

Associated City: Williston
County: Williams
NDSASP Classification: Commercial Service
FAA ID: XWA

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



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.

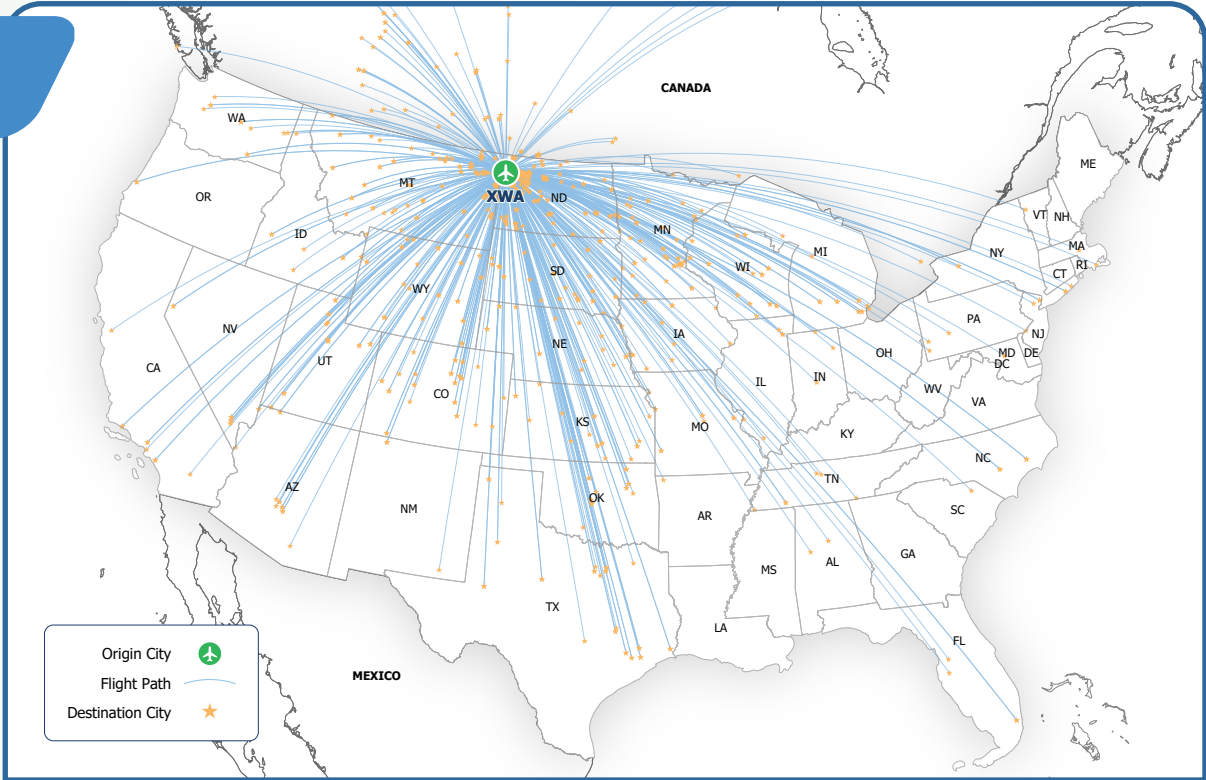
Jobs				Payroll				Value Added				Output			
1,099				\$56.45 M				\$89.91 M				\$149.74 M			
Jobs				Payroll				Value Added				Output			
Source of Impact	Direct	Multiplier	Total	Source of Impact	Direct	Multiplier	Total	Source of Impact	Direct	Multiplier	Total	Source of Impact	Direct	Multiplier	Total
Airport Management	29	25	54	Airport Management	\$1.23 M	\$1.49 M	\$2.72 M	Airport Management	\$4.37 M	\$2.35 M	\$6.73 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	\$18.53 M	\$9.58 M	\$28.11 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	\$1.23 M	\$597,000	\$1.82 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	\$11.67 M	\$6.14 M	\$17.80 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	\$23.23 M	\$12.21 M	\$35.44 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 Value Added Impacts	\$59.03 M	\$30.88 M	\$89.91 M	Total Output Impacts	\$90.75 M	\$58.99 M	\$149.74 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 XWA 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 \$23 million annually in federal, state, and local tax revenues, with approximately \$698,000 benefiting local governments.

An estimated 118,564 out-of-state visitors traveled through XWA in 2024 using commercial and general aviation services.

Visitors using XWA spent approximately \$10.2 million on lodging, \$17.4 million on food and beverage, \$10.8 million on local transportation, \$12.0 million on retail, and \$9.6 million on entertainment, supporting local businesses throughout the region.

XWA is home to 15 aviation-related or aviation-reliant businesses, including fixed-base operators (FBOs) and cargo service providers, which support approximately 251 direct airport tenant jobs.

Over the past four years, more than \$12 million has been invested in capital improvements at XWA, averaging approximately \$2 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.

