

## Chilhowee Gliderport

### Aviation Moves Tennessee

Tennessee's aviation system is made up of 78 public-use airports, which serve aviation needs from commercial passenger jet operations to single-engine recreational flights. To understand how Tennessee's airports support the state's economy, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Aeronautics Division undertook the Aviation Economic Impact Study. This study determined that Tennessee's aviation system generated **220,936 jobs** and contributed **\$40 billion** in 2019 to the state's economy, accounting for **11%** of Tennessee's 2019 gross domestic product (GDP).

### About Chilhowee Gliderport

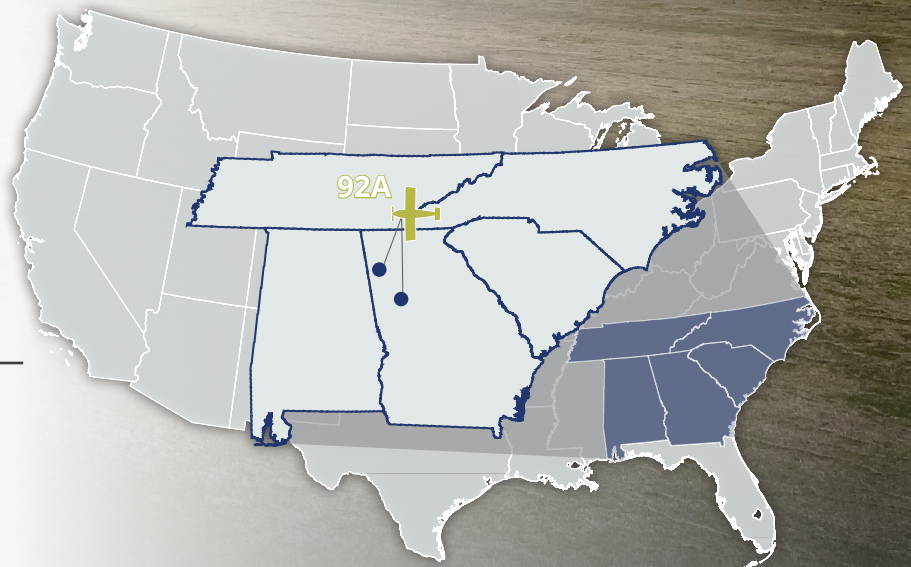
Situated in the Great Smoky Mountains, Chilhowee Gliderport (92A) is located in southeast Tennessee just east of Chattanooga. The airport's 2,600-foot long turf runway accommodates general aviation aircraft, primarily glider activity. With the airport's location in the Smoky Mountains, airport users can take advantage of good lift conditions for glider operations. The airport's sole tenant, the Chilhowee Soaring Association, supports this activity by offering glider and sailplane rides, glider instruction, and towing services to users. The airport is unique in the state system, as it is one of only two airports that supports daily glider operations. Additionally, the airport is also frequented by recreational visitors that seek out canoeing/kayaking, hiking, fly fishing, and sightseeing opportunities throughout the local region.

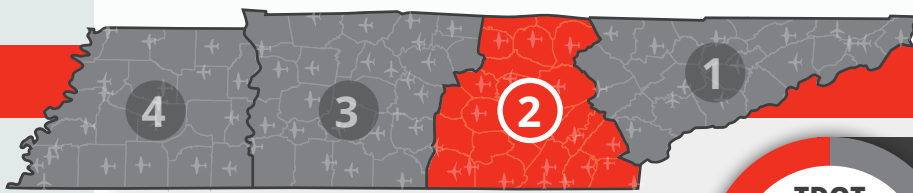
The airport hosts numerous events throughout the year, including Octoberfest and racing competitions, that annually attract both domestic and international visitors to the region. In order to understand the geographic reach of Chilhowee Gliderport (92A), the map below shows a selection of flights that operated both into and out of the airport.

### Airport Economic Impacts



Chilhowee Gliderport Route Map

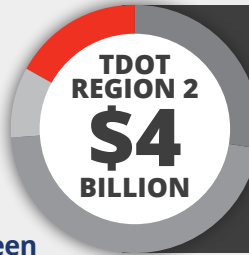




## Region 2 Profile

Region 2 is located in east central Tennessee and covers some of the most rapidly-growing urban areas in Tennessee. Cleveland, supported by Tennessee's newest airport, Cleveland Regional Jetport (RZR), is one of Tennessee's major manufacturing hubs. **Thirteen**

**Fortune-500 manufacturing companies** have a presence in Cleveland, driving economic activity for the region. To the west, Tullahoma, supported by Tullahoma Regional Airport (THA), is quickly becoming a tourism hotspot. Tullahoma Regional Airport (THA) is the closest airport to the annual Bonnaroo festival, and the airport's **jet traffic increases by 80%** during this event as **tens of thousands of visitors** attend the event. Growth in the Region is supported by its **18 general aviation** airports and its single commercial service airport, Lovell Field (CHA), in Chattanooga. Lovell Field (CHA) saw a **10 percent increase in enplanements** between 2018 and 2019. In addition to welcoming **over 345,000 visitors** in 2019, Region 2's airports generated **18,087 jobs** and contributed **\$4 billion** in 2019 to the state's economy.



|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| ON-AIRPORT       | \$703 MILLION |
| VISITOR SPENDING | \$296 MILLION |
| FREIGHT/CARGO    | \$2.6 BILLION |



TOTAL ECONOMIC  
IMPACT

**\$40 BILLION**

AVIATION CONTRIBUTES

**11%** OF TENNESSEE'S  
GROSS DOMESTIC  
PRODUCT (GDP)

## What is Economic Impact?

The economic impacts of each airport, TDOT Region, and the state are defined by the total jobs, payroll, value added, and business revenue generated by aviation in the state.

**JOBS**  **220,936 employed**

Number of employed people, including full-time and part-time

**PAYROLL**  **\$13 billion**

Total employment compensation, including wages and other benefits (e.g., healthcare insurance payments, retirement contributions, etc.); also known as "labor income"

**VALUE ADDED**  **\$21 billion**

The economic productivity of each aviation-related business establishment, calculated as business revenue earned minus the cost of purchasing goods and services from other businesses; also reflects a company's or industry's contribution to Tennessee's GDP

**BUSINESS REVENUE**  **\$40 billion**

The incorporation of expenditures needed to administer airports, sales of goods and services by airport tenants, budget expenditures to public sector agencies located on airports, the cost of capital expenditures, and visitor spending in Tennessee's hospitality-related sectors; the term "economic impact" is also used to describe business revenues

## Statewide Aviation Benefits

The statewide economic impact of Tennessee's airports consists of three major categories: On-Airport Activity, Visitor Spending, and Freight/Cargo. Together, they account for **\$40 billion** in economic impact for Tennessee.

 **On-Airport Activity**  
**TOTAL OUTPUT \$12 billion**

Impacts related to the activity of airport administration, business tenants, and capital improvements on airports

 **Visitor Spending**  
**TOTAL OUTPUT \$9 billion**

Impacts related to out-of-state visitor spending at both commercial service and general aviation airports

 **Freight/Cargo**  
**TOTAL OUTPUT \$19 billion**

Impacts related to air cargo operations