# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF McKinnon-St. Simons Island Airport

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## Georgia Airports Mean Business

Georgia's airport system of 104 publicly-owned, publicuse 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 onsite 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.

The economic benefits calculated for each of the airports was based on comprehensive survey data provided by airport managers, airport tenants, nonaviation businesses who utilize the airport, and airport 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	434,434	26,451	10,290	471,175
Payroll	\$16.3 billion	\$1.1 billion	\$354.4 million	\$17.8 billion
Economic Output	\$58.2 billion	\$3.2 billion	\$1.2 billion	\$62.6 billion

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

# Benefits of McKinnon-St. Simons Island Airport

St. Simons Island is located in southeast Georgia just off Interstate 95, near Brunswick in Glynn County. The 2010 population of St. Simons Island is nearly 13,000. Thanks to Glynn County Commissioner Malcolm B. McKinnon's vision of aviation, Malcolm McKinnon Field opened in May 1938. In its more than 70 years, the now McKinnon-St. Simons Island Airport provides invaluable opportunities to St. Simons Island, the deepwater port of Brunswick, and the Georgia Golden Isles community.

McKinnon-St. Simons Island Airport is five miles east of Brunswick, and is owned and operated by Glynn County. The primary runway, Runway 04/22, is 5,800 feet long. The crosswind runway, Runway 16/34, is 3,313 feet long. Golden Isles Aviation is the airport's full service fixed base operator and provides fuel, maintenance, avionics, flight planning, aircraft catering, aircraft rental, and flight training. Hangar rental is provided by Gruber Aviation. Palmetto Aviation Repair provides aircraft maintenance services. Several national rental car companies and several local companies provide ground transportation to and from the airport. The airport supports local companies conducting business operations in the area, including Rich Products, a leading frozen food products supplier; Atlantic Equipment, CCA Industries, Georgia Theater Company, and JRT Group Properties. General Acquistions and Landstar Express America base their corporate flight departments at the airport. The area's pristine beaches, exclusive golf courses, abundant recreational activities, and ample conference facilities draw tourists year-round, and the airport supports the tourism industry and area resorts, such as Seapalms Resort and nearby Sea Island. The airport supports recreational flying, flight training, Civil Air Patrol operations, and environmental patrol flights.

Airports connect Georgia's citizens and businesses to the rest of the state, our nation, and the global economy. McKinnon-St. Simons Island Airport plays a vital role in supporting the region with 207 jobs with an annual payroll of \$6,113,400, and \$20,790,100 in economic output for the local and regional economies.

#### Economic Impact of McKinnon-St. Simons Island 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, publicuse 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.

For more information contact:

#### **Georgia Department of Transportation** Aviation Programs 600 West Peachtree Street, NW Atlanta, Georgia 30308

404-631-1000 http://www.dot.ga.gov.





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