

# DULUTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR DULUTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

In 2019, the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Office of Aeronautics conducted a study of the annual economic impacts generated by Minnesota's public airports.\* These annual economic impacts are related to activities associated with management of the airport, business tenants at the airport, average annual capital investment in the airport, and spending by visitors who arrive via the airport.

	<b>VISITORS 82,578</b>		<b>SPENDING \$483.3 MILLION</b>
	<b>AREA EMPLOYMENT 6,230</b>		<b>ECONOMIC ACTIVITY \$760.6 MILLION</b>
	<b>PAYROLL \$277.3 MILLION</b>		<b>STATE &amp; LOCAL TAX REVENUES \$32.9 MILLION</b>

Note: Annual Economic Activity is the sum of the Annual Payroll and Annual Spending.

### ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR DULUTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

	AREA EMPLOYMENT	PAYROLL	SPENDING	ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
Airport Management	56	\$2,552,470	\$4,580,380	\$7,132,850
Business Tenants	5,418	\$249,608,160	\$417,557,680	\$667,165,840
Capital Investment	201	\$7,657,670	\$21,329,320	\$28,986,990
General Aviation Visitor Spending	149	\$4,704,000	\$6,255,000	\$10,959,000
Commercial Visitor Spending	406	\$12,797,000	\$33,535,000	\$46,332,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,230</b>	<b>\$277,319,300</b>	<b>\$483,257,380</b>	<b>\$760,576,680</b>

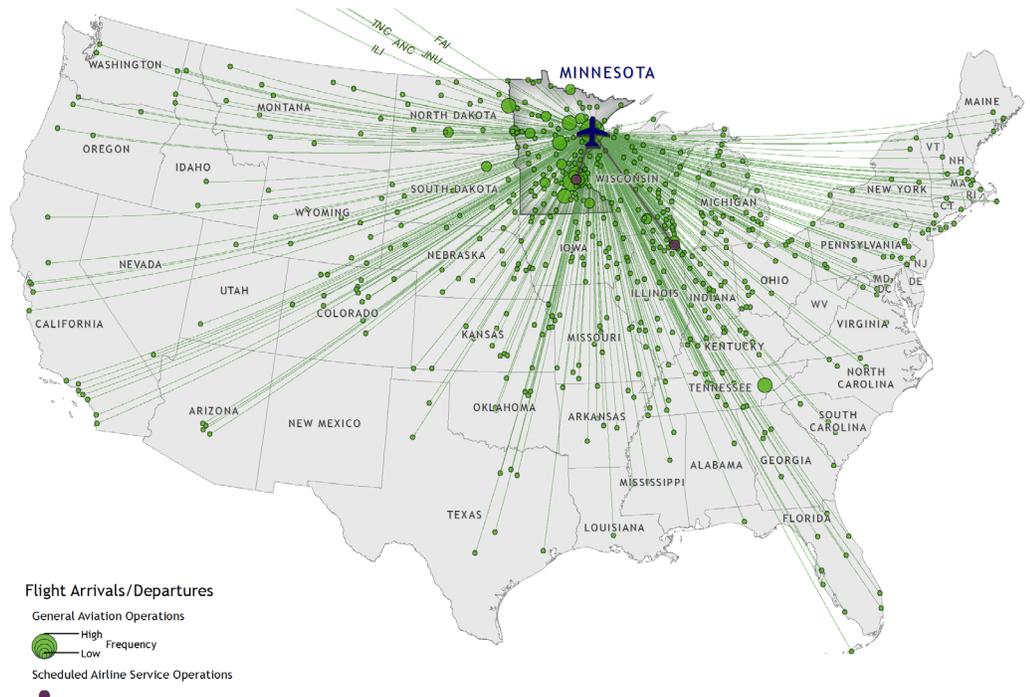
Note: More detail on the airport's economic impact estimates can be found in the Technical Report at: [MnDOT.gov/aero](http://MnDOT.gov/aero).



**DULUTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SUPPORTS NON-STOP DAILY CONNECTIVITY TO MANY DESTINATIONS THROUGHOUT THE LOWER 48 STATES.**

A flight from this airport can take you almost anywhere. This connectivity is particularly important for the many businesses that rely on Minnesota's airports to deliver and receive products, reach their customers, and remain competitive.

Flight data from the FAA shown on this map displays just some of the destinations flown to and from this airport.



# EXAMPLES OF HOW DULUTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY

The airport supports many uses and users that help sustain vital services and business needs.



**Business Use.** Duluth International (DLH) supports 3,210 direct jobs, second in the state only to Minneapolis-St. Paul International. The largest on-airport employer is Cirrus Aircraft, an aircraft manufacturer founded in 1984. The Cirrus Vision SF50 very light jet began deliveries in 2016, upon its delivery, the aircraft became the first civilian single-engine jet. The company is known for pioneering new technologies in light general aviation aircraft manufacturing. The company's employment at the airport is estimated at almost 1,030, making it the largest aviation business tenant at a study airport. Another major employer is AAR; they provide Airbus maintenance, repair, and operations services (MRO) to United Airlines. AAR is now at maximum capacity in their Duluth facility with four aircraft maintenance lines and over 400 employees.



