



Georgia Department of Transportation



• ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR •  
**SYLVESTER 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 **Sylvester Airport** and summarizes all Statewide Airport Economic Impacts.

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

Annual Visitors  
**741**

Employment Supported  
**28**

Annual Payroll  
**\$948,000**

Annual Spending  
**\$2,424,500**

Annual Economic Impact  
**\$3,372,500**

Airport-Supported Annual State & Local Sales & Income Tax Revenues  
**\$125,260**

## Economic Impacts for Sylvester Airport

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

	Employment	Payroll	Spending	Total Economic Activity
Airport Management & Business Tenants	15	\$559,300	\$907,200	\$1,466,500
Capital Investment	12	\$359,700	\$1,472,400	\$1,832,100
General Aviation Visitor Expenditures	1	\$29,000	\$44,900	\$73,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$948,000</b>	<b>\$2,424,500</b>	<b>\$3,372,500</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 **Sylvester 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 Sylvester Airport

**1** Rome, Georgia

**2** Gainesville, Georgia

**3** Atlanta, Georgia

**4** Prattville, Alabama

**5** Albertville, Alabama

## 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.

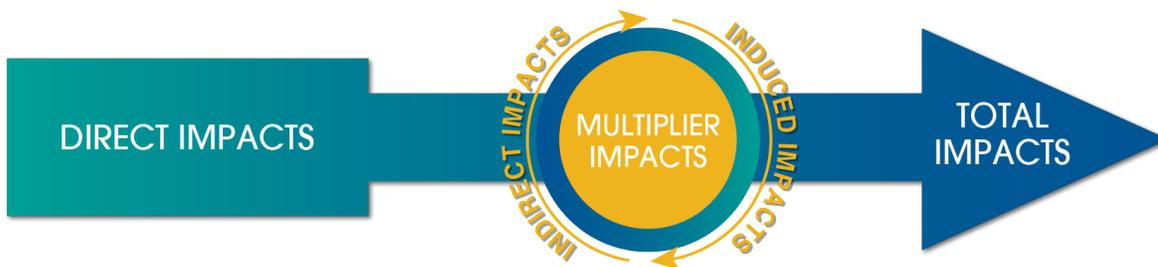
### Statewide Economic Impacts All System Airports

	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

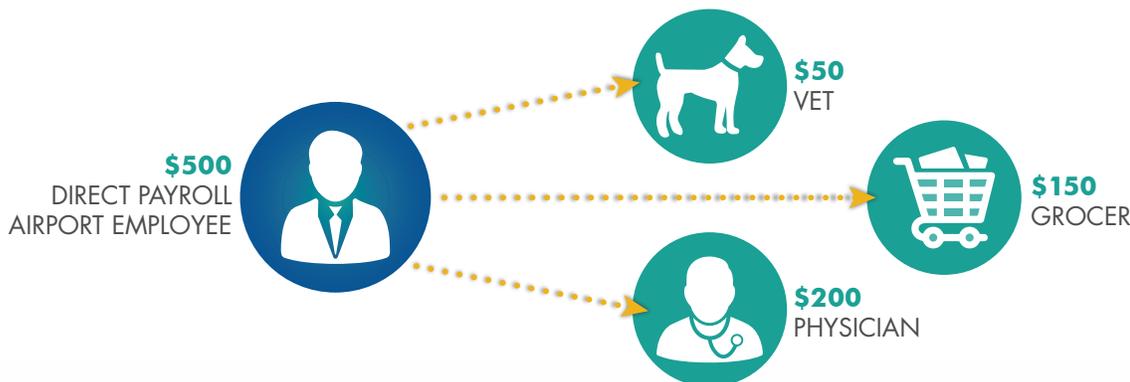
The study identified impacts related to airport management (day-to-day airport operations), aviation-related business tenants, average annual capital investment, expenditures from visitors arriving on general aviation aircraft, and expenditures by visitors arriving on scheduled commercial airline flights. 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.

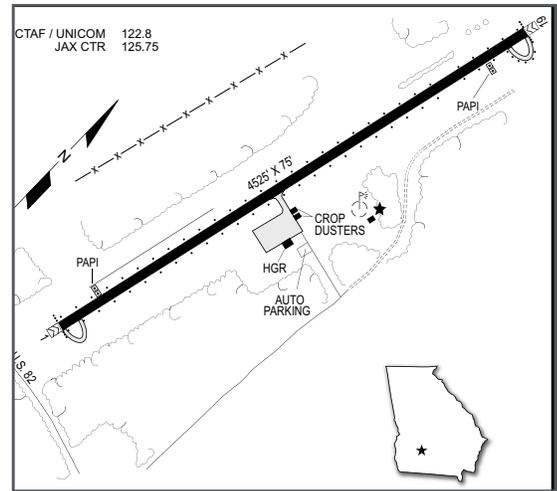


The direct impacts that start at the airport multiply within the state economy. The \$150 of direct impact spent with the grocery results in additional payroll (induced impacts) for the grocer's employees. As the grocery buys supplies, this additional business to business spending results in indirect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

The Sylvester Airport is located in Worth County in the southern part of Georgia. The airport is approximately 20 miles east of Albany and 21 miles west of Tifton. The primary highway access to the airport from both the east and west is via U.S. 82/Georgia Highway 520. Other highways in the vicinity of the airport are Georgia Highways 313, 33, 112, and 256. There are approximately 135,000 residents within a 30-minute drive of the airport.

The airport is owned and operated by the City of Sylvester. The airport is served by a single runway. Runway 1/19 is 4,525 feet long. Coney Ag Service is based at the airport; the company provides aerial applications to support local agricultural interests.

The airport accommodates general aviation-related activities including agricultural spraying and recreational flying.



## Examples of How Sylvester 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.



**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 an important tool that supports agriculture in Georgia. Aerial applicators spray crops and timber to prevent the spread of disease and pests. 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 nation's hospital system is shrinking; and, smaller/local hospitals find it a challenge to retain a full complement of medical specialists. The Phoebe Worth Medical Center serves local medical needs. Airports assist in backfilling the void for various types of locally-based physicians. Airports also are available to transport patients needing advanced medical or trauma care to larger hospitals in Georgia. 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.

**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 approximately 60 percent of the hunting leases they provide are for visitors from other states. W.R.B. Plantation is an example of a local hunting preserve that brings visitor to the area. Visitors fly to an area to maximize the time they can spend on recreational activities.

**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. Businesses also rely on just-in-time shipping for parts and supplies. By supporting local and visiting businesses, the airport assists many sectors of the local economy.

### 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