



Alberni Valley Regional Airport at a glance

March 2025

Introduction



Opening in 1993, the Alberni Valley Airport (AVRA) serves Port Alberni and the surrounding area. It is an important part of our vibrant, growing community.

Economic Benefit and Supporting Key Industry in the Valley

The largest tenant, Coulson Air, employs over 180 full-time positions, including aviation engineers and technicians supporting a global aerial firefighting business. This employment contributes significantly to the economic base of the community with over \$24 million in annual payroll and an estimated \$3.8 million spent with local suppliers.

The Ministry of Forests' Thunderbird Crew, based at the Alberni Valley Regional Airport, is a highly skilled team of more than 20 full-time seasonal wildland firefighters who specialize in ground-based firefighting across Vancouver Island and beyond. The crew is made up of people from all over the province, as well as Alberni Valley residents, including members from the Tseshaht and Hupacasath Nations.

The wildfire crew is investigating opportunities to expand operational base activities at the site at AVRA. Their dedication and expertise make them an invaluable asset to the region's wildfire management efforts.

AVRA role during 2023 Cameron Bluffs Wildfire and Road Closure

With Highway 4 closed due to the wildfire, the airport played a critical role in maintaining connectivity and supporting emergency operations including:

- **Emergency Health Services:** Moving critical health care staff in and out of the valley to meeting staff at the hospital and other IH facilities.
- **Medical Evacuations:** Ensuring that medical emergencies could be handled promptly, despite the road closure.
- **Vital Transportation Link:** Many local charter flight companies offered services via fixed wing and helicopter to Vancouver, Qualicum, Comox and other locations.
- **Supply Chain:** Allowing essential goods and supplies to be flown in, including barley for the local breweries ensured that the community's needs were met during the crisis.

The airport's role was crucial in mitigating the impact of the wildfire and maintaining essential services for Port Alberni residents.



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT



Users



Below is a list some of AVRA's current users:

- Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation
- Alberni Valley Flying Club
- Alberni Valley Soaring Association
- BC Ambulance Service Air Ambulance
- Canadian Coast Guard
- Coulson Aviation
- Department of National Defence Military Training
- Helijet
- Vancouver Island Soaring Centre
- Private and commercial aircraft



(Top left) Planes during AVRA open house.
(Bottom right) Soaring plane at AVRA.
(Page 2) First plane to land on new AVRA runway.



Key Projects

Completed Projects

- Airport Terminal Building public WiFi enabled
- New fuel terminal kiosk installed, and fuel system upgrades
- Increasing number of leases and non-tax revenues

Underway and Upcoming Projects

- Certify the Automated Weather Observing System improving GPS limits
- Clearing of trees in the Obstacle Limitation Surface
- Lowering the Instrument Approach Procedures
- Equipment Shelter Construction (Pending Grant award)
- Crack sealing of the runway
- Fencing & access improvements
- Instrument Approach Procedure and publishing with Nav Canada

Focus on Innovation

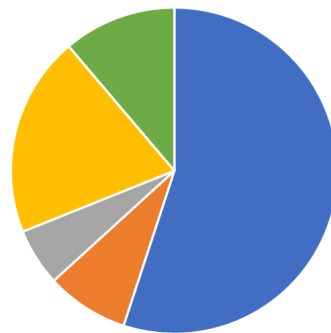
(Information/data provided by Coulson Group Aviation Division)

- 181 full-time equivalent positions in diverse, well-paying occupations
- \$24 million annual payroll
- \$3.8 million spent with local suppliers

Financial Stats

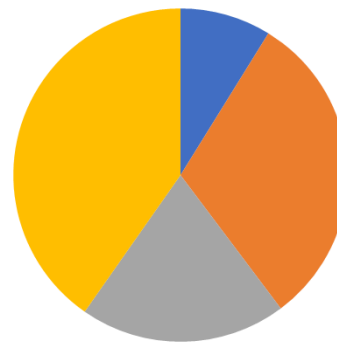
2024 Actual Revenue

- Taxes - 55 %
- Surplus - 20 %
- Leases and Fees - 11%
- Fuel - 8%
- Interest - 6%



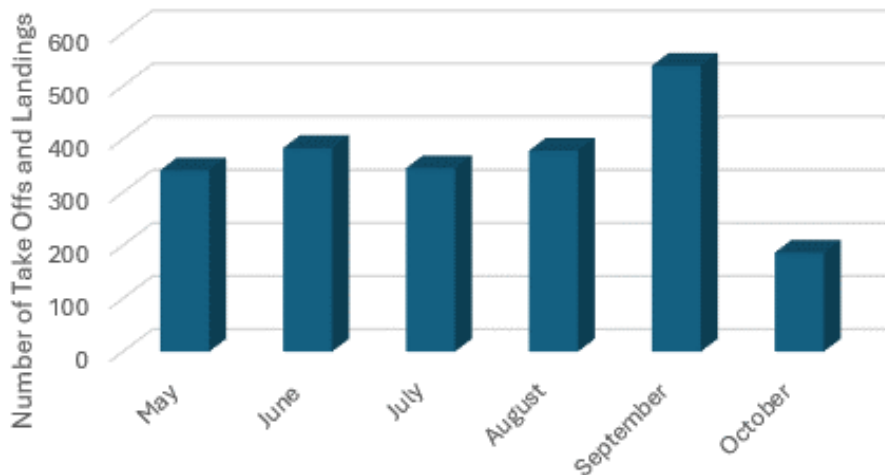
2025 Expenses Budget

- Operations - 50 %
- Fuel - 9 %
- Debt Repayment - 31%
- Contribution to Capital - 20%



Takeoff and landings

AVRA (CBS8) Movements Summer 2024



Revenues	2021-2024 (% change)	2023-2024 (% change)
Taxes	↓ 7.7%	↓ 3.4
Lease Revenue	↑ 129%	↑ 13.8%

Importance of AVRA

- The Region provides a 5,000 foot runway and more than 2,500 feet of taxiways and aprons.
- AVRA currently has 12 leases.
- The airport is critical to the local economy and future growth of the region,