



Georgia Department of Transportation



• ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR •
COOK COUNTY 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 **Cook County Airport** and summarizes all Statewide Airport Economic Impacts.

Annual Economic Impacts for Cook County 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 **Cook County Airport** and other airport benefits. Key impacts for the **Cook County Airport** follow.

Annual Visitors
2,666

Employment Supported
24

Annual Payroll
\$677,700

Annual Spending
\$1,794,500

Annual Economic Impact
\$2,472,200

Airport-Supported Annual State & Local Sales & Income Tax Revenues
\$98,870

Economic Impacts for Cook County Airport

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

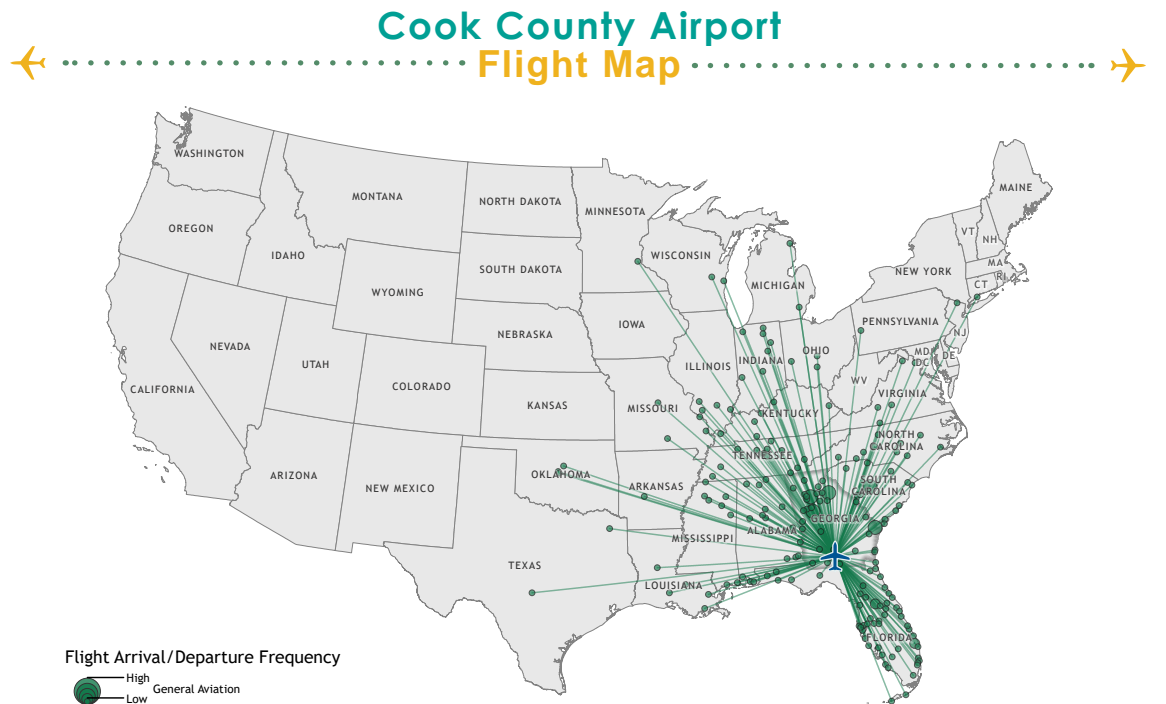
Annual Economic Impacts for Cook County Airport

	Employment	Payroll	Spending	Total Economic Activity
Airport Management & Business Tenants	10	\$273,200	\$620,000	\$893,200
Capital Investment	7	\$215,300	\$881,300	\$1,096,600
General Aviation Visitor Expenditures	7	\$189,200	\$293,200	\$482,400
Total	24	\$677,700	\$1,794,500	\$2,472,200

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 **Cook County 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.



Top Five Destinations for Cook County Airport

- 1** Columbia, South Carolina
- 2** Atlanta, Georgia
- 3** Griffin, Georgia
- 4** Athens, Georgia
- 5** Columbus, 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.

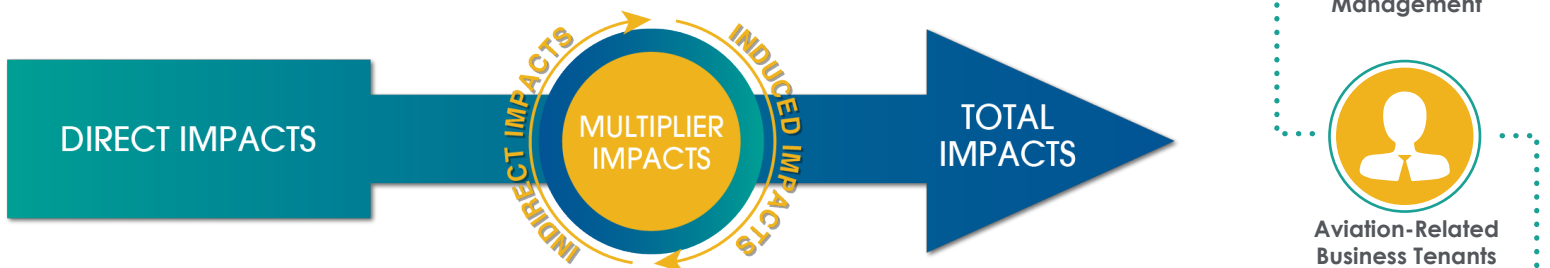
Statewide Economic Impacts All System Airports

