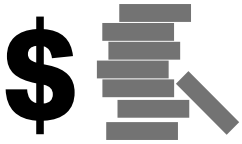
THE VALUE OF AVIATION FRANCE

The economic impact of aviation in France

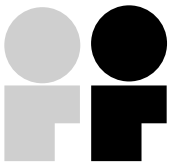
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 5.8% of France's GDP and 5.2% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to France.

GDP and employment created by aviation in France in 2025



170.4
EUR billion

5.8%
of GDP



1.7
million jobs

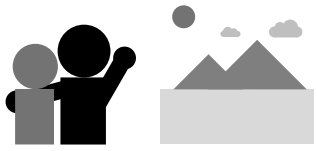
5.2%
of employment

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 31.1 billion	EUR 105.5 billion	EUR 33.9 billion
250.2 thousand jobs	1 million jobs	381.3 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 84.5 million air passengers departed from France in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making France the 11th largest air passenger market globally.

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

84.5
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

24.3%
10-year growth

3.7%
year-on-year growth

RANK

11th
Global
No change since 2015

5th
in Europe
No change since 2015

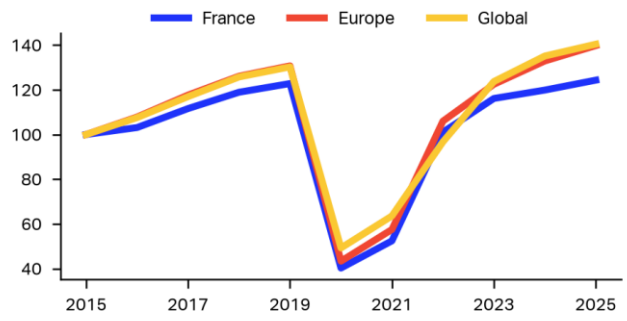
SHARE

2.0%
of global departures

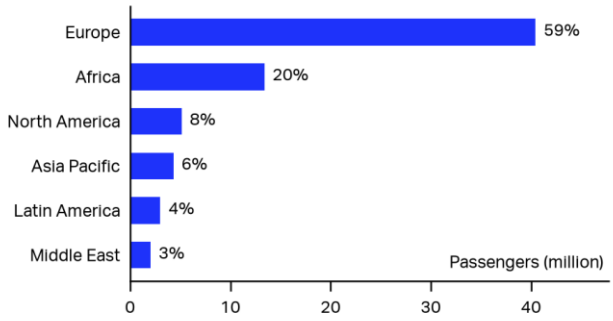
7.7%
of European departures

International: 68.3 million passenger departures, 40.3% 10Y growth, 4.4% YoY growth
Domestic: 16.2 million passenger departures, -16.0% 10Y growth, 0.7% YoY growth, % share of total market: 19.2%

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. Spain	1. London	1. Algiers
2. Italy	2. Madrid	2. Marrakech
3. United Kingdom	3. Milan	3. Lisbon
4. Morocco	4. New York	4. Porto
5. United States	5. Dublin	5. Milan

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in France, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between France 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 France to 118 different countries

In 2025, there were 48 airports and 153 operating airlines in France, providing a total of 1730 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for France, connecting to 118 countries with about 1288 daily international departures.

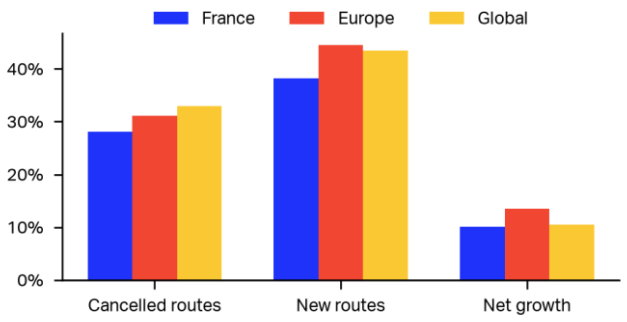
Air Connectivity in France

48
Airports in 2025
55 in 2015

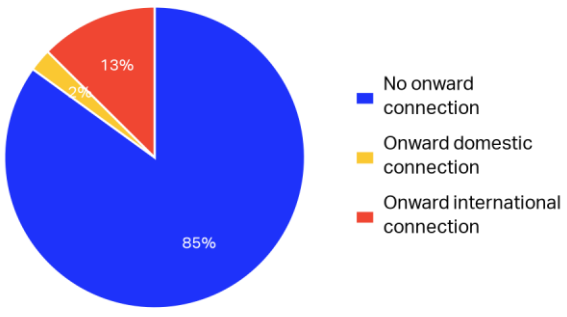
153
Airlines in 2025
163 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	1730	118	1288
	Global rank	9th	3rd	5th
	Europe rank	5th	2nd	4th
2015	Total	1571	128	1186
	Global rank	9th	1st	5th
	Europe rank	6th	1st	4th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

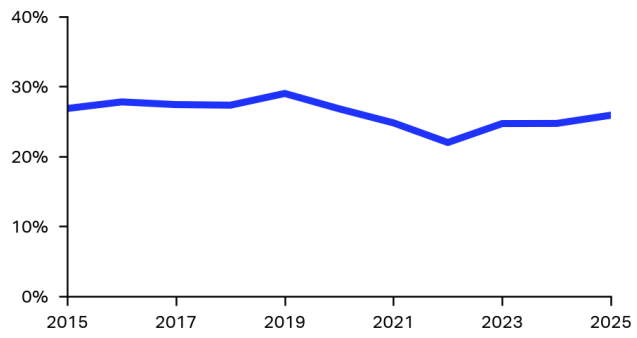


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from France. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides France timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 0.4% of France's traded goods by weight, it carried 25.9% of their total value.
France's airports handled around 2.3 million tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking France as the world's 12th largest air cargo handler market and the 3rd largest in Europe.

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



French air cargo, share of trade, 2025

0.4%
of trade by weight

25.9%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in France, 2025

2.3
million tonnes
air cargo handled

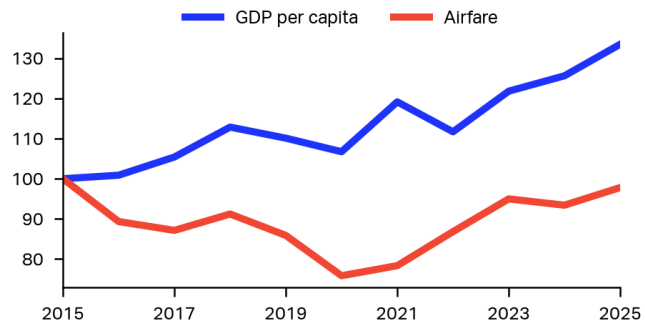
12th
Globally
3rd in Europe

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

France's nominal GDP per capita increased by 33.5%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from France decreased by 2.2%, 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, France, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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