

Alabama Airports: Gateway to Economic Growth

*Madison County Executive Airport
is responsible for \$17.85 million
in annual economic activity*



Madison County
Executive

Madison County

Alabama Airport System

Alabama's 84 airports and 52 heliports are the gateway to the economic growth of our state. They are absolutely critical to our industrial and economic recruitment efforts, and to the retention and expansion of our existing businesses.

"If the airport wasn't here, Briggs & Stratton wouldn't be here."
 Dave DeBaets, Vice President & General Manager Large Engine Division, Briggs & Stratton Corporation, Auburn, Alabama

1 in 3 People Employed In Alabama Work For A Company That Uses General Aviation. A survey of 2,800 major Alabama companies revealed that 1 out of every 3 people employed in Alabama works for a company that directly uses general aviation in some way in the performance of its business. The study also found that for a recent 12 month period in Alabama there were 95 locations announced for distributors, manufacturers, headquarters operations and selected service industries. Each one of these new facilities located within 17 miles of a general aviation airport, with one in four located near the larger air carrier airports.

"Most companies will not locate a plant unless there is an airport nearby."
 Cary Baker, Shaw Industries, Andalusia, Alabama

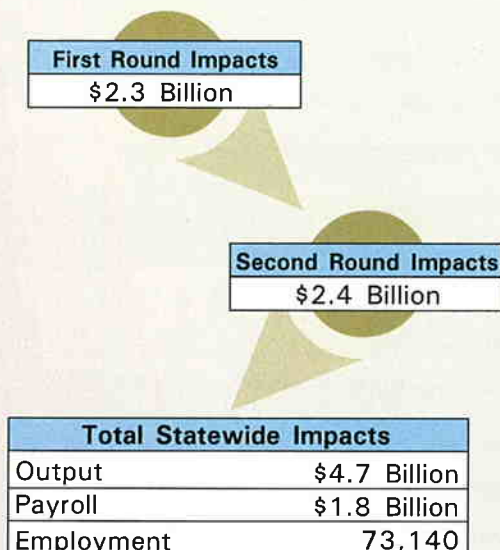
Tourism impact of aviation in Alabama is overwhelming. Tourism generates 6.1 billion dollars for Alabama's economy every year, with both commercial service and general aviation airports bringing in more than 2.5 million visitors. One good example of the economic impact is the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course trail. Since its inception, this unique Alabama attraction has generated more than 4.1 billion dollars in tourism revenues for our state, with 40% of all people who use these facilities arriving by air. Stated differently, aviation has contributed directly to the generation of 1.6 billion dollars in the Alabama economy through the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course Trail alone. Alabama's beautiful Gulf Coast resort areas, the Talladega Super Speedway, the new Tuskegee Airmen Museum and numerous hunting and fishing concerns statewide also rely heavily on Alabama's aviation system as part of their contribution to tourism. And visitors to each of these attractions use Alabama's hotels, resorts, restaurants and retail establishments.

attraction has generated more than 4.1 billion dollars in tourism revenues for our state, with 40% of all people who use these facilities arriving by air. Stated differently, aviation has contributed directly to the generation of 1.6 billion dollars in the Alabama economy through the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course Trail alone. Alabama's beautiful Gulf Coast resort areas, the Talladega Super Speedway, the new Tuskegee Airmen Museum and numerous hunting and fishing concerns statewide also rely heavily on Alabama's aviation system as part of their contribution to tourism. And visitors to each of these attractions use Alabama's hotels, resorts, restaurants and retail establishments.

"As aviation continues to grow on Alabama's Gulf Coast, tourism will grow right along with it."
 Herb Malone, President/CEO Alabama Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau

FAA Study Quantifies Impacts. The specific airport impacts were determined in a recent comprehensive economic impact study funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, which this brochure summarizes. Each airport was surveyed, with on-airport (direct) and visitor-related (indirect) expenditures measured. The multiplier effect of these benefits was then calculated to determine the total airport-related impacts. For example, when an airport employee buys local goods and services that spending helps support additional economic activity in the community. The total economic impact is the sum of all direct, indirect and multiplier impacts.

In addition to economic benefits, Alabama's airports provide a number of critical services for our residents including emergency medical flights, police and fire support, traffic reporting, search and rescue operations, wildlife resource management, agricultural operations, military readiness and disaster relief among others.



