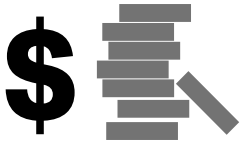
THE VALUE OF AVIATION PANAMA

The economic impact of aviation in Panama

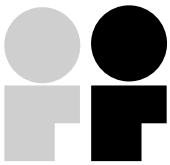
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 9.3% of Panama's GDP and 10.5% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Panama.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Panama in 2025



8.4
USD billion

9.3%
of GDP



239.4
thousand jobs

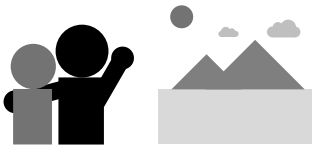
10.5%
of employment

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 631.8 million	USD 1.9 billion	USD 5.8 billion
14.7 thousand jobs	47.4 thousand jobs	177.3 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 = PAB 1

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 3.5 million air passengers departed from Panama in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Panama the 84th largest air passenger market globally.

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

3.5
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

58.6%
10-year growth

9.2%
year-on-year growth

RANK

84th
Global
No change since 2015

3rd
in Central America
No change since 2015

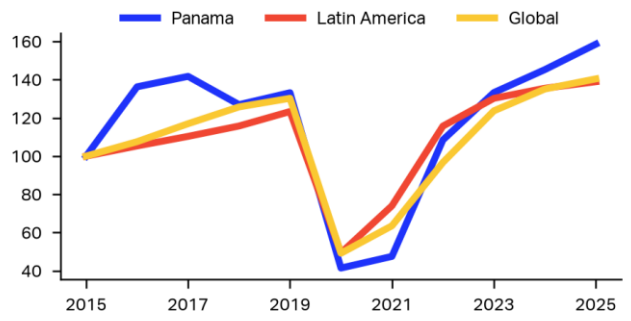
SHARE

0.1%
of global departures

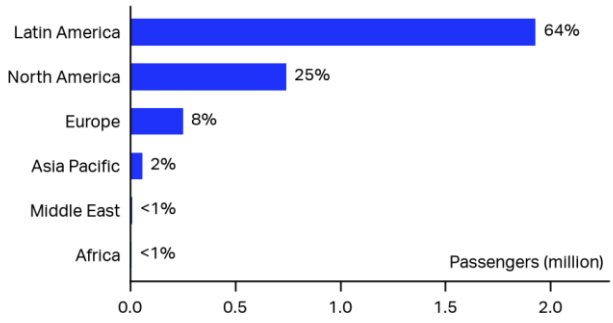
3.4%
of Central American departures

International: 3.0 million passenger departures, 57.8% 10Y growth, 6.7% YoY growth
Domestic: 463.0 thousand passenger departures, 63.6% 10Y growth, 28.6% YoY growth, % share of total market: 13.4%

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. United States	1. Bogota	1. Bogota
2. Colombia	2. San Jose	2. Medellin
3. Costa Rica	3. Miami	3. Miami
4. Mexico	4. Medellin	4. San Jose
5. Ecuador	5. Havana	5. Madrid

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Panama, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Panama 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 Panama to 43 different countries

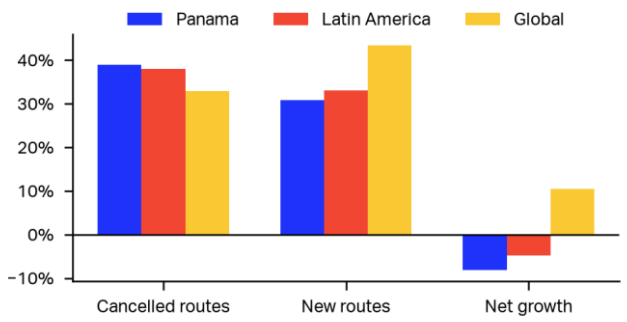
In 2025, there were 11 airports and 32 operating airlines in Panama, providing a total of 125 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Panama, connecting to 43 countries with about 192 daily international departures.

Air Connectivity in Panama

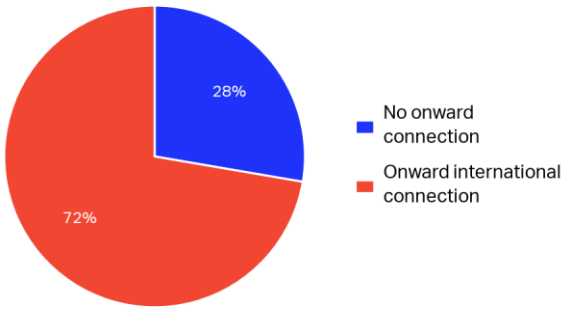


		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	125	43	192
	Global rank	71st	41st	42nd
	C-America rank	2nd	1st	2nd
2015	Total	136	34	181
	Global rank	65th	52nd	37th
	C-America rank	2nd	1st	2nd

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

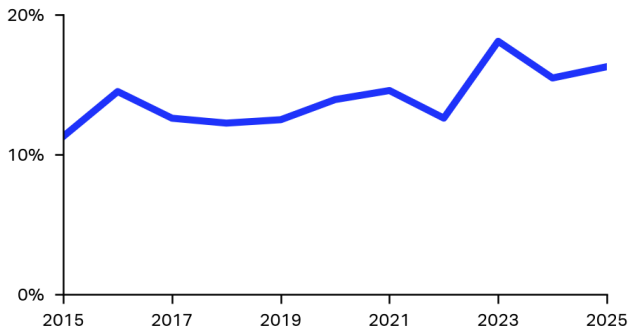


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Panama. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Panama timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 0.7% of Panama's traded goods by weight, it carried 15.9% of their total value.
Panama's airports handled around 106.2 thousand tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Panama as the world's 67th largest air cargo handler market and the 3rd largest in Central America.

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



Panamanian air cargo, share of trade, 2025

0.7% of trade by weight

15.9% of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Panama, 2025

106.2 thousand tonnes air cargo handled

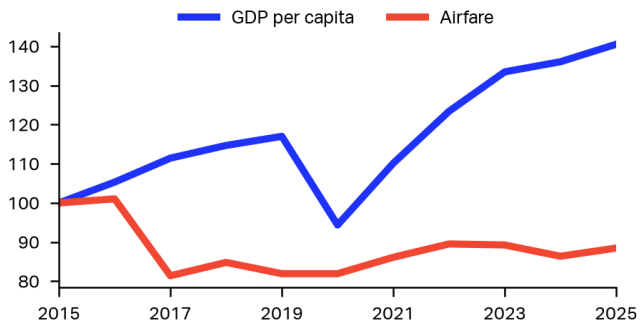
67th Globally
3rd in C-America

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

Panama's nominal GDP per capita increased by 40.5%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Panama decreased by 11.5%, 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, Panama, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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