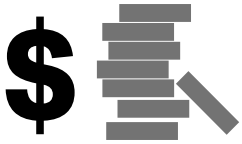
THE VALUE OF AVIATION KENYA

The economic impact of aviation in Kenya

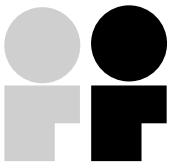
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 3.3% of Kenya's GDP and 2.0% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Kenya.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Kenya in 2025



4.4
USD billion

3.3%
of GDP



483.5
thousand jobs

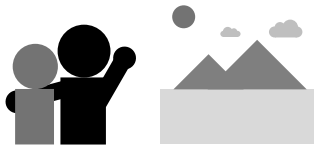
2.0%
of employment

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 2.5 billion	USD 629.3 million	USD 1.3 billion
199.4 thousand jobs	97.1 thousand jobs	187 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 = KES 129.25

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 6.4 million air passengers departed from Kenya in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Kenya the 65th largest air passenger market globally.

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

6.4
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

107.5%
10-year growth

11.8%
year-on-year growth

RANK

65th
Global
▲ 1 since 2015

6th
in Africa
▲ 1 since 2015

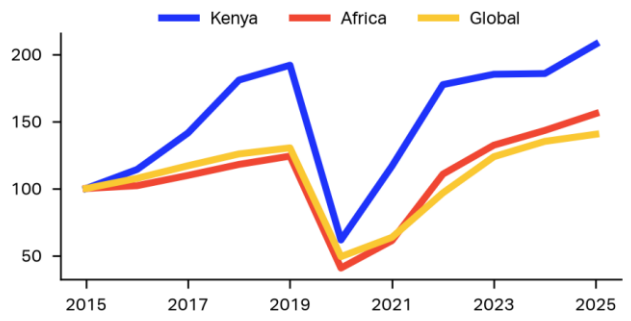
SHARE

0.2%
of global departures

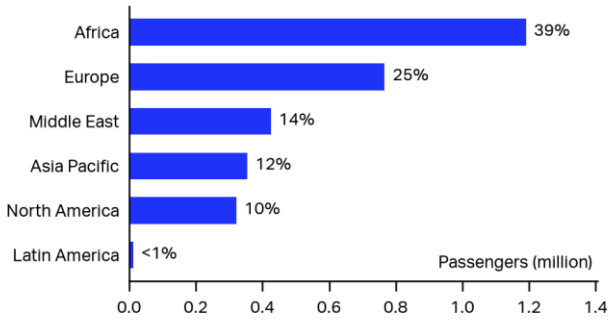
5.0%
of African departures

International: 3.1 million passenger departures, 70.7% 10Y growth, 13.4% YoY growth
Domestic: 3.4 million passenger departures, 158.6% 10Y growth, 10.4% YoY growth, % share of total market: 52.2%

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. United States	1. London	1. Dubai
2. United Kingdom	2. Entebbe	2. Entebbe
3. Tanzania	3. Mogadishu	3. Johannesburg
4. United Arab Emirates	4. Dubai	4. London
5. Somalia	5. Frankfurt	5. Addis Ababa

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Kenya, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Kenya 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 Kenya to 54 different countries

In 2025, there were 30 airports and 58 operating airlines in Kenya, providing a total of 277 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Kenya, connecting to 54 countries with about 94 daily international departures.

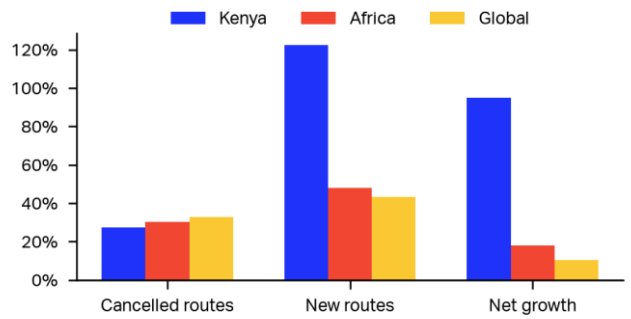
Air Connectivity in Kenya

30
Airports in 2025
18 in 2015

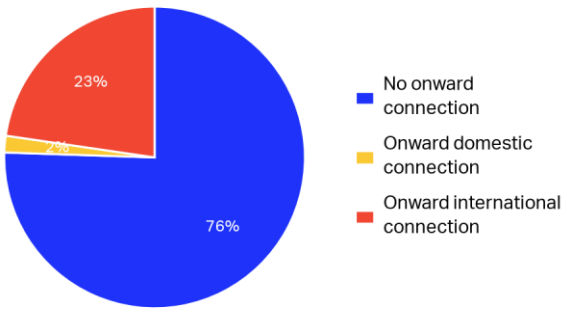
58
Airlines in 2025
35 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	277	54	94
	Global rank	44th	27th	65th
	Africa rank	4th	4th	7th
2015	Total	142	52	89
	Global rank	64th	22nd	60th
	Africa rank	7th	4th	5th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

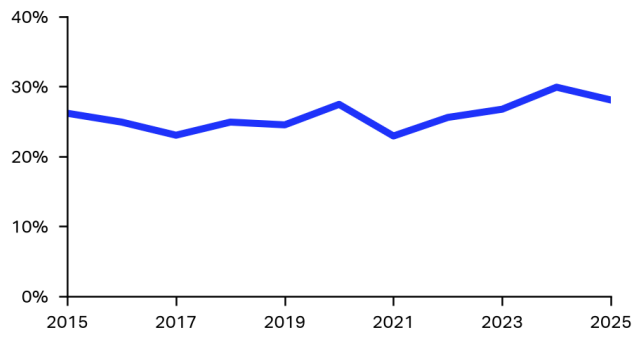


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Kenya. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Kenya timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 3.5% of Kenya's traded goods by weight, it carried 28.0% of their total value.
Kenya's airports handled around 420 thousand tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Kenya as the world's 37th largest air cargo handler market and the 2nd largest in Africa.

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



Kenyan air cargo, share of trade, 2025

3.5%
of trade by weight

28.0%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Kenya, 2025

420
thousand tonnes
air cargo handled

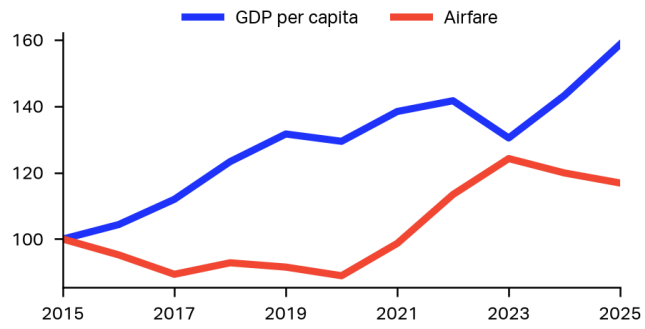
37th
Globally
2nd in Africa

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

Kenya's nominal GDP per capita increased by 58.7%, while the average nominal air fare for an international ticket from Kenya increased by 16.9%, 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, Kenya, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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