

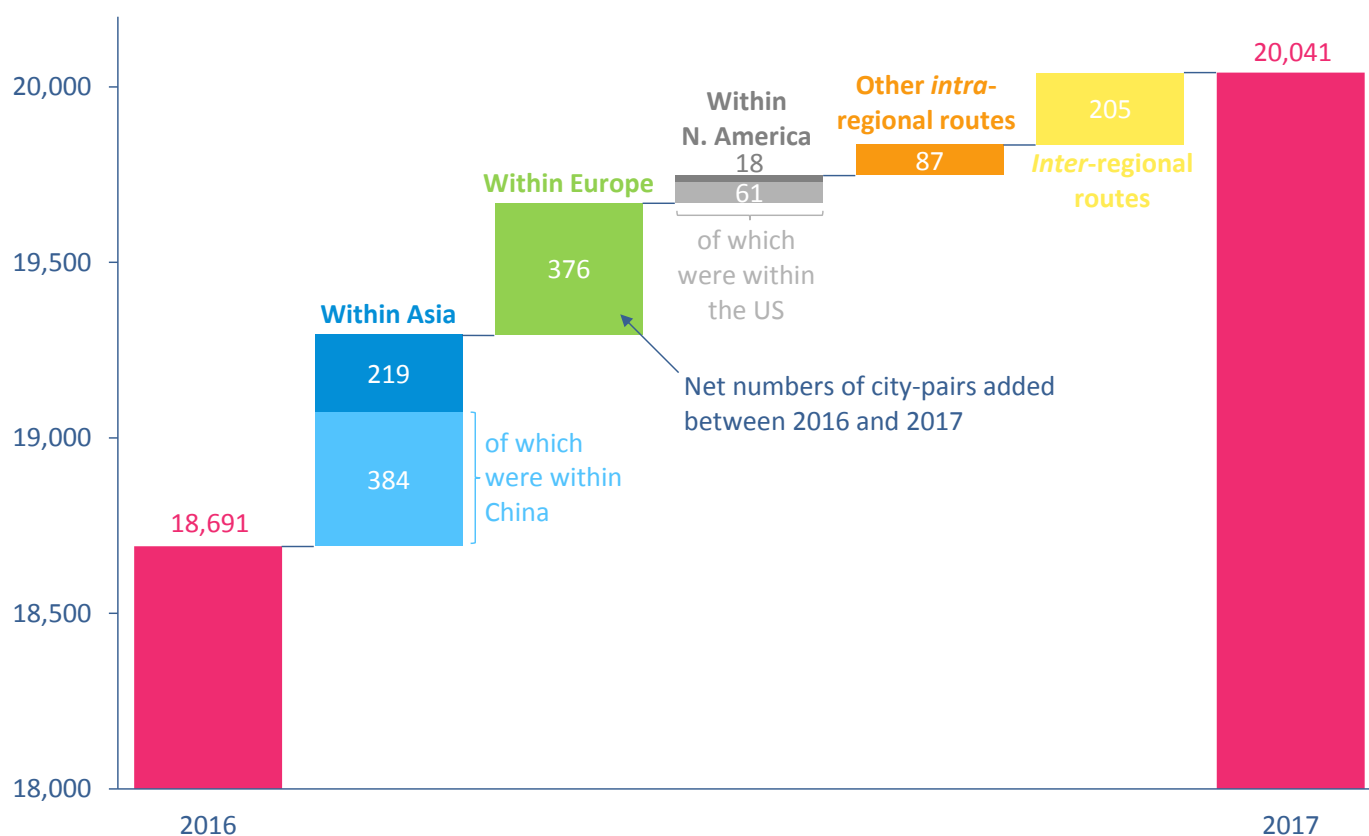


IATA ECONOMICS' CHART OF THE WEEK

1 DECEMBER 2017

UNIQUE CITY-PAIR CONNECTIONS EXCEED 20,000 FOR THE FIRST TIME

Number of unique city-pairs served



Sources: IATA, SRS Analyzer

- This year airlines across the world connected a record number of cities, with unique city-pair connections exceeding 20,000 for the first time¹. The annual percentage increase in the number of city-pairs served was the largest since 2004, and represents a doubling of services since 1996, when there were fewer than 10,000 city-pairs in operation. This increase has reflected the changing economic and industry landscape over time, and has been enabled partly by the new longer-range and more fuel-efficient aircraft replacing airlines' existing fleet.
- As this week's chart shows, nearly three-quarters of the net increase in connectivity between 2016 and 2017 came on city-pairs flown within Asia and in the highly-open European region. In a striking illustration of how the industry's centre of gravity is shifting to the east, more city-pairs were added in the domestic China market in 2017 than within the whole of Europe combined. China accounted for 11.4% of all city-pairs globally this year, up from 5.5% a decade ago.
- Increased city-pair connectivity delivers a wide range of benefits to aviation's customers as well as the broader economy. Connecting cities directly cuts the cost of air transport by saving time for shippers and travelers; this plus cheaper fares has the same stimulatory effect on passenger demand as cuts in airfares. Meanwhile, more and cheaper city connections also boost trade in goods and services, as well as foreign direct investment and other important economic flows.

¹ Scheduled services with more than 1 flight per week using aircraft with more than 20 seats. Note that city-pairs with multiple airports connections are counted as one e.g. London-New York.

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