



Georgia Department of Transportation



• ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR •
SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL 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 **Southwest Georgia Regional Airport** and summarizes all Statewide Airport Economic Impacts.

Annual Economic Impacts for Southwest Georgia Regional 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 **Southwest Georgia Regional Airport** and other airport benefits. Key impacts for the **Southwest Georgia Regional Airport** follow.

Annual General Aviation Visitors
16,584

Annual Commercial Visitors
18,951

Employment Supported
614

Annual Payroll
\$20,163,900

Annual Spending
\$42,828,400

Annual Economic Impact
\$62,992,300

Airport-Supported Annual State & Local Sales & Income Tax Revenues
\$2,666,710

Economic Impacts for Southwest Georgia Regional Airport

The table below provides information on the sources of annual economic impact estimated for the **Southwest Georgia Regional 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 Southwest Georgia Regional Airport

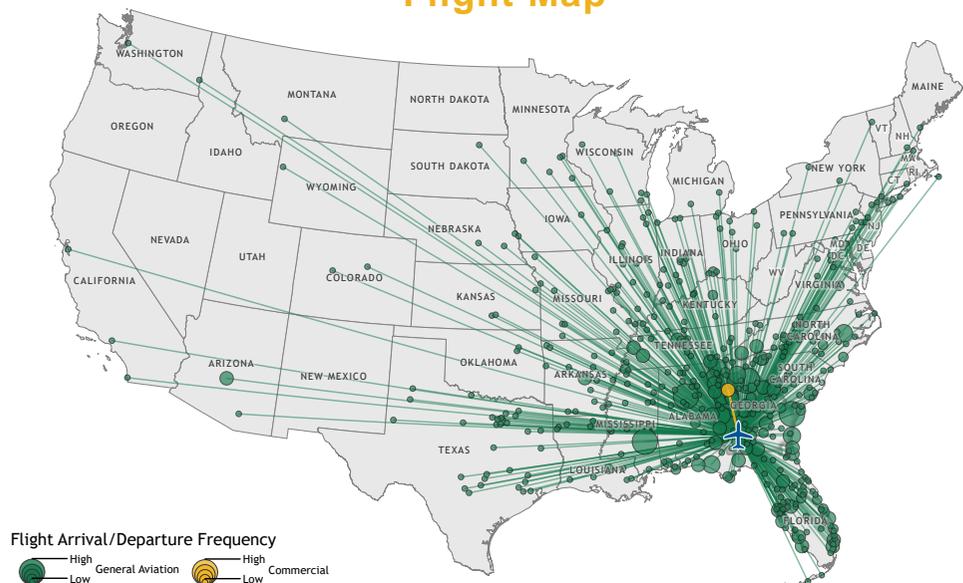
	Employment	Payroll	Spending	Total Economic Activity
Airport Management & Business Tenants	440	\$15,365,300	\$29,164,500	\$44,529,800
Capital Investment	29	\$885,500	\$3,625,100	\$4,510,600
General Aviation Visitor Expenditures	43	\$1,176,500	\$1,823,800	\$3,000,300
Commercial Visitor Expenditures	102	\$2,736,600	\$8,215,000	\$10,951,600
Total	614	\$20,163,900	\$42,828,400	\$62,992,300

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 **Southwest Georgia Regional 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.

