



Georgia Department of Transportation



• ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR •
GRIFFIN-SPALDING COUNTY 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 **Griffin-Spalding County Airport** and summarizes all Statewide Airport Economic Impacts.

Annual Economic Impacts for Griffin-Spalding County 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 **Griffin-Spalding County Airport** and other airport benefits. Key impacts for the **Griffin-Spalding County Airport** follow.

Annual Visitors **3,366**

Employment Supported **231**

Annual Payroll **\$10,735,600**

Annual Spending **\$14,063,300**

Annual Economic Impact **\$24,798,900**

Airport-Supported Annual State & Local Sales & Income Tax Revenues **\$905,370**

Economic Impacts for Griffin-Spalding County Airport

The table below provides information on the sources of annual economic impact estimated for the **Griffin-Spalding County Airport**. For more information on the impacts reported here, consult the study's Technical Report available at dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid.

Annual Economic Impacts for Griffin-Spalding County Airport

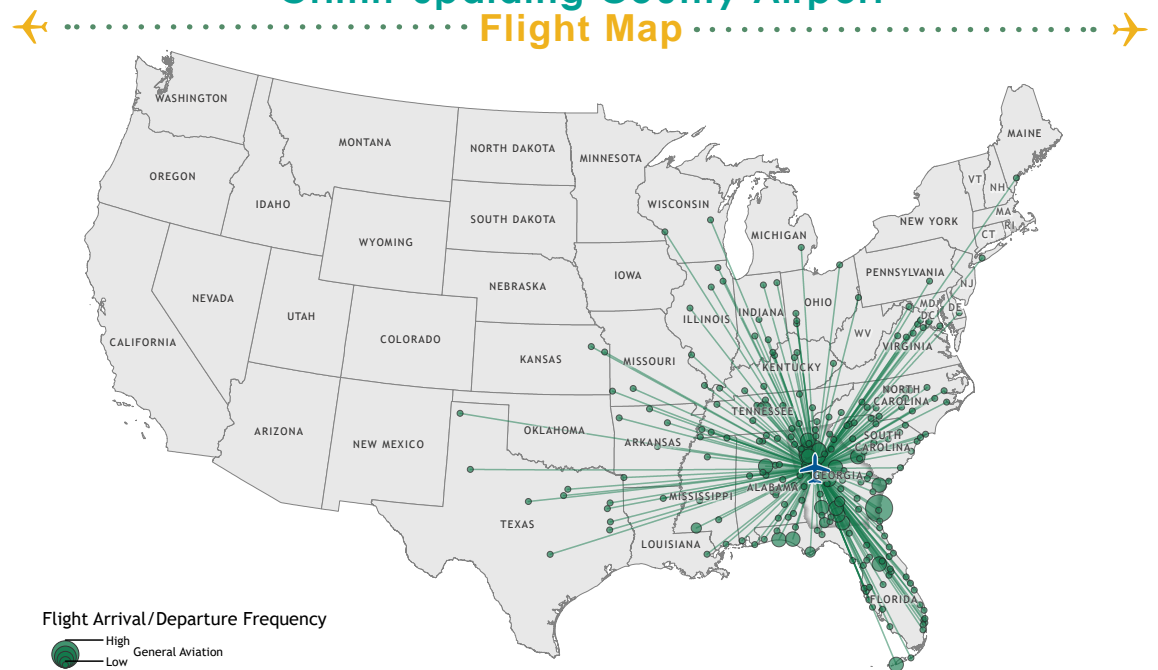
	Employment	Payroll	Spending	Total Economic Activity
Airport Management & Business Tenants	180	\$9,199,700	\$8,383,200	\$17,582,900
Capital Investment	42	\$1,297,100	\$5,310,000	\$6,607,100
General Aviation Visitor Expenditures	9	\$238,800	\$370,100	\$608,900
Total	231	\$10,735,600	\$14,063,300	\$24,798,900

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 **Griffin-Spalding County 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.

