



2025 North Dakota
State Aviation System Plan



2025 North Dakota
Aviation Economic Impact Study

Watford City Municipal Airport (S25)

Associated City: Watford City



S25's Airport Economic Impacts

The impacts below present the sum of direct and multiplier impacts of all activity associated with S25. The table below offers a breakdown of the total impacts by direct, multiplier, total, and source of impact.

Jobs

87

Payroll

\$6.68 M

Value Added

\$10.02 M

Output

\$16.67 M

Source of Impact	Jobs		
	Direct	Multiplier	Total
Airport Management	2	1	3
Airport Tenants	11	6	17
Capital Expenditures	33	20	54
GA Visitor Spending	10	3	13
CS Visitor Spending	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Jobs Impacts	56	31	87

Source of Impact	Payroll		
	Direct	Multiplier	Total
Airport Management	\$120,000	\$48,000	\$168,000
Airport Tenants	\$1.06 M	\$369,000	\$1.43 M
Capital Expenditures	\$3.17 M	\$1.36 M	\$4.53 M
GA Visitor Spending	\$356,000	\$198,000	\$554,000
CS Visitor Spending	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Payroll Impacts	\$4.71 M	\$1.97 M	\$6.68 M

Source of Impact	Value Added		
	Direct	Multiplier	Total
Airport Management	\$141,000	\$76,000	\$216,000
Airport Tenants	\$1.13 M	\$586,000	\$1.72 M
Capital Expenditures	\$4.82 M	\$2.34 M	\$7.16 M
GA Visitor Spending	\$606,000	\$319,000	\$925,000
CS Visitor Spending	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Value Added Impacts	\$6.70 M	\$3.32 M	\$10.02 M

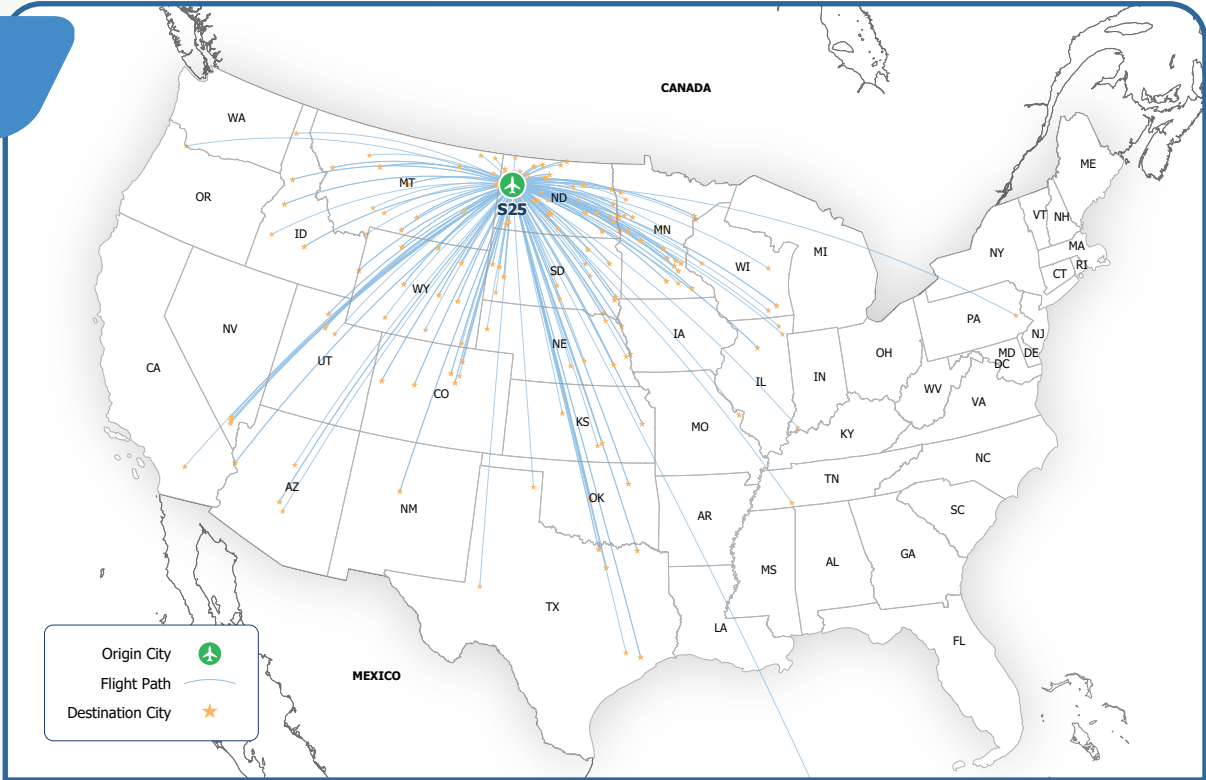
Source of Impact	Output		
	Direct	Multiplier	Total
Airport Management	\$180,000	\$135,000	\$315,000
Airport Tenants	\$1.58 M	\$1.07 M	\$2.64 M
Capital Expenditures	\$7.75 M	\$4.30 M	\$12.05 M
GA Visitor Spending	\$1.04 M	\$619,000	\$1.66 M
CS Visitor Spending	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Output Impacts	\$10.55 M	\$6.12 M	\$16.67 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 S25 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 approximately \$1.8 million annually in federal, state, and local tax revenues.

