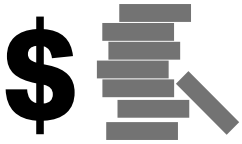
THE VALUE OF AVIATION RWANDA

The economic impact of aviation in Rwanda

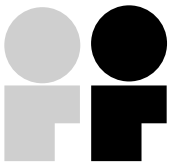
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 1.3% of Rwanda's GDP and 1.1% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Rwanda.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Rwanda in 2025



215.2
USD million

1.3%
of GDP



66.6
thousand jobs

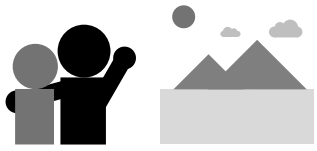
1.1%
of employment

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 36.7 million	USD 14.8 million	USD 163.6 million
13 thousand jobs	5 thousand jobs	48.5 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 = RWF 1,428.48

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 585.4 thousand air passengers departed from Rwanda in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Rwanda the 156th largest air passenger market globally.

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

585.4
thousand
passenger departures

GROWTH

71.7%
10-year growth

15.7%
year-on-year growth

RANK

156th
Global
▲ 3 since 2015

30th
in Africa
▲ 3 since 2015

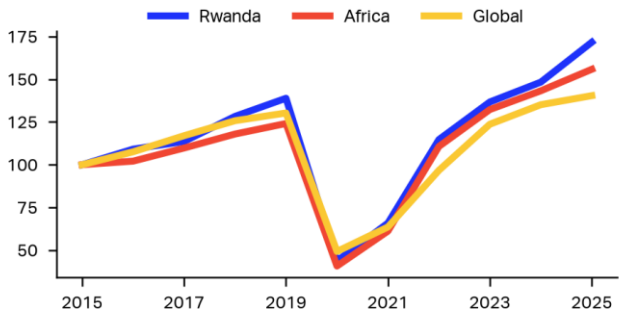
SHARE

0.01%
of global departures

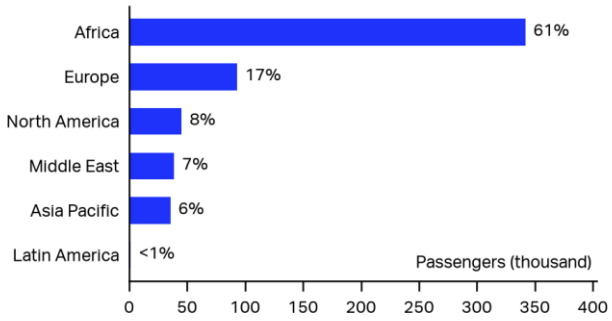
0.5%
of African departures

International: 556.0 thousand passenger departures, 71.0% 10Y growth, 17.0% YoY growth
Domestic: 29.3 thousand passenger departures, 86.2% 10Y growth, -3.7% YoY growth, % share of total market: 5.0%

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. Kenya	1. Nairobi	1. Nairobi
2. Uganda	2. Entebbe	2. Entebbe
3. South Africa	3. Johannesburg	3. Dubai
4. Tanzania	4. Lagos	4. Dar es Salaam
5. United States	5. Brussels	5. Guangzhou

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Rwanda, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Rwanda 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 Rwanda to 26 different countries

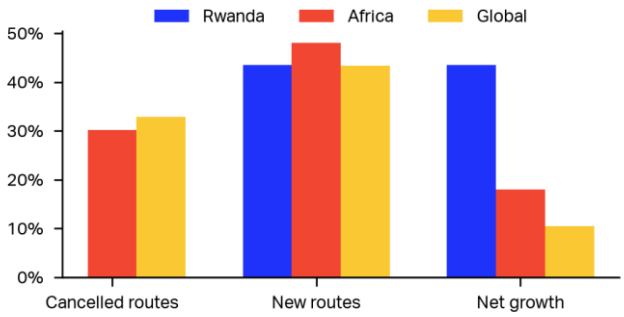
In 2025, there were 2 airports and 12 operating airlines in Rwanda, providing a total of 33 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Rwanda, connecting to 26 countries with about 27 daily international departures.

Air Connectivity in Rwanda

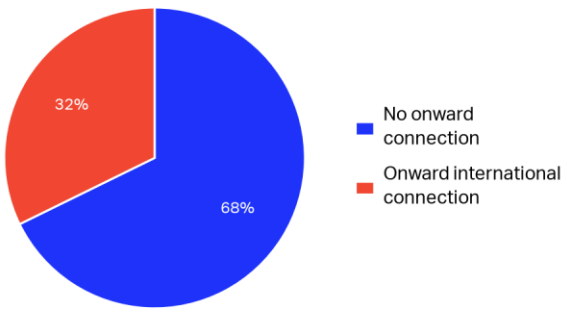


		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	33	26	27
	Global rank	144th	88th	119th
	Africa rank	26th	14th	17th
2015	Total	23	19	22
	Global rank	158th	108th	126th
	Africa rank	33rd	21st	17th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

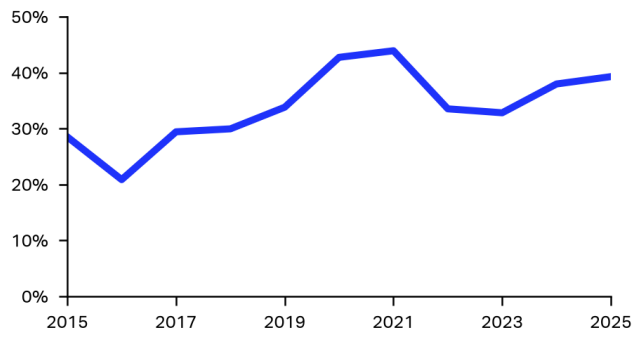


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Rwanda. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Rwanda timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 3.5% of Rwanda's traded goods by weight, it carried 38.1% of their total value.
Rwanda's airports handled around 23.2 thousand tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Rwanda as the world's 105th largest air cargo handler market and the 17th largest in Africa.

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



Rwandan air cargo, share of trade, 2025

3.5%
of trade by weight

38.1%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Rwanda, 2025

23.2
thousand tonnes
air cargo handled

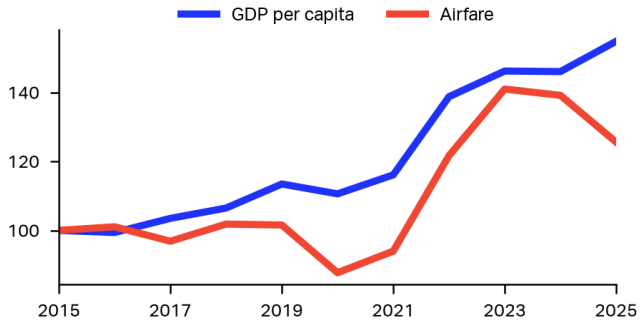
105th
Globally
17th in Africa

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

Rwanda's nominal GDP per capita increased by 54.9%, while the average nominal air fare for an international ticket from Rwanda increased by 25.6%, 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, Rwanda, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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