



Georgia Department of Transportation



• ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT FOR •
QUITMAN BROOKS 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 **Quitman Brooks County Airport** and summarizes all Statewide Airport Economic Impacts.

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



Annual Visitors
614



Employment Supported
8



Annual Payroll
\$209,000



Annual Spending
\$517,800



Annual Economic Impact
\$726,800



Airport-Supported Annual State & Local Sales & Income Tax Revenues
\$28,580

Economic Impacts for Quitman Brooks County Airport

The table below provides information on the sources of annual economic impact estimated for the **Quitman Brooks 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 Quitman Brooks County Airport

	Employment	Payroll	Spending	Total Economic Activity
Airport Management & Business Tenants	6	\$157,600	\$368,300	\$525,900
Capital Investment	1	\$27,400	\$112,300	\$139,700
General Aviation Visitor Expenditures	1	\$24,000	\$37,200	\$61,200
Total	8	\$209,000	\$517,800	\$726,800

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 **Quitman Brooks 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.

Quitman Brooks County Airport Flight Map



Top Five Destinations for Quitman Brooks County Airport



Avon Park, Florida



Athens, Georgia



Atlanta, Georgia



Swainsboro, Georgia



Dunnellon, 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.

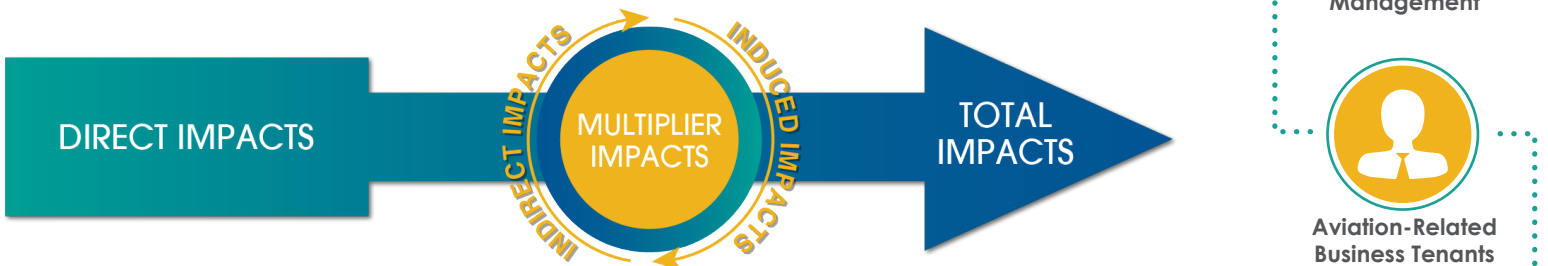
Statewide Economic Impacts All System Airports

	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

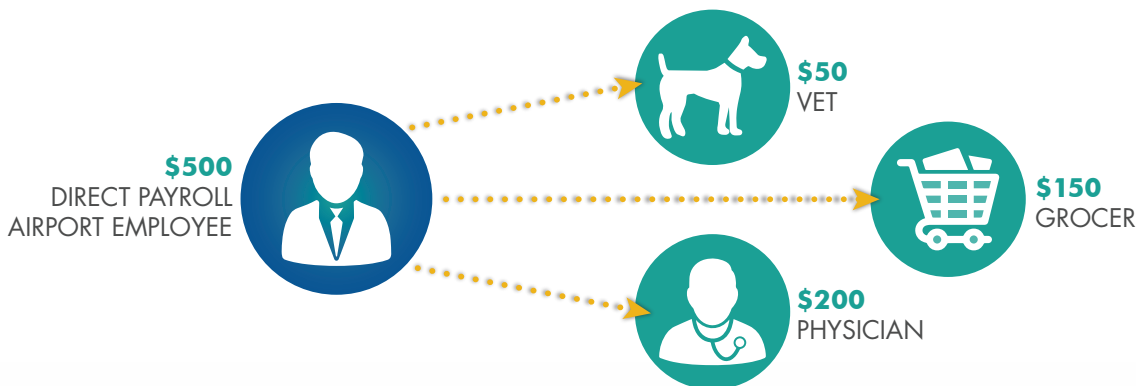
Economic Impact Categories and Measurements

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.



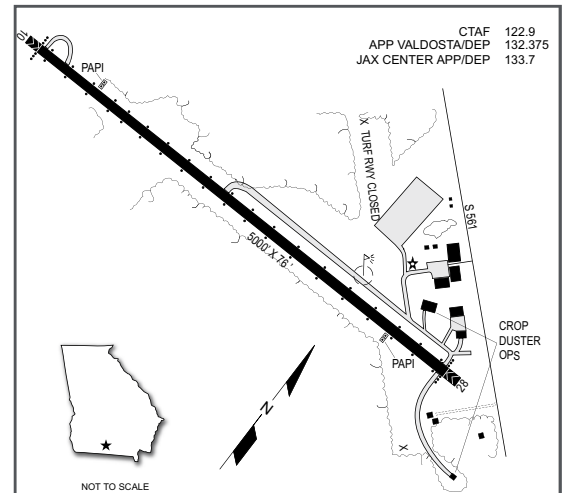
The direct impacts that start at the airport multiply within the state economy. The \$150 of direct impact spent with the grocery results in additional payroll (induced impacts) for the grocer's employees. As the grocery buys supplies, this additional business to business spending results in indirect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

Visitors Arriving on Commercial Flights

The Quitman Brooks County Airport is located in Brooks County in the southern part of Georgia. The airport is approximately 18 miles southwest of Valdosta and 27 miles east of Thomasville. The primary highway access to the airport from the east and west is via US Highway 84/Georgia Highway 38. Other highways in the vicinity of the airport include US Highway 221 and Georgia Highways 76 and 333. There are almost 68,000 residents within a 30-minute drive of the airport.


The airport is owned and operated by the City of Quitman and the Quitman Brooks County Airport Authority. It has one runway, Runway 10/28, and is 5,000 feet in length. The airport has five on-site businesses including AeroTech Services, Langdale Industries, Quitman Aviation Services, Rose City Soaring Association, and Vanguard Aviation. Businesses at the airport are engaged in providing aircraft maintenance and flight training.

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





Examples of How Quitman Brooks County Airport Supports its Community


Even if you never use the airport, there is a good chance the airport supports activities that you benefit from. 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.




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. Brooks County Hospital serves local medical needs for Brooks County and Quitman residents. The hospital's mission is to provide patient-focused healthcare in a cost-effective manner. Airports often assist in backfilling the void for various types of locally-based physicians. The airport also helps 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.



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. Areas in proximity to the airport are important for their agricultural and timber resources. 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. Dixie Crop Care is based at the airport. The airport supports aerial applicators of herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, and fertilizers to help local farms produce higher yields and cleaner fields.



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. Many types of 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. The Brooks County Development Authority recognizes that an airport, suited to meeting business needs, is often part of the infrastructure that companies seek. The airport's proximity to the Quitman Industrial Park and its 5,000-foot runway are being leveraged by the Authority to attract development to the area.



Georgia Department of Natural Resources: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversees state parks and historic resources, wildlife resources, law enforcement, historic preservation, environmental protection, and coastal resources throughout the state. DNR is supported by a separate aviation unit that frequently uses the airport to support its various missions and activities. DNR's aviation unit flew almost 960 hours in 2019 to support their missions. Almost 33% of their hours were flown to protect the state's waterways and woodland areas. DNR assists other agencies such as the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

THIS DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED BY

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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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