IATA Economics' Chart of the Week
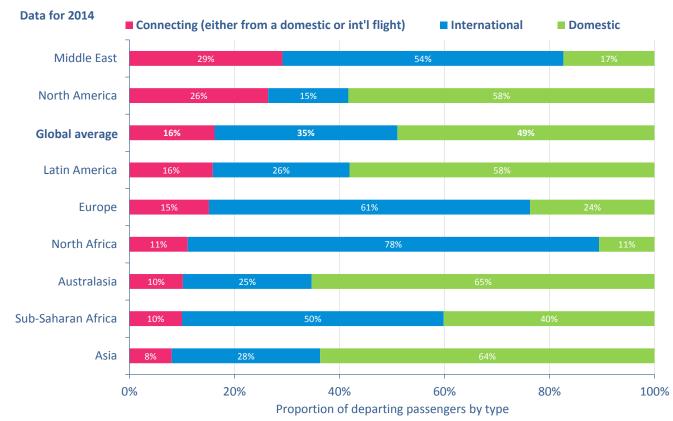
30 OCTOBER 2015

SUPER-CONNECTORS, INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS & DOMESTIC MARKETS

Data for 2014

Legend: ■ Connecting (either from a domestic or int'l flight)   ■ International   ■ Domestic

Region	Connecting	International	Domestic
Middle East	29%	54%	17%
North America	26%	15%	58%
Global average	**16%**	**35%**	**49%**
Latin America	16%	26%	58%
Europe	15%	61%	24%
North Africa	11%	78%	11%
Australasia	10%	25%	65%
Sub-Saharan Africa	10%	50%	40%
Asia	8%	28%	64%

Proportion of departing passengers by type (0% – 100%)

Sources: IATA PaxIS

- The composition of air passenger departures by type of journey varies significantly by region. At a global level, just under half of all departing air passengers in the world in 2014 were for domestic journeys (see the green part of the third bar in the chart). Around one third of global passenger departures were on international trips (the blue portion of the bar), and one sixth of departures were by passengers connecting from a previous flight (the pink part).

- However, both the Middle East and North America have higher-than-average proportions of connecting passengers, reflecting the former's role as an intra-continental super-connector, and the unusually high proportion of domestic trips in the latter that go through hubs, such as Atlanta.

- By contrast, the comparatively high proportion of international departures in Europe, as well as the high share of domestic departures in Asia, underlines the stronger prevalence of point-to-point air connections in both these regions.

- With aviation's centre of gravity expected to shift increasingly towards Asia over the long run, it follows that the global proportion of passengers on domestic journeys is also likely to increase over time. Domestic air journeys are typically much shorter in length than international trips. Accordingly, having been broadly constant over the past decade or so, we expect the change in passenger composition will lead to a decline in the average stage length flown over the long run.

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