



**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF**  
**Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport**  
**Gainesville, Georgia**





## Georgia Airports Mean Business

Georgia's airport system of 104 publicly-owned, public-use airports – nine commercial service airports and 95 general aviation airports – are essential to the state's transportation and economic infrastructure, supporting its diversified industries including technology, manufacturing, distribution, tourism, and agriculture. These businesses utilize Georgia's airports to transport employees, customers, vendors and goods, which spur economic development. Airport businesses support on-site and local jobs by providing aviation-related goods and services to aircraft and passengers. Additionally, on-airport capital improvements promote economic activity in the

community through increased construction jobs and the purchase of goods and services. Georgia's business and leisure visitors, who regularly arrive on commercial airlines and general aviation aircraft, stimulate local economies by spending money for lodging, food, other transportation, shopping, recreation, and entertainment.

Georgia's airports, by means of on and off-site businesses, visitors, and aviation-related organizations, contribute significantly to the state's economy, supporting 471,175 jobs, \$17.7 billion in payroll, and \$62.6 billion in statewide economic impact.

## Statewide Economic Impact Study

The Georgia Department of Transportation commissioned this Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-funded study to quantify the economic contribution of the state's airport system using an FAA-approved methodology of survey data and modeling estimates. The economic impacts are categorized by on-airport, visitor, and multiplier impacts to measure the total jobs, payroll, and total economic output of each of the 104 airports in this study.

visitors. The multiplier effect of these direct impacts was calculated using Georgia-specific regional multipliers. For example, if an airport employee purchases groceries, those dollars may support a grocer's payroll, the grocer may spend money on child care, and so on, until those payroll dollars originating from airport activity leave the community and state. The spending and re-spending generates additional economic activity in the region.

The total economic impact of \$62.6 billion is the sum of all direct airport and visitor impacts combining with the multiplier effects and presented in terms of jobs, payroll, and total economic output.

| Statewide Economic Impact |  |                                   |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
|                           | Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International | Other Commercial Service Airports | General Aviation Airports | Statewide Totals      |
| Jobs                      | <b>434,434</b>                           | <b>26,451</b>                     | <b>10,290</b>             | <b>471,175</b>        |
| Payroll                   | <b>\$16.3 billion</b>                    | <b>\$1.1 billion</b>              | <b>\$354.4 million</b>    | <b>\$17.8 billion</b> |
| Economic Output           | <b>\$58.2 billion</b>                    | <b>\$3.2 billion</b>              | <b>\$1.2 billion</b>      | <b>\$62.6 billion</b> |

*Note: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport data is from 2009 Economic Impact Study. All other data is based on CY2010.*

# Benefits of Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport

Lee Gilmer Memorial is located in Gainesville, northeast of Atlanta in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. With a population of nearly 36,000 as of 2009, Gainesville is the largest city and county seat of Hall County. Gainesville-Hall County is the epicenter of a growing economic hub and bordered by Lake Sidney Lanier, a popular recreational destination in Georgia that attracts more than 10 million visitors each year. The community is a business center leading the region in trade, medicine, education, tourism, and recreational pursuits.

Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport is owned and operated by the City of Gainesville. The airport is a busy general aviation facility with two paved runways. The primary runway, Runway 05/23, is 5,500 feet long and equipped with a precision instrument landing system. The secondary runway, Runway 11/29, is 4,001 feet long. Champion Aviation is the airport's fixed base operator, providing aircraft fueling, tie down spaces, and shared corporate aircraft storage. Sensenich Propeller Service is located at the airport and has more than 65 years of experience servicing aircraft. Lanier Flight Center offers flight instruction, sales, and marketing services for Cessna aircraft. Lanier Fuel Express is operated by Lanier Flight Center and is an aviation fueling service located at the airport. AB Aviation provides aircraft maintenance and repair services.

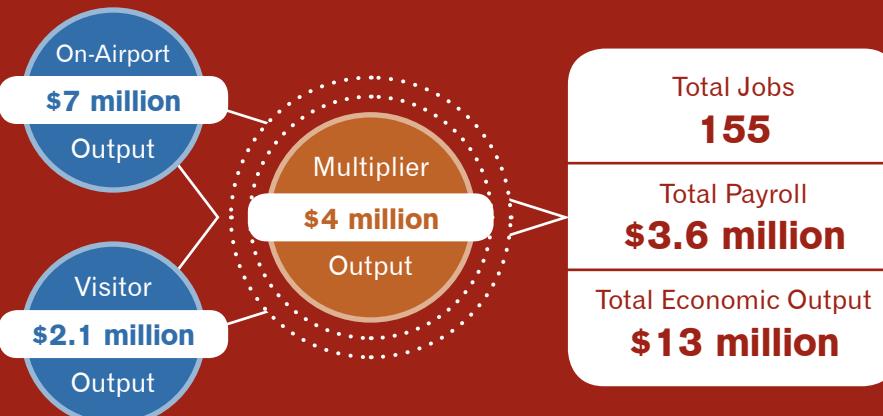
Gainesville-Hall County is home to 47 Fortune 500 companies and more than 300 manufacturing and processing companies. Many of these businesses rely on Lee Gilmer Memorial to conduct business operations.

Fieldale Farms, one of the largest independent poultry producers in the world, Bank of America, The Brose Group, and Daugherty Petroleum, Inc. are frequent users of the airport. The airport supports these businesses transporting staff, customers, goods, and equipment into and out of the region.

The airport serves as a gateway for resort and recreational visitors. Chateau Elan, Road Atlanta, Lake Lanier, and the Chattahoochee National Forest are just a few of the attractions in close proximity to the airport. The airport also supports extensive flight instruction, aerial photography and surveys, aerial inspections, real estate tours, air cargo, law enforcement flights, environmental patrols, emergency medical evacuation and patient transfers, and aerial advertising. The Civil Air Patrol is active at the airport and conducts search and rescue operations as necessary. The airport is commonly used as a staging area for community events, the largest being "The Cracker Fly-In" which has been held at Lee Gilmer Memorial for over 40 years and attracts more than 2,600 people.

Airports connect Georgia's citizens and businesses to the rest of the state, our nation, and the global economy. Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport plays a vital role in supporting the region with 155 jobs with an annual payroll of \$3,645,600, and \$13,007,000 in economic output for the local and regional economies.

## Economic Impact of Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport



**Jobs** measures the number of full-time equivalent jobs where a part-time employee counts as half a full-time employee.

**Payroll** measures the total annual wages and benefits paid to all workers whose salaries are directly attributable to airport activity.

**Economic Output** measures the value of goods and services related to the airport.

## Georgia Airports

- Georgia is served by 104 publicly-owned, public-use airports:
  - Nine commercial service airports, including Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International, and
  - 95 general aviation airports.
- Airports in Georgia (excluding Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International) support:
  - 1.2 million annual boarded passengers.
  - 720,000 commercial service visitors.
  - 1.1 million general aviation visitors.
  - More than 500 on-airport businesses.
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport:
  - Supports more than 46 million annual boarded passengers; that's nearly 12,700 daily boarded passengers.
  - Provides nonstop service to 156 U.S. cities and more than 80 international destinations in 52 countries.
  - Supports nearly 60 passenger and cargo airlines.
  - Is the busiest passenger and operations airport in the world.

*Note: Calendar Year 2010 data.*

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