPORT-CORNELIUS
MOORE FIELD**



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 **Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field** and summarizes all Statewide Airport Economic Impacts.

Annual Economic Impacts for Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field

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 **Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field** and other airport benefits. Key impacts for the **Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field** follow.

- Annual Visitors **1,914**
- Employment Supported **21**
- Annual Payroll **\$703,700**
- Annual Spending **\$2,011,800**
- Annual Economic Impact **\$2,715,500**
- Airport-Supported Annual State & Local Sales & Income Tax Revenues **\$96,010**

Economic Impacts for Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field

The table below provides information on the sources of annual economic impact estimated for the **Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field**. For more information on the impacts reported here, consult the study's Technical Report available at dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid.

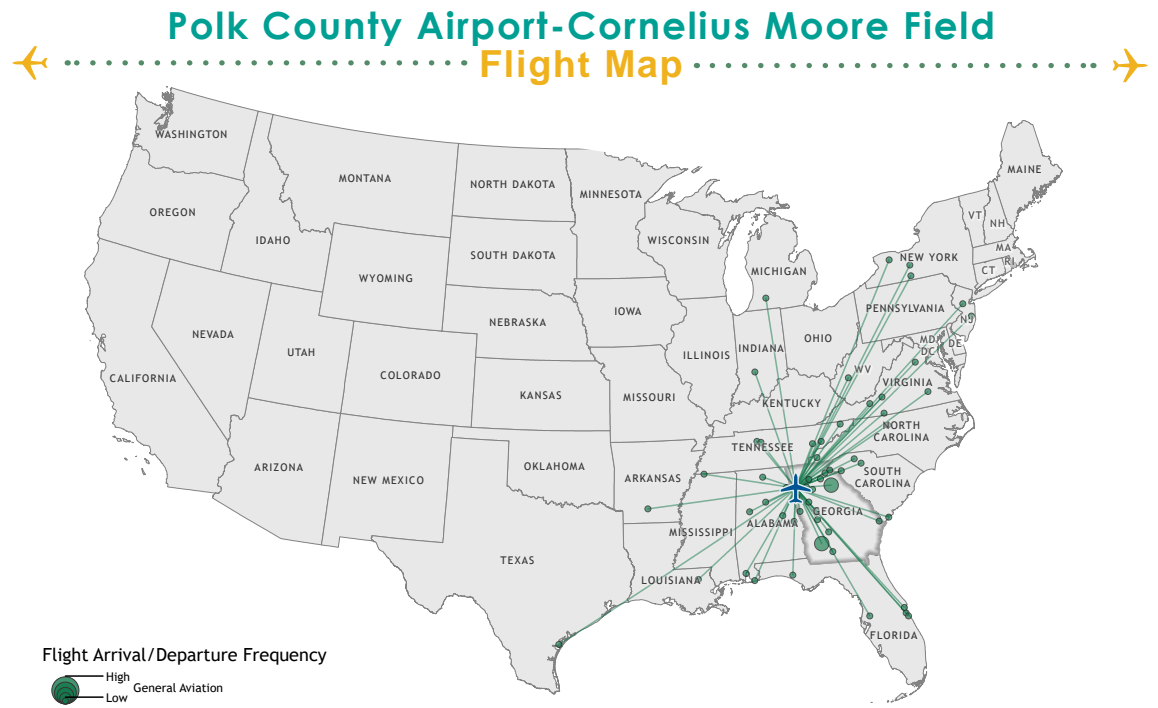
Annual Economic Impacts for Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field

	Employment	Payroll	Spending	Total Economic Activity
Airport Management & Business Tenants	8	\$329,300	\$824,800	\$1,154,100
Capital Investment	8	\$238,600	\$976,600	\$1,215,200
General Aviation Visitor Expenditures	5	\$135,800	\$210,400	\$346,200
Total	21	\$703,700	\$2,011,800	\$2,715,500

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 **Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field** 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.



Top Five Destinations for Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field

- 1** Albany, Georgia
- 2** Athens, Georgia
- 3** Butler, Georgia
- 4** Canton, Georgia
- 5** Atlanta, 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.

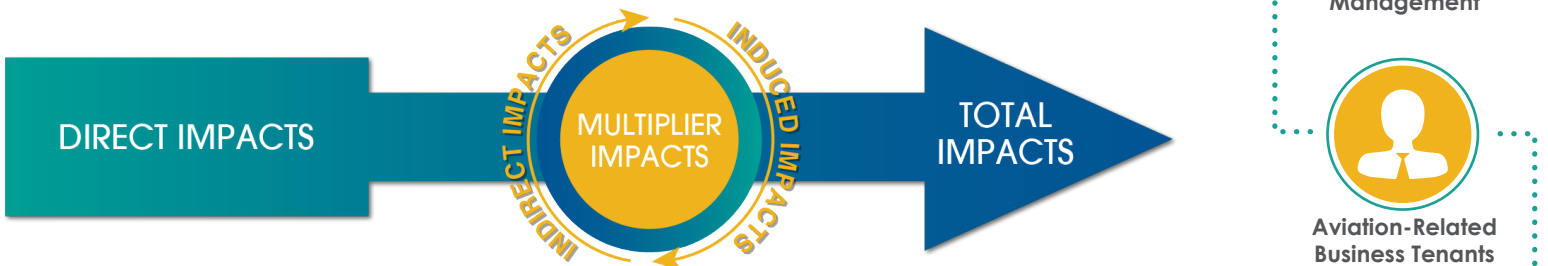
Statewide Economic Impacts All System Airports

