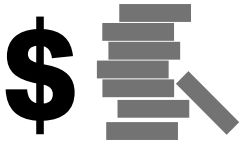
THE VALUE OF AVIATION SPAIN

The economic impact of aviation in Spain

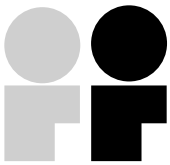
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 11.7% of Spain's GDP and 9.8% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Spain.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Spain in 2025



196.9
EUR billion

11.7%
of GDP



2.4
million jobs

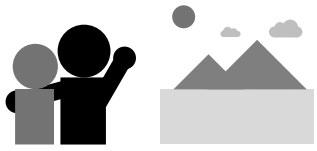
9.8%
of employment

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 18.3 billion	EUR 66.5 billion	EUR 112.1 billion
202.5 thousand jobs	822.8 thousand jobs	1.4 million 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 146.9 million air passengers departed from Spain in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Spain the 5th largest air passenger market globally.

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

146.9
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

63.0%
10-year growth

4.2%
year-on-year growth

RANK

5th
Global
▲ 1 since 2015

1st
in Europe
▲ 1 since 2015

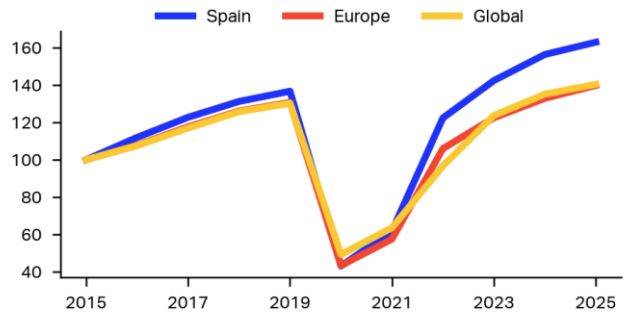
SHARE

3.4%
of global departures

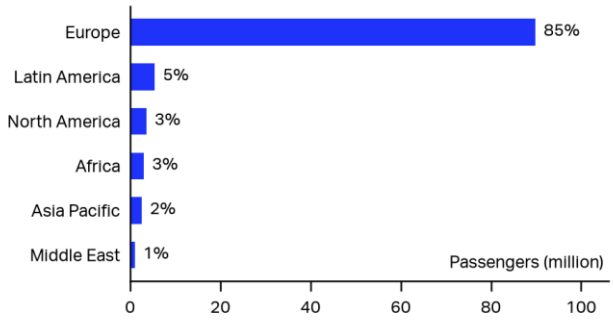
13.3%
of European departures

International: 105.7 million passenger departures, 63.0% 10Y growth, 6.2% YoY growth
Domestic: 41.1 million passenger departures, 62.9% 10Y growth, -0.6% YoY growth, % share of total market: 28.0%

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. United Kingdom	1. London	1. Paris
2. Germany	2. Manchester	2. London
3. Italy	3. Brussels	3. Rome
4. France	4. Dublin	4. Amsterdam
5. the Netherlands	5. Frankfurt	5. Milan

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Spain, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Spain 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 Spain to 88 different countries

In 2025, there were 44 airports and 144 operating airlines in Spain, providing a total of 2207 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Spain, connecting to 88 countries with about 1682 daily international departures.

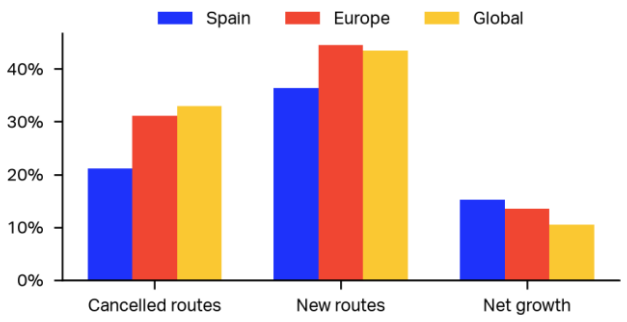
Air Connectivity in Spain

44
Airports in 2025
41 in 2015

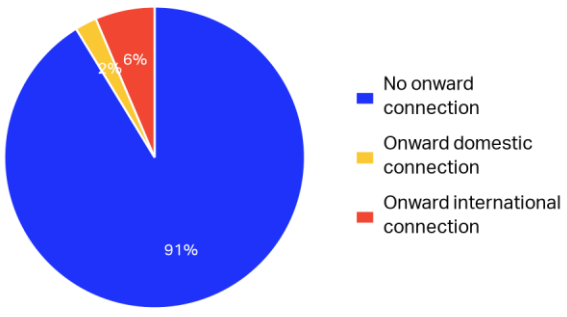
144
Airlines in 2025
127 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	2207	88	1682
	Global rank	5th	10th	4th
	Europe rank	3rd	7th	3rd
2015	Total	1915	81	1223
	Global rank	6th	9th	4th
	Europe rank	3rd	7th	3rd

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

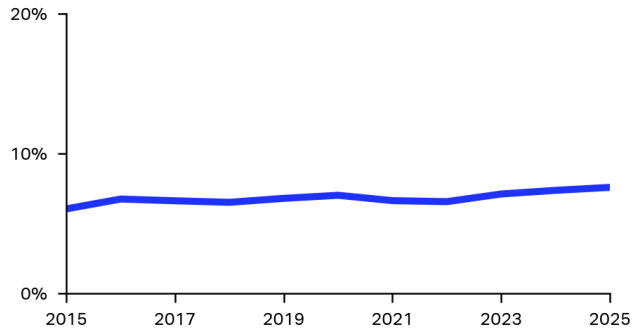


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Spain. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Spain timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 1.5% of Spain's traded goods by weight, it carried 13.5% of their total value.
Spain's airports handled around 1.4 million tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Spain as the world's 22nd largest air cargo handler market and the 7th largest in Europe.

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



Spanish air cargo, share of trade, 2025

1.5%
of trade by weight

13.5%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Spain, 2025

1.4
million tonnes
air cargo handled

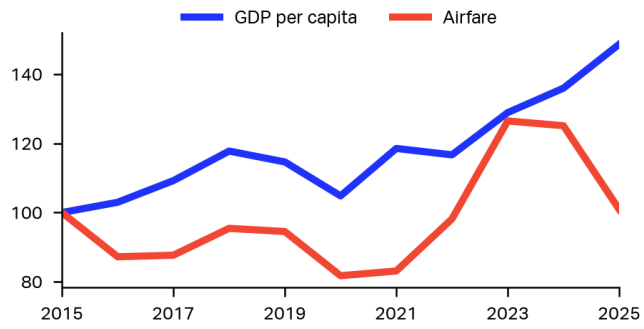
22nd
Globally
7th in Europe

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

Spain's nominal GDP per capita increased by 48.7%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Spain increased by 0.9%, 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, Spain, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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