THE VALUE OF AVIATION
LAOS

The economic impact of aviation in Laos

The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 2.5% of Laos's GDP and 1.5% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Laos.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Laos in 2025

461.9
USD million

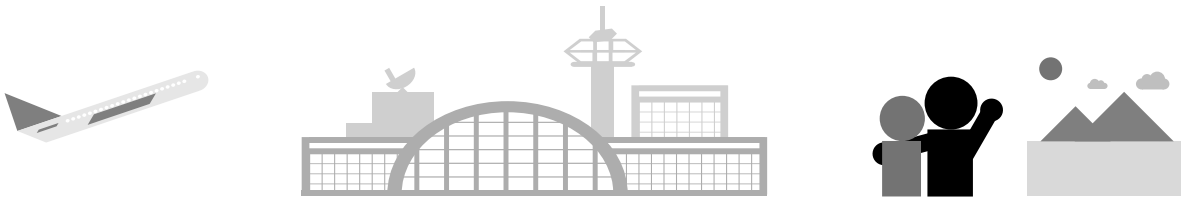
2.5%
of GDP

54.3
thousand jobs

1.5%
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 115.7 million	USD 142.5 million	USD 203.7 million
8.1 thousand jobs	13 thousand jobs	33.1 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 = LAK 20,444.14

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 2.3 million air passengers departed from Laos in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Laos the 101st largest air passenger market globally.

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

2.3
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

100.1%
10-year growth

20.8%
year-on-year growth

RANK

101st
Global
▲ 2 since 2015

24th
in Asia
▲ 2 since 2015

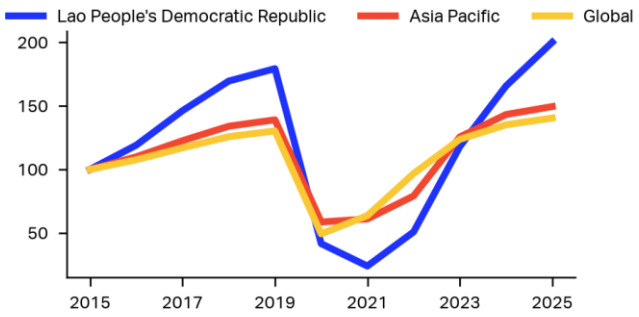
SHARE

0.1%
of global departures

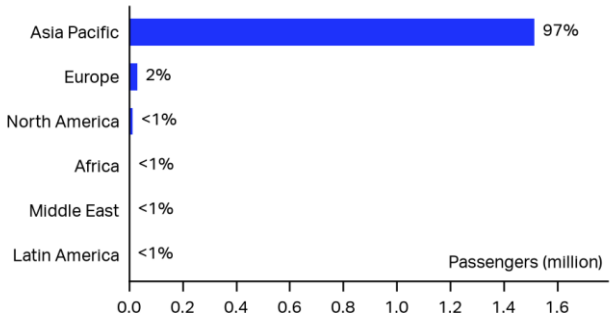
0.1%
of Asian departures

International: 1.6 million passenger departures, 112.6% 10Y growth, 16.9% YoY growth
Domestic: 702.2 thousand passenger departures, 77.1% 10Y growth, 30.4% YoY growth, % share of total market: 31.0%

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. China	1. Seoul	1. Bangkok
2. Thailand	2. Bangkok	2. Kunming
3. Viet Nam	3. Guangzhou	3. Ho Chi Minh City
4. South Korea	4. Busan	4. Hanoi
5. Cambodia	5. Hanoi	5. Kuala Lumpur

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Laos, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Laos 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 Laos to 11 different countries

In 2025, there were 12 airports and 35 operating airlines in Laos, providing a total of 76 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Laos, connecting to 11 countries with about 32 daily international departures.