	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

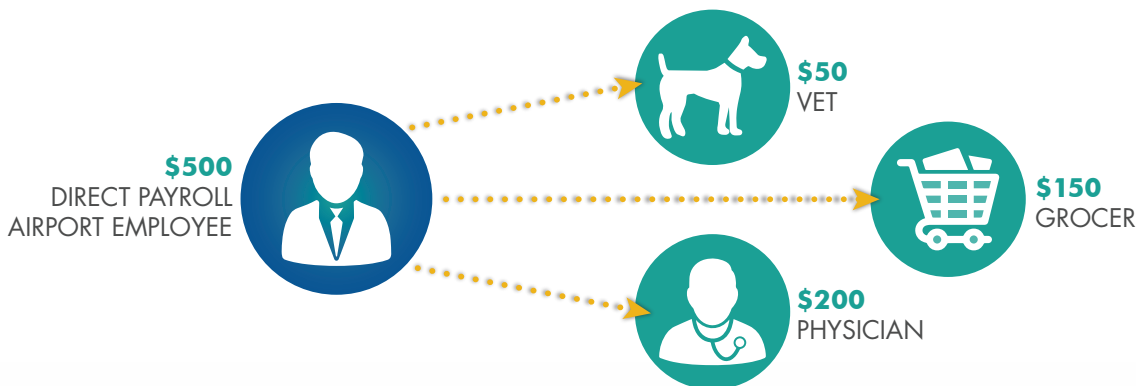
Economic Impact Categories and Measurements

The study identified impacts related to airport management (day-to-day airport operations), aviation-related business tenants, average annual capital investment, expenditures by 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.



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.



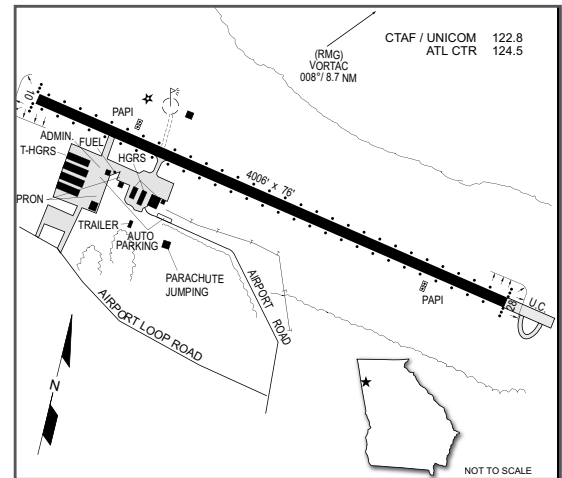
The direct impacts that start at the airport multiply within the state economy. The \$150 of direct impact spent with the grocery results in additional payroll (induced impacts) for the grocer's employees. As the grocery buys supplies, this additional business to business spending results in indirect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

Visitors Arriving on Commercial Flights

Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field

Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field is located in the northwestern part of Georgia, approximately 14 miles east of the border of Alabama and 18 miles south of Rome. The primary highway access to the airport from the east and west is via US Highway 278/Georgia Highway 6. Other highways in the vicinity of the airport include US Highway 27 and Georgia Highways 100 and 101. There are almost 160,000 people within a 30-minute drive of the airport.

The airport, owned and operated by Polk County, is served by Runway 10/28, which is 4,006 feet long and currently being extended to 5,060 feet. The airport accommodates a variety of aviation-related activities including recreational flying, agricultural spraying, ultra-lights, and experimental aircraft. The airport has one business tenant, Skydive Georgia, a popular recreational skydiving company.



Examples of How Polk County Airport-Cornelius Moore Field 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.

Medical/Emergency Services: The nation's hospital system is shrinking; and, smaller/local hospitals find it a challenge to retain a full complement of medical specialists. Often smaller hospitals do not have advanced trauma care. Polk and Floyd Medical Centers serve local medical needs. Airports assist in backfilling the void for various types of locally-based physicians. Airports also are available to transport patients needing advanced medical or trauma care to larger hospitals in Georgia. The ability to rapidly and safely move patients, medical personnel, and equipment, when conditions are urgent, is beneficial to the well-being and quality of life of residents.

Aerial Applicators: Agriculture is an important part of Georgia's economy. Georgia is home to a diverse array of food and fiber products and an assortment of related processing companies. Together, agriculture and its related industries in Georgia, directly and indirectly, account for over \$74.3 billion dollars in economic output and over 411,500 jobs. Georgia is host to over 42,000 farms, encompassing more than 9 million acres; 88 percent of these farms are considered small businesses. The Bureau of Economic Analysis reports nearly 35,000 farm proprietors in the state. Aviation is a tool that supports agriculture in Georgia. Aerial applicators spray crops and timber to prevent the spread of disease and pests. Crops are also sometimes fertilized from the air. The airport supports transient or visiting aerial applicators of herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, and fertilizers to help local farms produce higher yields and cleaner fields.

Recreation: There are many types of recreational activities that airports support, and one is skydiving. The airport is home to Skydive Georgia. While some participants come from inside the airport's market area, others come from outside locations, including other states. When visitors are in the area, they have spending for lodging, food, and other expenditures. Expenditures by visitors who come to the airport for skydiving support the local economy. Polk County Airport is also home to a large contingent of Gyroplane pilots. This specialized group of aviators holds regular training, safety, and flight instruction events which draw pilots and their families from as far away as California, Nebraska, and Florida.

Other Users: State and local law enforcement utilize the Polk County Airport for a variety of reasons; these include identifying marijuana farming, training for search and rescue missions, and secure transport of inmates. In addition, the airport is utilized frequently by active and reserve military aircraft to support both day and nighttime training. The airport also supports cross county powerline grid maintenance. The airport accommodates numerous stopovers and layovers from powerline maintenance crews.

THIS DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED BY

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Data collection and analysis for this study took place before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Results reflect conditions at Georgia airports prior to that time.

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