	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

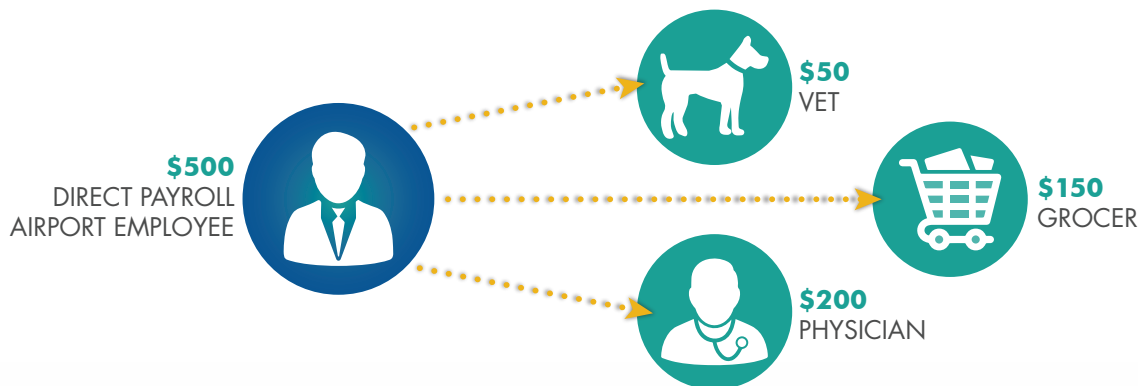
Economic Impact Categories and Measurements

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.

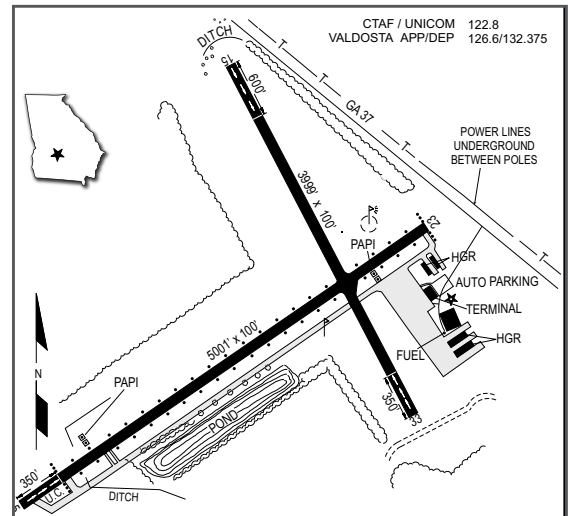
Visitors Arriving on Commercial Flights

Cook County Airport

The Cook County Airport is located in southern Georgia near the city of Adel, approximately 24 miles south of Tifton and 26 miles north of Valdosta. The airport is accessible from the north and south via Interstate 75, from the northwest and southeast via Georgia Highway 37, and from the northeast and southwest via Georgia Highway 76.

The airport is owned and operated by Cook County and accommodates a variety of aviation-related activities, including recreational flying, corporate/business jets, flight training, ultralights, and experimental aircraft. The airport has two aviation-related business tenants, Azalea Aviation and Middle Georgia State University Flight Instruction.

The 2030 Greater Cook County Comprehensive Plan identified the need to expand and update the Cook County Airport. The renovation of the existing airport began in 2010, and Cook County now has a business-ready airport facility that rivals any general aviation airport in Georgia. The airport has two runways, one 3,999 feet and one 5,500 feet long. A project to extend runway 5 to 5,500 feet was recently completed. The terminal has a state-of-the-art board and conference room and houses the Cook County Economic Development Commission.



Examples of How Cook County 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.

Hunting and Fishing: Hunters and anglers who visit Georgia spend a significant amount of money on supplies and equipment. According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia hosts about 2 million anglers and hunters annually. Spending by anglers supports 15,650 Georgia jobs, and spending by hunters supports almost 24,000 jobs. One of Georgia's timber management companies estimates that approximately 60 percent of the hunting leases they provide are for visitors from other states. Live Oak Plantation is an example of a local business that attracts visitors for hunting and fishing. Visitors fly to the area to maximize the time they can spend on recreational activities. Without quick access provided by the airport, some visitors could choose to vacation elsewhere.

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. Cook County is one of Georgia's most productive agricultural areas, growing a wide variety of crops ranging from broccoli to carrots. Aviation is a tool that supports agriculture in Georgia. The airport supports transient or visiting aerial applicators of herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, and fertilizers to help local farms produce higher yields and cleaner fields.

Business Use: Airports are tools used by a wide variety of employers to increase 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. Local and visiting businesses that rely on and benefit from the airport include Adel Steel, BASF SE, Hornets Steel Buildings, Custom Ag Formulators, and Summers Concrete Contracting.

Law Enforcement: The airport supports essential law enforcement activities. The Georgia State Patrol (GSP) Aviation Division uses the airport and operates 24/7 to provide air support for different assignments. GSP supports public safety interests for the citizens of Georgia. The GSP Aviation Division performs search and rescue missions utilizing infra-red cameras, and many missing persons have been located from the air using this technology. Other missions supported by the GSP Aviation Division include manhunts, aerial photography, aerial surveillance, natural disaster response, SWAT missions, and fire suppression. The Division has become a nationwide leader for its innovative use of aircraft to suppress the distribution of illegal substances.

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