



Georgia Department of Transportation



• ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR •  
**WRIGHT ARMY AIRFIELD (FORT STEWART)/  
MIDCOAST 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 **Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast Regional Airport** and summarizes all Statewide Airport Economic Impacts.

### Annual Economic Impacts for Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast 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 **Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast Regional Airport** and other airport benefits. Key impacts for the **Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast Regional Airport** follow.

- Annual Visitors **2,662**
- Employment Supported **96**
- Annual Payroll **\$3,573,700**
- Annual Spending **\$4,848,700**
- Annual Economic Impact **\$8,422,400**
- Airport-Supported Annual State & Local Sales & Income Tax Revenues **\$275,560**

### Economic Impacts for Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast Regional Airport

The table below provides information on the sources of annual economic impact estimated for the **Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast Regional Airport**. For more information on the impacts reported here, consult the study's Technical Report available at [dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid](http://dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid).

#### Annual Economic Impacts for Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast Regional Airport

	Employment	Payroll	Spending	Total Economic Activity
Airport Management & Business Tenants	78	\$3,056,000	\$3,209,700	\$6,265,700
Capital Investment	11	\$328,800	\$1,346,200	\$1,675,000
General Aviation Visitor Expenditures	7	\$188,900	\$292,800	\$481,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>\$3,573,700</b>	<b>\$4,848,700</b>	<b>\$8,422,400</b>

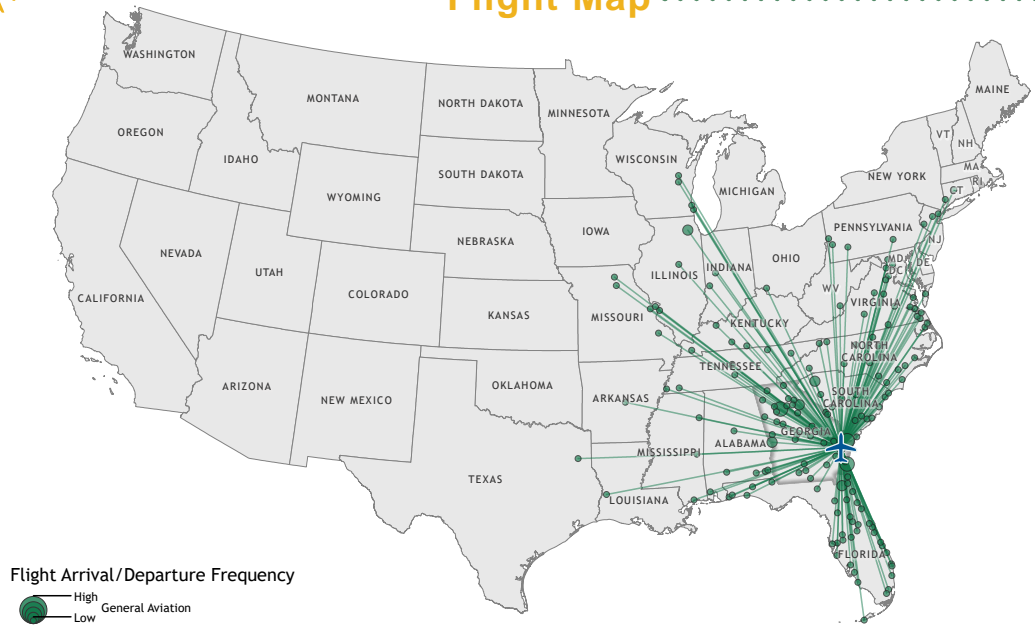
### Georgia Airports Support Connectivity

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 **Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast 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.

### Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast Regional Airport

#### ← ..... Flight Map ..... →



### Top Five Destinations for Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast Regional Airport

- 1** Atlanta, Georgia
- 2** Savannah, Georgia
- 3** Brunswick, Georgia
- 4** Chicago/West Chicago, Illinois
- 5** Jacksonville, Florida

## 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.

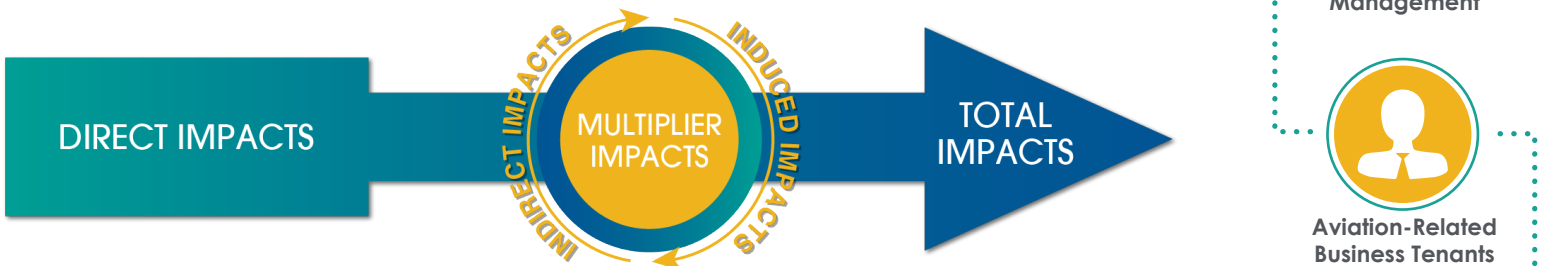
### Statewide Economic Impacts All System Airports