**Business Use Off-Airport.** A variety of local businesses rely on and benefit from the airport, including Queen City Construction, Lake Superior College, Senior MI, Tree Top Pterodactyl, Universal Marine & RV, S.L. Contracting, Stevens Truck Center, Scenic Concepts, and Valley Transportation Service. Businesses rely on both commercial and general aviation to transport their staff, provide easy access for their customers, tie together remote office locations and job sites, and ship and receive just-in-time parts and supplies. Access to commercial airline service and/or general aviation facilities is often a key consideration in attracting and retaining jobs. DLH is an Airport of Entry for customs and immigration services for incoming flights. The Fixed Based Operator, Monaco, attracts international tech-stop business from all over the world.



**Military Use.** Minnesota Air National Guard (ANG) units are Air Reserve Components of the United States Air Force. Minnesota ANG units are trained and equipped by the Air Force. Along with their federal reserve obligations, as state militia units, the Minnesota ANG is subject to being activated by order of the Governor to support public safety. State missions include disaster relief in times of earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, forest fires, search and rescue, protection of vital public services, and support for civil defense. Minnesota has two ANG units, one based in Minneapolis-St. Paul and the other in Duluth. ANG full-time employment associated with the 148th Fighter Wing based in Duluth is about 720. Activities associated with the ANG and its operations at the airport are important to the area's economy.



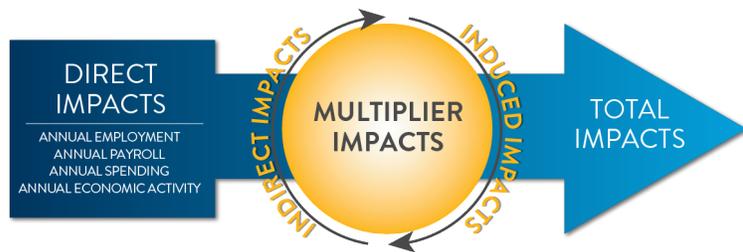
**Healthcare/Medical Support.** The airport helps Duluth fulfill its role as a major regional health care center. Doctors based in Duluth use the airport to fly to smaller communities throughout the state to see patients at smaller rural hospitals and clinics. The airport also receives patients in need of advanced healthcare or emergency services. Air Med Care, Life Link III, physicians from Apple Valley Medical Care, Angel Flight, and Gold Cross Ambulance Services all rely on the airport to support their operations. By supporting these healthcare and medical operators, the airport contributes to the quality of life for many Minnesotans.



**Law Enforcement.** Some of the organizations/agencies that use the airport are the Minnesota State Highway Patrol, the Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Power, U.S. Border Patrol, and the Civil Air Patrol. The agencies use the airport to support law enforcement, monitor the environment, conduct aerial powerline inspections, conduct search and rescue missions, and protect the U.S. border. The airport contributes to public safety by supporting these and other similar activities.

## STUDY PROCESS

First, direct economic impacts were collected. Direct impacts are the start of the economic impact cycle. Next, an econometric input/output model was used to estimate **indirect/induced** impacts, also sometimes referred to as multiplier impacts. Combined, direct and indirect/induced impacts equal **total impacts**. For this study, direct, indirect/induced, and total impacts were estimated for **annual employment, payroll, annual spending, and annual economic activity**.



## ECONOMIC IMPACT CATEGORIES

Direct, indirect/induced, and total impacts were measured for each category shown below. These impacts were estimated for each airport.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
AIRPORT MANAGEMENT	Activities associated with the daily operation of each airport
BUSINESS TENANTS	On-airport aviation-related businesses that generate revenue and have employment
CAPITAL INVESTMENT	Five-year average annual state, federal, airport, and private investment for airport improvements
COMMERCIAL VISITOR SPENDING	Spending by visitors to Minnesota who arrive on a scheduled commercial airline flight
GENERAL AVIATION VISITOR SPENDING	Spending by visitors to Minnesota who arrive on general aviation airplanes
STATE & LOCAL TAX REVENUES	Airport-supported sales and state income taxes

## TOTAL ANNUAL STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR ALL MINNESOTA PUBLIC AIRPORTS

Airport visits, interviews, surveys, and research supported development of the total annual statewide economic impact estimate for all Minnesota public airports.\*

<b>94,037</b> STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT	<b>\$4.4 Billion</b> STATEWIDE PAYROLL	<b>\$13.8 Billion</b> STATEWIDE SPENDING	<b>\$18.2 Billion</b> STATEWIDE ANNUAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	<b>\$66.3 Million</b> STATEWIDE & LOCAL TAX REVENUES FOR 126 STUDY AIRPORTS	<b>\$557.1 Million</b> STATEWIDE & LOCAL TAX REVENUES FOR THE SEVEN MAC AIRPORTS
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\*Note: Total Annual Statewide Economic Impacts reflect those associated with all 133 Minnesota system airports. Economic impacts for the seven airports operated by the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) were obtained from separate economic impact studies conducted by the MAC. For more information on the MAC studies, visit [msoairport.com](http://msoairport.com) or [metroairports.org](http://metroairports.org).