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

It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 210,000 people in Mexico in 2014. In addition, by buying goods and services from local suppliers the sector supported another 300,000 jobs. On top of this, the sector is estimated to have supported a further 110,000 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 Mexico, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 420,000 jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $27.4 billion gross value added contribution to GDP in Mexico in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $10 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 2.9 percent of the country’s GDP is supported by the air transport sector and foreign tourists arriving by air.
Air transportation facilitates exports, foreign direct investment, and tourism

The ten most popular direct flight links:

1. United States
2. Canada
3. Panama
4. Colombia
5. Peru
6. Cuba
7. United Kingdom
8. Guatemala
9. Spain
10. El Salvador

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

Air transport brings tourists and investment into Mexico, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world. In 2014, foreign tourists spent US $16.2 billion in Mexico, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists. In addition, Mexico exported US $420 billion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $390 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

The air transport sector’s ability to connect Mexico to emerging countries and fast growing cities can help drive economic growth. There is 1 direct flight destination among the ten fastest growing countries in the world as measured by GDP growth and 5 direct flight destinations among the 20 fastest growing countries. There are no direct weekly flights among the ten fastest growing cities in the world as measured by GDP growth but there are 2 direct weekly flights among the 100 fastest growing cities.¹

**Number of direct flights to the top ten fastest growing cities**

- Surat
- Ahmedabad
- Ho Chi Minh City
- Hà Nội
- 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 Mexico after Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2014, 23.5 million passengers arrived to Mexico from North America (40.8 percent of the total) and 3.2 million passengers arrived from Europe (5.6 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.
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 Mexico’s air transport infrastructure quality ranks 9th out of 23 countries included in the survey in Latin America and the Caribbean and 63rd globally. Mexico ranks 21st out of 23 in Latin America and the Caribbean for visa openness and 19th for cost competitiveness.

Key infrastructure facts about Mexican air transport

Around 1.1 million aircraft land or take off from Mexico every year. The country has 1 airport that is in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). Benito Juarez Intl airport carried the most passengers - 32.6 million - in 2014.

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

1. Benito Juarez Intl: 32,600
2. Cancun International: 14,600
3. Miguel Hidalgo Intl: 8,500
4. Mariano Escobedo Intl: 6,500
5. A.L. Rodriguez Intl: 4,400

3 priorities to advance the aviation agenda:

1. Promote and align regulatory framework with global best practices.
2. Adopt industry standards in the area of consumer protection laws and World Slot Guidelines (WSG).
3. Promote international standards and best practices towards development of Mexico City New International Airport.

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

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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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