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

It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 11,000 people in Ecuador in 2014. In addition, by buying goods and services from local suppliers the sector supported another 25,000 jobs. On top of this, the sector is estimated to have supported a further 10,000 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 Ecuador, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 150,000 jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $828 million gross value added contribution to GDP in Ecuador in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $2.2 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 3 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 ECUADOR

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Air transportation facilitates exports, foreign direct investment, and tourism

The ten most popular direct flight links:

1. Colombia
2. United States
3. Panama
4. Peru
5. El Salvador
6. Argentina
7. Spain
8. Chile
9. Mexico
10. Netherlands

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

Air transport brings tourists and investment into Ecuador, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world. In 2014, foreign tourists spent US $1.5 billion in Ecuador, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists. In addition, Ecuador exported US $28.8 billion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $14.6 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
- Hà Noi
- Delhi
- Bengaluru
- Hyderabad (India)
- Kinshasa
- Dhaka
- Lagos

Arrivals by continent

North America and Europe are the largest sources of arrivals to Ecuador after Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2014, 1.4 million passengers arrived to Ecuador from North America (19 percent of the total) and 0.5 million passengers arrived from Europe (7.3 percent).

The air transport sector’s ability to connect Ecuador 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 4 direct flight destinations among the 20 fastest growing countries.¹

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 Ecuador ranks 2nd out of 19 countries included in the 2016/17 findings for Latin America and the Caribbean. The country ranks 39th globally.

Key infrastructure facts about Ecuadorian air transport

Around 120,000 aircraft land or take off from Ecuador every year. The country has no airports that are in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). Mariscal Sucre Intl airport carried the most passengers - 5.5 million - in 2014.

Infrastructure quality score: 5/7

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

1. **MARISCAL SUCRE INTL**: 5,500
2. **JOSE JOAQUIN DE OLMEDO**: 4,300
3. **MARISCAL LAMAR INTL**: 550
4. **SEYMOUR AIRPORT**: 380
5. **ELOY ALFARO INTL**: 280

3 priorities to advance the aviation agenda:

1. **Align regulatory framework with global best practices.**
2. **Ensure transparency and participation of the industry in infrastructure planning and development.**
3. **Promote connectivity agenda.**

December 2016

Oxford Economics prepared this report with IATA’s support.

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

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

For more information, please visit www.IATA.org or contact:

**Ian Saxon**

isaxon@oxfordeconomics.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 7803 1418

**London**

Broadwall House, 21 Broadwall, London, SE1 9PL, UK

www.oxfordeconomics.com