Southwest Georgia Regional Airport Flight Map



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

Top Five Destinations for Southwest Georgia Regional Airport

1 Atlanta, Georgia

2 Savannah, Georgia

3 Laurel, Mississippi

4 Birmingham, Alabama

5 Athens, 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.

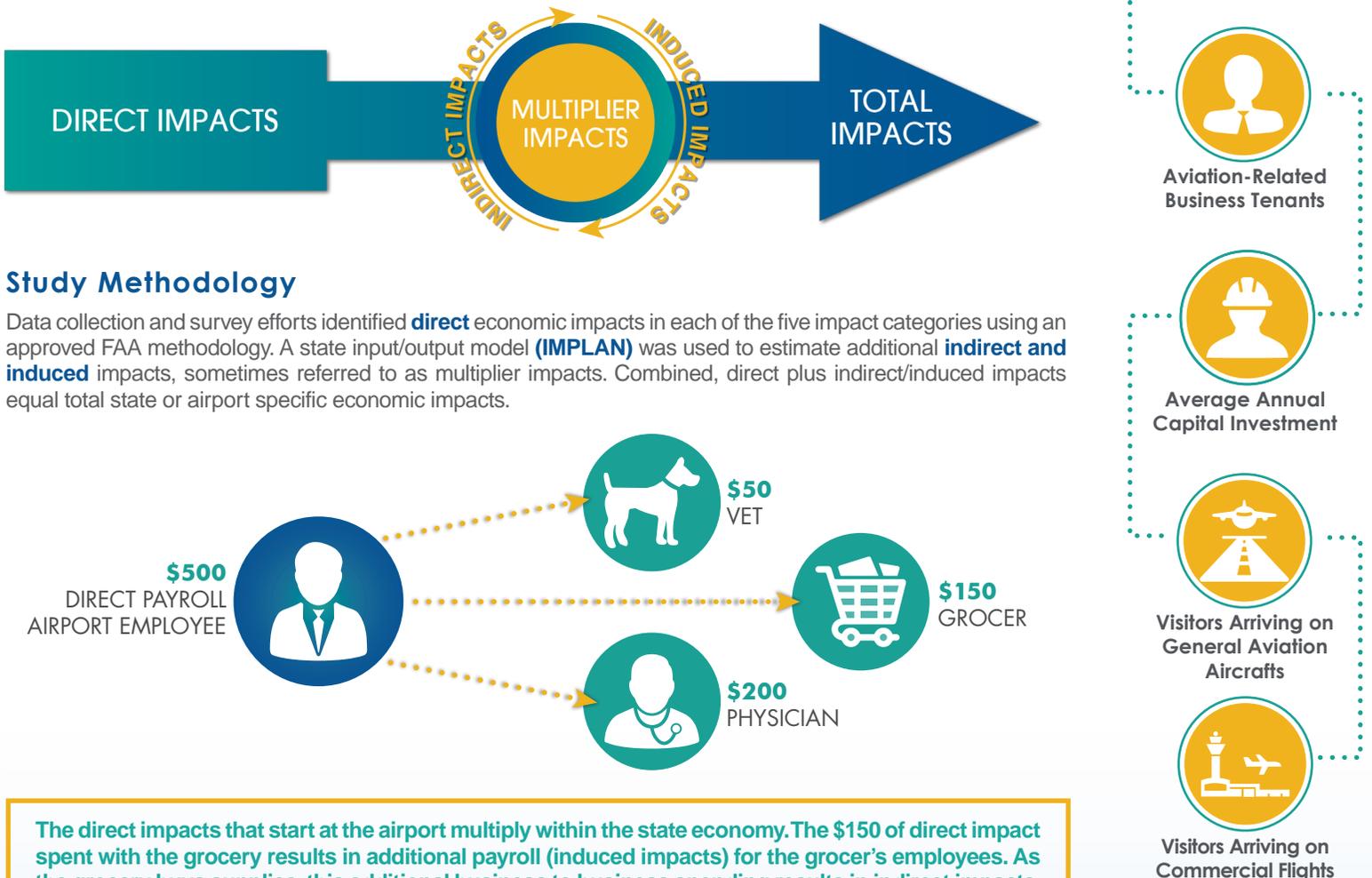
Statewide Economic Impacts All System Airports

	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.



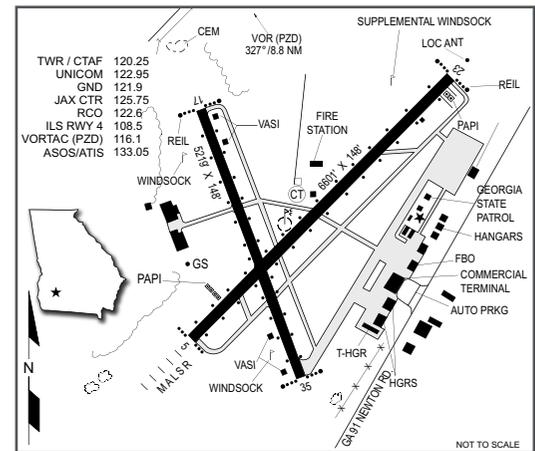
The direct impacts that start at the airport multiply within the state economy. The \$150 of direct impact spent with the grocery results in additional payroll (induced impacts) for the grocer's employees. As the grocery buys supplies, this additional business to business spending results in indirect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

Southwest Georgia Regional Airport

Albany is located in southwest Georgia, at the intersection of US Routes 19 and 82 in Dougherty County. The city has a population that approaches 80,000. The Albany area is an economic, healthcare, military, educational, and recreational hub for the region.