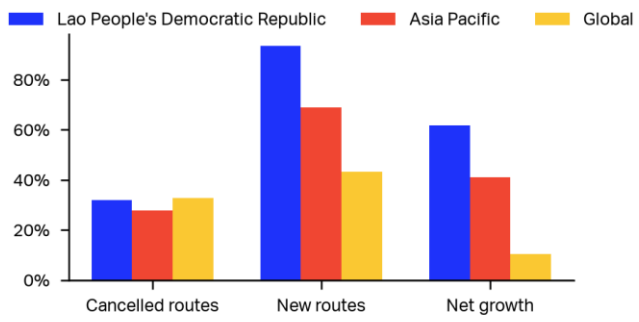
Air Connectivity in Laos

12
Airports in 2025
7 in 2015

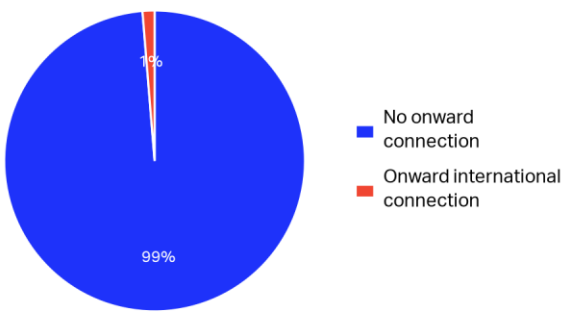
35
Airlines in 2025
9 in 2015

		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	76	11	32
	Global rank	98th	157th	107th
	Asia rank	21st	29th	23rd
2015	Total	47	8	24
	Global rank	120th	170th	121st
	Asia rank	25th	29th	24th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

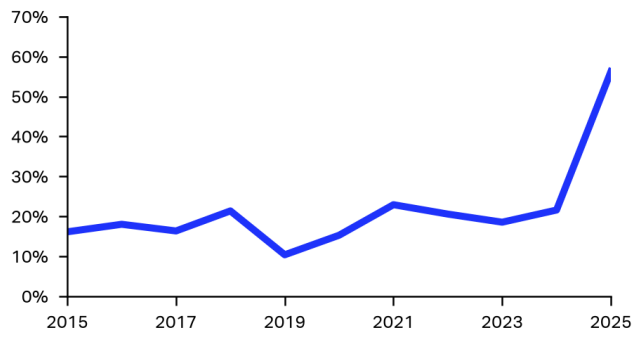


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Laos. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

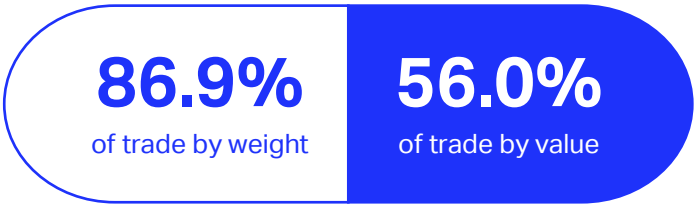
Air Cargo provides Laos timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 86.9% of Laos's traded goods by weight, it carried 56.0% of their total value.
Laos's airports handled around tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Laos as the world's largest air cargo handler market and the largest in Asia.

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



Lao air cargo, share of trade, 2025



Air cargo handled in Laos, 2025

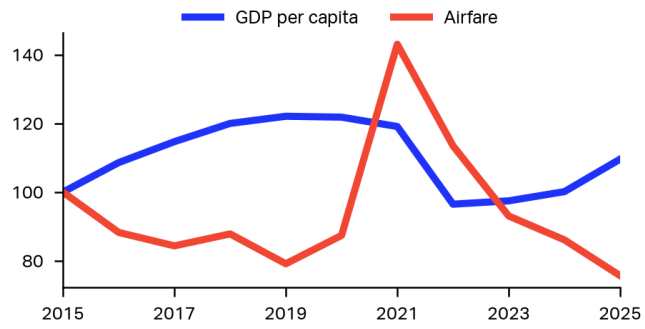


Source: Airports Council International (ACI) for air cargo handled, Global Trade Tracker (GTT) for imports and exports by air.
Note: Laos's trade by air includes imports and exports. It is based on a sample of 50 countries that report their trade by means of transport in 2025, which represents around 40% of the total global goods trade.

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

Laos's nominal GDP per capita increased by 9.6%, while the average nominal airfare for an international ticket from Laos decreased by 24.3%, 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, Laos, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



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