



Georgia Department of Transportation



• ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR •  
**BERRIEN 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 **Berrien County Airport** and summarizes all Statewide Airport Economic Impacts.

## Annual Economic Impacts for Berrien 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 **Berrien County Airport** and other airport benefits. Key impacts for the **Berrien County Airport** follow.

- Annual Visitors **417**
- Employment Supported **5**
- Annual Payroll **\$137,300**
- Annual Spending **\$372,600**
- Annual Economic Impact **\$509,900**
- Airport-Supported Annual State & Local Sales & Income Tax Revenues **\$30,480**

## Economic Impacts for Berrien County Airport

The table below provides information on the sources of annual economic impact estimated for the **Berrien County Airport**. For more information on the impacts reported here, consult the study's Technical Report available at [dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid](http://dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid).

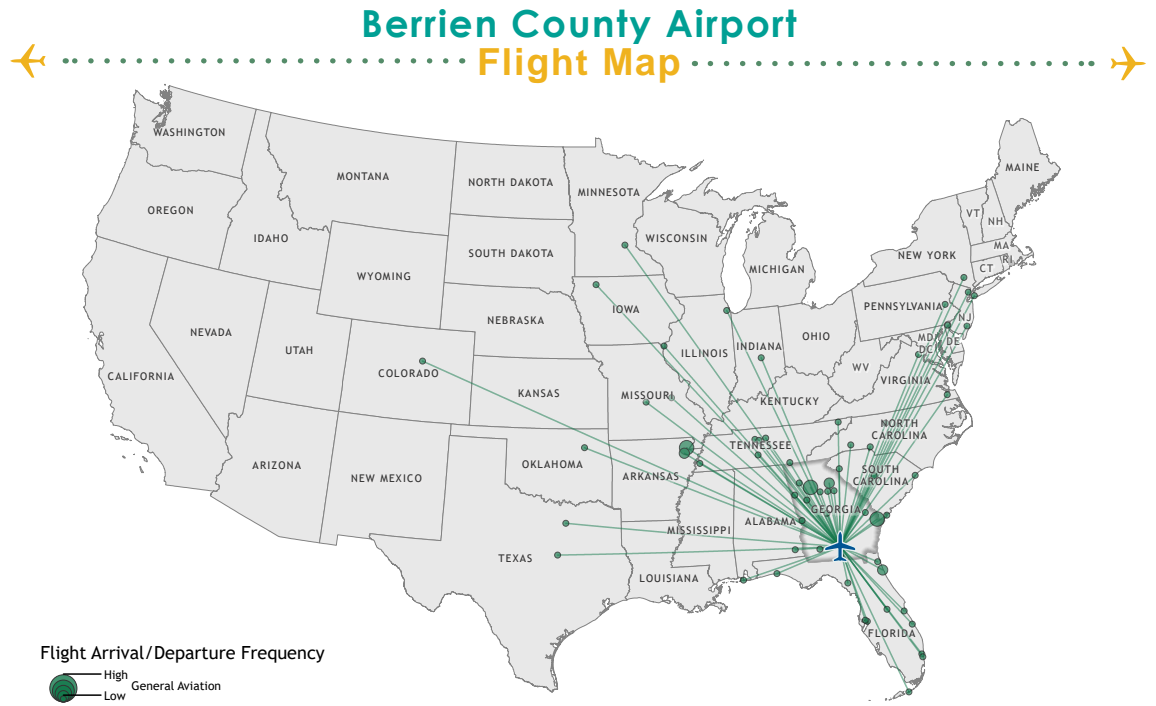
### Annual Economic Impacts for Berrien County Airport

	Employment	Payroll	Spending	Total Economic Activity
Airport Management & Business Tenants	2	\$53,000	\$68,800	\$121,800
Capital Investment	2	\$68,000	\$278,500	\$346,500
General Aviation Visitor Expenditures	1	\$16,300	\$25,300	\$41,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$137,300</b>	<b>\$372,600</b>	<b>\$509,900</b>

## 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 **Berrien 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.



## Top Five Destinations for Berrien County Airport

- 1** Atlanta, Georgia
- 2** Savannah, Georgia
- 3** Paragould, Arkansas
- 4** Athens, Georgia
- 5** Jonesboro, Arkansas

## 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.

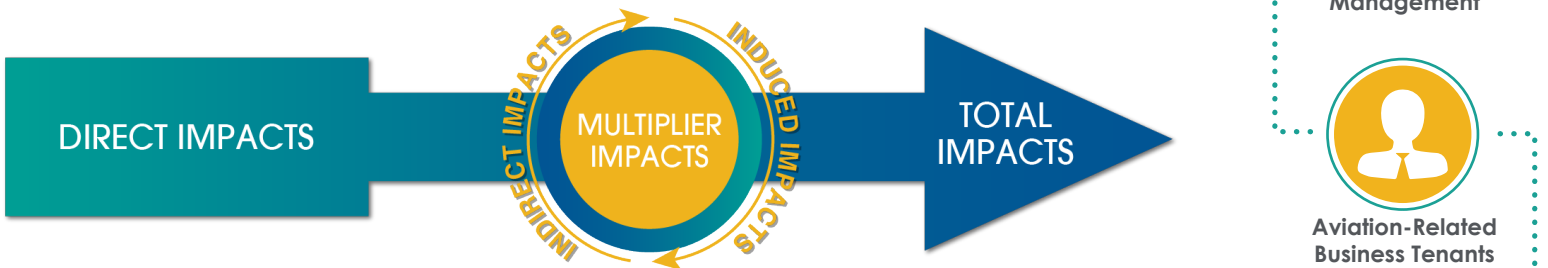
### Statewide Economic Impacts All System Airports

