

HELENA REGIONAL AIRPORT – HELENA

QUALITATIVE BENEFITS

In addition to the economic benefits described above, Helena Regional Airport provides access and services that promote the well being of the local community. Aviation activities that take place on a regular basis in addition to commercial airline service include corporate aviation, aerial inspections of utilities, air cargo operations conducted by Exec Air and Alpine Air, civilian flight training, recreational flying, agricultural spraying, military exercises and flight training conducted by the Montana Army National Guard, visitor access to local resorts, and staging for community events. The airport is central in aviation career training and education at the University of Montana-Helena College of Technology. This program is a two-year Aviation Maintenance Technology Associate of Applied Science degree at UM-Helena that prepares and qualifies students for the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) tests for aircraft mechanics. Helena has international landing rights provided by a U. S. Customs Office based on the airport. The Helena Airport is also home to the Sleeping Giant Flying Club, that owns several aircraft and has a large membership base. A variety of aviation maintenance services are provided on the field by Exec Air, Helena Aircraft, Vetter Aviation, and West Air. Specialty aircraft restoration services are also provided by Air Ryder and Gordon Aircrafting.



The airport is also used extensively for police and law enforcement activities, forest and rangeland firefighting operations, and emergency training. The Montana Highway Patrol has two jet helicopters based at the airport and the Helena Police Department has a shooting range at the airport, as well as a police station in the terminal's basement. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's Fire and Aviation Management Bureau has four aircraft based at the airport and the U.S. Forest Service has a forest fire air tanker base. Fish, Wildlife and Parks also have helicopters based at the airport. The Rocky Mountain Emergency Services Training Center (RMESTC) is based at the airport and represents the most realistic aircraft rescue fire training available in the world today. The RMESTC was developed to provide specialized aviation fire training and certification for airport fire departments throughout the United States, in addition to Canada and other international clients. The RMESTC also boasts a large paved driving track that is utilized for specialized automotive training and recreational events by a large number of governmental, private, and public users.



The airport is used regularly for emergency medical evacuation (conducted by Montana Medical Transport), medical shipments and patient transfer, and aerial photography and surveying. Other aviation activities that occur occasionally at the airport include prisoner transport, Civil Air Patrol search and rescue operations and training, environmental patrol, real estate tours, aerial advertising and banner towing, and an air show every few years.

Helena Regional Airport also benefits the local community by renting out rooms in the terminal for community events and aviation meetings. These events and meetings are attended by a total of approximately 3,000 people each year.

Additional benefits to the local economy are provided by the variety of commercial businesses that are located on some of the airport-owned non aeronautical properties. These include Summit aeronautics, a world class aerospace parts and tooling manufacturing facility with 120 employees and contracts with large aerospace companies such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Bell Helicopter, and many others. In addition, other businesses include Costco, Lee Enterprises, Montana Association of Counties, Federal Aviation Administration Airports and Flight Standards Offices, Department of Homeland Security, and The U.S. Forest Service Forest Supervisor and Ranger District Offices.

According to airport management data, the major airport users include Montana Medical Transport, West Air, Exec Air, Alpine Air, Big Sky Beck Helicopters, and large corporations such as Costco, Home Depot, and Lowe's. FAA data indicates BRBF Inc., BTE Equipment, Cirrus Wellness, Federal Aviation Administration, High Flying Club, Lantis Enterprises Inc., Med Air, Montana Department of Highways, Omnicare Management Co., R. B. Hanson Equipment, and the State of Montana utilized the airport in 2008.



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HELENA REGIONAL AIRPORT HELENA



M O N T A N A
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS STUDY

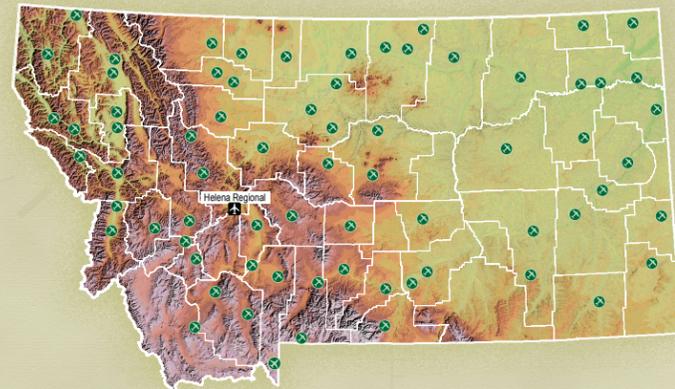
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AIRPORT LOCATION

Helena Regional Airport is located two miles northeast of Helena, Montana, in Lewis and Clark County. Picturesque Helena is the capital of Montana and a city that was born during the gold rush era. Helena is surrounded by mountains and National Forest Service land and is in close proximity to the Missouri River and Holter Lake, Hauser Lake, and Canyon Ferry Lake, all of which provide limitless recreation opportunities for visitors. The city has a colorful history that can be explored at the Original Governor's Mansion, Montana Historical Society, the Museum of the Gold, and on The Last Chance Tour Train. Several examples of outstanding architecture can be found within the city's limits, including the State Capitol building and St. Helena Cathedral.

Helena has a population of approximately 26,720. As the capitol of Montana, Helena has a very stable and viable economy. The largest employers in the city are government related. In addition to being home to some 7,000 state employees, Helena is the seat of Lewis & Clark County, and a number of Montana offices of federal agencies are located here as well. Helena's economic stability is largely due to state government and small business. The majority of its workforce is professionals, white-collar workers, and employees of small businesses.

