

# Alberni Valley Regional Airport

## At a Glance

April 2026

### 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.

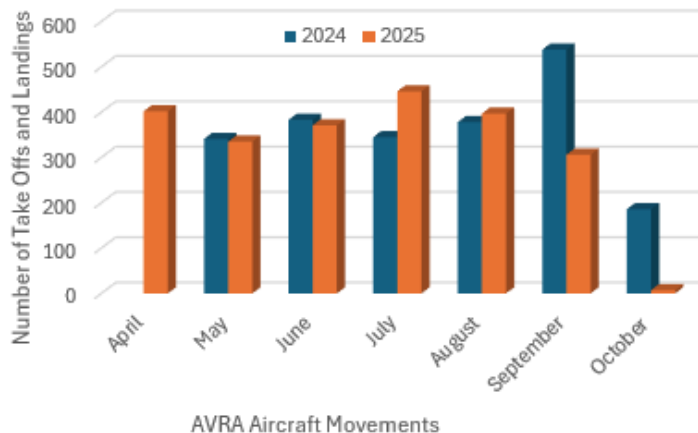
### Economic Benefit and Supporting Key Industry in the Valley

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.

BC Wildfire Service has received approval to expand their operations to include an adjacent non-airside lot to support future expansion of the Port Alberni Fire Base, including space for crew uplifts, Head Quarters and Fire Centre employees, training space, and needed facility improvements. This expansion will strengthen local wildfire response capacity, helping ensure faster, more effective protection for nearby communities, First Nations, and regional partners.

### 2025 Takeoffs & Landings



as observed by the airport caretaker

### 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



A VIP Search and Rescue exercise held at CBS8 / AVRA on July 7, 2025





## Key Projects

### Completed Projects in 2025

- Tree Clearing for Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS)
- Perimeter Fence Upgrades along Northwest Industrial Road
- Automated Weather Observing System Maintenance
- Flight Tracking Software Trial
- High Speed Fibre Optic Upgrades completed

### Underway and Upcoming Projects

- Expansion Area - Phase 1 for future development and additional leases
- Investigate replacement of legacy fuel dispensers
- Certify the Automated Weather Observing System improving GPS limits
- Lowering the Instrument Approach Procedures and publishing with Nav Canada
- Equipment Shelter Construction (pending grant award)
- Crack sealing of the runway

## Field Electrical Centre

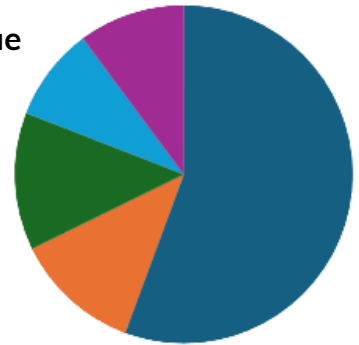


An inside and outside look at the Field Electrical Centre (FEC) located at AVRA.

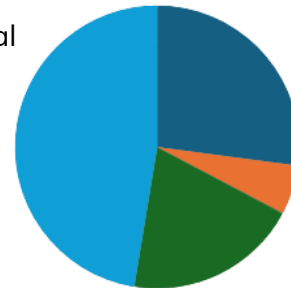
## Financial Stats

### 2025 Actual Revenue

- Taxes - 56 %
- Surplus - 12 %
- Leases and Fees - 13%
- Fuel - 9%
- Interest - 10%



### 2026 Expenses Budget



- Operations - 27%
- Fuel - 6%
- Debt Repayment - 20%
- Contribution to Capital - 47%

## Importance of AVRA

- The Region provides a 5,000-foot runway and more than 2,500 feet of taxiways and aprons.
- The airport is critical to the local economy and future growth of the region.
- AVRA currently has leased out all available air-side lease lots - 19 in total.

	2021-2025	2024-2025
Taxes	↓ 9%	↓ 2%
Lease Revenues	↑ 114%	↑ 15%