



General Dewitt Spain Airport

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 General Dewitt Spain Airport

Just minutes north of Memphis and serving as a reliever for Memphis International Airport (MEM), General Dewitt Spain Airport (M01) supports the area's general aviation traffic. The airport's 3,800-foot runway supports almost 75,000 annual operations. Through one of its four on-airport tenants, Downtown Aviation, the airport supports MEMSoar, the area's flight education program that helps train Tennessee's next generation of aviators.

Thanks to its proximity to Regional One Health Medical Center, General Dewitt Spain Airport also assists in transportation of medical supplies and physicians. The airport also has two based air ambulance operators, Air Evac and Air Methods, which contribute to its medical operations. The airport's tenant Ultimate Aircraft Services is perhaps its most unique; this tenant specializes in the repair, maintenance, or restoration of any aircraft and is known for being able to restore aircraft from World War II.

In order to understand the geographic reach of General Dewitt Spain Airport, the map below shows a selection of flights that operated both into and out of the airport.

Airport Economic Impacts



BUSINESS REVENUE million



ON-AIRPORT \$25.6 **IMPACTS**

million



VISITOR **SPENDING IMPACTS**

\$6.0 million



IOBS

153 employed



PAYROLL \$8.8

\$18.5



Region (4) **Profile**

Region 4 is located in west Tennessee and covers a diverse region that borders five additional states, including Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama. The Region's 20 **airports** support recreational and business users both within Tennessee and in bordering states.

TDOT REGION 4

ON-AIRPORT

\$5.1 **BILLION**

VISITOR **SPENDING**

BILLION

FREIGHT/ **CARGO**

S4.7 BILLION

Memphis International Airport (MEM) is the second-busiest air cargo airport in the world, thanks to the presence of the FedEx global hub. Memphis International Airport (MEM) is supported by three general aviation airports in Memphis and nearby Millington. One of these airports, Millington-Memphis Airport (NQA), is adjacent to the Canadian National Railroad and the Millington Industrial Park, meaning the airport operates as part of an intermodal transportation hub, supporting industry both within and outside the Region. Region 4 airports also support the area's agriculture industry, with five aerial application companies being based at airports in the Region. These based tenants employ a total of 19 employees and contribute \$724 thousand in direct economic impact to the state. In 2019, Region 4's airports welcomed approximately **1.1 million visitors**, generated **59,609 jobs**, and contributed **\$11 billion** to the state's economy.

TOTAL ECONOMIC S40 BILLION

AVIATION CONTRIBUTES

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.

IOBS

220,936 employed

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

PAYROLL

(6) \$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



Kimley » Horn

For more information on the Tennessee Aviation Economic Impact Study, visit our webpage at