

## Aviation, Aerospace and Defense Support Arizona

Arizona's 15 counties are home to 67 publicly owned, public-use airports that support the economic vitality and quality of life within the Grand Canyon State. These airports host commercial passenger service; world-class general aviation (GA) activities such as flight training, skydiving, and aerial tours; and air cargo while serving as regional job centers and economic engines in their communities. In addition to Arizona's airports, cutting-edge aerospace and defense companies and numerous United States (U.S.) military installations with a significant aviation-related component are in the state.

The 2021 Arizona Aviation Economic Impact Study (AEIS) commissioned by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Aeronautics Group examines the impacts of these three vital aspects of aviation and aerospace in Arizona.

Together airports, aerospace manufacturing, and U.S. military installations contribute over \$121.4 billion to our economy every year—providing a foundation for Arizona's culture of growth, innovation, and economic prosperity.

### STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACT **\$121.4 Billion**



## What is Economic Impact?

The 2021 Arizona AEIS measured how economic activity at the state's commercial service and GA airports stimulated the Arizona economy in 2019. Impacts are generated by airport administration and business tenant employees working on airport property, capital improvement spending, and the thousands of out-of-state and international visitors who fly to Arizona and bring new money into our economy. In turn, airport administration and on-airport business tenants purchase goods from suppliers (indirect impacts) and airport workers spend the money they earn (induced impacts), generating successive waves of economic impacts in Arizona.

The economic impacts of aerospace manufacturing and 59 Arizona airports were modeled by IHS Markit using IMPLAN (2019). Eight airports requested that their independently conducted studies be incorporated into the 2021 Arizona AEIS study results (2019). The impacts of military operations were obtained from the *Economic Impacts of Arizona's Principal Military Operations* commissioned by the Military Affairs Commission and prepared by The Maguire Company (2017).

For more details about the 2021 Arizona AEIS, including the full Technical Report, visit [azdot.gov/planning/airport-development/links-and-resources-airport-development](https://azdot.gov/planning/airport-development/links-and-resources-airport-development)

# ADOT

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## ARIZONA AVIATION ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

### Gila County



Gila County encompasses nearly 4,800 square miles in central Arizona. Because much of the land is located within the rugged terrain of the Superstition Mountains, Gila County is sparsely inhabited and largely rural. One city, five towns, two unincorporated communities, and 45 U.S. Census-designated places call Gila County home.<sup>1</sup> The Fort Apache and the San Carlos reservations occupy nearly 40 percent of the county's total land area. Copper mining is prominent in the southern part of the county, while ranching and tourism are more common in the northern region. The largest single employer is ASARCO, the operator of two open pit copper mines near Winkelman and Kearny (located in adjacent Pinal County). Other notable employers include Banner Health and the Apache Gold Casino Resort, located a few miles east of Globe.<sup>2</sup>

Gila County has a colorful history, earning a reputation in the 1800s as one of the toughest regions in the old west due to the long and bloody Graham-Tewksbury Affair. Today, there are several historical, cultural, and recreational attractions that draw visitors to the region. Easily accessible from the Phoenix metropolitan area, Gila County is a popular summertime destination for those looking to escape the heat, and many Arizona residents have vacation homes in and near Payson. The Mogollon Rim offers hiking trails, fishing in numerous lakes and streams, and scenic campgrounds. Other notable destinations include Roosevelt Lake and the Tonto National Monument.

[1] U.S. Census Bureau (2021). [2] Maricopa Association of Governments (2020).

## County Demographics



Population  
**54,100**



Employment  
**11,231**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019)

## Top Business Sectors



Health Care & Social Assistance



Retail Trade



Accommodation & Food Services

Congressional Districts  
**1, 4**

Legislative Districts  
**6, 7, 8**

## Did You Know?

Gila County's two airports support missions critical to the safety and security of local residents and visitors including aerial/wildland firefighting operations, aerial medical evacuations, and military training exercises.

## STATEWIDE Economic Impacts of Arizona Airports



Jobs  
**386,058**



Earnings  
**\$20.4B**

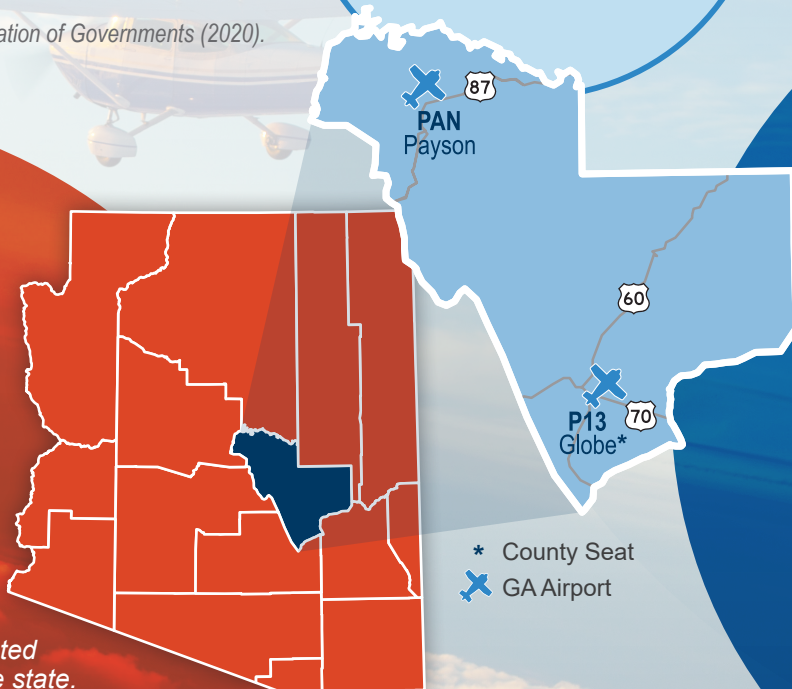


Economic Activity  
**\$59.4B**



Tax Impacts  
**\$3.5B**

Arizona's airports contributed \$33.0B in value added to the state.



## GILA COUNTY Economic Impacts of Airports



Jobs: **86**  
Number of full- and part-time persons employed



Earnings: **\$4.0M**  
Total compensation paid to workers including wages and benefits



Economic Activity (Output): **\$8.2M**  
Value of sales that occur in the Arizona economy that are ultimately attributable to airport activities



Tax Impacts: **\$632,597**  
Airports' direct economic impacts result in local and state tax revenues.