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

It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 2.2 million people in the United States in 2014. In addition, by buying goods and services from local suppliers the sector supported another 1.5 million jobs. On top of this, the sector is estimated to have supported a further 1.2 million 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 the United States, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 1.2 million jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $560 billion gross value added contribution to GDP in the United States in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $120 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 3.9 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 the United States

Air transportation facilitates exports, foreign direct investment, and tourism

The ten most popular direct flight links:
1. Canada
2. Mexico
3. United Kingdom
4. Japan
5. Dominican Republic
6. Germany
7. Bahamas
8. France
9. Brazil
10. Jamaica

The scale of investment, exports, and inbound spending in the United States

Air transport brings tourists and investment into United States, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world. In 2014, foreign tourists spent

US $150 billion in United States, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists. In addition, United States exported US $2.4 trillion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $5.4 trillion 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 flight destinations in the ten fastest growing countries

- 9 direct flight destinations among the ten fastest growing countries in the world as measured by GDP growth and 22 direct flight destinations among the 20 fastest growing countries.

Arrivals by continent

- Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe are the largest sources of arrivals to the United States after North America. In 2014, 57.8 million passengers arrived to the United States from Latin America and the Caribbean (9.2 percent of the total) and 53.3 million passengers arrived from Europe (8.4 percent).

Arrivals by continent, number of passengers (000s)

- Latin America: 57,800
- Europe: 53,300
- Asia: 42,400
- Africa: 4,500
- Middle East: 2,800

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 the US air transport infrastructure quality ranks 1st out of 2 countries included in the survey in North America and 4th globally. The United States ranks 2nd out of 2 in North America for visa openness and 1st for cost competitiveness.

Key infrastructure facts about US air transport

Around 17.9 million aircraft land or take off from the United States every year. The the United States has 28 airports that are in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). Hartsfield-Jackson ATL airport carried the most passengers - 92.5 million - in 2014.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Airport Name</th>
<th>Passengers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>HARTSFIELD-JACKSON ATL</td>
<td>92,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>LOS ANGELES INTL</td>
<td>68,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>O’HARE INTERNATIONAL</td>
<td>67,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DALLAS/FT WORTH INTL</td>
<td>61,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>JOHN F KENNEDY INTL</td>
<td>53,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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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