



Georgia Department of Transportation



• ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR •
SPENCE 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 Spence Airport and summarizes all Statewide Airport Economic Impacts.

Annual Economic Impacts for Spence 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 Spence Airport and other airport benefits. Key impacts for the Spence Airport follow.

- Annual Visitors **2,108**
- Employment Supported **83**
- Annual Payroll **\$2,516,800**
- Annual Spending **\$3,999,000**
- Annual Economic Impact **\$6,515,800**
- Airport-Supported Annual State & Local Sales & Income Tax Revenues **\$278,110**

Economic Impacts for Spence Airport

The table below provides information on the sources of annual economic impact estimated for the Spence 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 Spence Airport

	Employment	Payroll	Spending	Total Economic Activity
Airport Management & Business Tenants	75	\$2,318,700	\$3,568,400	\$5,887,100
Capital Investment	2	\$48,600	\$198,800	\$247,400
General Aviation Visitor Expenditures	6	\$149,500	\$231,800	\$381,300
Total	83	\$2,516,800	\$3,999,000	\$6,515,800

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 Spence 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 Spence Airport

- 1** Dublin, Georgia
- 2** Douglas, Georgia
- 3** Valdosta, Georgia
- 4** Columbia, South Carolina
- 5** Cedartown, 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 from 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.



Airport Management



Aviation-Related Business Tenants



Average Annual Capital Investment



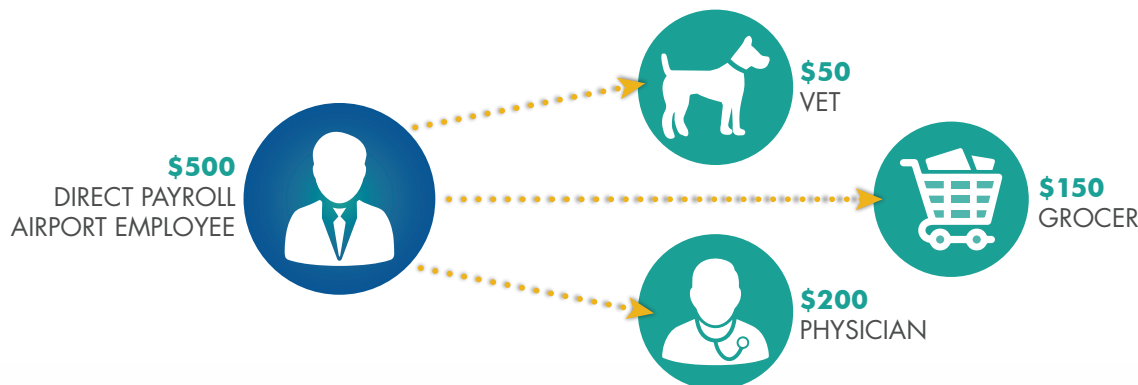
Visitors Arriving on General Aviation Aircrafts



Visitors Arriving on Commercial Flights

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.

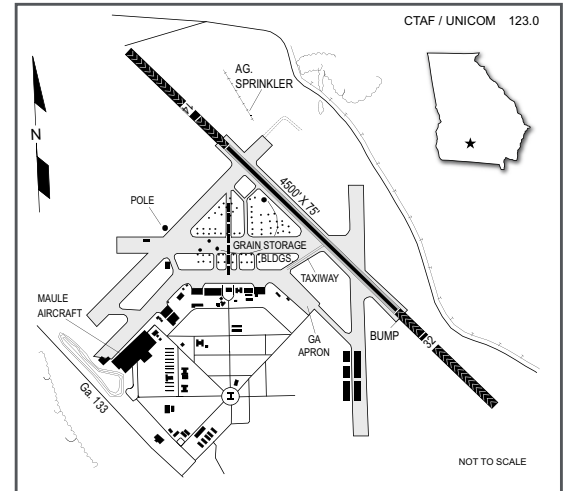


The direct impacts that start at the airport multiply within the state economy. The \$150 of direct impact spent with the grocery results in additional payroll (induced impacts) for the grocer's employees. As the grocery buys supplies, this additional business to business spending results in indirect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

The Spence Airport is located in Colquitt County in the southern part of Georgia. The airport is approximately 39 miles southeast of Albany and 42 miles northwest of Valdosta. The primary highway access to the airport from the southeast and northwest is via Georgia Highway 133. Other major roadways in the vicinity of the airport are U.S. Highway 319 and Georgia Highways 35, 37, and 111. There are approximately 60,000 residents in a 30-minute drive of the airport.

Once a former military airfield, the airport is now owned and operated by the City of Moultrie. The airport's single runway, Runway 14/32, is 4,500 feet long. Aircraft maintenance services are available at the airport. There are three businesses located at the airport; these businesses are Dickinson Aircraft Sales, Maule Air, and Maule Flight. All tenants provide aircraft maintenance services. All businesses combined support almost 30 jobs.

The airport accommodates a variety of aviation-related activities including recreational flying, agricultural spraying, corporate/business jets, police/law enforcement, and experimental aircraft.



Examples of How Spence 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.



Military Use: While Georgia and the Southeast have several military air bases, even with these facilities, civilian airports in Georgia play a role in supporting military operations. The U.S. Air Force has used the airport to support their operations. Aircraft may do touch-and-goes for training. Typically, these aircraft are not on the ground for extended periods since they require special security or ground support requirements. By supporting military operations, the airport helps to contribute to national defense.

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. The airport supports transient or visiting aerial applicators of herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, and fertilizers to help local farms produce higher yields and cleaner fields.

Medical/Emergency Services: The airport is available to transport patients needing advanced medical or trauma care. Since there is no local hospital, patients needing emergency medical care must be transported to hospitals outside the local area. The ability to rapidly and safely move patients, medical personnel, and equipment, when conditions are urgent, is beneficial to the well-being and quality of life of residents.

Tourism: There are many parts of Georgia that attract visitors on a regular basis. Visitors who arrive in Georgia by air have spending that supports many jobs and the payroll associated with these jobs. Those arriving in Southwest Georgia have many options for their destination, ranging from nearby hunting plantations to premier wedding venues. The Lodge of Moultrie is one of the premier wedding destinations in south Georgia. Many visitors arrive every October to attend the Sunbelt Exposition, one of the country's premier farm shows, which takes place adjacent to the airport. By supporting area tourism, the airport helps to contribute to the area's economy.

THIS DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED BY

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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.

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