THE VALUE OF AVIATION
BELIZE

The economic impact of aviation in Belize

The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 20.0% of Belize's GDP and 24.0% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Belize.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Belize in 2025

664.2
USD million

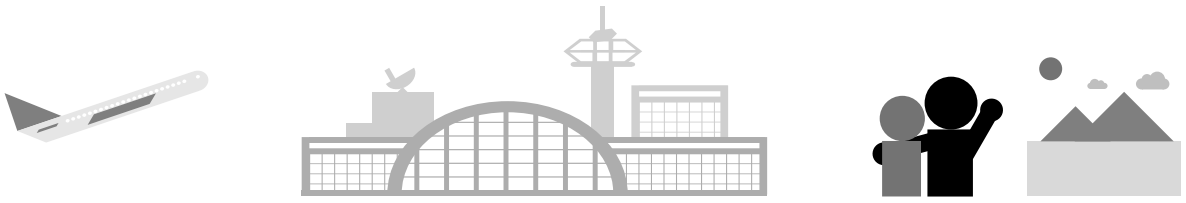
20.0%
of GDP

44.3
thousand jobs

24.0%
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 108.3 million	USD 47.8 million	USD 508.1 million
3.9 thousand jobs	2.5 thousand jobs	37.9 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 = BZD 2

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 1.5 million air passengers departed from Belize in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Belize the 119th largest air passenger market globally.

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

1.5
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

35.7%
10-year growth

-1.0%
year-on-year growth

RANK

119th
Global
▼ 2 since 2015

7th
in Central America
▼ 2 since 2015

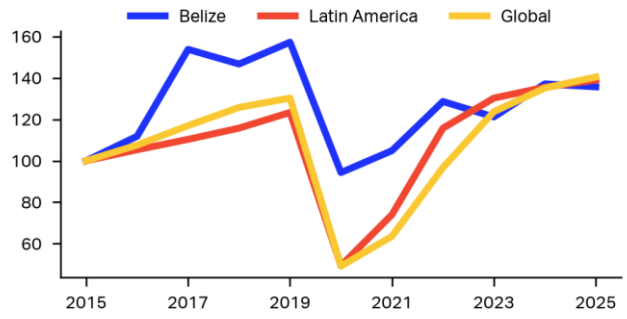
SHARE

0.03%
of global departures

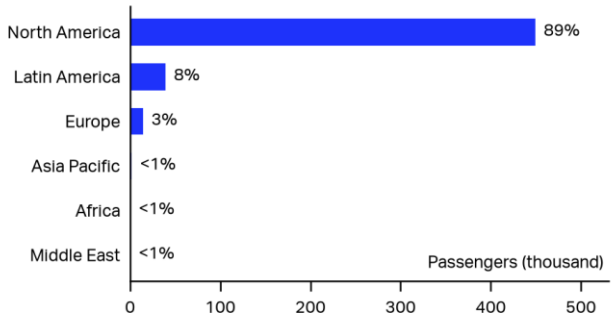
1.4%
of Central American departures

International: 505.8 thousand passenger departures, 59.4% 10Y growth, 0.3% YoY growth
Domestic: 956.3 thousand passenger departures, 25.8% 10Y growth, -1.7% YoY growth, % share of total market: 65.4%

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. United States	1. New York	1. Miami
2. Canada	2. Houston	2. Houston
3. Guatemala	3. Los Angeles	3. Los Angeles
4. United Kingdom	4. Denver	4. Guatemala City
5. Panama	5. Fort Worth	5. New York

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Belize, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Belize 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 Belize to 7 different countries

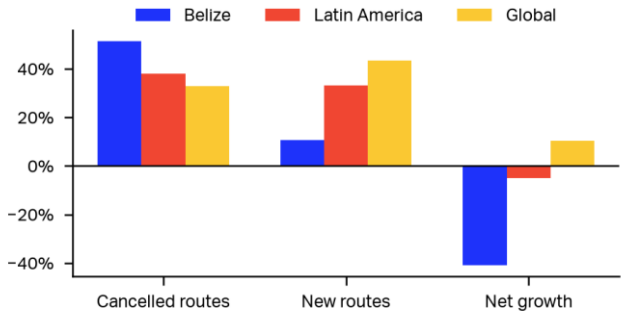
In 2025, there were 10 airports and 14 operating airlines in Belize, providing a total of 61 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Belize, connecting to 7 countries with about 13 daily international departures.

Air Connectivity in Belize

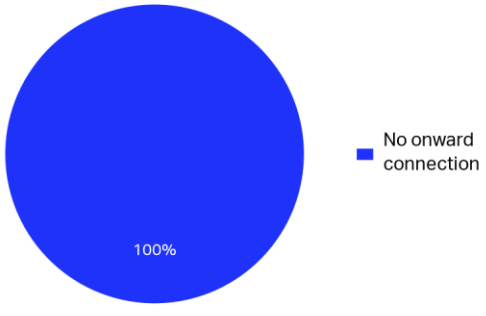


		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	61	7	13
	Global rank	111th	181st	155th
	C-America rank	4th	7th	8th
2015	Total	103	6	13
	Global rank	79th	192nd	155th
	C-America rank	4th	8th	8th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

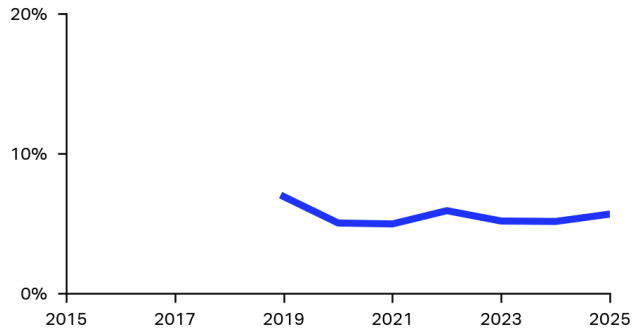


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Belize. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Belize timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 3.4% of Belize's traded goods by weight, it carried 5.7% of their total value.
Belize's airports handled around 673 tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Belize as the world's 166th largest air cargo handler market and the 8th largest in Central America.

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



Belizean air cargo, share of trade, 2025

3.4%
of trade by weight

5.7%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Belize, 2025

673
tonnes
air cargo handled

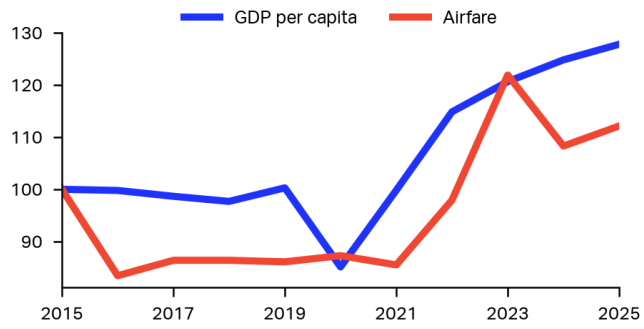
166th
Globally
8th in C-America

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

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

Belize's nominal GDP per capita increased by 27.8%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Belize increased by 12.1%, 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, Belize, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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