

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF**

# Athens-Ben Epps Field







## Georgia Airports Mean Business

Georgia's airport system of 104 publicly-owned, public-use 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 on-site 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, non-aviation 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	<b>434,434</b>	<b>26,451</b>	<b>10,290</b>	<b>471,175</b>
Payroll	<b>\$16.3 billion</b>	<b>\$1.1 billion</b>	<b>\$354.4 million</b>	<b>\$17.8 billion</b>
Economic Output	<b>\$58.2 billion</b>	<b>\$3.2 billion</b>	<b>\$1.2 billion</b>	<b>\$62.6 billion</b>

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



## Benefits of Athens-Ben Epps Field

Athens is an eclectic college town located in north Georgia at the intersection of U.S. Highways 29 and 441 in Clarke County. Athens-Clarke County is home to a population of over 115,000 as of 2010, making it the fifth largest city in the state. Home to the University of Georgia, Athens is known as a college town with popular athletics and a vibrant arts scene. Named after Georgia aviation pioneer, Ben Epps, the airport has maintained a strong presence in the community since Mr. Epps opened the airport in 1917.

Athens-Ben Epps Field is located approximately three miles east of the Athens central business district, supports both commercial service and general aviation activities. The airfield consists of two asphalt runways: Runway 09/27 is 5,522 feet long and Runway 02/20 is 4,000 feet long, and can accommodate 95 percent of general aviation aircraft. Other airport facilities include an airport rescue and fire fighting station and an air traffic control tower.

Athens-Ben Epps Field is one of nine commercial service airports in Georgia, with Georgia Skies providing two scheduled daily flights to Atlanta, allowing passengers a direct link between Athens and the extensive network of routes offered by other major airlines. Athens Turboprop Management provides quality aircraft maintenance and repair services in their new 14,000 square foot facility. Falcon Aviation Academy provides flight instruction. Georgia Aviation is a full-service aircraft maintenance service center, and charter services are provided by Jets R Us. Other services provided by these businesses include

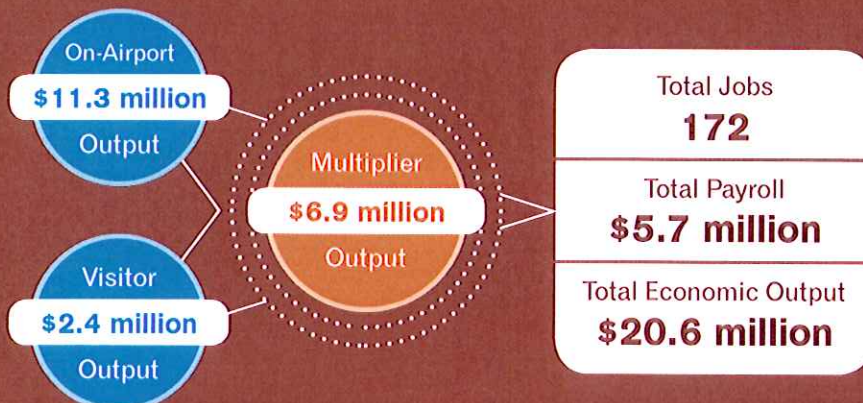
aircraft maintenance and management, avionics, flight training, jet aircraft leasing, air taxi/charter flights, aircraft ground servicing, and car rentals.

Athens-Ben Epps Field supports many local businesses including Albuquerque Redi-Mix, Baldor Electric, and Cessna Aircraft Company. Bank of America and Coca-Cola Enterprises regularly use the airport to conduct business operations in the area. The airport also supports aerial inspections, air cargo, aerial agricultural spraying, military exercises, search and rescue, aerial photography and surveys, real estate tours, and aerial banner towing.

The University of Georgia is a frequent user of the airport for athletic teams and guest speakers and entertainers for university events. Additionally, UGA alumni account for a significant amount of activity at the airport during home football and basketball seasons. The Georgia State Patrol maintains a facility with two helicopters based at the airport providing law enforcement and environmental patrols. Civil Air Patrol conducts regular training exercises and search and rescue missions.

Airports connect Georgia's citizens and businesses to the rest of the state, our nation, and the global economy. Athens-Ben Epps Field plays a vital role in supporting the region with 172 jobs with an annual payroll of \$5,662,100, and \$20,646,900 in economic output for the local and regional economies.

### Economic Impact of Athens-Ben Epps Field



**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.