



Georgia Department of Transportation



• ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR •  
**EAST 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 **East Georgia Regional Airport** and summarizes all Statewide Airport Economic Impacts.

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

- Annual Visitors **2,413**
- Employment Supported **70**
- Annual Payroll **\$2,495,500**
- Annual Spending **\$5,264,300**
- Annual Economic Impact **\$7,759,800**
- Airport-Supported Annual State & Local Sales & Income Tax Revenues **\$329,160**

### Economic Impacts for East Georgia Regional Airport

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

	Employment	Payroll	Spending	Total Economic Activity
Airport Management & Business Tenants	56	\$2,069,400	\$3,955,600	\$6,025,000
Capital Investment	8	\$254,900	\$1,043,400	\$1,298,300
General Aviation Visitor Expenditures	6	\$171,200	\$265,300	\$436,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>\$2,495,500</b>	<b>\$5,264,300</b>	<b>\$7,759,800</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 **East 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.



### Top Five Destinations for East Georgia Regional Airport

- 1** Savannah, Georgia
- 2** Dalton, Georgia
- 3** Jefferson, Georgia
- 4** Albany, Georgia
- 5** Macon, 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



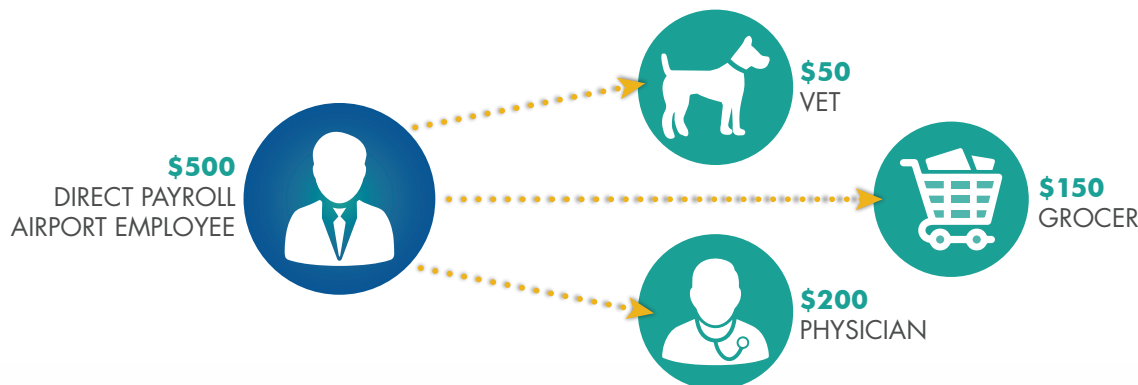
Visitors Arriving on General Aviation Aircrafts



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.

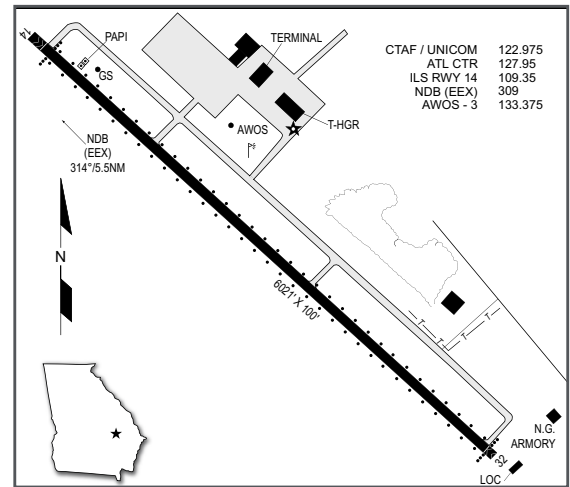


The direct impacts that start at the airport multiply within the state economy. The \$150 of direct impact spent with the grocery results in additional payroll (induced impacts) for the grocer's employees. As the grocery buys supplies, this additional business to business spending results in indirect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

The East Georgia Regional Airport is located in Swainsboro. Swainsboro is located in east central Georgia, mid-way between Augusta, Macon, and Savannah. Swainsboro serves as the county seat of Emanuel County. The area has a diverse economic base consisting of agriculture, industry, and tourism. Swainsboro is home to the first-of-its-kind National Nanotechnology Manufacturing Center, a public-private partnership for nano- and micro-scale products for military and commercial use.

The airport has a single runway, Runway 14/32, that is 6,021 feet long. The airport is equipped with a precision instrument approach. The airport has three business tenants: AirStar Flight Support, AirStar Charter, and Air Cargo Carriers. AirStar Flight Support is the airport's fixed base operator (FBO), providing fueling, aircraft maintenance and other service. AirStar Charter is the largest tenant with 14 employees. Air Cargo Carriers provide cargo services for UPS with service to the carriers Columbia, SC hub.

The airport supports area businesses, visitors coming to the area for hunting and fishing, law enforcement patrols, search and rescue missions, and flight training. East Georgia Regional Airport hosts a fly-in every year during the first week of May, during the Pine Tree Festival & Southeast Timber Expo.



### Examples of How East 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.



**Hunting/Tourism:** Hunters who visit Georgia spend a significant amount of money on supplies and equipment. According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia hosts about 1.5 million hunters annually; spending by hunters supports almost 24,000 jobs. One of Georgia's timber management companies estimates that approximately 60 percent of the hunting leases they provide are for visitors from other states. Beaver Creel Plantation and Flat Creek Lodge are examples of local hunting areas that bring visitors to the area. These resorts also host weddings and corporate events. Visitors fly to the area to maximize the time they can spend on recreational activities. Without quick access provided by the airport, some travelers could choose to hunt elsewhere.

**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. The airport has daily air cargo service via an affiliate carrier of UPS. The carrier supports local businesses and manufacturers such as HotSet America Corporation. HotSet America is an international company located adjacent to the airport specializing in the production and development of heating elements and temperature control systems. The airport supports the local economy by supplementing the activities of area businesses.

**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 even 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. Serving the airport, AirCARE1 is recognized as a leader in the field of medical transport. 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 critical for urgent medical conditions.

**Agency Use:** Georgia agencies that frequently rely on airports include Georgia Power, the Georgia Forestry Commission, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Georgia State Patrol. These agencies use airports for a wide variety of activities including powerline patrols which are important to maintaining the flow of electricity to residents and businesses, wildlife management and waterway protection, forest fire prevention and firefighting, and various types of law enforcement. By supporting the operations of these and other agencies, airports add significant value.

#### THIS DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED BY

Jviation  
900 S Broadway, Suite 350  
Denver, Colorado 80209  
303.524.3030  
www.jviation.com

*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

Georgia Department of Transportation Aviation Programs  
600 West Peachtree Street NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
404.631.1990 | dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid  
Email: aviationprograms@dot.ga.gov