The airport is three miles southwest of the city of Albany, and one of eight commercial service airports in Georgia. Daily service is provided by Delta Air Lines from the airport to Delta's major connecting hub in Atlanta. The airport has two runways. Runway 05/23 is 6,601 feet long with a precision instrument approach, while Runway 17/35 is 5,219 feet long. The airport is equipped with an air traffic control tower and an aircraft rescue and firefighting facility.

Eagles of America is the airport's full-service fixed base operator, providing fueling services, aircraft maintenance, avionics, and catering to airport users. The airport is home to a number of additional aviation-related businesses, including Thrush Aircraft, an aircraft manufacturer that specializes in producing aircraft to support agricultural and firefighting efforts. UPS operates a regional cargo facility at Southwest Georgia Regional, operating daily freighter aircraft. Southwest Georgia Regional Airport is one of the few airports in Georgia that has a dedicated cargo carrier operating jet equipment.



Examples of How Southwest Georgia Regional 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 Flint Equipment, Buffalo Rock, Pellicano Construction, Dillard's, Procter & Gamble, Sunbelt Ford, MAI Trucking, Dyes Heating and Cooling, Jack Ivey Signs, Watkins Lumber, Eagles of America, Harvey's Supermarket, United Healthcare, Stephens Group, Southern Company, and Miller Coors. By supporting these local and visiting businesses, the airport assists many sectors of the local economy.

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 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 sometimes timber to prevent the spread of disease and pests and to support Georgia's economy. By hosting transient or visiting aerial applicators, the airport helps support area agricultural interests.

Georgia Forestry Commission: Over 25 million acres, two-thirds of the state, are forested. According to the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC), annual economic activity generated by the state's forest industry is estimated at \$36.2 billion. GFC is the state agency responsible for protecting and conserving Georgia's forest resources, and aircraft are essential to enabling GFC to carry out its missions. Albany has vast surrounding areas that support timber production. GFC services including fire detection, wildfire suppression and prevention services, rural fire department assistance, forest management assistance, marketing of forest resources, and growing and selling tree seedlings.

Emergency/Medical Support: AirCARE1 uses the airport to fly Georgia residents in need of advanced medical care to other parts of Georgia, other areas in the United States, and in some instances, to other parts of the world. Founded by a critical care nurse, AirCARE1 enables area residents to seek out the finest medical care available. While in the air, AirCare1 provides patients with the same level of medical care that the patient receives at the best ground-based medical facilities. AirCARE1 is one of the few air ambulance and medevac providers who have earned dual accreditation both in U.S. and European medical transport. The flight crew who transports area residents includes two highly experienced and knowledgeable air ambulance pilots; the medical staff on each flight includes a critical care nurse and either a respiratory therapist or a paramedic. AirCARE1's fleet is comprised of Lear 35A jets, and their fleet is outfitted with the most advanced medical technology available to support neonate, pediatric, geriatric, and bariatric patients. Medical support services that the airport facilitates often are unobserved, but are necessary urgent medical conditions dictate.

Air Cargo: The airport is one of the few airports in Georgia that has operations by a dedicated air cargo operator. United Parcel Services (UPS) operates at the airport 5 times a week. They fly a wide-body Airbus 300-6 aircraft. The aircraft originates at the UPS hub in Louisville, Kentucky, flies to Albany, and then on to Pensacola, Florida (then returning to UPS distribution hub Louisville) five nights a week. It is estimated at 62% of all shoppers purchase items online at least once a month. Overnight delivery services for residents and businesses in southwest Georgia are dependent upon services that the airport supports.

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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.