

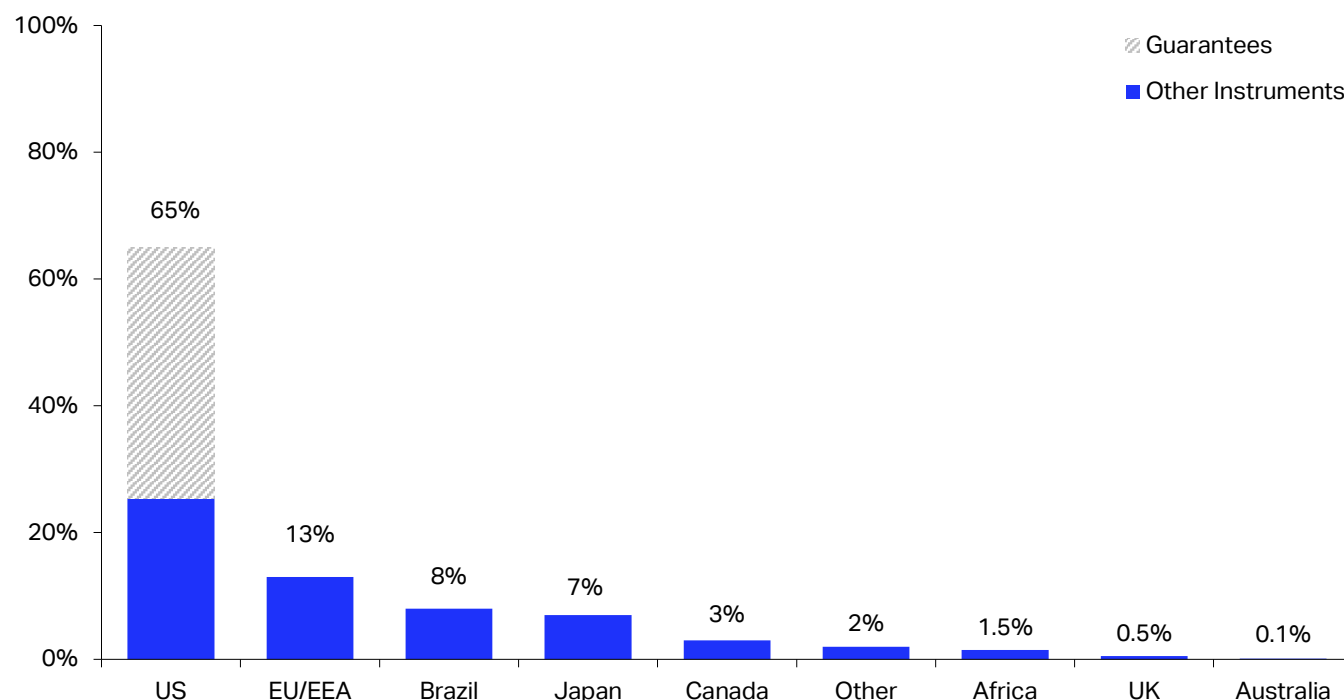


## Chart of the Week

25 October 2024

### SAF progress slowed by insufficient public funding

**Public funding available for advanced biofuels, including SAF, by region (2024-2025)**



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, official sources, and information shared directly from public funding providers.

Note: Actual disbursements against guarantees depend on incidents occurring, and the guarantor may never need to pay.

- Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) is crucial for aviation's energy transition, yet its production accounts for less than 1% of aviation's fuel needs in 2024. Public sector support is essential to scale up SAF production. When policymakers lead the way, they often have a catalytic effect on the targeted activity, and private investments are attracted more readily.
- Recognizing this potential, IATA reviewed around 140 public financial aid programs supporting sustainable technologies such as advanced biofuels. Our analysis draws on data from 30 of these funds that include SAF development within their scope. Estimations were made on a case-by-case basis for 2024, considering the financial support dispersed to SAF projects, advanced biofuels definition, and policy priorities.
- The survey suggests that only 11% of the tracked public funds are available for advanced biofuels, including SAF. The United States (US) offers most of this support, contributing likely 65% of global public funding. Over 60% of the US financial aid is presumably provided via guarantees, followed by subsidies and grants. The review implies that the European Union accounts for 13% of the global public funding, primarily relying on grants and market mechanisms that focus on developing and commercializing SAF technologies. Other regions, despite SAF feedstock abundance, appear to be significantly underfunded.
- Aviation's transition is inextricably linked to the broader global energy shift, whose success depends on multiple solutions working together. SAF is key in aviation's journey to reach zero carbon emissions. Its benefits extend beyond [environmental gains](#). SAF offers wider [socio-economic advantages](#), including creating jobs, restoring land, and enhancing energy security, an opportunity not to be missed.

IATA Sustainability & Economics

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