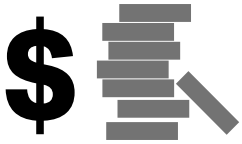
THE VALUE OF AVIATION IRELAND

The economic impact of aviation in Ireland

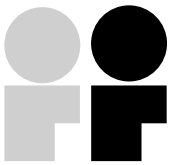
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 3.2% of Ireland's GDP and 4.6% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Ireland.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Ireland in 2025



20.5
EUR billion

3.2%
of GDP



134.4
thousand jobs

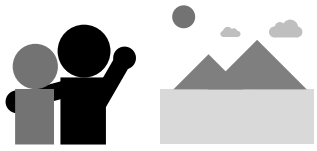
4.6%
of employment

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 5.5 billion	EUR 10.6 billion	EUR 4.4 billion
28.8 thousand jobs	71.1 thousand jobs	34.5 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 20.8 million air passengers departed from Ireland in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Ireland the 37th largest air passenger market globally.

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

20.8
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

44.6%
10-year growth

7.5%
year-on-year growth

RANK

37th
Global
No change since 2015

14th
in Europe
No change since 2015

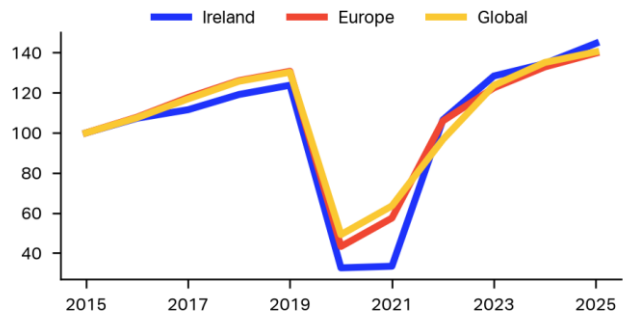
SHARE

0.5%
of global departures

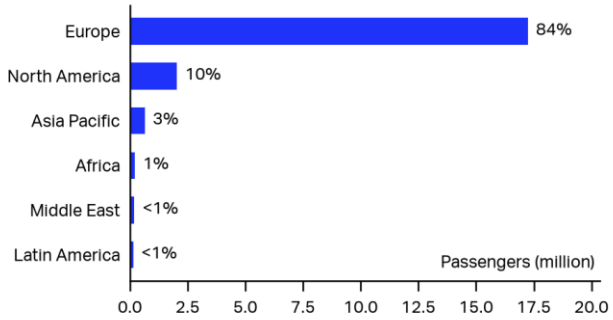
1.9%
of European departures

International: 20.5 million passenger departures, 43.4% 10Y growth, 6.9% YoY growth

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 Kingdom
2. Spain
3. United States
4. France
5. Italy

Top origin cities
Inbound

1. London
2. Manchester
3. Birmingham
4. New York
5. Amsterdam

Top destination cities
Outbound

1. London
2. Malaga
3. Faro
4. Lanzarote
5. Paris

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Ireland, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Ireland 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 Ireland to 39 different countries

In 2025, there were 6 airports and 50 operating airlines in Ireland, providing a total of 311 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Ireland, connecting to 39 countries with about 367 daily international departures.

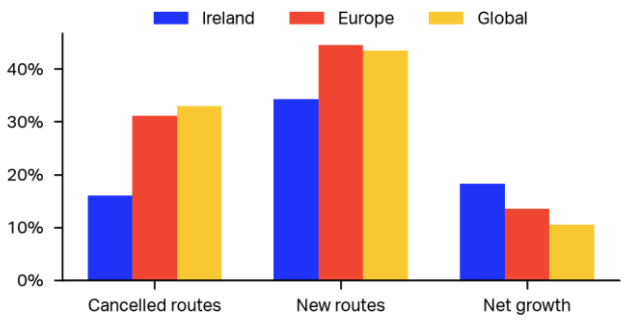
Air Connectivity in Ireland

6
Airports in 2025
7 in 2015

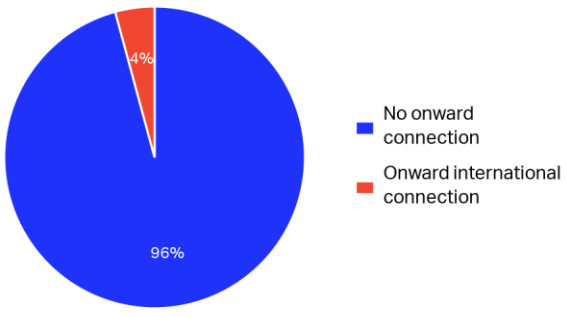
50
Airlines in 2025
37 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	311	39	367
	Global rank	40th	51st	28th
	Europe rank	19th	25th	13th
2015	Total	263	39	300
	Global rank	38th	41st	28th
	Europe rank	18th	21st	14th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

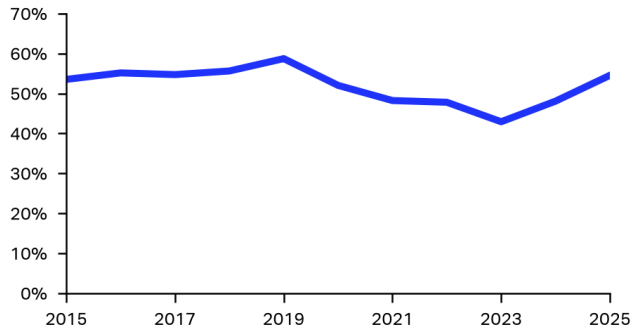


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Ireland. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Ireland timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 0.3% of Ireland's traded goods by weight, it carried 54.6% of their total value.
Ireland's airports handled around 207.1 thousand tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Ireland as the world's 56th largest air cargo handler market and the 18th largest in Europe.

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



Irish air cargo, share of trade, 2025

0.3%
of trade by weight

54.6%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Ireland, 2025

207.1
thousand tonnes
air cargo handled

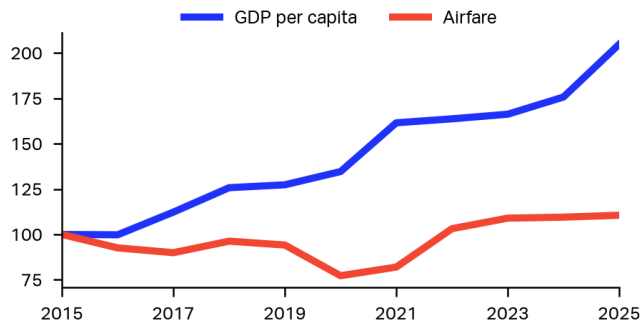
56th
Globally
18th in Europe

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

Ireland's nominal GDP per capita increased by 104.8%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Ireland increased by 10.6%, 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, Ireland, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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