	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

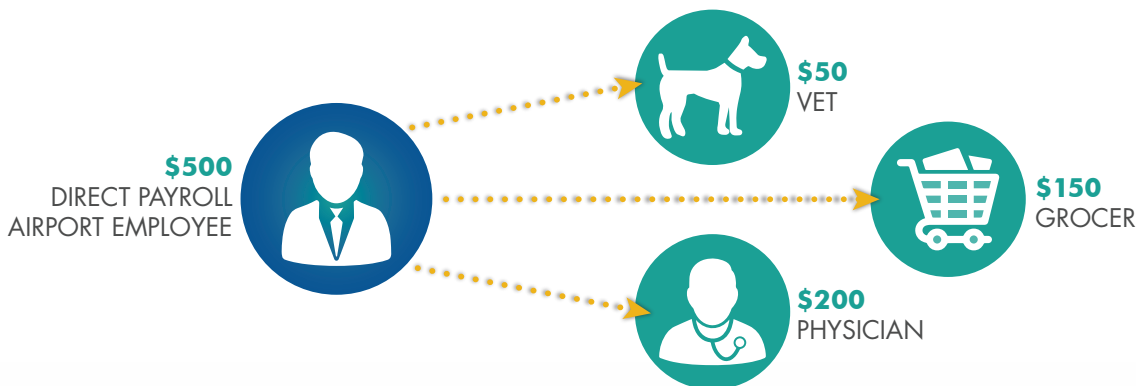
## Economic Impact Categories and Measurements

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.

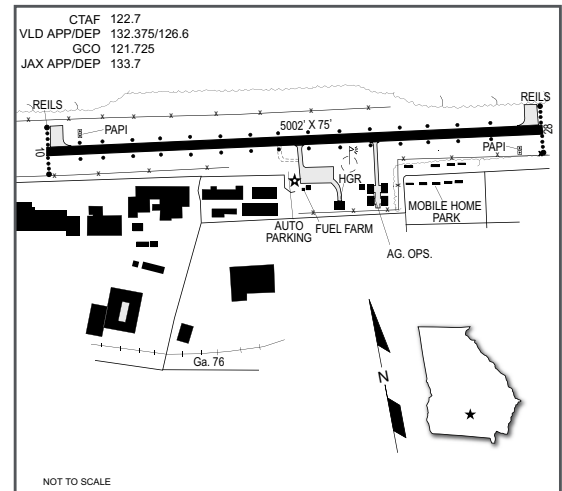
Visitors Arriving on Commercial Flights

## Berrien County Airport

The Berrien County Airport is located in Berrien County in the southern part of Georgia. The airport is approximately 28 miles north of Valdosta and 24 miles southeast of Tifton. The primary highway access to the airport from the east and southwest is via Georgia Highway 76. Other major roads in the vicinity of the airport are US Highway 129 and Georgia Highways 76, 125, and 168. There are almost 60,000 residents within a 30-minute drive of the airport.

The airport is owned and operated by Berrien County. The airport is served by a single runway, Runway 10/28. The runway is 5,002 feet long.

The airport accommodates a variety of aviation-related activities including business aviation, recreational flying, agricultural spraying, and ultra-lights.



## Examples of How Berrien 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.

**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 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. Chaparral Boats is the world's leading manufacturer of quality fiberglass boats. The company frequently relies on and benefits from the airport located near its Nashville, Georgia manufacturing facility and corporate offices. With over 800 employees, Chaparral is the largest employer in the airport's market area. By supporting this local business and the suppliers and customers of Chaparral who fly to the area, the airport helps to support many local jobs.

**Aerial Applicators:** Agriculture is an important part of Georgia's economy. Georgia is home to a diverse array of food and fiber products and an assortment of related processing companies. Together, agriculture and its related industries in Georgia, directly and indirectly, account for over \$74.3 billion in economic output and over 411,500 jobs. Georgia is host to over 42,000 farms, encompassing more than 9 million acres; 88 percent of these farms are considered small businesses. The Bureau of Economic Analysis reports nearly 35,000 farm proprietors in the state. Aviation is a tool that supports agriculture in Georgia. Aerial applicators spray crops and timber to prevent the spread of disease and pests. The airport supports locally-based aerial applicator as well as transient or visiting aerial applicators of herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, and fertilizers to help local farms produce higher yields and cleaner fields.

**Medical/Emergency Services:** The nation's hospital system is shrinking; and, smaller/local hospitals find it a challenge to retain a full complement of medical specialists. Often smaller hospitals cannot provide advanced trauma care. South Georgia Medical Center Berrien Center has served local medical needs of the Nashville, Georgia area since 1965. Airports assist in backfilling the void for various types of locally-based physicians. Airports also are available to transport patients needing advanced medical or trauma care to larger hospitals in Georgia. The ability to rapidly and safely move patients, medical personnel, and equipment, when conditions are urgent, is beneficial to the well-being and quality of life of residents.

**Law Enforcement:** The airport supports essential law enforcement activities. From one of its bases of operation in Reidsville, the Georgia State Patrol (GSP) Aviation Division uses airports in southeast Georgia 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.

### THIS DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED BY

Jviation  
900 S Broadway, Suite 350  
Denver, CO 80209  
303.524.3030  
www.jviation.com

*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.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Georgia Department of Transportation Aviation Programs  
600 West Peachtree Street NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
404.631.1990 | dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid  
Email: aviationprograms@dot.ga.gov