# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF Barrow County Airport Winder, Georgia



## Georgia Airports Mean Business

Georgia's airport system of 104 publicly-owned, publicuse 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. Airport businesses support onsite 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 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, nonaviation 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.

	Statewide Economic Impact			
	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International	Other Commercial Service Airports	General Aviation Airports	Statewide Totals
Jobs	434,434	26,451	10,290	471,175
Payroll	\$16.3 billion	\$1.1 billion	\$354.4 million	\$17.8 billion
Economic Output	\$58.2 billion	\$3.2 billion	\$1.2 billion	\$62.6 billion

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

# **Benefits of Barrow County Airport**

Barrow County Airport is located in Winder in northeast Georgia, between Atlanta and Athens along State Route 316. Winder had a population of nearly 15,000 in 2009, and is the county seat of Barrow County. Winder and Barrow County have become centrally located in the heart of the "Bio-Science Technology Corridor" which lies along Georgia Highway 316 in northeast Georgia.

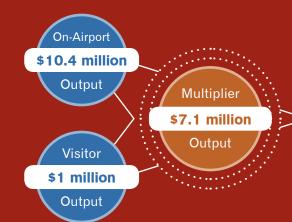
Barrow County Airport is located three miles east of Winder's central business district, and is owned and operated by the Barrow County Airport Authority. The airport has two runways: primary runway, Runway 13/31, is 5,500 feet long with an precision instrument landing system, and crosswind Runway 05/23 is 3,610 feet long. The terminal building includes a pilot's lounge, flight planning facilities, internet access, and the Spitfire Deli restaurant and catering. Romanair is the airport's fixed based operator, offering fueling, tie downs, and aircraft maintenance since 1985. Georgia Avionics, Inc. is a certified repair station and offers sales and service on avionics equipment.

The airport is home to the Georgia Army National Guard's 148th Medical Company. The air ambulance unit operates 20 Huey helicopters and provides airfield and medical evacuation services. Aircrane Inc., a construction helicopter operator, is the largest heavy lift operator on the East Coast and has been based at Barrow County Airport since 1993. The company specializes in external loads, and assists with wildfire suppression nationally. Barrow Services and Swink Aviation provide aircraft maintenance services.

Several local employers rely on the airport to conduct business operations in the region, including Cooper Barnett & Paige, Northeast Sales Distributing, and Fortson Concrete. Many businesses base aircraft at the airport as well, including Cooper, Barnett & Paige, and Northeast Sales Distributing. Serving as a gateway to area attractions such as Chateau Elan Winery, Fort Yargo State Park, and Road Atlanta, the airport is widely utilized by corporate and recreational visitors. Other important activities supported by the airport include flight training, law enforcement flights, civil air patrol operations, aerial inspections and surveys, and medical transport. The local pilots association holds a monthly pancake breakfast fly-in. Discovery flights are provided by pilots to foster youth outreach.

Airports connect Georgia's citizens and businesses to the rest of the state, our nation, and the global economy. Barrow County Airport plays a vital role in supporting the region with 357 jobs with an annual payroll of \$7,582,300, and \$18,531,200 in economic output for the local and regional economies.

#### Economic Impact of Barrow County Airport



Total Jobs **357** Total Payroll **\$7.6 million** 

Total Economic Output \$18.5 million **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, publicuse 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.

For more information contact:

#### **Georgia Department of Transportation** Aviation Programs 600 West Peachtree Street, NW Atlanta, Georgia 30308

404-631-1000 http://www.dot.ga.gov.





Cover photo courtesy of Georgia Business Aviation Association (GBAA)