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

It creates jobs...

Airlines, airport operators, airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers employed 110,000 people in Singapore in 2014. In addition, by buying goods and services from local suppliers the sector supported another 72,000 jobs. On top of this, the sector is estimated to have supported a further 23,000 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 Singapore, who spend their money in the local economy, are estimated to have supported an additional 140,000 jobs in 2014.

...and generates wealth

The air transport industry is estimated to have supported a $20.1 billion gross value added contribution to GDP in Singapore in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists supported a further $15 billion gross value added contribution to the country’s GDP. This means that 11.4 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. Malaysia
3. Thailand
4. China
5. Australia
6. India
7. Hong Kong
8. Philippines
9. Vietnam
10. Japan

US $19 BILLION EXPORTS
US $590 BILLION FDI
US $960 BILLION FOREIGN TOURIST EXPENDITURE

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

Air transport brings tourists and investment into Singapore, and helps businesses trade their goods and services around the world. In 2014, foreign tourists spent US $19 billion in Singapore, supporting restaurants, hotels, transport providers, and others who cater to tourists. In addition, Singapore exported US $590 billion worth of goods and services in 2014. Over time, the country has accumulated US $960 billion in foreign direct investment.
The importance of air transport to Singapore

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 Nội
- 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 Singapore after Asia-Pacific. In 2014, 2.7 million passengers arrived to Singapore from Europe (6.6 percent of the total) and 700,000 passengers arrived from North America (1.8 percent).

The air transport sector’s ability to connect Singapore to emerging countries and fast growing cities can help drive economic growth. There are 61 direct flight destinations among the ten fastest growing countries in the world as measured by GDP growth and 76 direct flight destinations among the 20 fastest growing countries. There are 216 direct weekly flights among the ten fastest growing cities in the world as measured by GDP growth and over 1,200 direct weekly flights among the 100 fastest growing cities.¹

Arrivals by continent

- Europe
- North America
- Asia-Pacific

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 Singapore’s air transport infrastructure quality ranks 3rd out of 25 countries included in the survey in Asia-Pacific and 11th globally. Singapore ranks 6th out of 25 in Asia-Pacific for visa openness and 14th for cost competitiveness.

Key infrastructure facts about Singaporean air transport

Around 320,000 aircraft land or take off from Singapore every year. The country has 1 airport that is in the top 100 in the world (ranked by passenger numbers). Changi airport carried 54.9 million passengers in 2014.

Number of passengers travelling annually through Singapore’s main airport (000s)

- Infrastructure quality score: 5/7
- Visa openness score: 7/10
- 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.

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