



2025 North Dakota
State Aviation System Plan



2025 North Dakota
Aviation Economic Impact Study

Hillsboro Municipal Airport (3H4)

Associated City: Hillsboro



3H4's Airport Economic Impacts

The impacts below present the sum of direct and multiplier impacts of all activity associated with 3H4. The table below offers a breakdown of the total impacts by direct, multiplier, total, and source of impact.

Jobs

28

Payroll

\$1.73 M

Value Added

\$2.45 M

Output

\$4.03 M

Source of Impact	Jobs		
	Direct	Multiplier	Total
Airport Management	0	<1	<1
Airport Tenants	9	3	12
Capital Expenditures	5	3	8
GA Visitor Spending	6	2	8
CS Visitor Spending	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Jobs Impacts	20	8	28

Source of Impact	Payroll		
	Direct	Multiplier	Total
Airport Management	\$0	\$29,000	\$29,000
Airport Tenants	\$598,000	\$177,000	\$775,000
Capital Expenditures	\$414,000	\$191,000	\$605,000
GA Visitor Spending	\$212,000	\$108,000	\$320,000
CS Visitor Spending	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Payroll Impacts	\$1.22 M	\$504,000	\$1.73 M

Source of Impact	Value Added		
	Direct	Multiplier	Total
Airport Management	\$76,000	\$45,000	\$121,000
Airport Tenants	\$600,000	\$283,000	\$883,000
Capital Expenditures	\$610,000	\$329,000	\$940,000
GA Visitor Spending	\$328,000	\$173,000	\$501,000
CS Visitor Spending	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Value Added Impacts	\$1.61 M	\$831,000	\$2.45 M

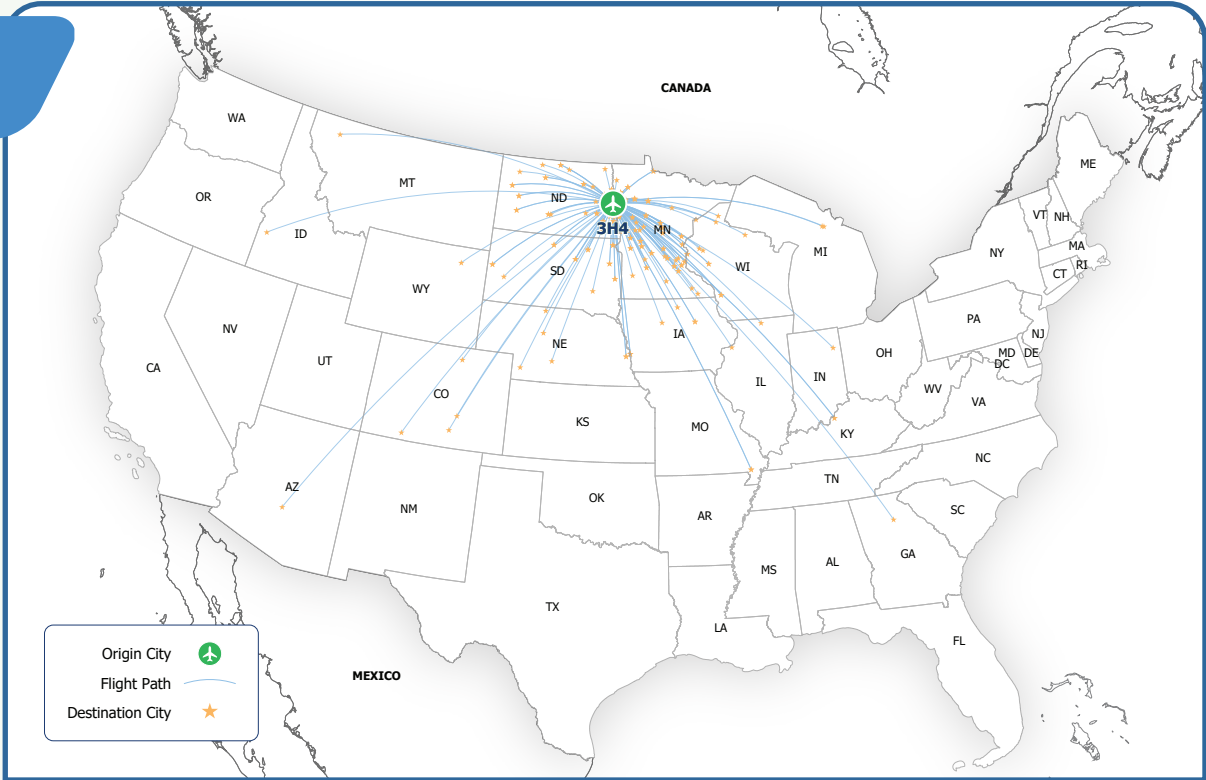
Source of Impact	Output		
	Direct	Multiplier	Total
Airport Management	\$108,000	\$81,000	\$189,000
Airport Tenants	\$740,000	\$503,000	\$1.24 M
Capital Expenditures	\$1.09 M	\$605,000	\$1.69 M
GA Visitor Spending	\$568,000	\$337,000	\$904,000
CS Visitor Spending	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Output Impacts	\$2.50 M	\$1.53 M	\$4.03 M

