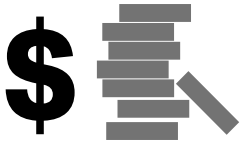
THE VALUE OF AVIATION MALAYSIA

The economic impact of aviation in Malaysia

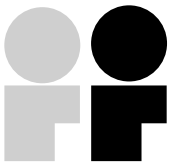
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 5.3% of Malaysia's GDP and 5.1% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Malaysia.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Malaysia in 2025



24.9
USD billion

5.3%
of GDP



955.5
thousand jobs

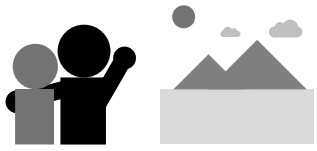
5.1%
of employment

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 7 billion	USD 7 billion	USD 10.9 billion
142.5 thousand jobs	246.4 thousand jobs	566.6 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 = MYR 4.28

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 44.1 million air passengers departed from Malaysia in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Malaysia the 22nd largest air passenger market globally.

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

44.1
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

25.0%
10-year growth

12.1%
year-on-year growth

RANK

22nd
Global
▼ 2 since 2015

9th
in Asia
▼ 2 since 2015

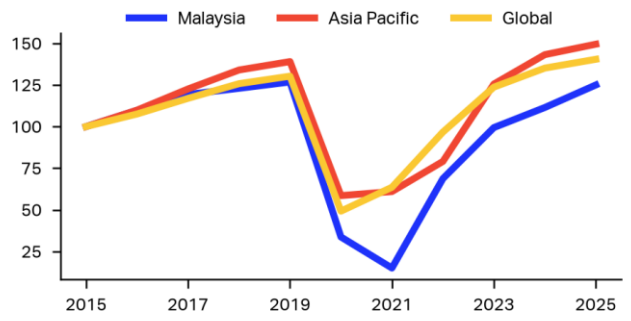
SHARE

1.0%
of global departures

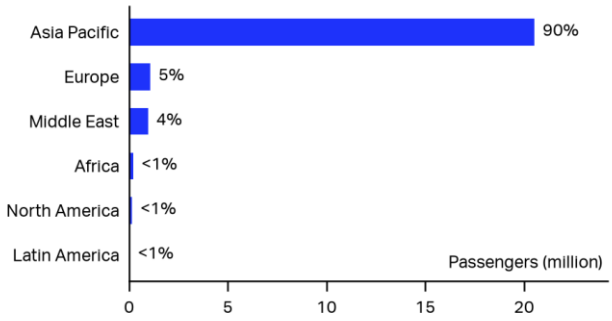
2.8%
of Asian departures

International: 22.9 million passenger departures, 36.4% 10Y growth, 8.6% YoY growth
Domestic: 21.2 million passenger departures, 14.6% 10Y growth, 16.2% YoY growth, % share of total market: 48.0%

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. China	1. Singapore	1. Singapore
2. Indonesia	2. Seoul	2. Jakarta
3. Singapore	3. Jakarta	3. Bangkok
4. Thailand	4. Taipei	4. Medan
5. India	5. Hong Kong	5. Guangzhou

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Malaysia, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Malaysia 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 Malaysia to 40 different countries

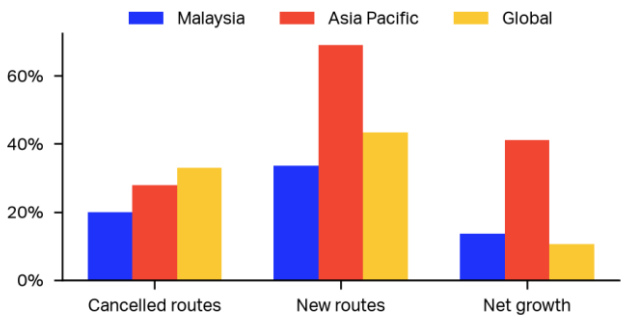
In 2025, there were 34 airports and 82 operating airlines in Malaysia, providing a total of 407 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Malaysia, connecting to 40 countries with about 430 daily international departures.

Air Connectivity in Malaysia

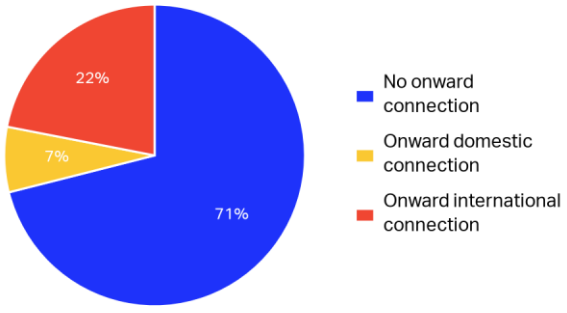


		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	407	40	430
	Global rank	28th	50th	23rd
	Asia rank	6th	8th	7th
2015	Total	358	44	396
	Global rank	28th	34th	21st
	Asia rank	6th	7th	8th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

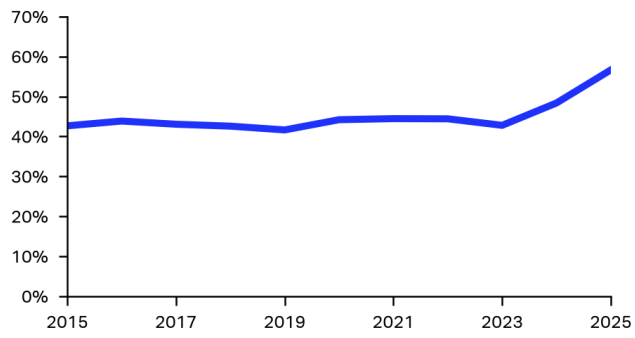


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Malaysia. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Malaysia timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 1.2% of Malaysia's traded goods by weight, it carried 57.0% of their total value.
Malaysia's airports handled around 1.2 million tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Malaysia as the world's 26th largest air cargo handler market and the 11th largest in Asia.

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



Malaysian air cargo, share of trade, 2025

1.2%
of trade by weight

57.0%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Malaysia, 2025

1.2
million tonnes
air cargo handled

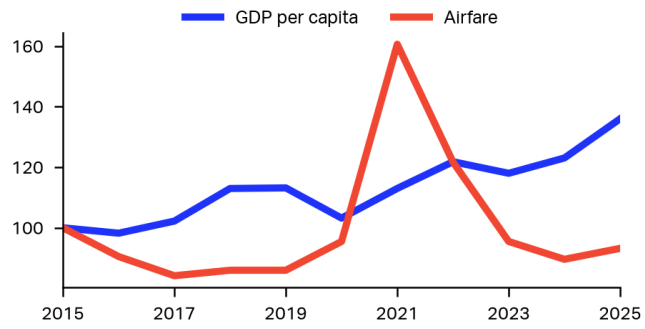
26th
Globally
11th in Asia

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

Malaysia's nominal GDP per capita increased by 36.0%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Malaysia decreased by 6.8%, 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, Malaysia, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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