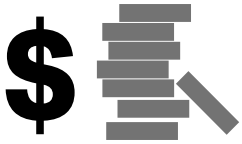
THE VALUE OF AVIATION HONG KONG (SAR)

The economic impact of aviation in Hong Kong (SAR)

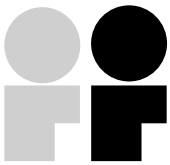
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 10.3% of Hong Kong's GDP and 9.0% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and overseas air transport-enabled tourism to Hong Kong (SAR).

GDP and employment created by aviation in Hong Kong (SAR) in 2025



44
USD billion

10.3%
of GDP



339.9
thousand jobs

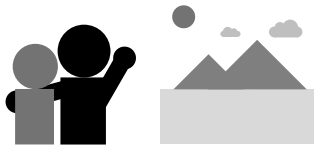
9.0%
of employment

Included economic impacts:
***Direct** – within aviation sector, **Indirect** – aviation supply chain,*
Induced** – employee spending, **Overseas tourists arriving by air

Breakdown of GDP and employment created







Airlines	Airports, ANSPs, civil manufacturing	Overseas tourists arriving by air
USD 19.3 billion	USD 17.7 billion	USD 6.9 billion
113.6 thousand jobs	153 thousand jobs	73.3 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: Average 2025 exchange rate: USD 1 = HKD 7.8

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 23.1 million air passengers departed from Hong Kong (SAR) in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Hong Kong (SAR) the 35th largest air passenger market globally.

Air travel from Hong Kong (SAR) in 2025, Origin-Destination (O-D)

23.1
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

-7.8%
10-year growth

10.0%
year-on-year growth

RANK

35th
Global
▼ 2 since 2015

12th
in Asia
▼ 2 since 2015

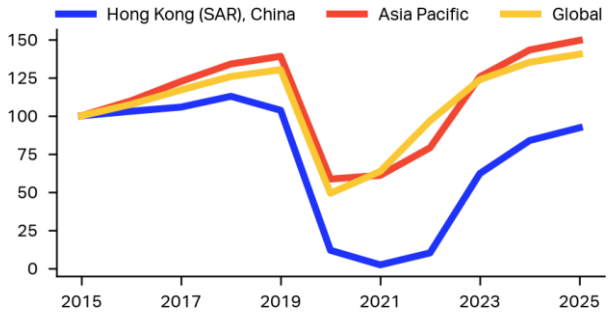
SHARE

0.5%
of global departures

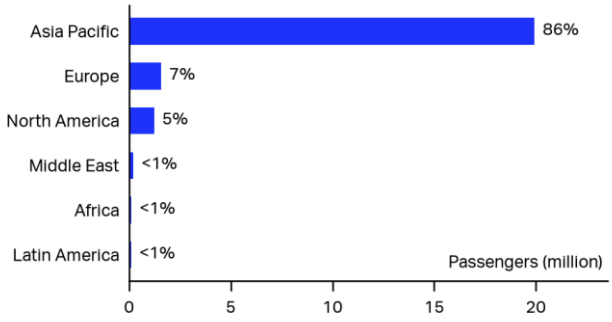
1.4%
of Asian departures

Overseas: 23.1 million passenger departures, -7.8% 10Y growth, 10.0% YoY growth

Total passenger departures, O-D, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



Overseas passenger departures by destination region, O-D, 2025



Top air travel markets Inbound & outbound	Top origin cities Inbound	Top destination cities Outbound
1. China	1. Taipei	1. Taipei
2. Japan	2. Seoul	2. Tokyo
3. Chinese Taipei	3. Manila	3. Osaka
4. Thailand	4. Shanghai	4. Bangkok
5. South Korea	5. Singapore	5. Singapore

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Hong Kong (SAR), to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Hong Kong (SAR) 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 Hong Kong (SAR) to 43 different countries

In 2025, there were 1 airports and 78 operating airlines in Hong Kong (SAR), providing a total of 166 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Hong Kong (SAR), connecting to 43 countries with about 382 daily overseas departures.