Sources: 2025 NDAEIS Airport Manager Survey; IMPLAN, 2025; Kimley-Horn, 2025. Notes: Dollar values rounded to the nearest 1,000. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Airport Flight Map

This Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) map shows annual flight activity data and helps to demonstrate the important role that 3H4 plays in providing time-saving connections for local and visiting businesses and residents. IFR Flights Completed as Filed between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

Source: FlightAware



Airport Facts



The airport and the activities it supports generate more than \$468,000 annually in federal, state, and local tax revenues.

An estimated 4,680 out-of-state visitors traveled through 3H4 in 2024 via general aviation aircraft.

Visitors using 3H4 spent approximately \$97,000 on lodging, \$165,000 on food and beverage, \$102,000 on local transportation, \$114,000 on retail, and \$91,000 on entertainment, supporting local businesses throughout the region.



3H4 offers 100LL services to based and transient aircraft, allowing the airport to support a variety of critical operations, such as recreational flying, flight instruction, and aerial inspections.

Over the past four years, more than \$4.4 million has been invested in capital improvements at 3H4, averaging approximately \$1.1 million annually from federal, state, local, and private funding sources.

Study Methodology

Comprehensive data collection was essential to producing accurate economic impact estimates for calendar year 2024. Primary data sources, including airport staff, airport business tenants, and visitors, were used to estimate direct economic impacts. These data were gathered through onsite visits and a combination of in-person, telephone, and online surveys. Where needed, additional industry sources were consulted to supplement the primary data. A nationally recognized economic modeling platform, IMPLAN, was used to calculate multiplier effects. Economic impacts were estimated for airport management, airport tenants, capital investment activity, GA visitor spending, and commercial service visitor spending.

Economic Impact Levels

The economic impacts for North Dakota's airports are presented at three distinct levels (direct, multiplier, and total) to describe where in the economic cycle the impact is generated.



About Hillsboro Municipal Airport

Located in eastern North Dakota, Hillsboro Municipal Airport (3H4) is a vital general aviation facility supporting agriculture, aviation education, public health, and emergency services. Home to Airborne Custom Spraying, one of the state’s leading aerial applicators, the airport provides efficient crop and pasture treatments that help farmers and ranchers manage large acreages—especially when ground access is limited. These operations contribute directly to the economic well-being of area producers and support local jobs. The airport also plays a unique role in public health, hosting a mosquito control operation that provides routine mitigation for towns and cities and stands ready to assist during natural disasters or outbreaks. In addition, Hillsboro Municipal Airport is a critical link for healthcare access, enabling the rapid transport of critically ill or injured patients to advanced medical facilities when time is of the essence. It can also serve in disaster relief and search-and-rescue efforts, underscoring its importance beyond everyday aviation. Hillsboro is equally committed to education and community engagement. It offers an ideal training environment for student pilots, including those from the University of North Dakota’s aviation program, thanks to its low traffic and welcoming setting. Each year, the airport hosts a popular Fly-In that draws a large crowd. Local pilots volunteer their time and aircraft to give free rides, and during the 2024 event, more than 60 individuals experienced the thrill of flight. The Fly-In also showcases the airport’s flight simulator located in the pilot lounge, adding an educational element to the day’s activities. Whether serving farmers, students, healthcare providers, or public health teams, Hillsboro Municipal Airport is a small facility with a broad and meaningful impact on the region’s economy, safety, and quality of life.



Airport Activities



Recreational Flying



Flight Instruction



Agricultural Spraying



Gateway for Recreation



Corporate Activity

Runways

The most critical infrastructure of an airport is the runway system. Runway characteristics determine the types of activity the airport can support.

Type	Orientation	Dimensions	Surface	Approach
Primary Runway	16/34	3,301 ft x 60 ft	Concrete	RNAV (GPS) / RNAV (GPS)
Secondary Runway	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tertiary Runway	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Additional Runway	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Aviation Activity Demand Forecasts

Aviation activity demand forecasts are included in the NDSASP to understand how aviation demand is expected to change over time. These forecasts help inform future infrastructure needs and long-term system planning decisions.

Activity Type	Base Year (2024)	Future Year (2044)	2024-2044 CAGR
Commercial Service Enplanements	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial Service Operations	N/A	N/A	N/A
General Aviation Operations	25,250	28,250	0.56%
Based Aircraft	36	42	0.77%

Note: CAGR = Compound Annual Growth Rate