

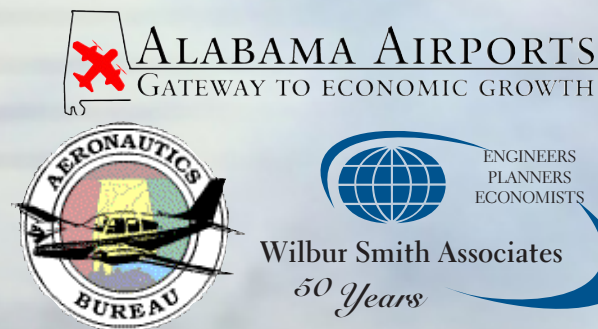
Owned and maintained by Auburn University, the airport provides a robust flight education program, which has approximately 200 student pilots enrolled. The airport also holds intercollegiate flying meets for Auburn University. Aviation activities that take place on a regular basis at the airport include recreational flying and corporate travel. Other activities that take place less frequently at the airport include law enforcement, emergency medical evacuation, medical shipments/patient transfer, and aerial advertising. In addition, aerial utility inspections and community events take place on the airport.

The airport plays a significant role in attracting people to the area for conferences, college visits, and NCAA sporting events. The airport provides the community with public and private tours of its facilities. A picnic area is located adjacent to the airport. The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, Grand National Course, and Chewacla State Park are popular attractions to the area.



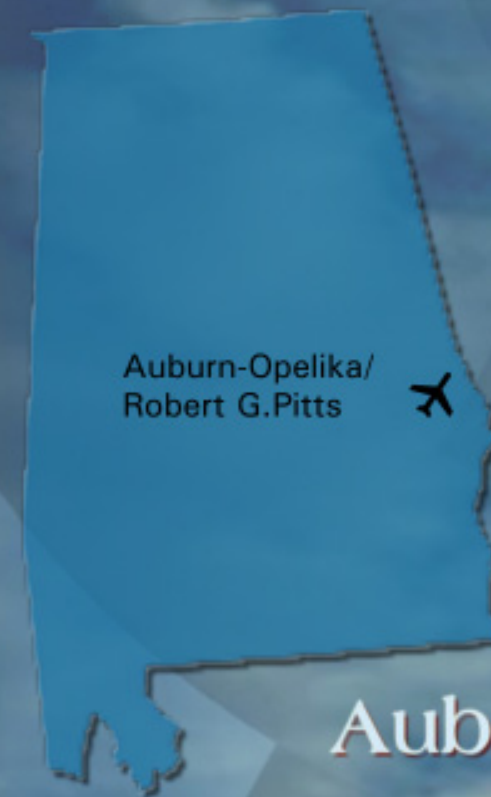
For more information on Alabama airports contact

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# Alabama Airports: Gateway to Economic Growth

*Auburn-Opelika/Robert G. Pitts  
 Airport is responsible for \$19.34  
 million in annual economic activity*



# 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.

*"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.

**First Round Impacts**  
 \$2.3 Billion

**Second Round Impacts**  
 \$2.4 Billion

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

# Economic Impact Auburn-Opelika/Robert G. Pitts Airport

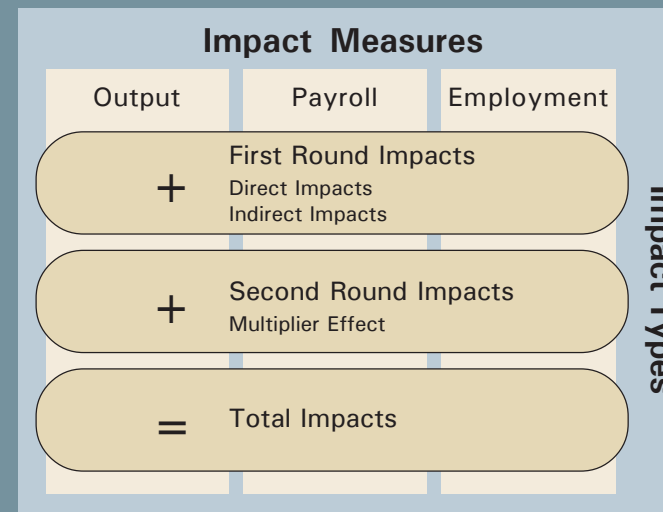
Auburn-Opelika/Robert G. Pitts Airport is located two miles east of Auburn, Alabama, in Lee County. The airport lies approximately three miles west of Interstate 85 near U.S. Highway 280/431. The Auburn-Opelika/Robert G. Pitts Airport has two runways: Runway 18/36 is 5,265 feet in length and Runway 10/28 is 4,002 feet in length. The airport property, encompassing 423 acres, straddles the boundary between the cities of Auburn and Opelika. The airport, with 47 based aircraft, experiences approximately 47,800 aircraft operations annually.

Major employers in the community and users of the airport include Auburn University, Evans Realty, Eagle Budweiser, Capitol Vial, Great Southern Wood, and the Alabama State Police. Briggs-Stratton and Federal Express have recently opened facilities and expanded their use of the 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

**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.

**First Round Impacts**  
 \$8.38 Million

**Second Round Impacts**  
 \$10.96 Million

Total Airport Impacts	
Output	\$19.34 Million
Payroll	\$2.65 Million
Employment	88