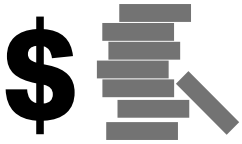
THE VALUE OF AVIATION AUSTRALIA

The economic impact of aviation in Australia

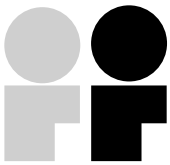
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 5.6% of Australia's GDP and 5.0% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Australia.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Australia in 2025



100.1
USD billion

5.6%
of GDP



753.5
thousand jobs

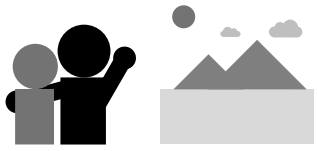
5.0%
of employment

Included economic impacts:
***Direct** – within aviation sector, **Indirect** – aviation supply chain,*
Induced** – employee spending, **International tourists arriving by air

Breakdown of GDP and employment created







Airlines	Airports, ANSPs, civil manufacturing	International tourists arriving by air
USD 32.3 billion	USD 40 billion	USD 27.8 billion
203.6 thousand jobs	309.6 thousand jobs	240.3 thousand jobs

Source: Air Transport Action Group, 2026. Aviation Benefits Beyond Borders report based on data from Oxford Economics.
Note: Economic impacts are calculated using Oxford Economics' Aviation: Benefits Beyond Borders methodology with inputs sourced from publicly available statistics and recognized industry datasets wherever possible, with modelling-based estimates applied where direct data are not available. Estimates do not include domestic tourism spending, nor the wider catalytic benefits of aviation on trade, investment, productivity gains, and enhanced connectivity, among others.
Note: Average 2025 exchange rate: USD 1 = AUD 1.55

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 82.7 million air passengers departed from Australia in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Australia the 14th largest air passenger market globally.

Air travel from Australia in 2025, Origin-Destination (O-D)

82.7
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

17.9%
10-year growth

3.3%
year-on-year growth

RANK

14th
Global
No change since 2015

1st
in Southwest Pacific
No change since 2015

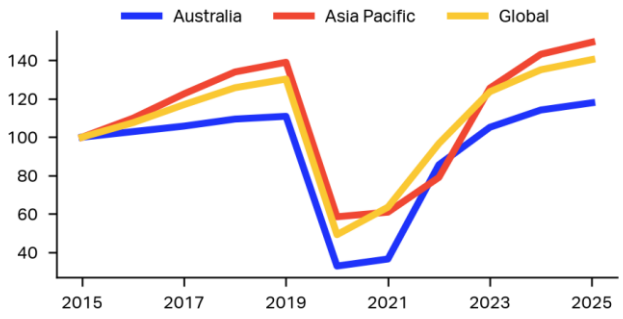
SHARE

1.9%
of global departures

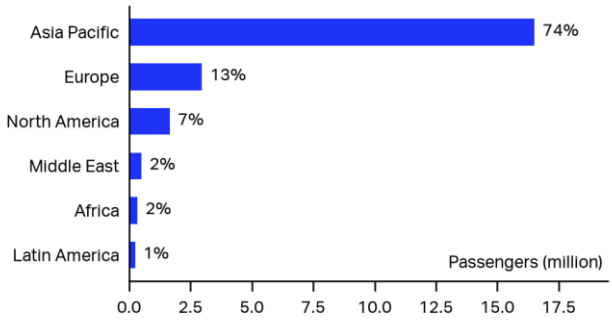
76.5%
of Southwest Pacific departures

International: 22.2 million passenger departures, 33.4% 10Y growth, 8.0% YoY growth
Domestic: 60.5 million passenger departures, 13.1% 10Y growth, 1.6% YoY growth, % share of total market: 73.1%

Total passenger departures, O-D, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



International passenger departures by destination region, O-D, 2025



Top air travel markets Inbound & outbound	Top origin cities Inbound	Top destination cities Outbound
1. New Zealand	1. Auckland	1. Denpasar-Bali
2. Indonesia	2. Singapore	2. Singapore
3. China	3. London	3. Tokyo
4. Japan	4. Hong Kong	4. Auckland
5. United States	5. Seoul	5. London

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Australia, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Australia and other markets in 2025. Top outbound and inbound cities are based on round-trip passenger journeys.
IATA DDS data are derived from ticketing and sales transactions using IATA methodologies and estimates; therefore, results may not exactly match officially reported traffic statistics.