	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

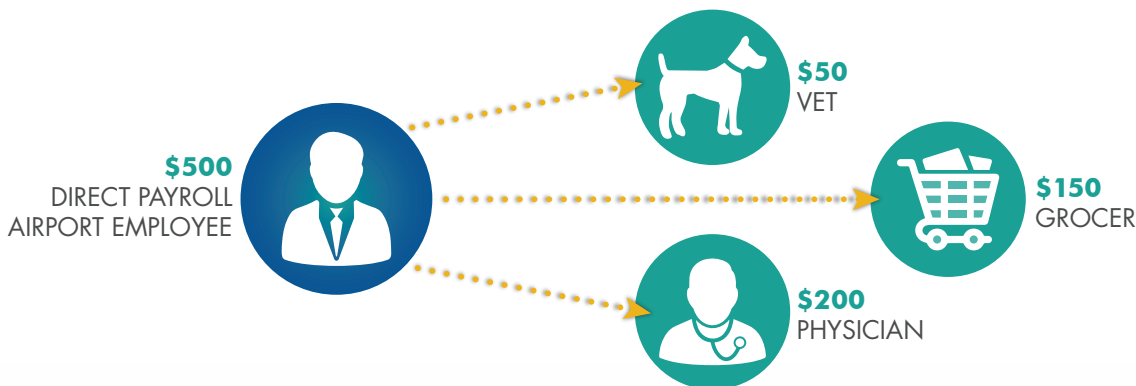
## Economic Impact Categories and Measurements

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.

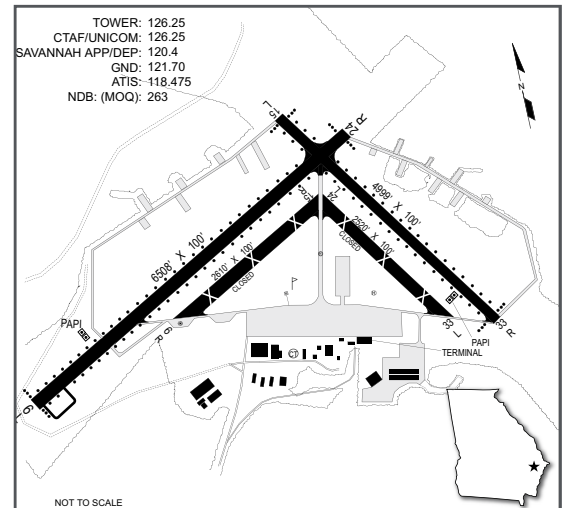
Visitors Arriving on Commercial Flights

## Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast Regional Airport

The MidCoast Regional Airport at Wright Army Airfield is situated within Fort Stewart. The airport is located near Hinesville, within Liberty County which is in southeast Georgia. The airport is located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 84 and Highway 119 about 45 miles south of Savannah. With over 285,000 acres, Fort Stewart is the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River. Fort Stewart is the primary home of the U.S. Army's Third Infantry Division.

MidCoast Regional Airport opened in November 2007 as joint-use civilian and military airport. The airport is governed by a Joint Management Board with members from the City of Hinesville, Liberty County Board of Commissioners, Liberty County Development Authority, and the U.S. Army.

The airport is served by two active runways, Runway 6L/24R which is 6,508 feet long and Runway 15L/33R, which is 4,999 feet long. Runway 15L/33R is designated for civilian use. The U.S. Army maintains and operates the control tower. The airport has a state-of-the-art terminal building which houses the fixed base operator, conference rooms, flight planning areas, offices, a pilots' lounge, and Wi-Fi. MidCoast Aviation Services provides aircraft maintenance and other aircraft support services.



## Examples of How Wright Army Airfield (Fort Stewart)/MidCoast 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 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. Harbor Freight Tools is an example of a local business that uses the airport; they operate from 1,000 locations throughout the United States and use general aviation as a tool to connect the various operating locations. Manufacturing companies also often benefit from and rely on aviation. SNF, Interstate Paper, and International Greetings are all manufacturing companies located in Liberty County. By supporting local and visiting businesses, the airport helps to support many non-aviation sectors of the local economy.

**Emergency Medical Services:** Air Evac operates at the airport. They are experts at providing emergency medical services. Typical operations that Air Evac supports including responding to accidents and transporting people from accident sites to a hospital or moving patients from smaller local hospitals to larger medical facilities where advanced and specialty medical services are available. Area health care services are provided by Liberty Regional Medical Center. Small hospitals are often challenged to provide all trauma care services, and often they cannot have a full complement of specialty physicians on staff. The airport is available to transport patients to larger hospitals when medical services are not available locally. Regardless of the service they provide, Air Evac adds significant value to the quality of life for residents in the airport's market area.

**Tourism/Recreation:** There are many parts of Georgia that attract visitors on a regular basis. As the state's economic impact study has documented, visitors who arrive in Georgia by air have significant spending that supports jobs and the payroll associated with these jobs. The Dorchester Shooting Preserve is located near the airport, and visitors to this resort often arrive in the area via the airport. Dorchester is a 5,000-acre hunting preserve that offers quail hunting, continental pheasant shooting, wild boar hunting, sporting clays, and coastal fishing. Dorchester was founded in 1999. The lodge and other accommodations opened in 2008. While quail hunting is the focus for Dorchester, the lodge hosts weddings and corporate retreats as well. Spending by visitors who arrive in the area by air helps to support local jobs. "Dorchester" has become almost a generic term associated with the area. It is taken from Dorchester Academy. The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr attended Dorchester Academy during this early childhood. Scholars and visiting dignitaries coming in and out of the area through the airport. One of particular note is Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. who has done extensive research on the slave and plantation populations around the whole Georgia Coast.

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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.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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