



**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF**

# Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport





## 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 economic benefits calculated for each of the airports was based on comprehensive survey data provided by airport managers, airport tenants, non-aviation businesses who utilize the airport, and airport

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<br>Atlanta International | Other Commercial<br>Service Airports | General Aviation<br>Airports | Statewide<br>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 Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport -

Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport is the second largest of nine commercial airports in Georgia behind Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. With its primary 9,351-foot long runway and secondary 7,001-foot long crosswind runway, the airport is capable of serving most commercial, general aviation, and military aircraft. Seven airlines fly direct to 10 destinations and the airport supports robust corporate and general aviation activity, charter, and military activity.

Savannah is a charming coastal city with deep historic roots located along the busy Savannah River. Savannah serves as the major air gateway to this region of Georgia and South Carolina, catering to a wide variety of both business and leisure travelers.

Savannah's location and attractions combine to make the community a strong regional trade center and world renowned tourist destination. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport provides business travelers convenient access to various industries and companies in the area. At the same time, adventure seekers can reach a multitude of year-round outdoor activities via the airport. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport is within easy reach of Tybee Island and Hilton Head beaches and historic sites such as the largest U.S. historic district – Savannah National Historic District; Old Fort Jackson, the oldest fort in Georgia, and Roundhouse Railroad Museum, the oldest and most complete antebellum railroad repair facility in the United States.

Seven commercial airlines provide daily nonstop flights between Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport and Fort Lauderdale, Dallas-Fort Worth, Miami, Newark, Houston, Atlanta, New York, Detroit, Washington D.C., Chicago, Philadelphia, Charlotte, and Destin. Seven

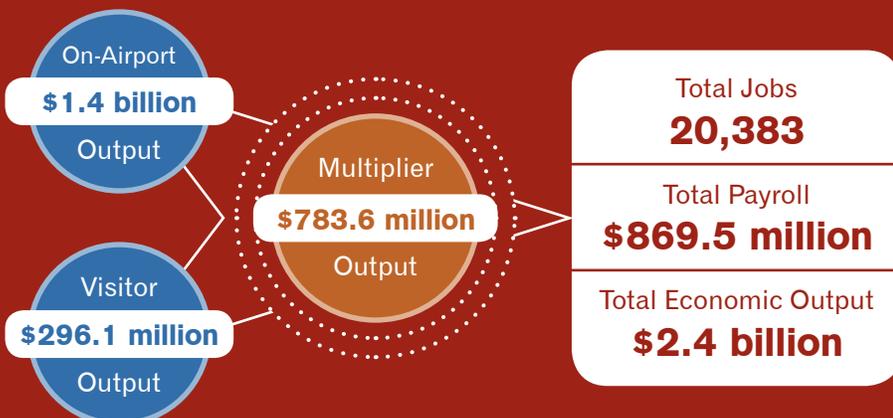
national rental car agencies are located at the airport, along with a number of shuttle, taxi, and limousine service providers. The numerous restaurants and shops located in the modern terminal building allow visitors and travelers to grab a bite to eat or the opportunity to pick up a last minute gift.

More than eighty companies are located on-airport property. Signature Flight Support and Sheltair Aviation Services are the airport's fixed based operators (FBO). The FBOs provide services that include fueling, aircraft rental, charter service, and aircraft maintenance. The largest aviation business located at the airport is business jet manufacturer Gulfstream Aerospace. Gulfstream Aerospace's headquarters have been located at Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport since 1967 and in November 2010, Gulfstream announced a \$500 million 7-year expansion plan, adding up to 1,000 new jobs to Gulfstream's current 5,500 employees. Flight Safety International provides pilot and maintenance training on Gulfstream's business jets in a facility adjacent to the Gulfstream headquarters. There are more than 15 companies with corporate flight departments based at Savannah-Hilton Head International.

With its growing business community, the fourth largest and fastest growing container port in the United States and year-round tourism, the area's economy is growing and diversifying, and the airport and its world-class businesses are helping to both lead and support this trend.

Airports connect Georgia's citizens and businesses to the rest of the state, our nation, and the global economy. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport plays a vital role in supporting the region with 20,383 jobs with an annual payroll of \$869,501,600, and \$2,448,155,200 in economic output for the local and regional economies.

## Economic Impact of Savannah-Hilton Head International 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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