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

It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 79,000 people in Hong Kong in 2014. In addition, by buying goods and services from local suppliers the sector supported another 84,000 jobs. On top of this, the sector is estimated to have supported a further 30,000 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 Hong Kong, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 170,000 jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $18.1 billion gross value added contribution to GDP in Hong Kong in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $15 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 11.3 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 scale of investment, exports, and inbound spending in Hong Kong

Air transport brings tourists and investment into Hong Kong, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world. In 2014, foreign tourists spent US $38.3 billion in Hong Kong, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists. In addition, Hong Kong exported US $620 billion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $1.5 trillion in foreign direct investment.

The ten most popular direct flight links:

1. China
2. Chinese Taipei
3. Thailand
4. Japan
5. South Korea
6. Singapore
7. Philippines
8. Malaysia
9. United States
10. Australia
The air transport sector connects people around the world. The air transport sector’s ability to connect Hong Kong to emerging countries and fast growing cities can help drive economic growth. There are 72 direct flight destinations among the ten fastest growing countries in the world as measured by GDP growth and 78 direct flight destinations among the 20 fastest growing countries. There are 98 direct weekly flights among the ten fastest growing cities in the world as measured by GDP growth and over 1,100 direct weekly flights among the 100 fastest growing cities.

Arrivals by continent

Europe and North America are the largest sources of arrivals to Hong Kong after Asia-Pacific. In 2014, 3.4 million passengers arrived to Hong Kong from Europe (7.5 percent of the total) and 2.6 million passengers arrived from North America (5.7 percent).

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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 Hong Kong’s air transport infrastructure quality ranks 4th out of 25 countries included in the survey in Asia-Pacific and 13th globally. Hong Kong ranks 2nd out of 25 in Asia-Pacific for visa openness and 13th for cost competitiveness.

Key infrastructure facts about Hong Kong’s air transport

Around 330,000 aircraft land or take off from Hong Kong every year. The country has 1 airport that is in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). Hong Kong airport carried 61.8 million passengers in 2014.

Number of passengers travelling annually through Hong Kong Intl (000s)

Infrastructure quality score: 5/7
Visa openness score*: 8/10
Cost competitiveness score*: 4/10

* 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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