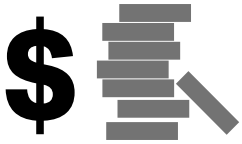
THE VALUE OF AVIATION PORTUGAL

The economic impact of aviation in Portugal

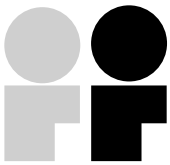
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 8.2% of Portugal's GDP and 8.0% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Portugal.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Portugal in 2025



25
EUR billion

8.2%
of GDP



438.5
thousand jobs

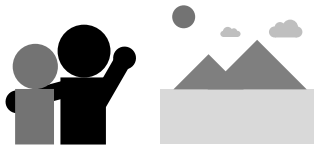
8.0%
of employment

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
EUR 4.5 billion	EUR 9.6 billion	EUR 10.9 billion
64 thousand jobs	146.1 thousand jobs	228.3 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: Converted to local currency using average 2025 exchange rate: USD 1 = EUR 0.88

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 32.5 million air passengers departed from Portugal in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Portugal the 26th largest air passenger market globally.

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

32.5
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

94.2%
10-year growth

5.5%
year-on-year growth

RANK

26th
Global
▲ 4 since 2015

9th
in Europe
▲ 4 since 2015

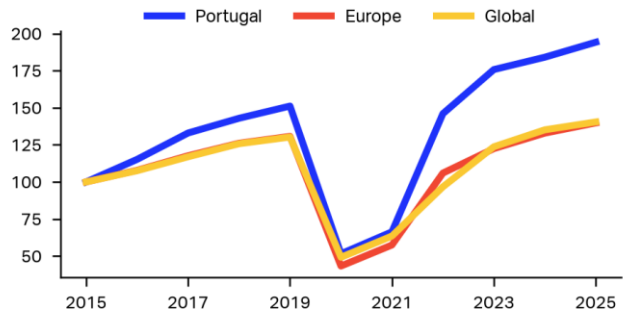
SHARE

0.8%
of global departures

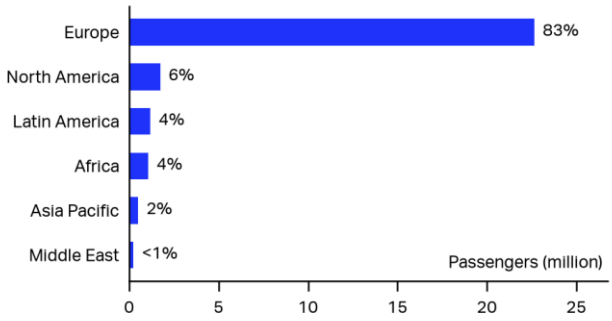
2.9%
of European departures

International: 27.4 million passenger departures, 93.0% 10Y growth, 5.7% YoY growth
Domestic: 5.0 million passenger departures, 101.0% 10Y growth, 4.2% YoY growth, % share of total market: 15.5%

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 Kingdom	1. London	1. Paris
2. France	2. Paris	2. London
3. Spain	3. Brussels	3. Madrid
4. Germany	4. Geneva	4. Barcelona
5. Switzerland	5. Dublin	5. Milan

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Portugal, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Portugal 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 Portugal to 67 different countries

In 2025, there were 20 airports and 92 operating airlines in Portugal, providing a total of 573 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Portugal, connecting to 67 countries with about 500 daily international departures.

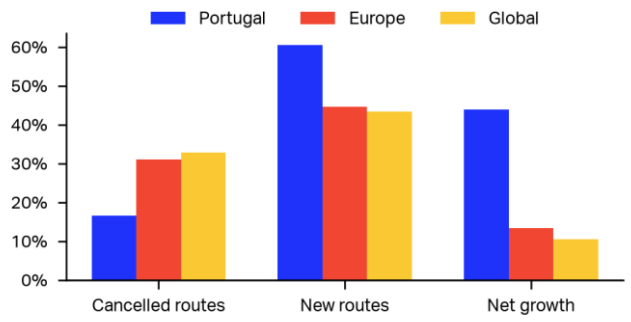
Air Connectivity in Portugal

20
Airports in 2025
14 in 2015

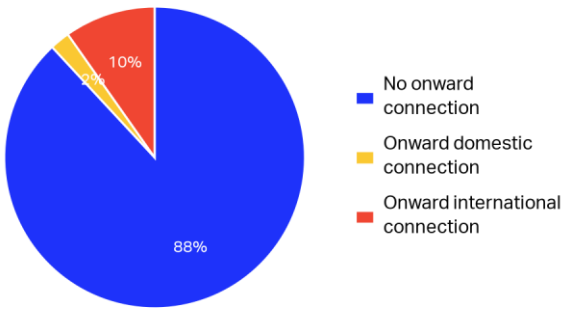
92
Airlines in 2025
69 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	573	67	500
	Global rank	21st	19th	19th
	Europe rank	10th	10th	9th
2015	Total	398	45	320
	Global rank	26th	33rd	27th
	Europe rank	14th	16th	13th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

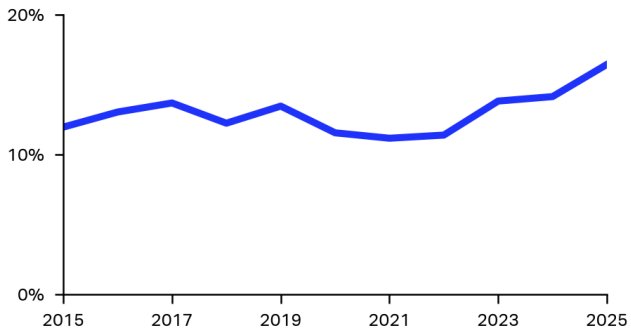


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Portugal. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Portugal timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 3.2% of Portugal's traded goods by weight, it carried 16.3% of their total value.
Portugal's airports handled around 253.6 thousand tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Portugal as the world's 48th largest air cargo handler market and the 14th largest in Europe.

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



Portuguese air cargo, share of trade, 2025

3.2%
of trade by weight

16.3%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Portugal, 2025

253.6
thousand tonnes
air cargo handled

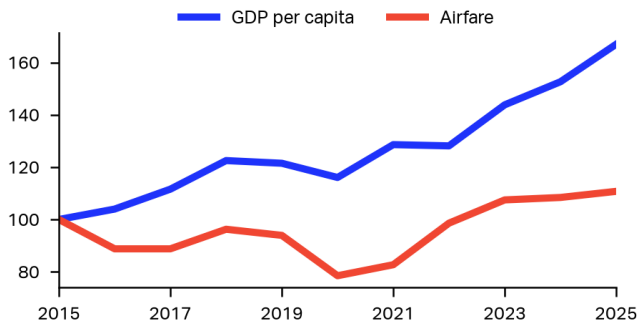
48th
Globally
14th in Europe

Source: Airports Council International (ACI) for air cargo handled, Global Trade Tracker (GTT) for imports and exports by air.
Note: Portugal's trade by air includes imports and exportswith non-EU countries. It is based on the country's self reported customs data.

International air travel from Portugal has become more affordable over the past decade

Portugal's nominal GDP per capita increased by 67.0%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Portugal increased by 10.7%, 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, Portugal, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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