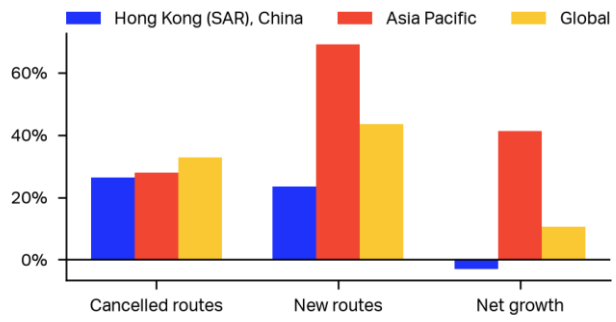
Air Connectivity in Hong Kong (SAR)

1
Airports in 2025
1 in 2015

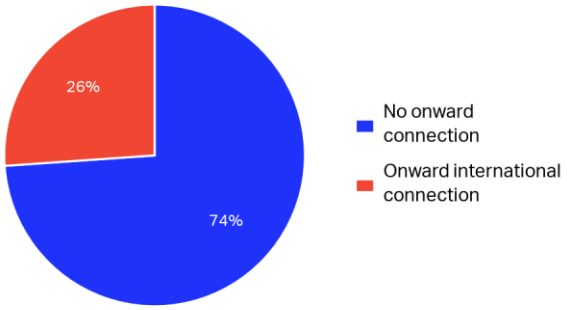
78
Airlines in 2025
87 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	166	43	382
	Global rank	60th	41st	24th
	Asia rank	14th	7th	8th
2015	Total	171	48	470
	Global rank	56th	28th	17th
	Asia rank	14th	4th	5th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of overseas arrivals, 2025

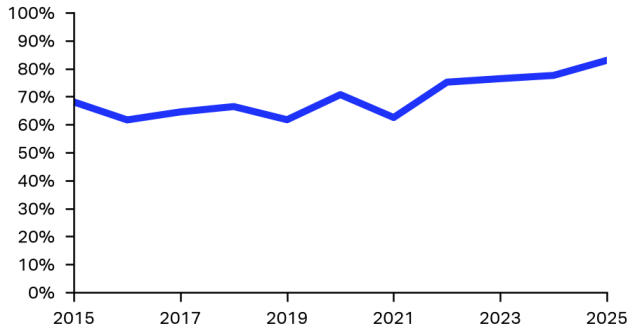


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Hong Kong (SAR). Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Hong Kong (SAR) timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 2.0% of Hong Kong's traded goods by weight, it carried 83.9% of their total value.
Hong Kong's airport handled around 5.1 million tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Hong Kong (SAR) as the world's 4th largest air cargo handler market and the 3rd largest in Asia. On an airport level, it is the largest air cargo handler.

Hong Kong air cargo, value, % of total, 2015-2025



Hong Kong air cargo, share of trade, 2025

2.0%
of trade by weight

83.9%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Hong Kong (SAR), 2025

5.1
million tonnes
air cargo handled

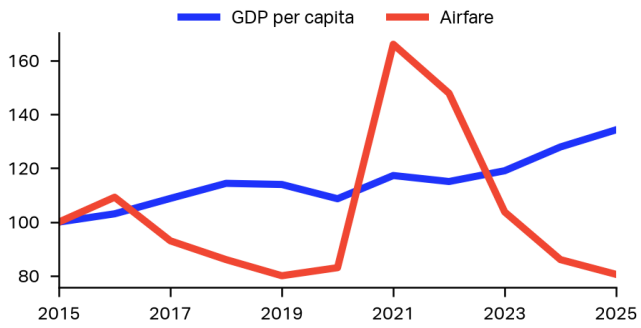
4th
Globally
3rd in Asia

Source: Airports Council International (ACI) for air cargo handled, Global Trade Tracker (GTT) for imports and exports by air.
Note: Hong Kong'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.

Overseas air travel from Hong Kong (SAR) has become more affordable over the past decade

Hong Kong's nominal GDP per capita increased by 34.3%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Hong Kong (SAR) decreased by 19.5%, 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, Hong Kong (SAR), 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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