



2025 North Dakota
State Aviation System Plan



2025 North Dakota
Aviation Economic Impact Study

Williston Basin International Airport (XWA)

Associated City: Williston



XWA's Airport Economic Impacts

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

Jobs				Payroll				Value Added				Output			
 1,099				 \$56.45 M				 \$89.91 M				 \$149.74 M			
Source of Impact		Jobs			Source of Impact		Payroll			Source of Impact		Output			
	Direct	Multiplier	Total			Direct	Multiplier	Total			Direct	Multiplier	Total		
Airport Management	29	25	54		Airport Management	\$1.23 M	\$1.49 M	\$2.72 M		Airport Management	\$5.60 M	\$4.19 M	\$9.79 M		
Airport Tenants	155	96	251		Airport Tenants	\$14.75 M	\$5.96 M	\$20.72 M		Airport Tenants	\$23.11 M	\$18.09 M	\$41.20 M		
Capital Expenditures	8	5	14		Capital Expenditures	\$807,000	\$346,000	\$1.15 M		Capital Expenditures	\$1.97 M	\$1.10 M	\$3.07 M		
GA Visitor Spending	194	67	261		GA Visitor Spending	\$6.84 M	\$3.81 M	\$10.65 M		GA Visitor Spending	\$20.08 M	\$11.91 M	\$31.99 M		
CS Visitor Spending	387	133	520		CS Visitor Spending	\$13.62 M	\$7.58 M	\$21.21 M		CS Visitor Spending	\$39.98 M	\$23.70 M	\$63.68 M		
Total Jobs Impacts	773	326	1,099		Total Payroll Impacts	\$37.26 M	\$19.19 M	\$56.45 M		Total Output Impacts	\$90.75 M	\$58.99 M	\$149.74 M		
Source of Impact		Value Added			Source of Impact		Output								
	Direct	Multiplier	Total			Direct	Multiplier	Total							
Airport Management	\$4.37 M	\$2.35 M	\$6.73 M		Airport Management	\$5.60 M	\$4.19 M	\$9.79 M							
Airport Tenants	\$18.53 M	\$9.58 M	\$28.11 M		Airport Tenants	\$23.11 M	\$18.09 M	\$41.20 M							
Capital Expenditures	\$1.23 M	\$597,000	\$1.82 M		Capital Expenditures	\$1.97 M	\$1.10 M	\$3.07 M							
GA Visitor Spending	\$11.67 M	\$6.14 M	\$17.80 M		GA Visitor Spending	\$20.08 M	\$11.91 M	\$31.99 M							
CS Visitor Spending	\$23.23 M	\$12.21 M	\$35.44 M		CS Visitor Spending	\$39.98 M	\$23.70 M	\$63.68 M							
Total Value Added Impacts	\$59.03 M	\$30.88 M	\$89.91 M		Total Output Impacts	\$90.75 M	\$58.99 M	\$149.74 M							

About Williston Basin International Airport

Williston Basin International Airport (XWA), opened in October 2019, represents a transformative investment in western North Dakota’s future. Built to meet modern aviation standards, XWA’s state-of-the-art facilities accommodate larger aircraft and expanded airline services, including leisure carriers, regional jets, and international general aviation flights. The airport also offers space for aeronautical and non-aeronautical developments, creating opportunities for private investment. XWA has quickly become the region’s primary air gateway, connecting Williston to the global economy and supporting both business and leisure travel. Airlines have expanded service offerings, and the airport continues to attract new routes and carriers, strengthening regional connectivity. Infrastructure improvements underscore XWA’s commitment to efficiency and long-term growth. Recent enhancements include winter operations upgrades and a comprehensive master planning process that will guide development for decades to come. Future projects will focus on expanding hangar space, improving cargo and general aviation facilities, and upgrading customer amenities. Beyond commercial aviation, XWA supports agricultural spraying operations vital to local farming and serves as a hub for Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) testing and development, positioning Williston as a center for drone innovation. Tenants like Overland Aviation provide flight training, maintenance, and charter services, fostering aviation careers and supporting local businesses. General aviation tenants further diversify operations, offering private flying, medical transport, and business travel. XWA also strengthens community ties through events that showcase aviation’s role in the region. The Williston Basin Airshow has earned international recognition, while partnerships like Make-A-Wish, Movie Night in the Hangar, and the Williston Marathon on airport runways highlight creativity and engagement. More than an airport, XWA is a driver of connectivity, economic growth, and innovation—ensuring western North Dakota remains competitive and vibrant for years to come.



Airport Activities



Scheduled Airline Service



Flight Instruction



Corporate Activity



Recreational Gateway



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	14/32	7,503 ft x 150 ft	Concrete	RNAV (GPS) / ILS
Secondary Runway	04/22	4,502 ft x 75 ft	Concrete	RNAV (GPS) / RNAV (GPS)
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	96,935	283,150	5.51%
Commercial Service Operations	3,888	3,890	0.00%
General Aviation Operations	2,560	3,580	1.68%
Based Aircraft	32	43	1.49%

Note: CAGR = Compound Annual Growth Rate