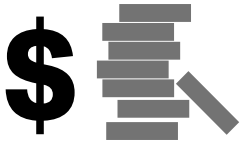
THE VALUE OF AVIATION CONGO

The economic impact of aviation in Congo

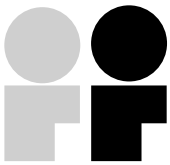
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 1.6% of Congo's GDP and 1.0% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Congo.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Congo in 2025



265.8
USD million

1.6%
of GDP



25.8
thousand jobs

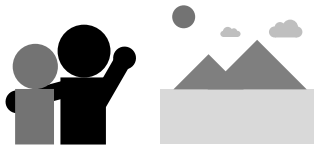
1.0%
of employment

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 80.3 million	USD 136.4 million	USD 49.1 million
6.5 thousand jobs	11.5 thousand jobs	7.9 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 = XAF 581.82

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 654.5 thousand air passengers departed from Congo in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Congo the 153rd largest air passenger market globally.

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

654.5
thousand
passenger departures

GROWTH

-35.3%
10-year growth

-6.3%
year-on-year growth

RANK

153rd
Global
▼ 13 since 2015

28th
in Africa
▼ 13 since 2015

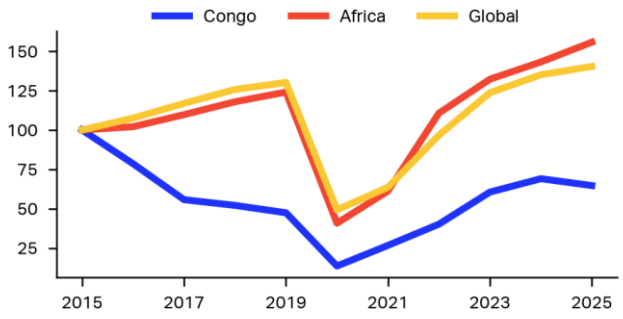
SHARE

0.02%
of global departures

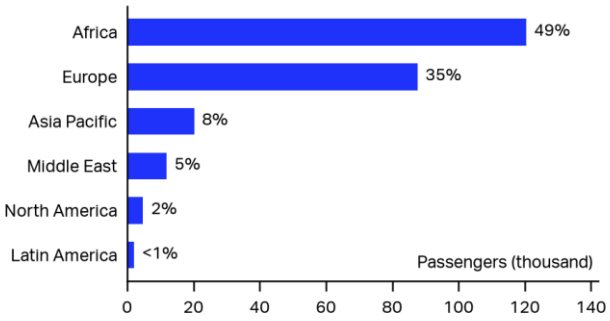
0.5%
of African departures

International: 246.9 thousand passenger departures, -39.9% 10Y growth, 0.2% YoY growth
Domestic: 407.5 thousand passenger departures, -32.2% 10Y growth, -9.8% YoY growth, % share of total market: 62.3%

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. France	1. Paris	1. Paris
2. Gabon	2. Libreville	2. Addis Ababa
3. China	3. Douala	3. Dubai
4. Mali	4. Abidjan	4. Libreville
5. Cameroon	5. Addis Ababa	5. Abidjan

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Congo, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Congo 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 Congo to 15 different countries

In 2025, there were 4 airports and 18 operating airlines in Congo, providing a total of 32 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Congo, connecting to 15 countries with about 9 daily international departures.

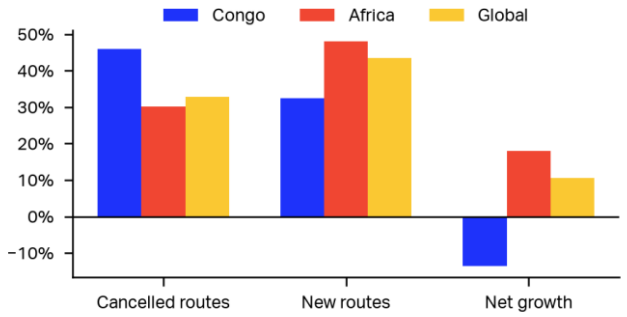
Air Connectivity in Congo

4
Airports in 2025
3 in 2015

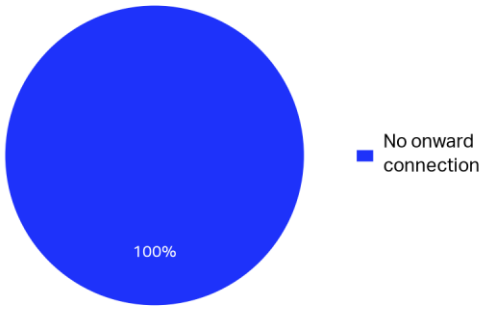
18
Airlines in 2025
17 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	32	15	9
	Global rank	146th	128th	166th
	Africa rank	27th	27th	35th
2015	Total	37	23	13
	Global rank	130th	87th	153rd
	Africa rank	22nd	14th	29th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

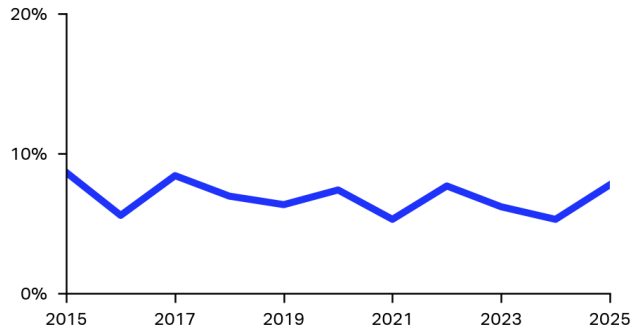


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Congo. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Congo timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 0.3% of Congo's traded goods by weight, it carried 7.8% of their total value.
Congo's airports handled around 15 thousand tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Congo as the world's 118th largest air cargo handler market and the 22nd largest in Africa.

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



Congolese air cargo, share of trade, 2025

0.3%
of trade by weight

7.8%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Congo, 2025

15
thousand tonnes
air cargo handled

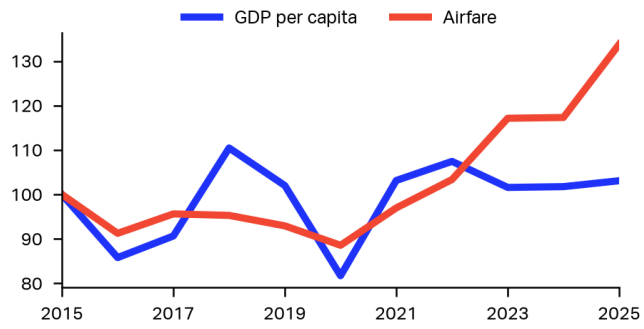
118th
Globally
22nd in Africa

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

Congo's nominal GDP per capita increased by 3.1%, while the average nominal air fare for an international ticket from Congo increased by 33.8%, over the past decade. Therefore, international air travel has become less affordable for local residents over this time period.

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



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