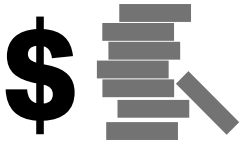
THE VALUE OF AVIATION CROATIA

The economic impact of aviation in Croatia

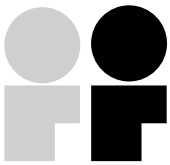
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 4.3% of Croatia's GDP and 5.4% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Croatia.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Croatia in 2025



4
EUR billion

4.3%
of GDP



93.5
thousand jobs

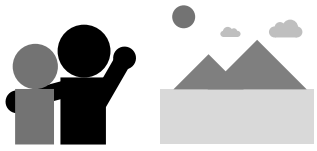
5.4%
of employment

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
EUR 281.9 million	EUR 1.8 billion	EUR 1.9 billion
5.8 thousand jobs	40.5 thousand jobs	47.2 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: Converted to local currency using average 2025 exchange rate: USD 1 = EUR 0.88

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 6.8 million air passengers departed from Croatia in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Croatia the 64th largest air passenger market globally.

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

6.8
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

117.0%
10-year growth

8.3%
year-on-year growth

RANK

64th
Global
▲ 1 since 2015

24th
in Europe
▲ 1 since 2015

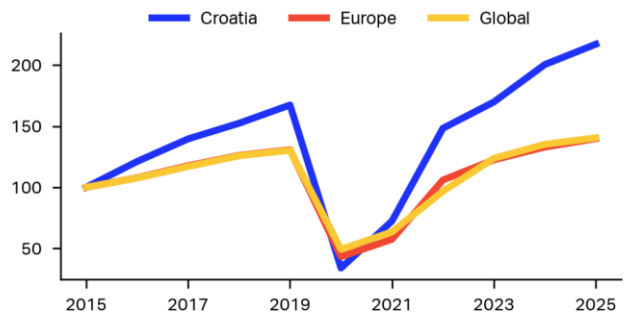
SHARE

0.2%
of global departures

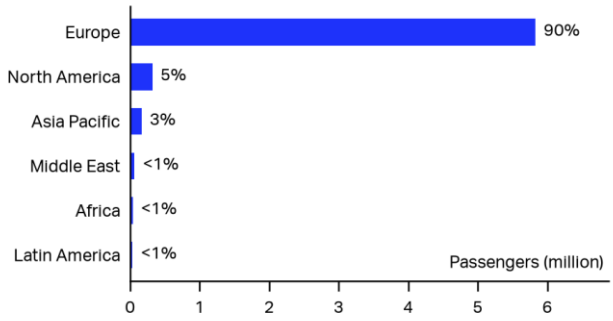
0.6%
of European departures

International: 6.5 million passenger departures, 122.9% 10Y growth, 8.5% YoY growth
Domestic: 340.1 thousand passenger departures, 44.1% 10Y growth, 4.7% YoY growth, % share of total market: 5.0%

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. Germany	1. London	1. London
2. United Kingdom	2. Paris	2. Istanbul
3. Italy	3. Frankfurt	3. Paris
4. France	4. Duesseldorf	4. Malta
5. Poland	5. Brussels	5. Frankfurt

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Croatia, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Croatia 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 Croatia to 41 different countries

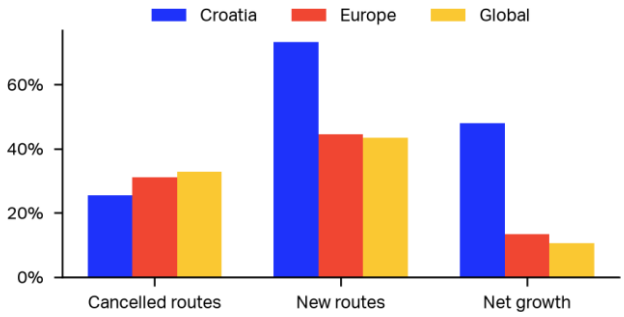
In 2025, there were 8 airports and 53 operating airlines in Croatia, providing a total of 349 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Croatia, connecting to 41 countries with about 129 daily international departures.

Air Connectivity in Croatia

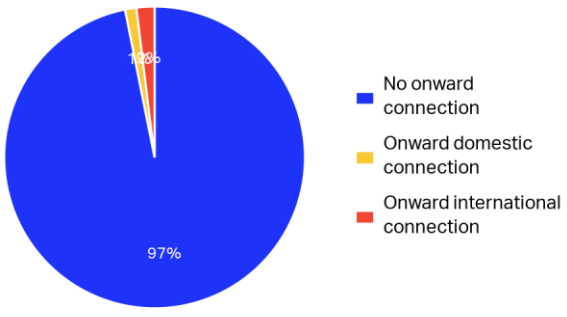


		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	349	41	129
	Global rank	34th	48th	52nd
	Europe rank	17th	24th	25th
2015	Total	236	33	76
	Global rank	39th	55th	68th
	Europe rank	19th	27th	27th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

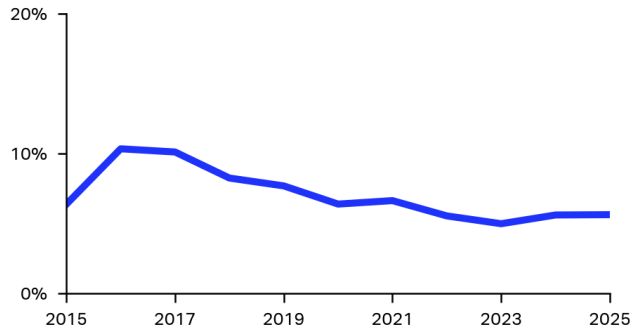


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Croatia. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Croatia timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 0.05% of Croatia's traded goods by weight, it carried 5.6% of their total value.
Croatia's airports handled around 9.8 thousand tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Croatia as the world's 132nd largest air cargo handler market and the 38th largest in Europe.

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



Croatian air cargo, share of trade, 2025

0.05%
of trade by weight

5.6%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Croatia, 2025

9.8
thousand tonnes
air cargo handled

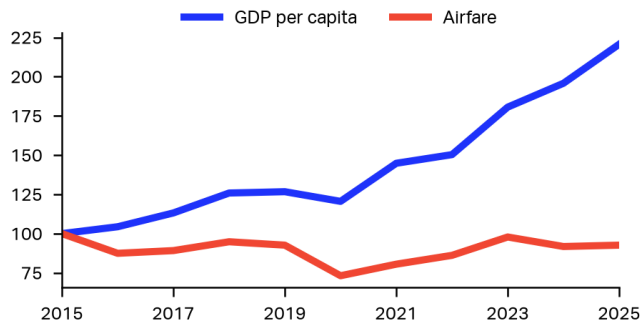
132nd
Globally
38th in Europe

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

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

Croatia's nominal GDP per capita increased by 120.6%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Croatia decreased by 7.4%, 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, Croatia, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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