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

It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 120,000 people in Malaysia 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 15,000 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 Malaysia, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 220,000 jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $4.9 billion gross value added contribution to GDP in Malaysia in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $6.3 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 3.3 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 ten most popular direct flight links:

1. Indonesia
2. Singapore
3. Thailand
4. China
5. India
6. Australia
7. Hong Kong
8. Vietnam
9. Philippines
10. Chinese Taipei

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

- Air transport brings tourists and investment into Malaysia, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world.
- In 2014, foreign tourists spent US $21.2 billion in Malaysia, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists.
- In addition, Malaysia exported US $250 billion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $140 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 Europe are the largest sources of arrivals to Malaysia after Asia-Pacific. In 2014, 1.5 million passengers arrived to Malaysia from Europe (2.9 percent of the total) and 1.5 million passengers arrived from Europe (2.9 percent).

The air transport sector’s ability to connect Malaysia to emerging countries and fast growing cities can help drive economic growth. There are 56 direct flight destinations among the ten fastest growing countries in the world as measured by GDP growth and 99 direct flight destinations among the 20 fastest growing countries. There are 183 direct weekly flights among the ten fastest growing cities in the world as measured by GDP growth and over 1,800 direct weekly flights among the 100 fastest growing cities.

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 Malaysia’s air transport infrastructure quality ranks 7th out of 25 countries included in the survey in Asia-Pacific and 25th globally. Malaysia ranks 11th out of 25 in Asia-Pacific for visa openness and 5th for cost competitiveness.

Key infrastructure facts about Malaysian air transport

Around 780,000 aircraft land or take off from Malaysia every year. The country has 1 airport that is in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). Kuala Lumpur International Airport airport carried the most passengers - 50.9 million - in 2014.

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

1. KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
   50,900
2. KOTA KINABALU INTERNATIONAL
   6,900
3. PENANG INTERNATIONAL
   6,600
4. KUCHING INTERNATIONAL
   4,900
5. SULTAN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH
   2,900

Sources:
- IATA
- Oxford Economics
- International Monetary Fund
- National statistics

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