It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 65,000 people in Colombia in 2014. In addition, by buying goods and services from local suppliers the sector supported another 62,000 jobs. On top of this, the sector is estimated to have supported a further 18,000 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 Colombia, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 320,000 jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $2.6 billion gross value added contribution to GDP in Colombia in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $5.3 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 2.1 percent of the country’s GDP is supported by the air transport sector and foreign tourists arriving by air.

The air transport sector makes a major contribution to the Colombian economy

THE IMPORTANCE OF AIR TRANSPORT TO COLOMBIA

DIRECT SUPPLY CHAIN EMPLOYEE SPENDING TOURISM

460,000 JOBS SUPPORTED BY THE AIR TRANSPORT SECTOR

$7.9 BILLION GROSS VALUE ADDED CONTRIBUTION TO GDP IN 2014

2.1% GDP SUPPORTED BY AIR TRANSPORT & FOREIGN TOURISTS ARRIVING BY AIR

US $1.2

65,000 JOBS

US $1.1

62,000 JOBS

US $0.3

18,000 JOBS

US $5.3

320,000 JOBS

BILLION GROSS VALUE ADDED
The importance of air transport to Colombia

Air transportation facilitates exports, foreign direct investment, and tourism

The scale of investment, exports, and inbound spending in Colombia

Air transport brings tourists and investment into Colombia, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world. In 2014, foreign tourists spent US $3.9 billion in Colombia, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists. In addition, Colombia exported US $60.4 billion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $140 billion in foreign direct investment.

The ten most popular direct flight links:

1. United States
2. Panama
3. Ecuador
4. Mexico
5. Peru
6. Venezuela
7. El Salvador
8. Spain
9. Brazil
10. Chile
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
- Hà Noi
- Delhi
- Bengaluru
- Hyderabad (India)
- Kinshasa
- Dhaka
- Lagos

Arrivals by continent, number of passengers (000s)
- North America and Europe are the largest sources of arrivals to Colombia after Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2014, 3.3 million passengers arrived to Colombia from North America (12.5 percent of the total) and 1 million passengers arrived from Europe (3.8 percent).

The air transport sector’s ability to connect Colombia 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 52 direct flight destinations among the 20 fastest growing countries.

Arrivals by continent

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.
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 Colombia’s air transport infrastructure quality ranks 10th out of 23 countries included in the survey in Latin America and the Caribbean and 78th globally. Colombia ranks 3rd out of 23 in Latin America and the Caribbean for visa openness and 21st for cost competitiveness.

Key infrastructure facts about Colombian air transport

Around 550,000 aircraft land or take off from Colombia every year. The country has 1 airports that are in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). El Dorado Intl airport carried the most passengers - 25.7 million - in 2014.

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

1. 25,700 EL DORADO INT
2. 6,200 OSÉ MARIE CORDOVA
3. 4,400 ALFONSO B ARAGON
4. 3,100 RAFAEL NUNEZ INTERNATIONAL
5. 2,200 ERNESTO CORTISSOZ INTERNATIONAL

3 priorities to advance the aviation agenda:

1. Align regulatory framework with global best practices.
2. Ensure transparency and participation of the industry in airport infrastructure planning and development at BOG.
3. Separate air safety discussion from the political arena taking it to a technical forum.

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

* 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).

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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.