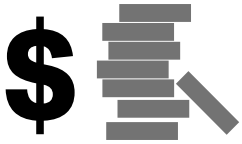
THE VALUE OF AVIATION BAHRAIN

The economic impact of aviation in Bahrain

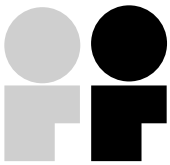
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 8.5% of Bahrain's GDP and 6.0% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Bahrain.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Bahrain in 2025



4.2
USD billion

8.5%
of GDP



54.8
thousand jobs

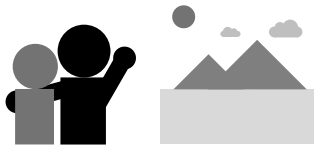
6.0%
of employment

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 1.5 billion	USD 1.6 billion	USD 1 billion
17.3 thousand jobs	23.4 thousand jobs	14.1 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 = BHD 0.38

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 2.6 million air passengers departed from Bahrain in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Bahrain the 98th largest air passenger market globally.

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

2.6
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

7.1%
10-year growth

6.3%
year-on-year growth

RANK

98th
Global
No change since 2015

11th
in Middle East
No change since 2015

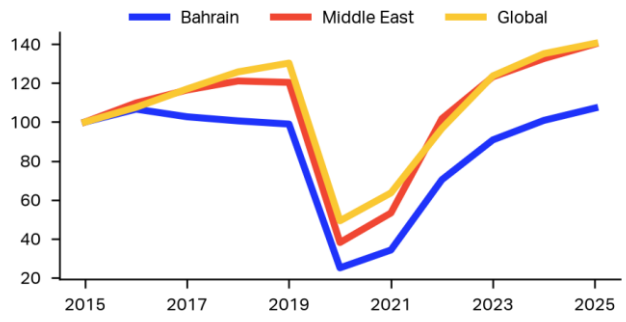
SHARE

0.1%
of global departures

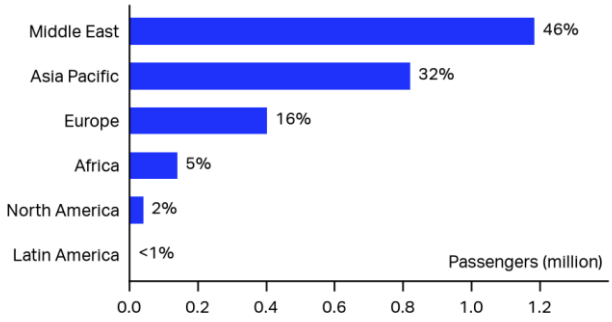
1.6%
of Middle Eastern departures

International: 2.6 million passenger departures, 7.1% 10Y growth, 6.3% YoY growth

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

1. United Arab Emirates
2. India
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Kuwait
5. Pakistan

Top origin cities
Inbound

1. Dubai
2. Kuwait
3. Riyadh
4. Abu Dhabi
5. Doha

Top destination cities
Outbound

1. Dubai
2. Abu Dhabi
3. Sharjah
4. Istanbul
5. London

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Bahrain, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Bahrain 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 Bahrain to 34 different countries

In 2025, there were 1 airports and 30 operating airlines in Bahrain, providing a total of 64 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Bahrain, connecting to 34 countries with about 106 daily international departures.

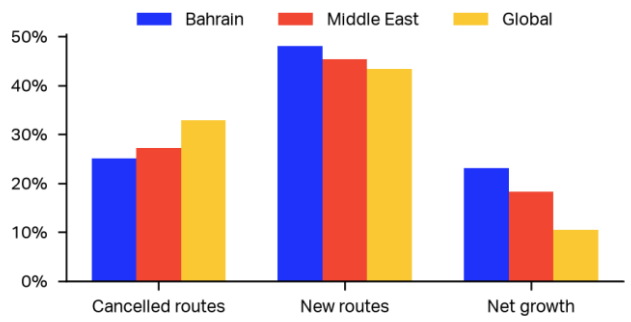
Air Connectivity in Bahrain

1
Airports in 2025
1 in 2015

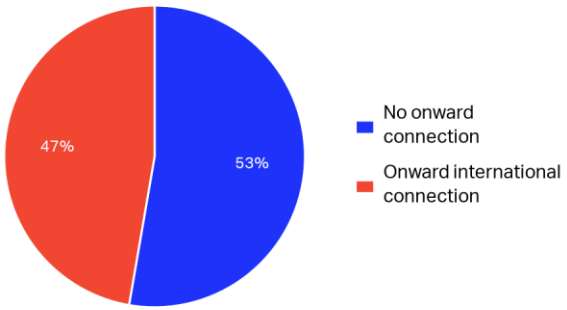
30
Airlines in 2025
29 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	64	34	106
	Global rank	108th	62nd	59th
	Middle East rank	10th	8th	7th
2015	Total	52	28	113
	Global rank	113th	71st	53rd
	Middle East rank	12th	10th	7th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

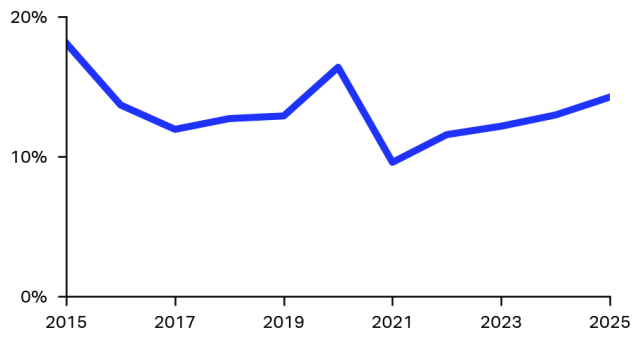


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Bahrain. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Bahrain timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 0.2% of Bahrain's traded goods by weight, it carried 14.2% of their total value.
Bahrain's airports handled around 262.9 thousand tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Bahrain as the world's 47th largest air cargo handler market and the 6th largest in the Middle East.

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



Bahraini air cargo, share of trade, 2025

0.2%
of trade by weight

14.2%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Bahrain, 2025

262.9
thousand tonnes
air cargo handled

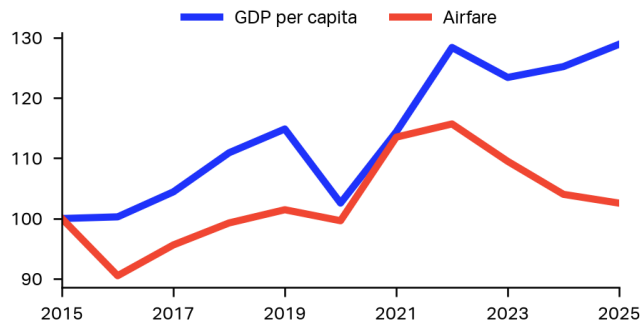
47th
Globally
6th in Middle East

Source: Airports Council International (ACI) for air cargo handled, Global Trade Tracker (GTT) for imports and exports by air.
Note: Bahrain's trade by air includes imports and exports. It is based on a sample of 50 countries that report their trade by means of transport in 2025, which represents around 40% of the total global goods trade.

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

Bahrain's nominal GDP per capita increased by 28.9%, while the average nominal air fare for an international ticket from Bahrain increased by 2.6%, 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, Bahrain, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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