The air transport sector makes a major contribution to the South African economy

It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 70,000 people in South Africa in 2014. In addition, by buying goods and services from local suppliers the sector supported another 130,000 jobs. On top of this, the sector is estimated to have supported a further 57,000 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 South Africa, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 230,000 jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $7.4 billion gross value added contribution to GDP in South Africa in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $5.1 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 3.5 percent of the country’s GDP is supported by the air transport sector and foreign tourists arriving by air.
The importance of air transport to South Africa

Air transportation facilitates exports, foreign direct investment, and tourism

The ten most popular direct flight links:

1. Botswana
2. Mozambique
3. Namibia
4. Zimbabwe
5. Zambia
6. United Kingdom
7. United Arab Emirates
8. Kenya
9. Swaziland
10. Germany

The scale of investment, exports, and inbound spending in South Africa

Air transport brings tourists and investment into South Africa, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world. In 2014, foreign tourists spent US $9.2 billion in South Africa, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists. In addition, South Africa exported US $110 billion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $140 billion in foreign direct investment.
The importance of air transport to South Africa

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

There are 4 direct flight destinations among the ten fastest growing countries in the world as measured by GDP growth and 8 direct flight destinations among the 20 fastest growing countries. There are 20 direct weekly flights among the ten fastest growing cities in the world as measured by GDP growth and 43 direct weekly flights among the 100 fastest growing cities.

Number of direct flights to the top ten fastest growing cities
- Surat
- Ahmedabad
- Ho Chi Minh City
- Hà Noi
- Delhi
- Bengaluru
- Hyderabad (India)
- Kinshasa
- Dhaka
- Lagos

Arrivals by continent, number of passengers (000s)

Europe and Asia-Pacific are the largest sources of arrivals to South Africa after Africa. In 2014, 3.3 million passengers arrived to South Africa from Europe (16.3 percent of the total) and 1.3 million passengers arrived from Asia-Pacific (6.5 percent).

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.
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 South Africa’s air transport infrastructure quality ranks 1st out of 37 countries included in the survey in Africa and 48th globally. South Africa ranks 19th out of 37 in Africa for visa openness and 17th for cost competitiveness.

Key infrastructure facts about South African air transport

Around 390,000 aircraft land or take off from South Africa every year. The country has 1 airport that is in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). O.R. Tambo International Airport airport carried the most passengers - 18.5 million - in 2014.

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

1. O.R. TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: 18,500
2. CAPE TOWN INTL: 7,500
3. KING SHAKA INTL: 4,000
4. PORT ELIZABETH ARPT: 1,300
5. LANSERIA: 1,100

* Entry visa requirements for a tourism visit from worldwide source markets (10 = no visa required for visitors from all source markets, 0 = traditional visa required for visitors from every source market).
* Based on ticket taxes, airport charges, and VAT (10=low cost, 0=high cost).

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

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