

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES¹⁷²

Air transport supports 38 million jobs and \$561 billion in GDP in developing countries



The air transport industry in developing countries directly generated an estimated 3.8 million jobs in 2014:

- » Airlines: 1,300,000 (35% of the total).
- » Airport operators: 209,400 (6%).
- » Other on-airport: 2 million (53%).
- » Civil aerospace: 145,300 (4%).
- » Air navigation service providers: 93,400 (2%).

As well as this direct employment in the operations of the air transport sector itself, the sector's impact reaches further through the developing countries' 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 10.1 million jobs and contributed \$287 billion to GDP in developing countries in 2014.

1.2

billion passengers

36%

Developing country share of global passenger traffic, 2014

832

airlines

10,011

aircraft in service

In addition, the spending of foreign tourists – most of whom arrive by air – supported an estimated 27.9 million jobs and contributed \$274 billion to GDP in developing countries in 2014.

In total, the industry supported 38 million jobs and made a \$561 billion contribution to GDP in developing countries. This accounted for 61% of the jobs and 21% of the GDP supported by the air transport industry worldwide.

The number of revenue passenger kilometres flown in developing countries' economies is expected to grow by about 5% 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 developing countries' economies in the next 20 years.

By 2034, Oxford Economics forecasts that the impact of air transport and the tourism it facilitates in developing countries will have grown to support 61 million jobs (59% more than in 2014) and a \$1.6 trillion contribution to GDP (a 178% increase).

Total jobs and GDP generated by air transport in developing countries, 2014

JOB TOTAL		GDP TOTAL
38 million		\$561 billion
28,000,000	Tourism catalytic	\$273.9 bn
2,300,000	Induced	\$74.5 bn
4,100,000	Indirect	\$106.9 bn
3,800,000	Aviation direct	\$105.6 bn



The first fully solar-powered airport



Solar panels being used at an airport is not an entirely new concept. Airports make an ideal location for solar panels, with wide open spaces on the ground and large terminal buildings on which to build them. Over 100 airports worldwide make use of solar panels to produce clean energy for powering the terminal and sometimes even to contribute to the wider grid.

August 2015, however, saw a landmark event. Cochin International Airport in the Indian state of Kerala became the first in the world to be entirely powered by solar energy, making the airport completely energy self-sufficient. The 46,000 solar panels at the airport produce 12 megawatts of power, more than enough to run the airport's operations.

The journey towards the fully solar-powered airport was a remarkably short one. Cochin Airport, which has always had a focus on sustainability, began work on solar power in March 2013, when the operator installed a solar plant on the roof of the Arrival Terminal Block. Two subsequent plants were then commissioned, allowing the airport to avoid more than 550 tonnes of CO₂.

Following the success of this first foray into renewable energy, the airport ramped up its construction to produce a plant covering 45 acres near its cargo complex.

With the Indian Government's recent solar energy drive, perhaps Cochin will not remain the only fully solar-powered airport for long.