Total Statewide Impacts	
Output	\$4.7 Billion
Payroll	\$1.8 Billion
Employment	73,140

Economic Impact

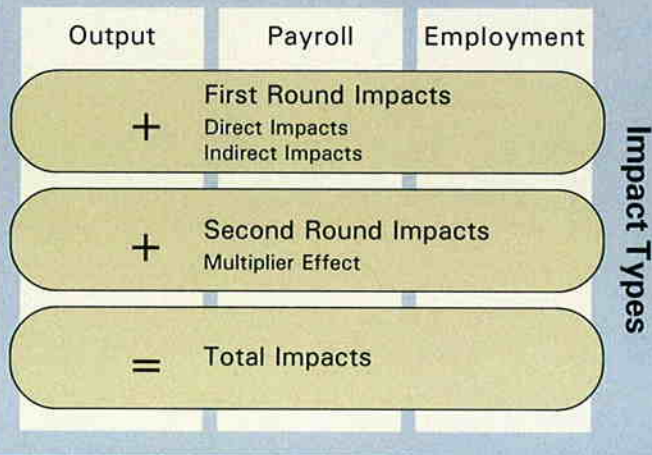
Madison County Executive Airport

Impacts Types

First Round Impacts include both direct and indirect impacts. Direct impacts are defined as those benefits that are associated with companies or businesses located on the airport. Indirect impacts generally occur off-airport and are usually attributed to the spending of visitors who arrive in the State via an Alabama airport.

Secondary Impacts primarily consist of induced impacts. Induced impacts are those benefits that are the result of the recirculation of direct and indirect impacts within the economy. Recirculation of direct and indirect impacts within an economy is frequently referred to as the "multiplier effect."

Impact Measures



Impact Measures

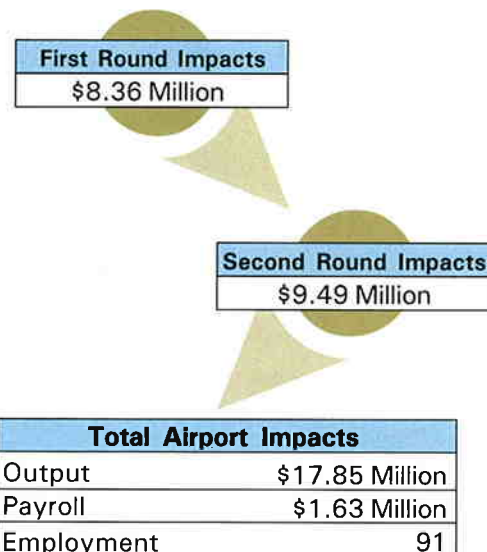
Employment measures the number of the people employed in the aviation industry and the share of those employed in sectors that support aviation or aviation use. The employment measure is based on full-time equivalent positions.

Payroll measures the annual salary and benefits paid to all workers who directly or indirectly owe their jobs to aviation.

Output measures the dollar value of all aviation and aviation-related services plus the sum of the sum of intermediate goods and services needed to produce aviation services. Output for aviation-related tenants is typically assumed to be the sum of annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures.

Madison County Executive Airport is located one mile northeast of Huntsville, Alabama, in Madison County. Runway 18/36, measures 5,008 feet in length and 100 feet in width, and allows corporate jet access to the airport. Additionally, the airport also has a new 5,600 square foot Smith Haywood Terminal Building.

