

Air transport supports 30.2 million jobs and \$684 billion in Asia-Pacific economic activity. That is 1.6% of all employment and 2.7% of all GDP in Asia-Pacific countries in 2016.

Every person directly employed in the aviation sector and in tourism made possible by aviation supported another nine jobs elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region. Similarly, \$4.60 of economic activity was supported elsewhere in Asia-Pacific for every \$1 of gross value added directly created by the air transport sector.

The aviation sector in the Asia-Pacific region directly employed nearly 3 million people in 2016. A sub-sectoral analysis of these workers suggests that:

- » **1 million of them (30% of the total) were employed by airlines** or handling agents as, for example, flight crew, check-in staff, maintenance crew, or head office staff;
- » **179,000 (5.5%) had jobs with airport operators** in, for example, airport management, maintenance, and security;
- » **1.9 million (57.5%) worked on-site in airports** at, for example, retail outlets, restaurants, and hotels;
- » **177,000 (5%) were employed in the manufacture of civil aircraft** (including systems, components, airframes, and engines); and
- » **62,000 (2%) worked for air navigation service providers** in, for example, air traffic control and engineering.

Airlines, airport operators, retailers and other on-site businesses at airports and air navigation service providers and civil aircraft manufacturers also contribute to GDP in Asia-Pacific countries. In 2016, the operations of these businesses directly generated a \$149 billion contribution to GDP.

The aviation sector's spending with suppliers is estimated to have supported a further 3.1 million jobs and a \$120 billion gross value added contribution to GDP. In addition, wage payments to staff – by the aviation sector and businesses in the aviation sector's supply chain – supported 3.3 million more jobs and a \$128 billion gross value added contribution to GDP.

The aviation sector also facilitates a substantial amount of tourism in the Asia-Pacific region. This stimulates still more economic activity, as tourists spend their money with restaurants, hotels, retailers, tour operators, and other providers of consumer goods and services. In 2016, spending by foreign visitors who flew to Asia-Pacific countries supported an estimated 20.5 million jobs and a \$288 billion contribution to GDP.

In total, accounting for the sector's direct impact, its supply chain impact, its wage expenditure impact, and the impact of tourism made possible by air transport, the aviation sector supported an estimated 30.2 million jobs and a \$684 billion contribution to GDP in the Asia-Pacific region in 2016.

Air travel in Asia-Pacific is expected to continue to grow at about 5.5% per year 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 over the next 20 years. Oxford Economics forecasts that by 2036 the impact of air transport and the tourism it facilitates in Asia-Pacific countries will have grown to support 44 million jobs (46% more than in 2016) and a \$1.7 trillion contribution to GDP (a 151% increase).

To support the anticipated increase in travel demand, airports and airspace modernisation must keep pace with the projected rapid traffic growth. Some of the major airports in the region are already experiencing congestion and delays. Given the significant capital investments required, governments must play a proactive role in coordinating infrastructure planning and development, with appropriate levels of cross-industry consultation key to ensure the capital expenditure will meet the long-term requirements of the industry. Also important is appropriate land-use planning by local and national authorities for areas around airport development.

Ensuring the availability of qualified personnel, including pilots, engineers and mechanics, is another challenge for Asia-Pacific as the industry grows.

