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

It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 320,000 people in Japan in 2014. In addition, by buying goods and services from local suppliers the sector supported another 220,000 jobs. On top of this, the sector is estimated to have supported a further 200,000 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 Japan, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 360,000 jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $55 billion gross value added contribution to GDP in Japan in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $27 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 1.8 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. China
2. South Korea
3. United States
4. Chinese Taipei
5. Hong Kong
6. Thailand
7. Philippines
8. Singapore
9. Vietnam
10. Germany

Air transport brings tourists and investment into Japan, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world. In 2014, foreign tourists spent US $18.8 billion in Japan, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists. In addition, Japan exported US $820 billion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $170 billion in foreign direct investment.

The scale of investment, exports, and inbound spending in Japan
**The air transport sector connects people around the world**

The importance of air transport to Japan

**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 Nội
- Delhi
- Bengaluru
- Hyderabad (India)
- Kinshasa
- Dhaka
- Lagos

**Arrivals by continent, number of passengers (000s)**

10,000

6,200

330

140

133,000

470

The air transport sector’s ability to connect Japan to emerging countries and fast growing cities can help drive economic growth. There are 31 direct flight destinations among the ten fastest growing countries in the world as measured by GDP growth and 36 direct flight destinations among the 20 fastest growing countries. There are 101 direct weekly flights among the ten fastest growing cities in the world as measured by GDP growth and 927 direct weekly flights among the 100 fastest growing cities.

**Arrivals by continent**

North America and Europe are the largest sources of arrivals to Japan after Asia-Pacific. In 2014, 10 million passengers arrived to Japan from North America (6.7 percent of the total) and 6.2 million passengers arrived from Europe (4.1 percent).
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 Japan’s air transport infrastructure quality ranks 2nd out of 25 countries included in the survey in Asia-Pacific and 9th globally. Japan ranks 18th out of 25 in Asia-Pacific for visa openness and 17th for cost competitiveness.

Key infrastructure facts about air transport

Around 2.2 million aircraft land or take off from Japan every year. The country has 5 airports that are in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). Tokyo Intl (Haneda) airport carried the most passengers - 73.6 million - in 2014.

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

1. 73,600 TOKYO INTL (HANEDA)
2. 34,900 NARITA
3. 19,300 FUKUOKA
4. 19,300 NEW CHITOSE
5. 18,500 KANSAI INTERNATIONAL

Infrastructure quality score: 5/7
Visa openness score*: 2/10
Cost competitiveness score*: 8/10

* 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).

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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.

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

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