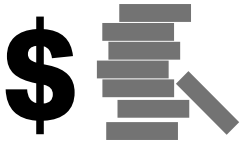
# THE VALUE OF AVIATION CANADA

## The economic impact of aviation in Canada

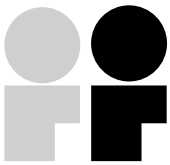
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 4.1% of Canada's GDP and 3.6% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Canada.

### GDP and employment created by aviation in Canada in 2025



**96.3**
USD billion

**4.1%**
of GDP



**833.5**
thousand jobs

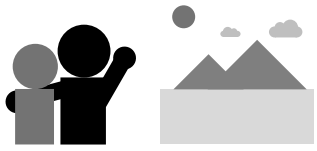
**3.6%**
of employment

*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 27.6 billion | USD 55.9 billion | USD 12.8 billion |
| 210.1 thousand jobs | 455.4 thousand jobs | 168.1 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 = CAD 1.4

# Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 68.6 million air passengers departed from Canada in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Canada the 17th largest air passenger market globally.

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

**68.6**
million
passenger departures

### GROWTH

**23.7%**
10-year growth

**2.6%**
year-on-year growth

### RANK

**17th**
Global
No change since 2015

**2nd**
in North America
No change since 2015

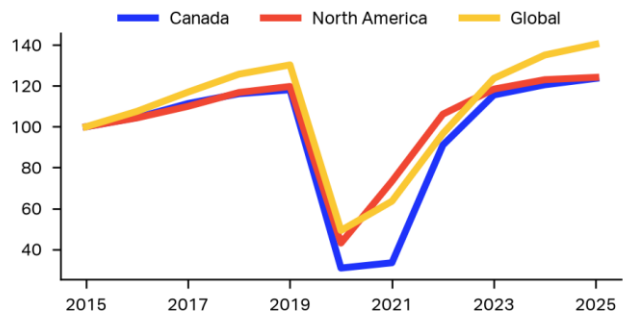
### SHARE

**1.6%**
of global departures

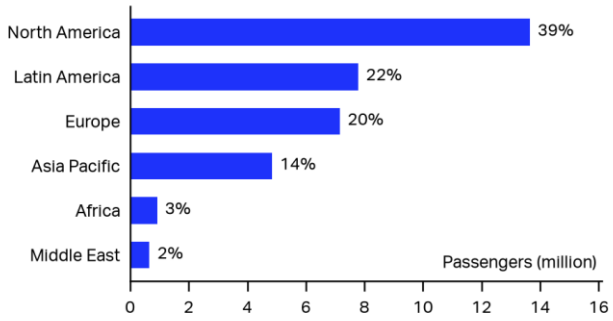
**8.4%**
of North American departures

International: 35.0 million passenger departures, 33.6% 10Y growth, 0.8% YoY growth
Domestic: 33.6 million passenger departures, 14.8% 10Y growth, 4.5% YoY growth, % share of total market: 49.0%

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




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




| Top air travel markets<br>Inbound & outbound | Top origin cities<br>Inbound | Top destination cities<br>Outbound |
|---|---|---|
| 1. United States | 1. London | 1. Cancun |
| 2. Mexico | 2. New York | 2. Punta Cana |
| 3. United Kingdom | 3. Paris | 3. New York |
| 4. France | 4. San Francisco | 4. Orlando |
| 5. India | 5. Los Angeles | 5. London |

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Canada, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Canada 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 Canada to 81 different countries

In 2025, there were 227 airports and 104 operating airlines in Canada, providing a total of 1982 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Canada, connecting to 81 countries with about 720 daily international departures.

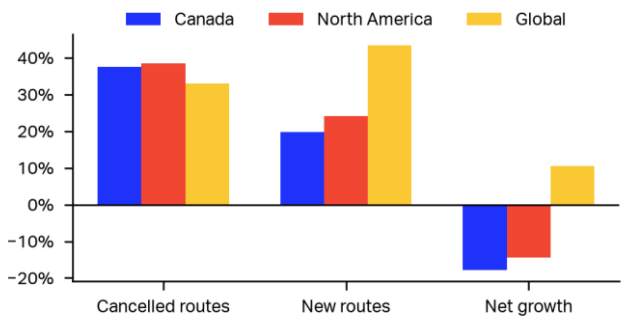
### Air Connectivity in Canada

**227**
**Airports in 2025**
232 in 2015

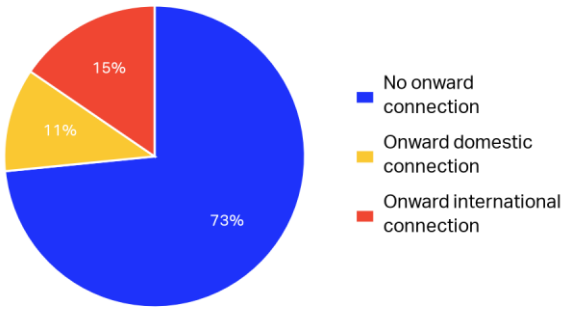
**104**
**Airlines in 2025**
92 in 2015

| | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Available routes | Connected countries | Daily int. departures |
| 2025 | Total | 1982 | 81 | 720 |
| | Global rank | 8th | 13th | 11th |
| | N-America rank | 2nd | 2nd | 2nd |
| 2015 | Total | 2410 | 73 | 732 |
| | Global rank | 3rd | 11th | 9th |
| | N-America rank | 2nd | 2nd | 2nd |

### Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015




### Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

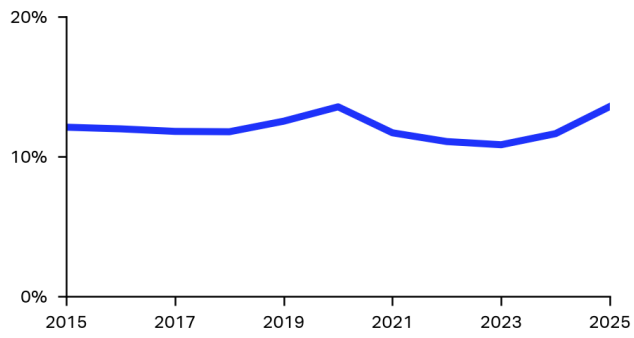



Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Canada. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

## Air Cargo provides Canada timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 0.1% of Canada's traded goods by weight, it carried 13.6% of their total value.
Canada's airports handled around 1.5 million tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Canada as the world's 21st largest air cargo handler market and the 2nd largest in North America.

**Canadian air cargo, value, % of total, 2015-2025**




**Canadian air cargo, share of trade, 2025**

**0.1%** of trade by weight

**13.6%** of trade by value

**Air cargo handled in Canada, 2025**

**1.5** million tonnes air cargo handled

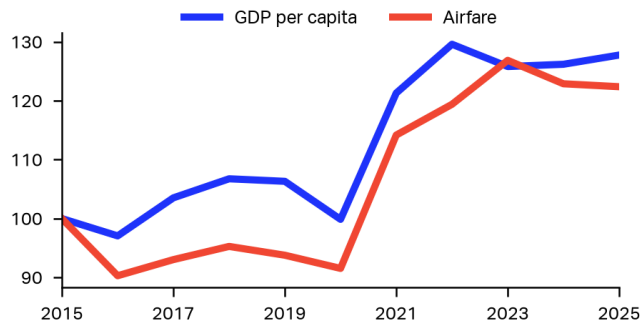
**21st** Globally 2nd in N-America

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

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

Canada's nominal GDP per capita increased by 27.8%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Canada increased by 22.4%, 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, Canada, 2015-2025, index 2015=100**




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