

Hamilton, Montana

Ravalli County Airport



2016 Economic Impact Study for
MONTANA AIRPORTS

MONTANA
MDT ★
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Montana's Airports Support Our State

Montana's airports play an integral role in our transportation system by providing access to destinations within the state, throughout the country, and across the globe. Airports also offer significant economic benefits to our communities by supporting jobs; generating payroll; paying taxes; and triggering spending at local, regional, and state levels.

The importance of airports goes beyond transportation and economics. Airports offer services and other attributes of value that cannot always be easily measured in dollars and cents. Residents and visitors use airports for leisure and business travel, and airports serve as the base for a wide range of critical activities such as wildland firefighting, search and rescue operations, and training for future aviators. Airports are the starting point for aircraft that conduct utility inspections, provide medical evacuation services, and transport staff and executives for business activity.

To better understand the value of Montana's airports from the perspective of both economics and community benefits, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) conducted a comprehensive study of the state's aviation facilities. The study analyzed the contributions of the Montana airport system, including aviation-related and non-aviation-related businesses, visitor spending, capital expenditures on construction, and additional spin-off (or "multiplier") effects. The study also examined specific activities and uses at each airport to identify how these facilities support Montana's residents and visitors.

Methodology

This study expresses the economic benefits of Montana's airports in terms of jobs, payroll, and total annual economic impact derived from the activities that occur at aviation facilities. Direct impacts include those from on-airport businesses, construction-related activities, and spending from visitors who travel through an airport. Airports host on-airport businesses that serve aircraft or passengers such as:

- Administration
- Military
- Airlines
- Maintenance
- Parking
- Concessions
- Car rental
- General aviation
- Air tours
- Air cargo

Additionally, airside and landside construction projects require continuous investments, many of which are high-dollar, long-term undertakings. Because commercial service and general aviation airports are essential to visitors' abilities to conduct business or vacation in Montana, airports support the hospitality industry through lodging, restaurant, retail, and entertainment spending.

Airports' direct impacts also have spin-off effects throughout Montana, as dollars spent at an airport and by visitors off-airport are re-spent locally, regionally, and statewide. Spin-off effects are caused when a portion of direct business revenues are used to purchase goods and services in Montana (i.e., indirect effects) and when the portion of revenues paid as wages to workers are spent within the state (i.e., induced effects).

Combined, direct impacts and spin-off effects compose the total contribution of an individual airport and determine the statewide impact of Montana's airport system.



STATEWIDE IMPACTS

Aviation is a vital key to Montana's economic activity and transportation network. The public-use airports in the state contribute:

	Jobs
	23,849
	Payroll
	\$838,510,000
	Economic Impact
	\$2,779,115,000

Ravalli County Airport

DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS

On-Airport
\$5,816,000

Construction
\$179,000

Visitor Spending
\$6,117,000

SPIN-OFF ECONOMIC EFFECT
\$12,112,000

6S5 TOTAL IMPACTS

204

\$7,492,000

\$20,090,000

Agricultural Spraying



Corporate/Business Activity



Aerial/Wildland Firefighting



Military Exercise/Training



Emergency Medical Aviation



Police/Law Enforcement



Ravalli County Airport (6S5) is a general aviation airport one mile east of Hamilton in Ravalli County, Montana. The airport is in the western region of the state in a valley with Rocky Mountain peaks to its east and west. The region is known for its stunning scenery and outdoor activities, including camping, hiking, and fishing.

Ravalli County Airport is one of the busiest general aviation airports in Montana, accounting for almost 24,000 aircraft operations annually. These activities include recreational flying, agricultural spraying, cargo flights, corporate and business aviation, aerial wildland firefighting, search and rescue operations, flight training, emergency medical flights, and public charters.

Ravalli County is not all business and no play: The airport hosts the Annual Ravalli County Airport Heritage Days and Car Show during the first weekend in July, including a pancake breakfast fly-in attended by 400 to 500 people. Every Easter, the airport hosts an annual Easter egg hunt for the community with a consistently successful turnout.

The functionality and diverse uses of Ravalli County Airport have generated permanent locations for many companies, including agricultural sprayers, aircraft structural mechanics, fixed-base operators (FBO), a government aerial wildland firefighting agency, and restaurants.

Ravalli County Airport benefits the local community by serving an economic hub and offering a central location for community activities and events.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Civil Rights Bureau, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-9229. Those using a TTY may call 1(800)335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.



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