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

It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 31,000 people in New Zealand in 2014. In addition, by buying goods and services from local suppliers the sector supported another 32,000 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 New Zealand, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 180,000 jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $6.9 billion gross value added contribution to GDP in New Zealand in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $11 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 9.3 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. Australia
2. United States
3. Fiji
4. Singapore
5. China
6. Hong Kong
7. Cook Islands
8. Western Samoa
9. Tonga
10. Japan

The scale of investment, exports, and inbound spending in New Zealand

Air transport brings tourists and investment into New Zealand, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world. In 2014, foreign tourists spent US $6.2 billion in New Zealand, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists. In addition, New Zealand exported US $56.4 billion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $76.7 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 are the largest sources of arrivals to New Zealand after Asia-Pacific. In 2014, 700,000 passengers arrived to New Zealand from Europe (3.9 percent of the total) and 700,000 passengers arrived from North America (3.8 percent).

The air transport sector’s ability to connect New Zealand to emerging countries and fast growing cities can help drive economic growth. There are 3 direct flight destinations among the ten fastest growing countries in the world as measured by GDP growth and 4 direct flight destinations among the 20 fastest growing countries. There are no direct weekly flights among the ten fastest growing cities in the world as measured by GDP growth but there are 25 direct weekly flights among the 100 fastest growing cities.¹

Arrivals by continent

Europe and North America are the largest sources of arrivals to New Zealand after Asia-Pacific. In 2014, 700,000 passengers arrived to New Zealand from Europe (3.9 percent of the total) and 700,000 passengers arrived from North America (3.8 percent).

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 New Zealand’s air transport infrastructure quality ranks 5th out of 25 countries included in the survey in Asia-Pacific and 16th globally. New Zealand ranks 17th out of 25 in Asia-Pacific for visa openness and 18th for cost competitiveness.

Key infrastructure facts about New Zealand’s air transport

Around 420,000 aircraft land or take off from New Zealand every year. The country has no airports that are in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). Auckland Intl airport carried the most passengers - 15 million - in 2014.

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

1. Auckland Intl - 15,000
2. Christchurch Intl - 5,700
3. Wellington Intl - 5,400
4. Queenstown - 1,300
5. Dunedin International - 830

Number of operating airlines: 21
Airports among the top 100 in the world: 0
Aircraft landings and takeoffs: 420,000
Airports among the top 100: 0

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

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

December 2016
Oxford Economics prepared this report with IATA’s support.
This report is one of several that examine the air transport sector’s importance around the world. Access them all from IATA’s website.

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