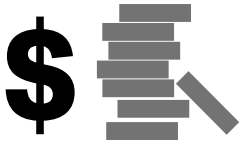
THE VALUE OF AVIATION COLOMBIA

The economic impact of aviation in Colombia

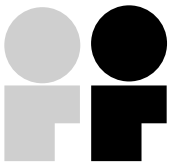
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 4.3% of Colombia's GDP and 3.4% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Colombia.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Colombia in 2025



19.8
USD billion

4.3%
of GDP



934.6
thousand jobs

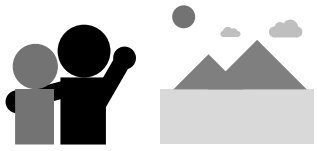
3.4%
of employment

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 5.5 billion	USD 4.2 billion	USD 10 billion
176.4 thousand jobs	193.6 thousand jobs	564.6 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 = COP 4,053.14

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 41.2 million air passengers departed from Colombia in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Colombia the 23rd largest air passenger market globally.

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

41.2
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

70.4%
10-year growth

-0.5%
year-on-year growth

RANK

23rd
Global
No change since 2015

2nd
in South America
No change since 2015

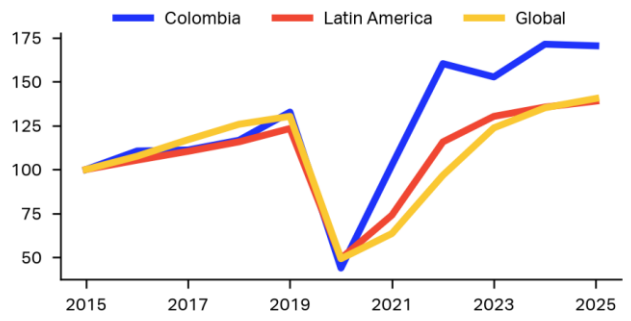
SHARE

1.0%
of global departures

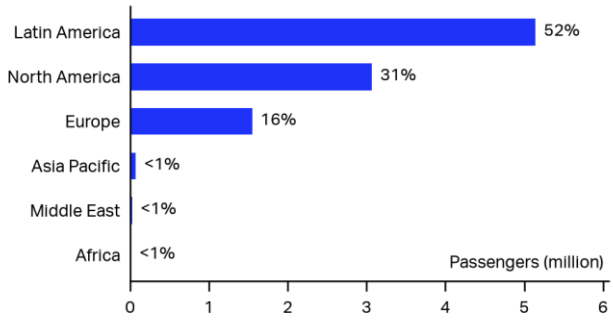
19.1%
of South American departures

International: 9.9 million passenger departures, 116.5% 10Y growth, 5.0% YoY growth
Domestic: 31.3 million passenger departures, 59.7% 10Y growth, -2.1% YoY growth, % share of total market: 76.0%

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. Miami	1. Madrid
2. Spain	2. Mexico City	2. Miami
3. Mexico	3. New York	3. Panama City
4. Panama	4. Santiago	4. Punta Cana
5. Dominican Republic	5. Panama City	5. Mexico City

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Colombia, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Colombia 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 Colombia to 35 different countries

In 2025, there were 61 airports and 40 operating airlines in Colombia, providing a total of 387 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Colombia, connecting to 35 countries with about 201 daily international departures.

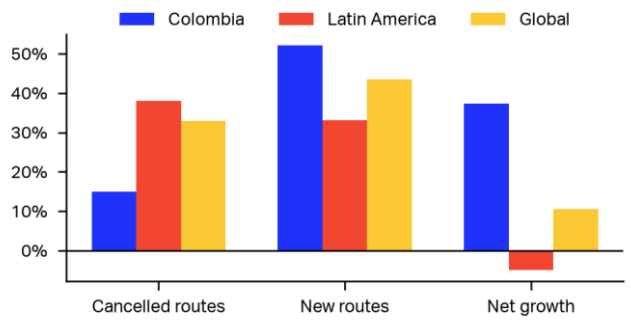
Air Connectivity in Colombia

61
Airports in 2025
52 in 2015

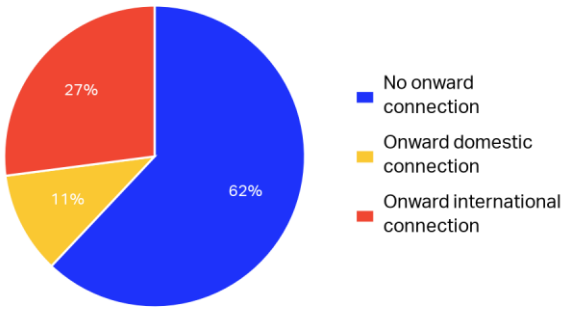
40
Airlines in 2025
28 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	387	35	201
	Global rank	29th	61st	41st
	S-America rank	2nd	2nd	1st
2015	Total	282	26	139
	Global rank	35th	79th	46th
	S-America rank	2nd	3rd	2nd

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

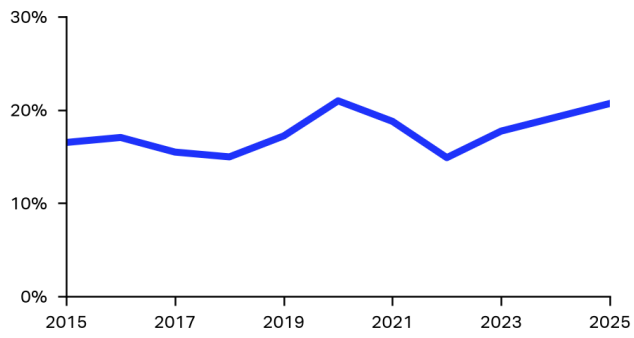


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Colombia. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Colombia timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 0.6% of Colombia's traded goods by weight, it carried 20.7% of their total value.
Colombia's airports handled around 1.1 million tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Colombia as the world's 27th largest air cargo handler market and the 2nd largest in South America.

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



Colombian air cargo, share of trade, 2025

0.6% of trade by weight

20.7% of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Colombia, 2025

1.1 million tonnes air cargo handled

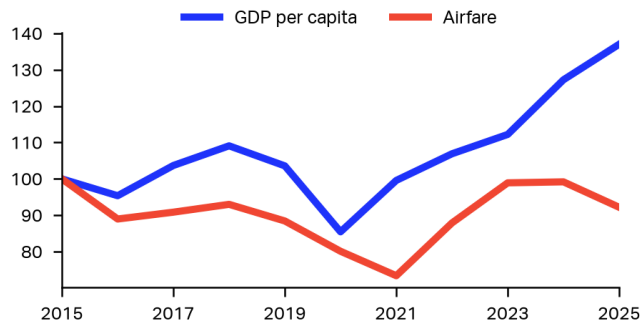
27th Globally 2nd in S-America

Source: Airports Council International (ACI) for air cargo handled, Global Trade Tracker (GTT) for imports and exports by air.
Note: Colombia'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 Colombia has become more affordable over the past decade

Colombia's nominal GDP per capita increased by 37.0%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Colombia decreased by 7.8%, 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, Colombia, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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