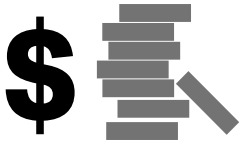
THE VALUE OF AVIATION JAPAN

The economic impact of aviation in Japan

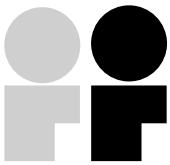
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 3.9% of Japan's GDP and 3.8% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Japan.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Japan in 2025



174.2
USD billion

3.9%
of GDP



2.6
million jobs

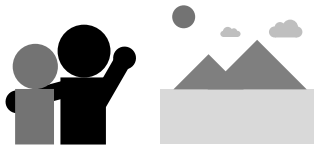
3.8%
of employment

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 19.8 billion	USD 72.5 billion	USD 81.9 billion
269.8 thousand jobs	989.3 thousand jobs	1.4 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 = JPY 149.55

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 165.6 million air passengers departed from Japan in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Japan the 4th largest air passenger market globally.

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

165.6
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

37.4%
10-year growth

7.9%
year-on-year growth

RANK

4th
Global
▼ 1 since 2015

3rd
in Asia
▼ 1 since 2015

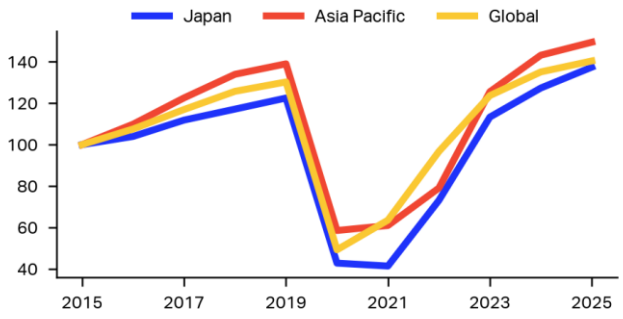
SHARE

3.9%
of global departures

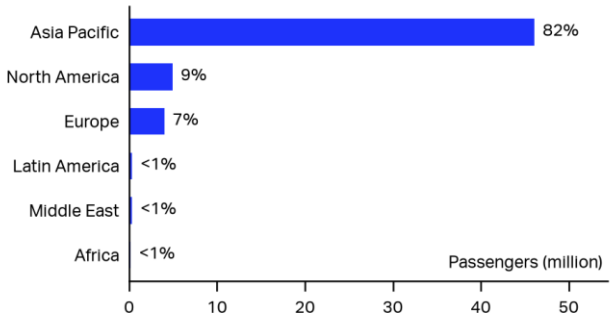
10.4%
of Asian departures

International: 56.0 million passenger departures, 63.0% 10Y growth, 15.8% YoY growth
Domestic: 109.6 million passenger departures, 27.2% 10Y growth, 4.3% YoY growth, % share of total market: 66.2%

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. South Korea	1. Seoul	1. Seoul
2. China	2. Taipei	2. Taipei
3. Chinese Taipei	3. Hong Kong	3. Bangkok
4. United States	4. Shanghai	4. Shanghai
5. Hong Kong (SAR)	5. Busan	5. Honolulu

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Japan, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Japan 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 Japan to 47 different countries

In 2025, there were 75 airports and 116 operating airlines in Japan, providing a total of 922 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Japan, connecting to 47 countries with about 725 daily international departures.

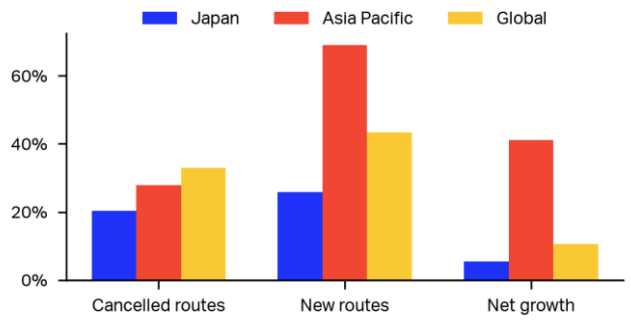
Air Connectivity in Japan

75
Airports in 2025
79 in 2015

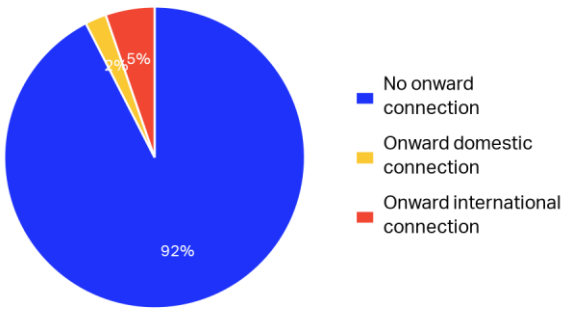
116
Airlines in 2025
96 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	922	47	725
	Global rank	16th	34th	10th
	Asia rank	3rd	6th	2nd
2015	Total	874	42	574
	Global rank	15th	38th	13th
	Asia rank	3rd	8th	2nd

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

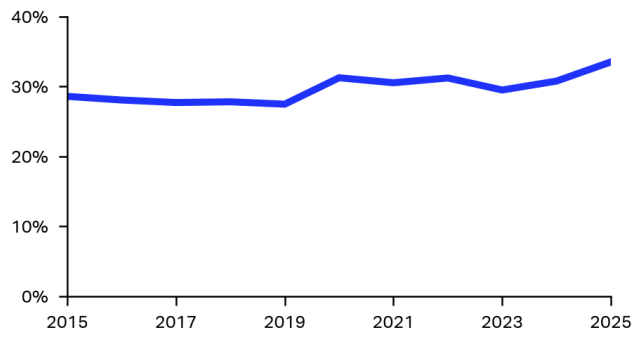


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Japan. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Japan timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 0.4% of Japan's traded goods by weight, it carried 33.6% of their total value.
Japan's airports handled around 5.1 million tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Japan as the world's 3rd largest air cargo handler market and the 2nd largest in Asia.

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



Japanese air cargo, share of trade, 2025

0.4% of trade by weight

33.6% of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Japan, 2025

5.1 million tonnes air cargo handled

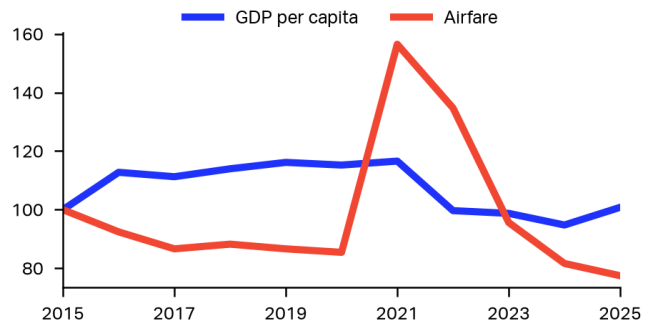
3rd Globally 2nd in Asia

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

Japan's nominal GDP per capita increased by 0.8%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Japan decreased by 22.6%, 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, Japan, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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