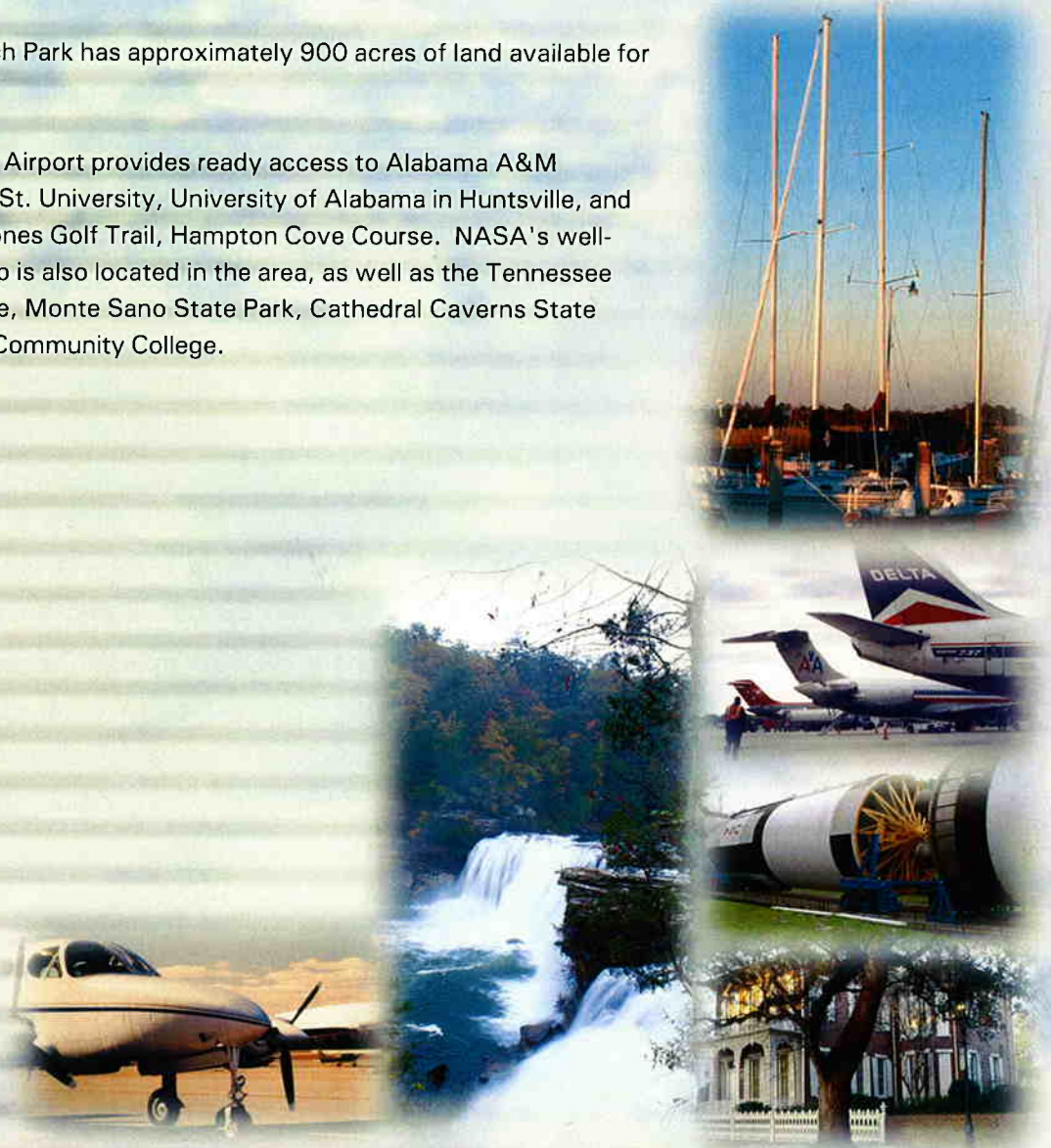
Major employers in the community include U.S. Army Redstone Arsenal, SCI Systems, Huntsville Hospital System, Intergraph Corporation, Daimler Chrysler Corporation-Huntsville, Huntsville City Schools, and NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center. The airport, with 89 based aircraft, experiences approximately 38,860 operations annually.



Madison County Executive Airport supports a wide variety of health, welfare, and safety-related services that contribute to the overall quality of life in the Huntsville area. Aviation activities that take place on a regular basis at the airport include corporate and business activity, emergency medical evacuation, and medical shipments. Many pilots prefer the uncongested environment the airport offers. In addition, the airport is used occasionally for recreational flying, aerial inspections, career training, search and rescue, aerial photography, and air shows. HSV Hospital, Aircraft Rebuilders, Diematic Tool Co, Aerial Imaging, Tintronics, Meyer Enterprises, Griffon Aerospace, and ADTRAN use the airport on a routine basis.

Cummings Research Park has approximately 900 acres of land available for development.

Madison Executive Airport provides ready access to Alabama A&M University, Athens St. University, University of Alabama in Huntsville, and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, Hampton Cove Course. NASA's well-known Space Camp is also located in the area, as well as the Tennessee River, Wheeler Lake, Monte Sano State Park, Cathedral Caverns State Park, and Calhoun Community College.



For more information on Alabama airports contact

Alabama Department of Transportation
Aeronautics Bureau
1409 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama 36130
Tel. (334) 242-6820

 **ALABAMA AIRPORTS**
GATEWAY TO ECONOMIC GROWTH



Wilbur Smith Associates
50 Years