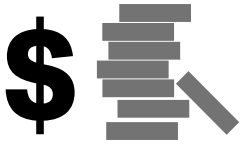
THE VALUE OF AVIATION NEPAL

The economic impact of aviation in Nepal

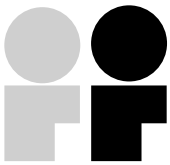
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 3.3% of Nepal's GDP and 5.2% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Nepal.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Nepal in 2025



1.5
USD billion

3.3%
of GDP



435.9
thousand jobs

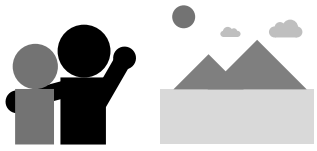
5.2%
of employment

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 855.5 million	USD 100 million	USD 526.4 million
165.9 thousand jobs	28 thousand jobs	242 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 = NPR 139.12

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 7.3 million air passengers departed from Nepal in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Nepal the 59th largest air passenger market globally.

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

7.3
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

158.5%
10-year growth

4.2%
year-on-year growth

RANK

59th
Global
▲ 4 since 2015

16th
in Asia
▲ 4 since 2015

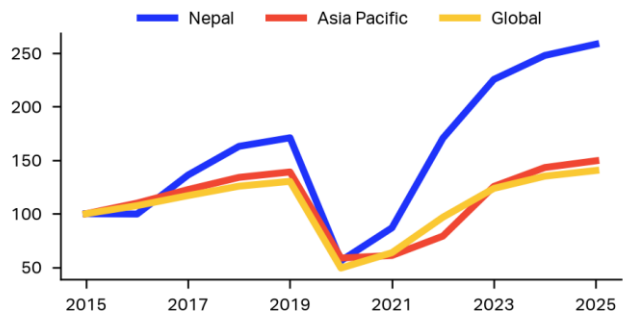
SHARE

0.2%
of global departures

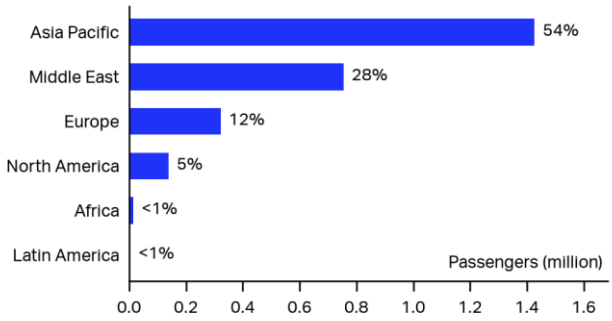
0.5%
of Asian departures

International: 2.7 million passenger departures, 44.8% 10Y growth, 1.8% YoY growth
Domestic: 4.6 million passenger departures, 372.8% 10Y growth, 5.7% YoY growth, % share of total market: 63.4%

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. India	1. Delhi	1. Bangkok
2. United Arab Emirates	2. Dhaka	2. Dubai
3. Saudi Arabia	3. Doha	3. Delhi
4. Qatar	4. Dubai	4. Paro
5. Australia	5. London	5. Chengdu

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Nepal, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Nepal 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 Nepal to 19 different countries

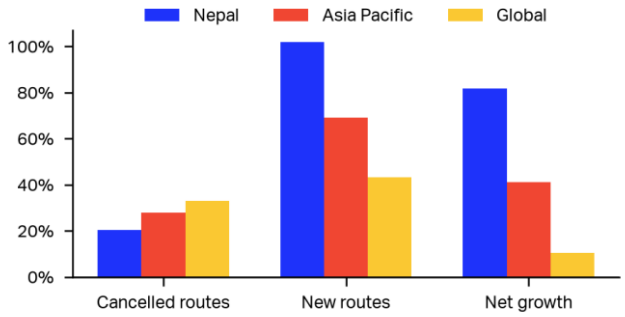
In 2025, there were 21 airports and 33 operating airlines in Nepal, providing a total of 89 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Nepal, connecting to 19 countries with about 45 daily international departures.

Air Connectivity in Nepal

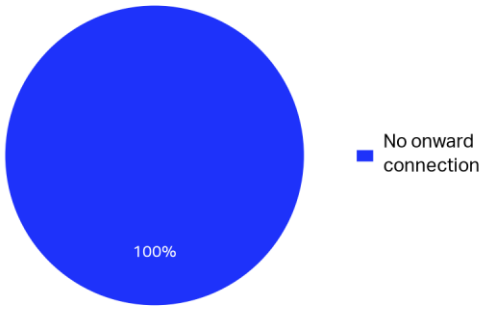


		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	89	19	45
	Global rank	91st	112th	95th
	Asia rank	18th	19th	20th
2015	Total	49	14	37
	Global rank	115th	127th	101st
	Asia rank	23rd	19th	20th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

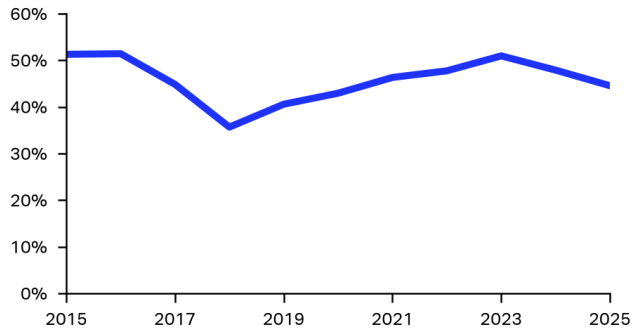


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Nepal. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Nepal timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 1.9% of Nepal's traded goods by weight, it carried 46.0% of their total value.
Nepal's airports handled around 32 thousand tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Nepal as the world's 97th largest air cargo handler market and the 23rd largest in Asia.

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



Nepali air cargo, share of trade, 2025

1.9%
of trade by weight

46.0%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Nepal, 2025

32
thousand tonnes
air cargo handled

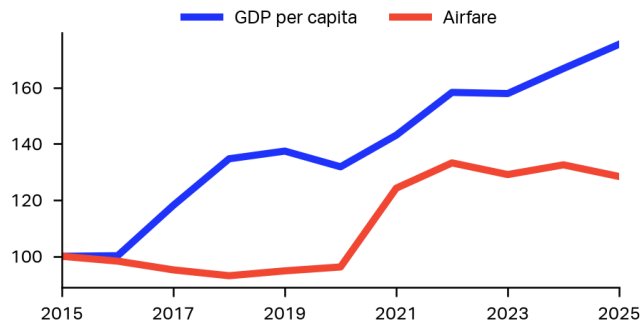
97th
Globally
23rd in Asia

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

Nepal's nominal GDP per capita increased by 75.4%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Nepal increased by 28.4%, 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, Nepal, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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