Economic Impact Study of

Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport

2026

MONTANA
Department of Transportation

Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport Impact

Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport is a public-use commercial service airport located in Bozeman, in Gallatin County. The airport is the busiest in Montana, serving over 1.2 million enplaned passengers annually with scheduled service to destinations across the country. The airfield features three runways, with lengths of 8,994, 5,050, and 2,650 feet, accommodating a wide range of commercial and general aviation aircraft. Terminal facilities support airline operations, rental car services, and passenger amenities.

The airport functions as a major economic engine for southwest Montana, with over 1,400,000 annual commercial enplanements and 100,000 annual general aviation operations reflecting strong corporate, recreational, and visitor activity. Its proximity to Bozeman, Big Sky Resort, Yellowstone National Park, and Montana State University drives substantial tourism and business travel, while wildfire support, search and rescue, and emergency medical aviation serve broader regional needs. Bozeman has far and away the largest statewide economic impact of any Montana airport - about ⅓ of total systemwide jobs, output, and payroll.

Total Economic Impact on Montana

Jobs
13,402

Economic Impact
$2.2 Billion

Payroll
$808.1 Million

Qualitative Impacts

In addition to generating substantial economic impacts, this airport supports a variety of harder to quantify “Qualitative Impacts” that support critical statewide safety and enterprise. The 2026 Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Airports Study documents the following non-inclusive list of qualitative impacts associated with the airport:

Aerial Firefighting
Supports Wildland Firefighting Operations.

Emergency Medical Aviation
Supports Air Ambulance Operations

Search & Rescue
Supports Search and Rescue Operations

Police/Law Enforcement
Supports Police and Emergency Response Ops

Military Exercise/Training
Used for Military Training and/or Transit Flights

Air Cargo & Logistics
Facilitates Freight and Cargo Transport Operations

Source: Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Airports.

Montana Airports Support Our State

Jobs
39,400

Economic Impact
$6.4 Billion

Payroll
$2.4 Billion

Montana's airport system functions as a critical component of the state's transportation and economic infrastructure, enabling connectivity across a large and geographically dispersed landscape. Through scheduled commercial service and general aviation activity, airports provide access between Montana communities and regional, national, and international markets, supporting passenger travel, freight movement, and time-sensitive operations that cannot be efficiently served by surface transportation alone.

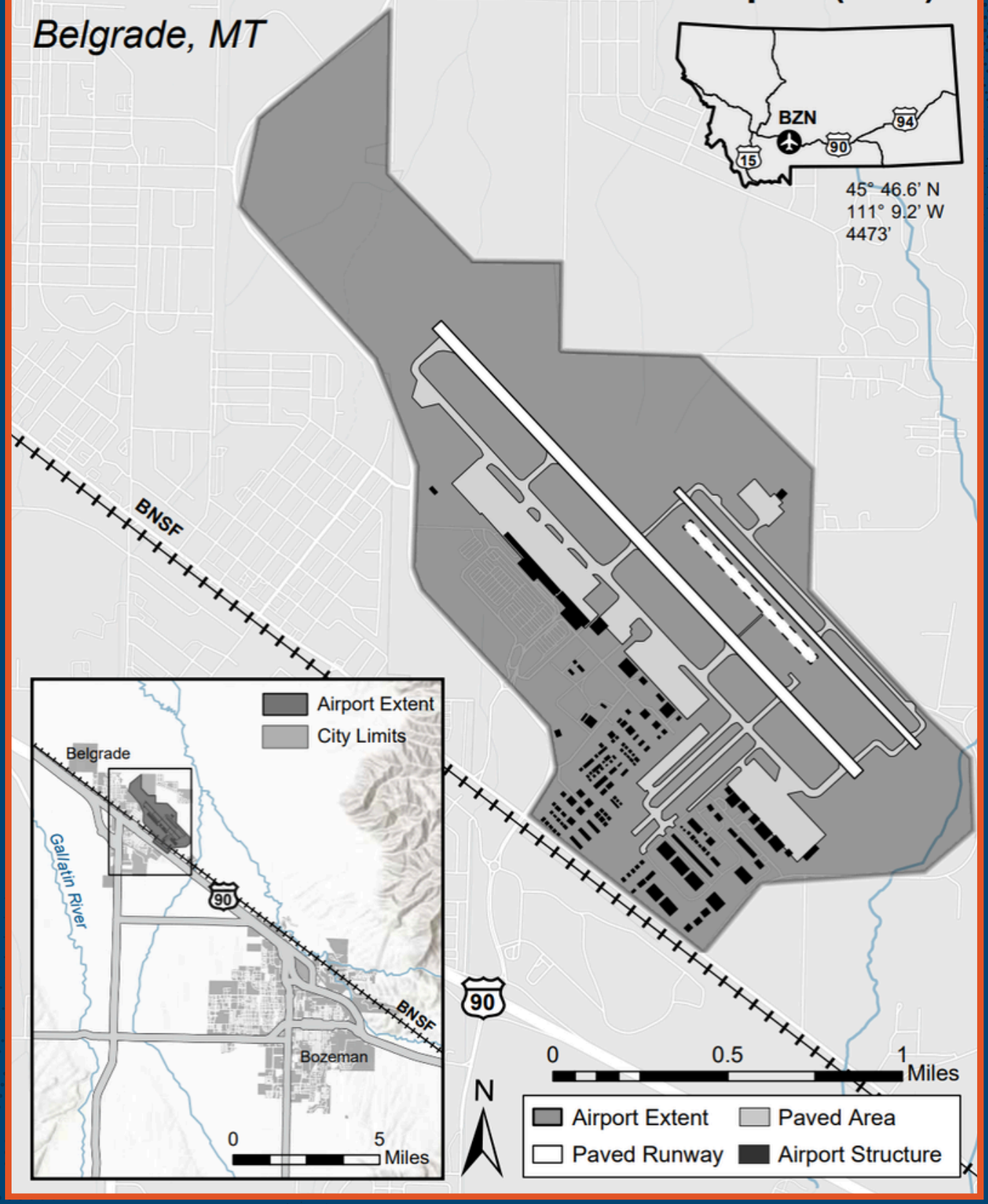
Beyond mobility, Montana's airports support a broad range of economic activity that contributes to employment, income generation, and business operations throughout the state. Aviation-related enterprises, on-airport and nearby businesses, visitor spending associated with air travel, and ongoing investment in airport facilities collectively generate economic activity at the local, regional, and statewide levels. These effects extend across multiple sectors, including tourism, healthcare, construction, professional services, and natural resource industries.

To document both the economic contributions and broader community functions of the state's aviation system, the Montana Department of Transportation undertook a comprehensive, statewide evaluation of Montana's airports. The **2026 Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Aviation** study examines the full scope of airport-related activity, including aviation and non-aviation businesses, visitor spending, capital investment, and secondary economic effects, while also identifying the specific roles individual airports play in supporting residents, businesses, and critical services across Montana.

Source: Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Airports.

Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN)

Belgrade, MT



AERONAUTICS DIVISION
2630 Airport Road
PO Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507

MONTANA
Department of Transportation

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