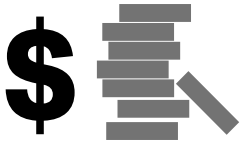
THE VALUE OF AVIATION ECUADOR

The economic impact of aviation in Ecuador

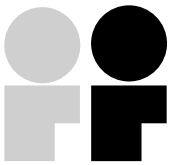
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 3.9% of Ecuador's GDP and 4.0% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Ecuador.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Ecuador in 2025



5.1
USD billion

3.9%
of GDP



356
thousand jobs

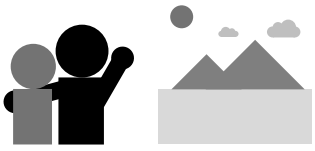
4.0%
of employment

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 577.2 million	USD 1.8 billion	USD 2.7 billion
32.6 thousand jobs	116.6 thousand jobs	206.7 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.

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 5.7 million air passengers departed from Ecuador in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Ecuador the 71st largest air passenger market globally.

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

5.7
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

7.0%
10-year growth

-4.0%
year-on-year growth

RANK

71st
Global
▲ 1 since 2015

6th
in South America
▲ 1 since 2015

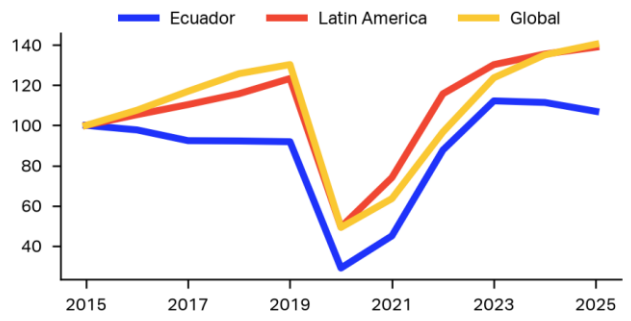
SHARE

0.1%
of global departures

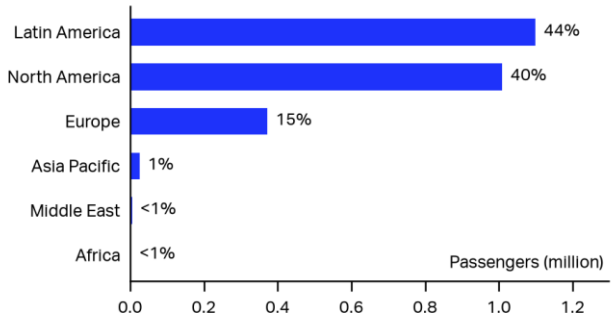
2.7%
of South American departures

International: 2.5 million passenger departures, 24.8% 10Y growth, -0.3% YoY growth
Domestic: 3.2 million passenger departures, -3.7% 10Y growth, -6.7% YoY growth, % share of total market: 56.2%

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. New York
2. Colombia	2. Madrid	2. Miami
3. Spain	3. Bogota	3. Panama City
4. Peru	4. Miami	4. Bogota
5. Panama	5. Lima	5. Madrid

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Ecuador, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Ecuador 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 Ecuador to 14 different countries

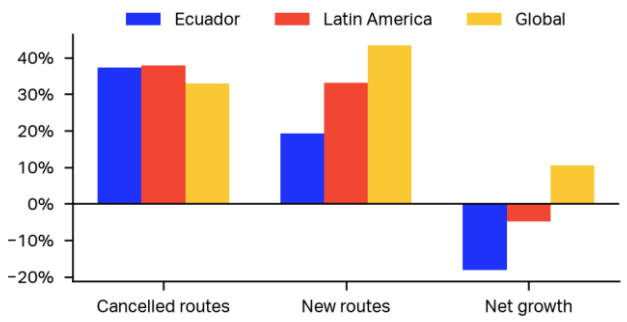
In 2025, there were 12 airports and 17 operating airlines in Ecuador, providing a total of 68 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Ecuador, connecting to 14 countries with about 47 daily international departures.

Air Connectivity in Ecuador

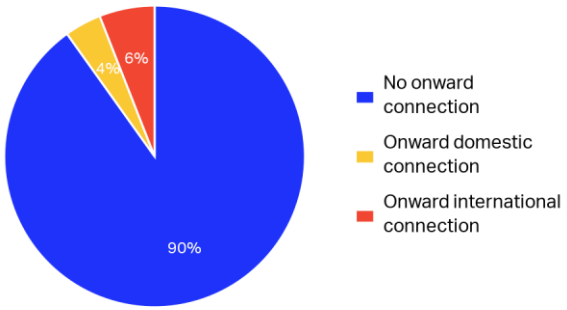


		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	68	14	47
	Global rank	103rd	136th	94th
	S-America rank	8th	8th	6th
2015	Total	83	17	45
	Global rank	87th	114th	88th
	S-America rank	8th	7th	7th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

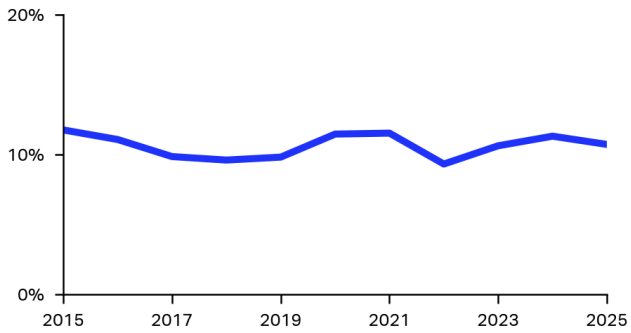


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Ecuador. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Ecuador timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 0.8% of Ecuador's traded goods by weight, it carried 10.8% of their total value.
Ecuador's airports handled around 440.9 thousand tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Ecuador as the world's 36th largest air cargo handler market and the 4th largest in South America.

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



Ecuadorian air cargo, share of trade, 2025

0.8%
of trade by weight

10.8%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Ecuador, 2025

440.9
thousand tonnes
air cargo handled

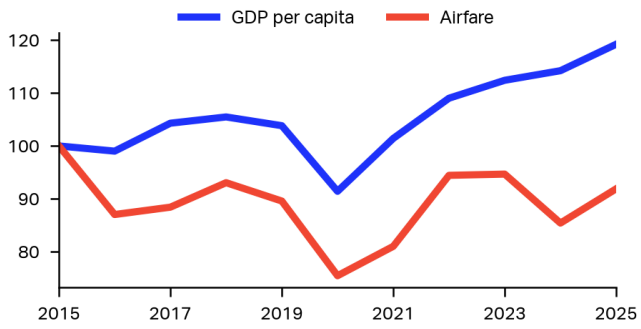
36th
Globally
4th in S-America

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

Ecuador's nominal GDP per capita increased by 19.2%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Ecuador decreased by 8.1%, 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, Ecuador, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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