Air transport directly connects Australia to 44 different countries

In 2025, there were 161 airports and 76 operating airlines in Australia, providing a total of 1021 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Australia, connecting to 44 countries with about 273 daily international departures.

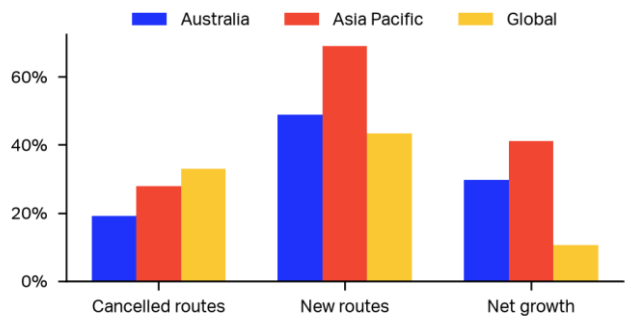
Air Connectivity in Australia

161
Airports in 2025
133 in 2015

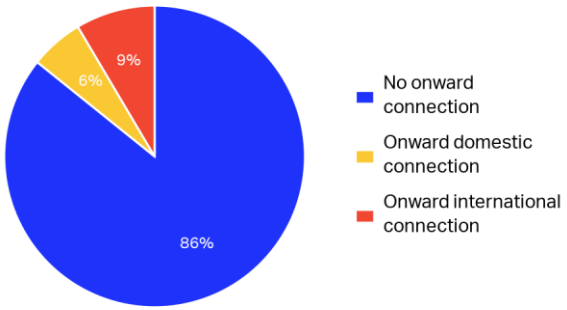
76
Airlines in 2025
59 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	1021	44	273
	Global rank	14th	39th	35th
	SW Pacific rank	1st	1st	1st
2015	Total	787	36	239
	Global rank	17th	49th	35th
	SW Pacific rank	1st	1st	1st

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

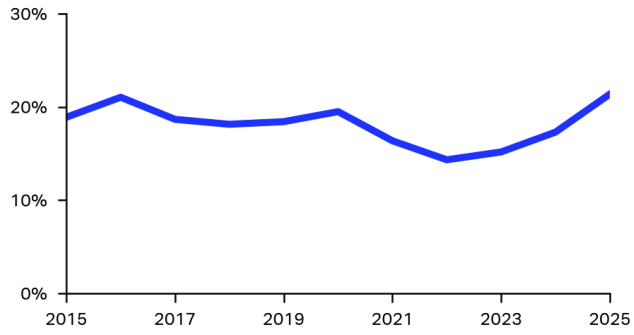


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Australia. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Australia timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 0.03% of Australia's traded goods by weight, it carried 21.4% of their total value.
Australia's airports handled around 1.2 million tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Australia as the world's 25th largest air cargo handler market and the 1st largest in Southwest Pacific.

Australian air cargo, value, % of total, 2015-2025



Australian air cargo, share of trade, 2025

0.03%
of trade by weight

21.4%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Australia, 2025

1.2
million tonnes
air cargo handled

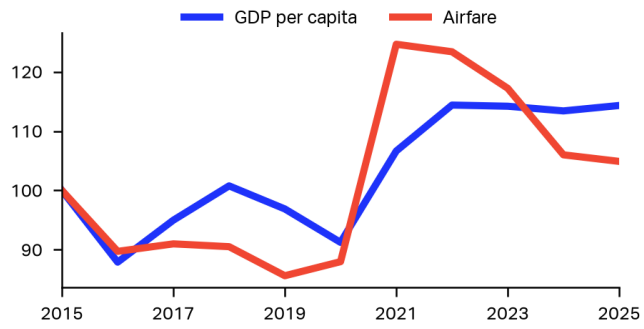
25th
Globally
1st in SW Pacific

Source: Airports Council International (ACI) for air cargo handled, Global Trade Tracker (GTT) for imports and exports by air.
Note: Australia's trade by air includes imports and exports. It is based on the country's self reported customs data.

International air travel from Australia has become more affordable over the past decade

Australia's nominal GDP per capita increased by 14.3%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Australia increased by 4.9%, over the past decade. Therefore, international air travel has become more affordable for local residents over this time period.

Nominal GDP per capita & average international fare, Australia, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



Source: IATA DDS, World Bank. Nominal GDP per capita and fare developments measured in USD terms.