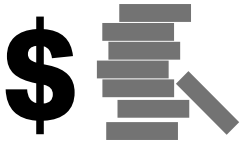
THE VALUE OF AVIATION
INDIA

The economic impact of aviation in India

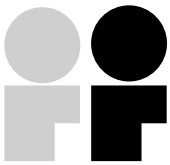
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 1.8% of India's GDP and 1.3% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to India.

GDP and employment created by aviation in India in 2025



69.8
USD billion

1.8%
of GDP



8.3
million jobs

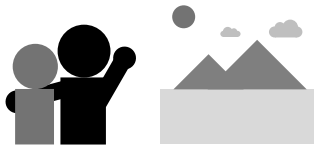
1.3%
of employment

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 17.1 billion	USD 22.8 billion	USD 29.9 billion
1.2 million jobs	1.9 million jobs	5.2 million 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 = INR 87.15

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 187.6 million air passengers departed from India in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making India the 3rd largest air passenger market globally.

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

187.6
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

95.5%
10-year growth

2.2%
year-on-year growth

RANK

3rd
Global
▲ 1 since 2015

2nd
in Asia
▲ 1 since 2015

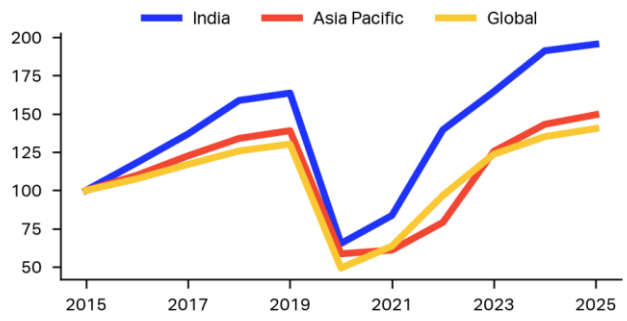
SHARE

4.4%
of global departures

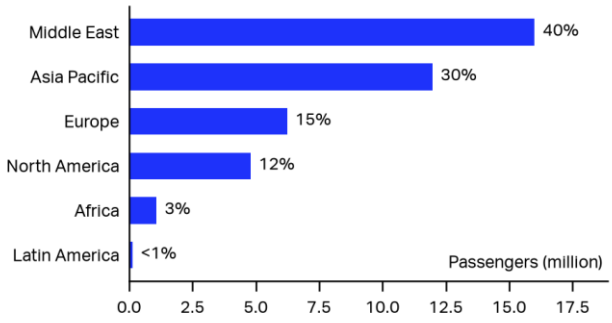
11.7%
of Asian departures

International: 40.2 million passenger departures, 59.1% 10Y growth, 6.4% YoY growth
Domestic: 147.4 million passenger departures, 108.6% 10Y growth, 1.1% YoY growth, % share of total market: 78.6%

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

1. United Arab Emirates
2. United States
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Thailand
5. United Kingdom

Top origin cities
Inbound

1. London
2. Dubai
3. Abu Dhabi
4. Singapore
5. New York

Top destination cities
Outbound

1. Dubai
2. Bangkok
3. Singapore
4. Jeddah
5. Colombo

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in India, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between India 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 India to 64 different countries

In 2025, there were 124 airports and 102 operating airlines in India, providing a total of 2056 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for India, connecting to 64 countries with about 589 daily international departures.

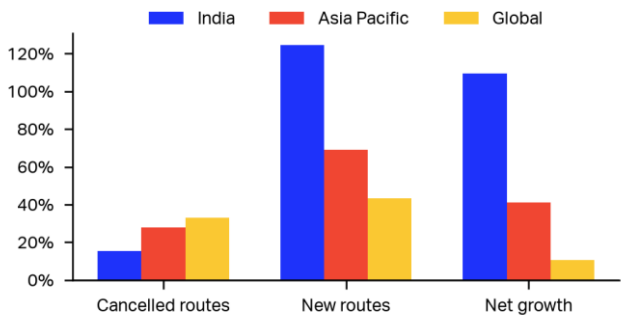
Air Connectivity in India

124
Airports in 2025
74 in 2015

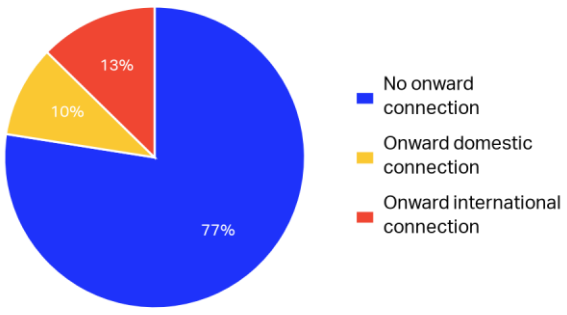
102
Airlines in 2025
93 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	2056	64	589
	Global rank	7th	23rd	15th
	Asia rank	2nd	3rd	5th
2015	Total	982	56	415
	Global rank	14th	21st	20th
	Asia rank	2nd	3rd	7th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

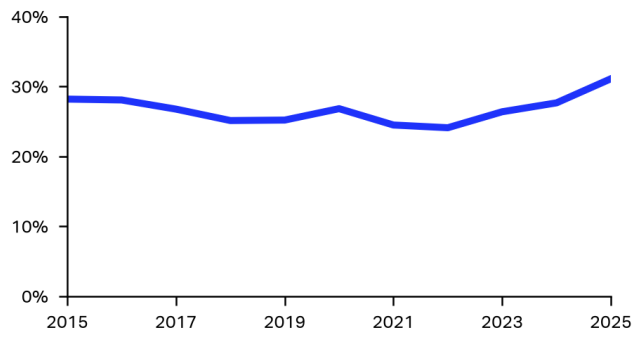


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from India. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides India timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 1.7% of India's traded goods by weight, it carried 32.0% of their total value.
India's airports handled around 4 million tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking India as the world's 6th largest air cargo handler market and the 4th largest in Asia.

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



Indian air cargo, share of trade, 2025

1.7%
of trade by weight

32.0%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in India, 2025

4
million tonnes
air cargo handled

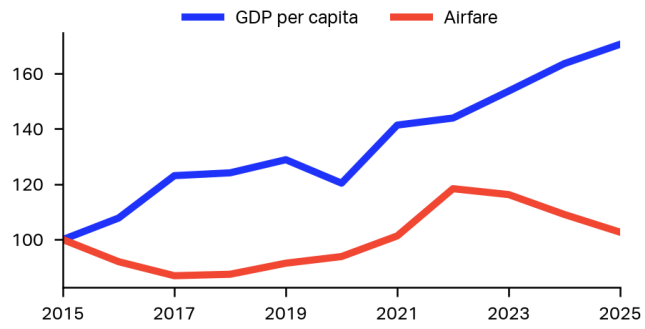
6th
Globally
4th in Asia

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

India's nominal GDP per capita increased by 70.6%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from India increased by 2.7%, 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, India, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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