**1.5 billion**  
passengers

**2.7 trillion**  
RPKs

**331**  
airlines

**44**  
air navigation service providers

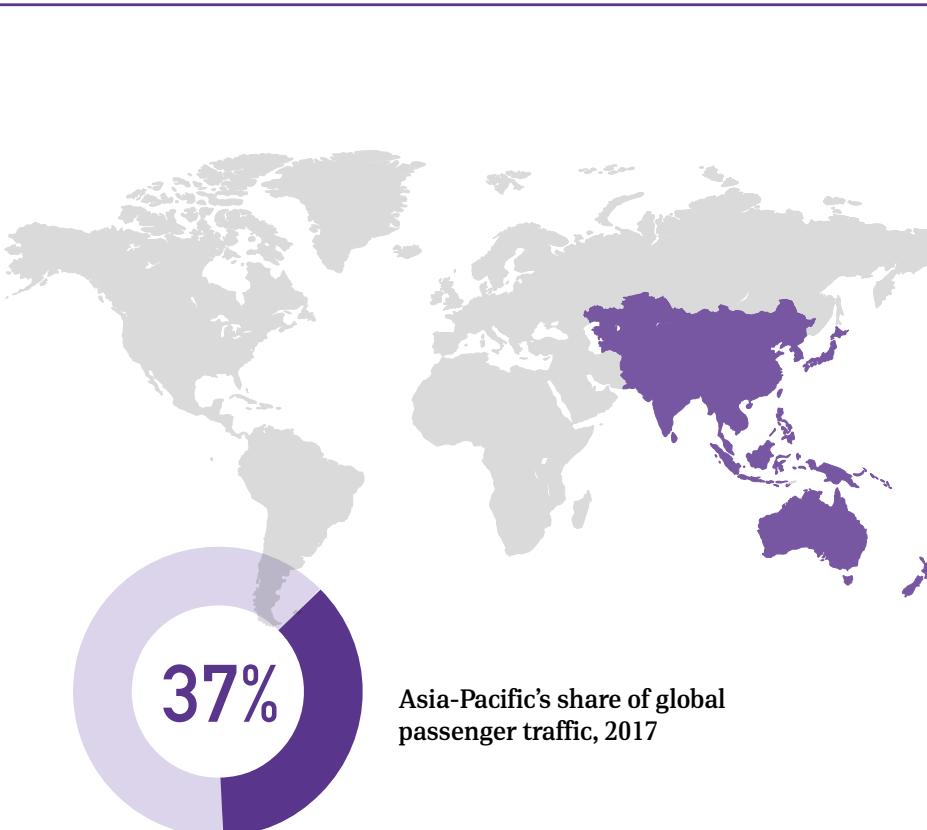
**22.2 million**  
tonnes of freight

**11,817,000**  
flights

**1,273**  
commercial airports

**8,455**  
aircraft in service

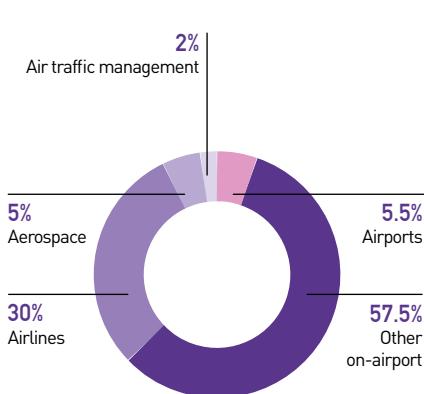
**80%**  
average regional load factor



Total jobs and GDP supported by air transport in Asia-Pacific

JOBSTOTAL	GDP TOTAL
30.2 m	\$684 bn
20.5 m	\$287.8 bn
3.3 m	\$127.9 bn
3.1 m	\$119.9 bn
3.3 m	\$148.7 bn

Direct jobs generated by air transport in Asia-Pacific



## Women conquer the skies

India has a long history of strong women in the cockpit. It was a red-letter day when Urmila K. Parikh became the first Indian woman to get a private pilot's licence in 1932. Some 25 years later, Durba Banerjee became the first female pilot of Indian Airlines. This would not have happened without breaking through gender stereotypes and stigmas. When Durba first applied with the then Central Aviation Ministry to become a commercial pilot, she had been offered the post of a flight attendant instead.

A flight from Kolkata to Silchar in 1985 was the world's first with an all-women crew, and Air India celebrated International Women's Day in 2017 when Captain Kshamata Bajpai commanded the first round-the-world flight with an all-women cockpit and cabin crew. International Women's Day 2018 saw a number of airlines around the globe demonstrate the role women have on the flight deck, with Ethiopian Airlines, SpiceJet, British Airways, Air Canada, Royal Jordanian, Brussels Airlines and Emirates amongst those running all-female crew flights. Although these were special flights, they demonstrate to women and girls around the world the career possibilities in the industry.

Commercial aviation in India is witnessing a phenomenal boom, with more women passionately striving to become a part of the airline industry. A fifth of students enrolling for a commercial flying licence in India are women, and of 10,000 commercial pilots in India some 1,200 are women across all Indian airlines, including Air India, Vistara, SpiceJet, Jet Airways and GoAir. At 12%, this is considerably above the 5.5% global average worldwide and amongst the highest number of women commercial pilots in the world.