An estimated 9,672 out-of-state visitors traveled through S25 in 2024 via general aviation aircraft.

Visitors using S25 spent approximately \$177,000 on lodging, \$303,000 on food and beverage, \$188,000 on local transportation, \$209,000 on retail, and \$167,000 on entertainment, supporting local businesses throughout the region.

S25 offers 100LL and Jet-A services to based and transient aircraft, allowing the airport to support a variety of critical operations, such as recreational flying, flight instruction, and corporate activity.

Over the past four years, more than \$31.0 million has been invested in capital improvements at S25, averaging approximately \$7.8 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.

Airport Administration

Airport Tenants

Capital Investment

GA and Commercial Services Visitor Spending

Indirect

Portions of direct output used to purchase goods and services from businesses inside the study region

Multiplier Impacts

Induced

Income earned by workers from direct and supplier sales transactions that are then spent inside the study region

Total Impacts

There are four measures used to express the economic impact of North Dakota's airports: jobs, payroll, value added, and output.

Jobs

Total number of people employed. This includes both full-time and part-time because of aviation.

Payroll

Total employment compensation, including wages and benefits, of those employed

Value Added

The value of final goods and services produced locally because of economic activity, excluding the value of goods and services used to produce them

Output

Total expenditures associated with airport administration, capital projects, tenant sales of goods and services, as well as visitor spending in North Dakota's hospitality-related sectors

Associated City: Watford City

County: McKenzie

NDSASP Classification: Local

FAA ID: S25



2025 NDSASP

About Watford City Municipal Airport

Located in the heart of the Bakken oil region, Watford City Municipal Airport (S25) is a modern general aviation facility that plays a vital role in supporting western North Dakota's energy, agriculture, and business sectors. Following a decade of strategic investment, the airport now features a concrete runway over 6,500 feet long, a full-length parallel taxiway, upgraded lighting, and instrument approach procedures allowing it to accommodate larger aircraft, including charter jets and air taxis. The airport supports a wide range of operations, from aerial spraying and pipeline patrol to flight instruction and emergency medical transport. Local businesses and energy companies rely on the airport for crew movement and executive travel, while agricultural operators benefit from on-site services that enhance crop productivity. Fuel is available 24/7, and recent expansions include new hangars, a terminal building, and improved apron space. Recognized as North Dakota's 2022 General Aviation Airport of the Year, S25 is also a hub for community engagement, hosting fly-ins and club educational events. The airport hosts an annual fly-in and is home to a couple of flying clubs, while also offering guided tours for local schools, further strengthening its role as a hub for aviation enthusiasts and educational outreach. Watford City Municipal Airport is more than a gateway; it's a driver of regional growth, connectivity, and innovation.



Airport Activities



Recreational Flying



Flight Instruction



Corporate Activity



Aerial Inspections



Medevac

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	12/30	6,550 ft x 75 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	7,250	11,470	2.32%
Based Aircraft	34	55	2.43%

Note: CAGR = Compound Annual Growth Rate



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