The 1,400-acre airport's primary runway, Runway 9/27, measures 9,000 feet in length and 150 feet in width. Two additional runways are Runway 5/23 and Runway 16/34. Runway 5/23 measures 4,644 feet in length and 75 feet in width. Runway 16/34 measures 2,989 feet in length and 75 feet in width. There is also an improved infield turf runway that is 1,800 feet long. The airport, with 240 based aircraft, experiences approximately 52,704 aircraft operations annually. Helena Regional has scheduled airline service to four major hubs by SkyWest, Pinnacle, Horizon, and United. Approximately 180,000 passenger movements take place through the Helena Airport's terminal in a given year.



STATEWIDE RESULTS

Economic benefits in the Montana Economic Impact of Airports Study are expressed in terms of jobs, payroll, and annual economic activity or output.

Jobs/Employment

An estimated 18,800 jobs in Montana are in some way supported by the commercial and general aviation airports. These are jobs that are associated with on-airport businesses, tenants, and other activities that are located on commercial or general aviation airports in the State. In addition, spending by visitors arriving in Montana by air helps to support other jobs. When airport improvements are made, additional jobs are supported by the airports over the duration of these projects.

Payroll/Earnings

The 18,800 jobs in Montana that are linked to the commercial and general aviation airports account for over \$600 million in annual payroll. Airport related payroll is a key component of the economic benefit cycle that starts at the airport. It was this economic cycle that was measured by this study's induced benefits. When those employed by on-airport businesses use their paycheck to

purchase groceries, new clothes, or household items, their spending helps to support other jobs in the community and the payroll associated with these jobs. The initial benefits that start at the airports continue to multiply once they enter the State's economy.

Annual Economic Activity/Output

To operate Montana's airports, businesses located on the airports and businesses that support visitors who arrive in Montana via the airports all require the purchase of goods and services. These expenditures are most often in addition to those benefits identified in the payroll and earnings category. Benefits in this category are expressed in this study as total annual economic activity or output. Annual economic output related to the airports is typically assumed to be the sum of annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures, including capital improvement projects.

JOBS..... 18,800

PAYROLL.....\$600 MILLION

OUTPUT.....\$1.56 BILLION

MONTANA ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS STUDY

ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Economic impacts at an airport are measured through employment, payroll, and output (spending). On-airport business and government activities (direct impacts) account for a significant portion of an airport's first-round economic benefits. Additional first-round benefits are also linked to visitors who arrive via the State's system of airports (indirect impacts). Spending by these visitors supports additional employment and associated annual payroll. These first-round impacts create additional spin-off benefits that ripple through the economy. These second-round or induced benefits were measured with Montana-specific IMPLAN multipliers. When combined, first-round and second-round benefits equal the total economic impact associated with each airport.

First-Round Impact

In 2008, there were 30 aviation-related tenants on the airport who supported 753 employees. These tenants' first-round or direct employment, payroll, and output impacts were derived from survey data. First-round impacts also include airport sponsor activity and airport related construction. Direct output from all on-airport aviation-related tenants and airport management is estimated at \$74.9 million annually. The estimated direct annual payroll of these tenants and airport management is \$33.4 million. Visitors also create economic impacts. Survey data indicated that approximately 56,798 visitors arrived via Helena Regional Airport in 2008 on commercial airlines and general aviation aircraft. This visitor-related output (spending) supported an additional 332 full-time jobs for employees earning \$6.5 million annually. Output from commercial airline and general aviation visitors is estimated at \$17.3 million.

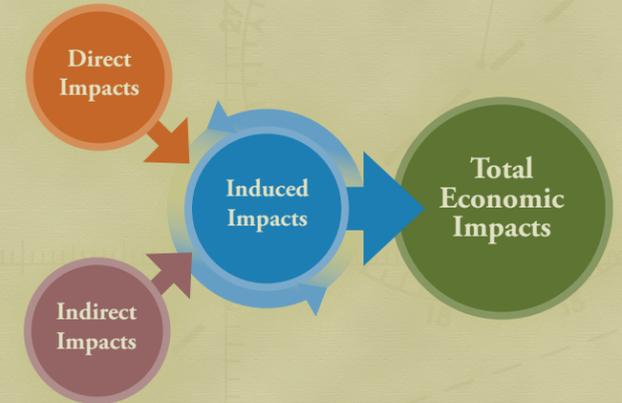
Second-Round Impact

The first-round impacts associated with on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors also create second-round impacts throughout the State. Second-round impacts are induced impacts calculated using the Montana specific IMPLAN multipliers. The accompanying table presents the 2008 first-round, second-round, and total impacts for output, payroll, and employment as they relate to on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors.

Total Impact

For 2008, the total output (including first-round and second-round impacts) stemming from all on-airport tenants and all commercial airline and general aviation visitors to Helena Regional Airport was approximately \$153.7 million. Total full-time employment related to airport tenants and general aviation visitors, including all second-round impacts, is estimated at approximately 1,774 persons, with a total annual payroll (first-round and second-round) of approximately \$66.7 million associated with these jobs.

METHODOLOGY



AIRPORT SUMMARY TABLE

FIRST-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

On-Airport	Visitor Spending
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAA, Other Government • Airport Management • Aircraft maintenance • Vendors • Retail & Restaurant • Car Rental • Parking • Other Ground Transportation • Fixed Based Operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotels • Retail & Restaurants • Travel Agents • Convention Centers • Tourist Destinations
752.5 Jobs \$33,421,000 in Payroll \$74,928,600 in Economic Output	332.0 Jobs \$6,474,000 in Payroll \$17,321,800 in Economic Output

SECOND-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppliers of Materials & Services to Airports • Air Dependent Businesses • Visitor Dependent Businesses • Consumer Product and Service Sales
689.5 Jobs \$26,810,500 in Payroll \$61,409,500 in Economic Output

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

1774.0 Jobs \$66,705,500 in Wages \$153,659,900 in Economic Activity