Griffin-Spalding County Airport Flight Map



Top Five Destinations for Griffin-Spalding County Airport

- Atlanta, Georgia
- Brunswick, Georgia
- Savannah, Georgia
- Valdosta, Georgia
- Destin, Florida

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.

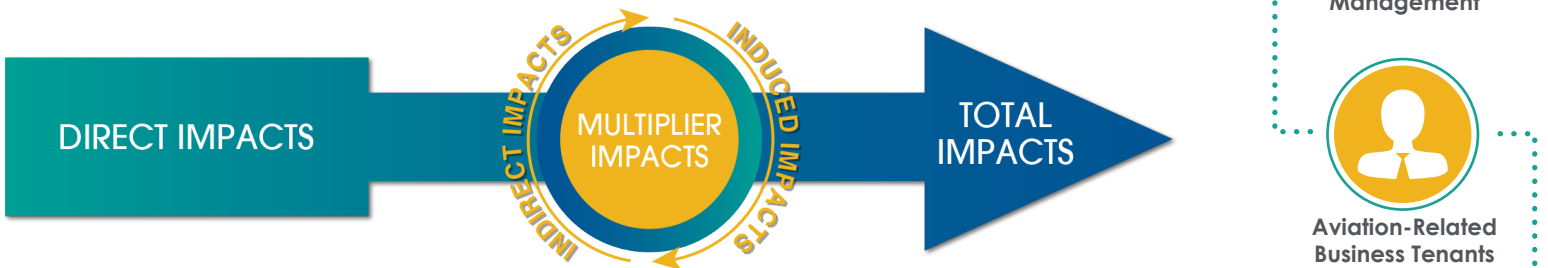
Statewide Economic Impacts All System Airports

	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

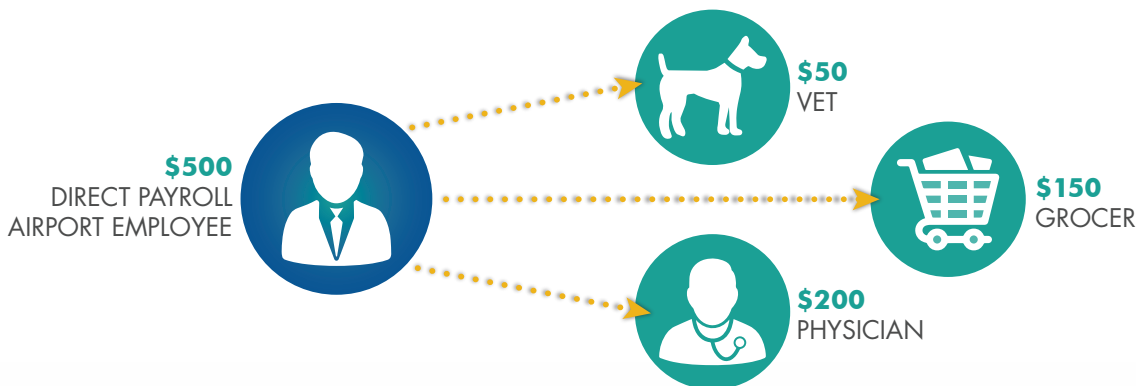
Economic Impact Categories and Measurements

The study identified impacts related to airport management (day-to-day airport operations), aviation-related business tenants, average annual capital investment, expenditures by 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.



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.



