

APEC ECONOMIES¹⁶⁶

Air transport supports 29.1 million jobs and \$1.5 trillion in GDP in the APEC Economies



The air transport industry in the APEC economies directly generated an estimated 5.9 million jobs in 2014:

- » Airlines: 1.6 million (27% of the total).
- » Airport operators: 203,000 (3%).
- » Other on-airport: 3.2 million (55%).
- » Civil aerospace: 742,000 (13%).
- » Air navigation service providers: 109,300 (2%).

As well as this direct employment in the operations of the air transport sector itself, the sector's impact reaches further through the APEC economies. Including direct impacts, the effect of the sector's procurement of goods and services through its supply chain, and the benefits that arise when employees in the industry and its supply chain spend their wages in the local consumer economy, the air transport sector supported 15.7 million jobs and contributed \$1.1 trillion to GDP in the APEC economies in 2014.

1.9

billion passengers¹⁶⁷

58%

APEC share of global passenger traffic, 2014

514

airlines

15,553

aircraft in service

In addition, the spending by foreign tourists – many of whom arrive by air – supported an estimated 13.3 million jobs and contributed \$384 billion to GDP in the APEC economies in 2014.

In total, the industry supported 29.1 million jobs and made a \$1.5 trillion contribution to GDP in the APEC economies. This accounted for 46% of the jobs and 56% of the GDP supported by the air transport industry worldwide.

The number of revenue passenger kilometres flown in the APEC economies is expected to grow by 3.9% per annum over the next two decades. This increase will, in turn, drive growth in the economic output and jobs that are supported by the air transport industry in the economies in the next 20 years. By 2034, Oxford Economics forecasts that the impact of air transport and the tourism it facilitates in the APEC economies will have grown to support 46 million jobs (57% more than in 2014) and a \$3.3 trillion contribution to GDP (a 124% increase).

Total jobs and GDP generated by air transport in the APEC economies, 2014

JOB TOTAL		GDP TOTAL
29.1 million		\$1.5 trillion
13,300,000	Tourism catalytic	\$384.4 bn
3,200,000	Induced	\$220 bn
6,700,000	Indirect	\$469.2 bn
5,900,000	Aviation direct	\$410.1 bn



Combating the illegal wildlife trade



As the nations of the world gathered to agree on the set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, protecting life on land was rightly seen as a crucial goal. A major obstacle to achieving this aim is the burgeoning illegal trade in wildlife, which is estimated to be worth up to \$10 billion per year.

Transnational criminal gangs are exploiting the modern air transport system to traffic protected plants and animals (both living and dead), then selling them on through the black market.

To help combat this illegal trade, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) is working with its airline members, as well as other sectors of the aviation industry, to raise awareness on the issue and assist where they can. While the duty for apprehending and prosecuting these criminals lies with national enforcement authorities, airline staff can be a valuable asset in providing information to the authorities, leading to greater intelligence.

In June 2015, IATA signed a memorandum of understanding with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), signalling their strong cooperation. Since then, IATA has been helping to organise awareness training for airline staff and has set up a Wildlife Task Force, which is responsible for identifying and reviewing emerging wildlife conservation issues and developing an appropriate response.

The response from airlines has been commendable, with Kenya Airways hosting a training workshop in Nairobi and Emirates adorning one of its A380s with wildlife livery to raise awareness. Now that this issue is firmly on the table, airlines will be better equipped to deal with this sort of criminal activity.

Airports, too, have signalled their commitment to protecting wildlife. In March 2016, Airports Council International, alongside IATA, signed the United for Wildlife declaration. This agreement sets out real steps to close the routes exploited by traffickers of the illegal wildlife trade as they move their products from killing field to marketplace.