Colorado is served by a diverse system of airports. These airports accommodate the needs of Colorado businesses and residents, as well as visitors who come to Colorado to conduct business, attend conventions, and vacation. Airports in Colorado support hundreds of thousands of jobs and contribute billions of dollars in annual economic activity. At the same time, airports and aviation activities are a source of tax revenues.

Important links between airports and the economy were measured in a research project undertaken by the Colorado Department of Transportation’s Division of Aeronautics. Similar research efforts were undertaken in 1998, 2003 and 2008, but results from this update and previous studies are not directly comparable. This update to the Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study found that all of Colorado’s airports, including Denver International, contribute $36.7 billion in output to Colorado’s economy and support 265,700 jobs. These employees earn $12.6 billion. In total, Colorado’s airports contribute $11 billion in state and local tax revenues.

These annual economic benefits include "multiplier" effects, which capture the recycling of initial economic impacts in the economy. Successive rounds of spending associated with the economic activities of airport operators, airport tenants, capital investment, air visitors and other non-aviation businesses that rely on air cargo, support additional jobs, payroll and economic activity in Colorado. Multiplier impacts are estimated using multipliers that are specific to the state or to the market area of each study airport. Total statewide and airport-specific impacts are the sum of initial and applicable multiplier impacts.

The Economic Impact of
GRAND JUNCTION REGIONAL AIRPORT
Grand Junction, Colorado

Colorado Department of Transportation
Division of Aeronautics
5261 Front Range Parkway
Watkins, Colorado 80137
303-512-5250
www.Colorado-Aeronautics.org

Prepared by:
ICF SH&E, Inc. with Aviation, EDR Group and KRAMER aerotek, Inc.
The economic impact of Grand Junction Regional Airport (GJT) on its local economy was estimated as a part of CDOT’s statewide study. The economic contributions of Grand Junction Regional Airport stem from on-airport activities and off-airport spending by visitors who arrive in Colorado via the airport. The economic contributions of these activities are measured through jobs, associated payroll, and economic output.

### On-Airport Impacts

On-airport activities considered in this study include the administration, operation and maintenance of Grand Junction Regional Airport as well as the activities of airport tenants that provide aviation services or support the airport’s customers. Airport operators routinely undertake improvement projects to maintain or expand infrastructure. The study also identified the economic impact of capital investment spending which supports jobs and payroll while producing additional economic impacts through multiplier effects.

### Total Economic Impact of Grand Junction Regional Airport

Over the past five years, the aviation industry has been impacted by increased fuel costs and a lagging U.S. economy. This has resulted in consolidation in the airline industry, fewer new general aviation aircraft being manufactured in the U.S., and an overall reduction in flights. For some Colorado airports, the contraction in aviation demand over the past five years translated into lower economic impacts. In other instances, demand and economic impacts may have increased or remained constant, despite downturns.

Together, airport, tenant, capital improvement and visitor impacts, along with multiplier effects, represent the total economic contribution of Grand Junction Regional Airport. The airport’s economic contribution to the communities it serves is $380.0 million in output and 2,871 jobs, with an annual payroll of $130.8 million.

### Annual Economic Impact on the Local Economy

### Visitor Impacts

Visitors travel to Colorado on commercial airline flights and general aviation aircraft to conduct business or vacation in the state. Annually, 175,000 visitors arrive in Colorado via Grand Junction Regional Airport. Some stay only for the day, but others stay longer and have higher spending rates. Air visitors spend money locally on food, lodging, transportation, entertainment and retail purchases. Visitor spending in turn supports jobs and payroll while producing additional economic impacts through multiplier effects.

### Annual Visitor Economic Impact for Grand Junction Regional Airport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Multiplier Effect</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jobs</td>
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<td>643</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
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<tr>
<td>Output</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Annual Tax Impacts

The economic activities related to the airport and visitors using the airport generate significant local and state tax revenues. Visitors pay taxes on lodging, rental cars, restaurant meals, and other purchases. Workers whose jobs are supported by airports and visitor spending also pay sales tax and state income taxes. Annual local and state taxes linked to the operation of Grand Junction Regional Airport total $12.1 million.

### Annual Economic Impact for Grand Junction Regional Airport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Multiplier Effect</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jobs</td>
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<td>$130.8</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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### How the Economic Impact of Grand Junction Regional Airport was Calculated

![Diagram showing the economic impact of Grand Junction Regional Airport](image-url)