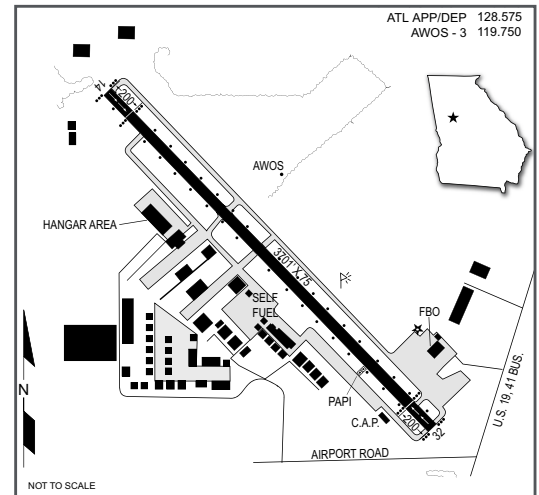
The direct impacts that start at the airport multiply within the state economy. The \$150 of direct impact spent with the grocery results in additional payroll (induced impacts) for the grocer's employees. As the grocery buys supplies, this additional business to business spending results in indirect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

Visitors Arriving on Commercial Flights

Griffin-Spalding County Airport

The City of Griffin is located in Spalding County, at the convergence of U.S. Highway 19 and 41. Griffin has a diverse economic base. The Griffin-Spalding County Airport is located one mile south of Griffin. The airport has a full-parallel taxiway and a single paved runway, Runway 14/32, which is 3,701 feet long. The airport is jointly owned and operated by the City of Griffin and Spalding County. Economic growth in the area, along with growth in aviation activity at the airport resulted in an ongoing project being pursued with local, state, and federal assistance to relocate the airport to a new site. The opening of a new airport is still several years in the offing.

There are 11 aviation-related businesses located at the airport. These business tenants provide a wide variety of aircraft maintenance services, along with flight training and emergency medical support. With 24 employees, Atlanta Aerospace Composites is the largest on-airport business. Precision Avionics maintains an on-site avionics testing facility and repair station. Turbine Solutions provides aircraft interiors and aircraft maintenance services. Air Methods Life Flight is also a major operator at the airport, providing air ambulance services to area residents. Griffin-Spalding County Airport supports numerous local companies and also provides flight instruction, aircraft rental and sales, and transport of medical personnel and supplies to the region. The airport is used by local real estate and utility companies.



Examples of How Griffin-Spalding County 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.

Law Enforcement: The airport supports essential law enforcement activities. The Georgia State Patrol (GSP) Aviation Division uses the airport and operates 24/7 to provide air support for different assignments. GSP supports public safety interests for the citizens of Georgia. The GSP Aviation Division performs search and rescue missions utilizing infra-red cameras, and many missing persons have been located from the air using this technology. Other missions supported by the GSP Aviation Division include manhunts, aerial photography, aerial surveillance, natural disaster response, SWAT missions, and fire suppression. The Division has become a nationwide leader for its innovative use of aircraft to suppress the distribution of illegal substances. In addition, the Spalding County Sheriff's Office relies on the airport to support its operations.

Business Use: Airports are tools used by a wide variety of employers to increase many aspects of 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 that rely on and benefit from the airport include Caterpillar, Fitzgerald Ford, Cherokee Brick, S-Tec Corporation, Southeast Nuclear Electronics, 1888 Mills, and Whitworth Construction. The airport assists many sectors of the local economy.

Emergency Medical Services: Air Methods is based at the airport. Air Methods provides emergency medical services by air, delivering lifesaving care to more than 100,000 patients each year. Typical operations that Air Methods supports include responding to accidents, transporting people from accident sites, and transporting patients from smaller local hospitals to medical facilities where advanced and specialty medical services are available. Air Methods often transports patients needing emergency medical services to Wellstar Spalding Regional Hospital in Griffin.

Powerline Patrols: An estimated 500,000 miles of powerlines snake their way around the United States. General aviation aircraft are often employed to scout the lines and report problems to the power company. Pilots flying low-power general aviation aircraft make observations on discrepancies, vegetation infringement, and other potential issues that may require maintenance or repair. Georgia Power uses the airport to support its maintenance activities, which include aerial powerline patrols that are necessary to provide reliable and economical service to all customers. Georgia's electric highway of powerlines covers 12,500 miles. Following storms, aircraft can quickly survey area powerlines for damage. Quick aerial response supported by the airport results in targeted dispatch of repair crews to assist with restoring power in a timely fashion.

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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.

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