The air transport sector makes a major contribution to Greece’s economy

It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 33,000 people in Greece in 2014. In addition, by buying goods and services from local suppliers the sector supported another 24,000 jobs. On top of this, the sector is estimated to have supported a further 11,000 jobs by paying wages to its employees, some or all of which are subsequently spent on consumer goods and services. Foreign tourists arriving by air to Greece, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 360,000 jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $5.6 billion gross value added contribution to GDP in Greece in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $19 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 10.5 percent of the country’s GDP is supported by the air transport sector and foreign tourists arriving by air.
Air transport brings tourists and investment into Greece, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world. In 2014, foreign tourists spent US $15.1 billion in Greece, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists. In addition, Greece exported US $76.9 billion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $22.5 billion in foreign direct investment.
The air transport sector connects people around the world

Number of direct flight destinations in the ten fastest growing countries

- India
- Bangladesh
- Vietnam
- Pakistan
- China
- Indonesia
- Philippines
- Kazakhstan
- Angola
- Nigeria

Number of direct flights to the top ten fastest growing cities

- Surat
- Ahmedabad
- Ho Chi Minh City
- Hanoi
- Delhi
- Bengaluru
- Hyderabad (India)
- Kinshasa
- Dhaka
- Lagos

Arrivals by continent, number of passengers (000s)

- North America: 25,500
- Asia-Pacific: 640
- Europe: 280
- Africa: 560
- South America: 150
- Middle East: 83

The air transport sector’s ability to connect Greece to emerging countries and fast growing cities can help drive economic growth. There are no direct flight destinations among the ten fastest growing countries in the world as measured by GDP growth but there are 7 direct flight destinations among the 20 fastest growing countries.¹

Arrivals by continent

North America and Asia-Pacific are the largest sources of arrivals to Greece after Europe. In 2014, 0.6 million passengers arrived to Greece from North America (2.4 percent of the total) and 0.6 million passengers arrived from Asia-Pacific (2.1 percent).

¹ Fastest growing countries are ranked by Oxford Economics’ forecasted real GDP growth 2015-2030, with a threshold of >US $100 million GDP. Fastest growing cities are ranked by Oxford Economics’ forecasted real GDP growth 2015-2030, with a minimum city size of 5 million.
The importance of air transport to Greece

Ease of travel, cost competitiveness, and infrastructure are vitally important

Survey evidence of infrastructure and ease of travel

Executives surveyed by the World Economic Forum suggest that Greece’s air transport infrastructure quality ranks 18th out of 42 countries included in the survey in Europe and 31st globally. Greece ranks 10th out of 42 in Europe for visa openness and 18th for cost competitiveness.

Key infrastructure facts about Greek air transport

Around 330,000 aircraft land or take off from Greece every year. The country has no airports that are in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). Eleftherios Venizelos Airport airport carried the most passengers - 15.3 million - in 2014.

Number of passengers travelling annually through the five busiest airports in the country (000s)

1. ELEFTHERIOS VENIZELOS AIRPORT
   - Number of passengers: 15,300

2. MAKEDONIA
   - Number of passengers: 5,000

3. NIKOS KAZANTZAKIS AIRPORT
   - Number of passengers: 3,400

4. DIAGORAS
   - Number of passengers: 2,200

5. IOANNIS DASKALOGIANNIS AIRPORT
   - Number of passengers: 1,500

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This report is one of several that examine the air transport sector’s importance around the world. Access them all from IATA’s website.

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Sources: IATA, Oxford Economics, International Monetary Fund, and national statistics.