



**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF**  
**Blairsville Airport**





## 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. Airport businesses 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 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.

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 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

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	<b>434,434</b>	<b>26,451</b>	<b>10,290</b>	<b>471,175</b>
Payroll	<b>\$16.3 billion</b>	<b>\$1.1 billion</b>	<b>\$354.4 million</b>	<b>\$17.8 billion</b>
Economic Output	<b>\$58.2 billion</b>	<b>\$3.2 billion</b>	<b>\$1.2 billion</b>	<b>\$62.6 billion</b>

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

# Benefits of Blairsville Airport

Blairsville is a north Georgia mountain town located at the intersection of U.S. Highways 76 and 129, within the Chattahoochee National Forest. Blairsville is the county seat of Union County and they have a combined estimated population of 21,356 as of 2009. The area is surrounded by an abundance of sightseeing and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Blairsville Airport is located three miles southwest of Blairsville's central business district situated on 156 acres and owned and operated by the City of Blairsville. The airport has a 5,006 foot asphalt runway, Runway 8/26. Fueling services and aircraft storage are provided by the City, while two aviation businesses, Steven Thompson CFI and Aviation Safety Products, provide flight instruction and aircraft maintenance, respectively. Aviation Safety Products also specializes in aircraft interior refurbishing.

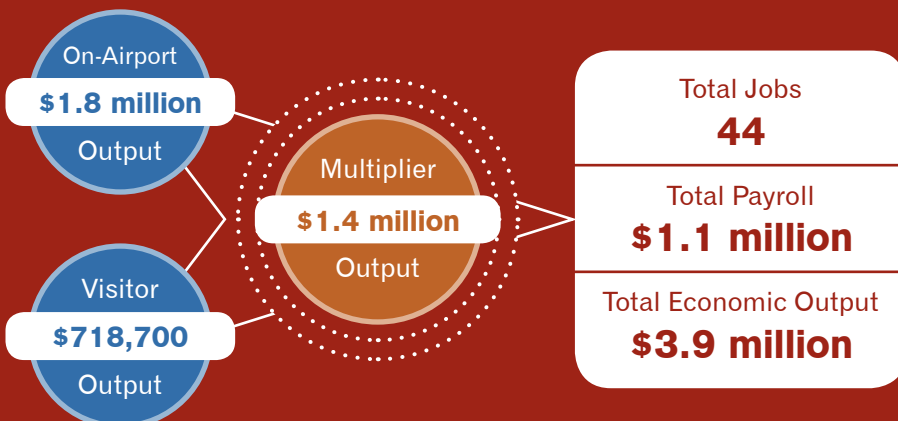
Blairsville Airport plays a key role in supporting area businesses such as Rollins Corporation, and TWC-Welch Inc. The manufacturing industry has a significant presence in the area, with more than 50 manufacturing firms producing and distributing items including food products, sports apparel, lumber, petroleum products, asphalt, and leather goods. The area's economy is heavily tied to tourism, thanks to the abundant recreational opportunities in the vicinity and numerous hospitality industry businesses. Recreational attractions and opportunities in the area include the Chattahoochee National Forest, DeSoto Falls Scenic Area, Vogel State Park, Trackrock Archeological

Area, Appalachian Trail, Lake Nottely, Brasstown Bald Mountain, and Brasstown Valley Resort. Frequently utilized by visitors and residents alike, Blairsville Airport serves as a gateway to the recreational activities and attractions of Union County.

The airport also supports flight training, forest firefighting, aerial inspections and surveys, law enforcement flights, search and rescue operations, environmental patrols, and real estate tours. It serves as a meeting place for many different organizations including Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Transportation Security Administration. Life Flight helicopters, Angel Flights, VET Flights, and Humane Society Rescue Flights, whose services inherently enhance the quality of local life, also utilize the airport. The local EAA chapter has four fly-in cook outs per year, which attract over 150 people, and offer Young Eagle youth outreach events. The Civil Air Patrol conducts search and rescue operations. Blairsville Municipal Airport also serves as a field trip location for local schools.

Airports connect Georgia's citizens and businesses to the rest of the state, our nation, and the global economy. The Blairsville Airport plays a vital role in supporting the region with 44 jobs with an annual payroll of \$1,090,400, and \$3,876,200 in economic output for the local and regional economies.

## Economic Impact of Blairsville Airport



**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.*

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