The air transport sector makes a major contribution to Australia’s economy

It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 170,000 people in Australia in 2014. In addition, by buying goods and services from local suppliers the sector supported another 100,000 jobs. On top of this, the sector is estimated to have supported a further 60,000 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 Australia, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 290,000 jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $34.2 billion gross value added contribution to GDP in Australia in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $30 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 4.5 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. New Zealand
2. Singapore
3. Indonesia
4. Malaysia
5. Hong Kong
6. United States
7. United Arab Emirates
8. China
9. Thailand
10. Fiji

The scale of investment, exports, and inbound spending in the Australia

Air transport brings tourists and investment into Australia, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world. In 2014, foreign tourists spent US $16.8 billion in Australia, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists. In addition, Australia exported US $300 billion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $560 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, number of passengers (000s)

- Europe and North America: 73,800
- Asia-Pacific: 3,100
- Middle East: 4,800
- Africa: 450
- South America: 690
- North America: 320

The air transport sector’s ability to connect Australia to emerging countries and fast growing cities can help drive economic growth. There are 13 direct flight destinations among the ten fastest growing countries in the world as measured by GDP growth and 16 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 267 direct weekly flights among the 100 fastest growing cities.

Arrivals by continent

Europe and North America are the largest sources of arrivals to Australia after Asia-Pacific. In 2014, 4.8 million passengers arrived to Australia from Europe (5.8 percent of the total) and 3.1 million passengers arrived from North America (3.7 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 Australia’s air transport infrastructure quality ranks 1st out of 25 countries included in the survey in Asia-Pacific and 7th globally. Australia ranks 16th out of 25 in Asia-Pacific for visa openness and 21st for cost competitiveness.

Infrastructure quality score: 5/7

Visa openness score*: 3/10

Cost competitiveness score*: 5/10

Key infrastructure facts about Australian air transport

Around 1.4 million aircraft land or take off from Australia every year. The country has 3 airports that are in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). Kingsford Smith airport carried the most passengers - 39.4 million - in 2014.

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

1. Kingsford Smith: 39,400
2. Melbourne Airport: 31,900
3. Brisbane Intl: 22,000
4. Perth International: 13,000
5. Adelaide International: 7,700

* 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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