

OECD COUNTRIES¹⁹³

Air transport supports 24 million jobs and \$2.1 trillion in economic activity in OECD countries. That is 4.1% of all employment and 4.4% of all GDP in OECD countries in 2016.

2.2 billion
passengers²⁰⁰

53%
share of passenger traffic

1,751
airports

510
airlines

16,378
aircraft in service

Every person directly employed in the aviation sector and in tourism made possible by aviation supported another 4.2 jobs elsewhere in OECD countries. Similarly, \$3.80 of economic activity was supported elsewhere in OECD countries for every \$1 of gross value added directly created by the air transport sector.

The aviation sector in OECD countries directly employed nearly 5.7 million people in 2016 in the following sub-sectors:

- » **Airlines: 1.3 million** (22.1% of the total)
- » **Airport operators: 257,800** (4.5%)
- » **Other on-airport: 3.2 million** (56.1%)
- » **Civil aerospace: 870,400** (15.4%)
- » **Air navigation service providers: 109,000** (1.9%)

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 OECD countries. In 2016, the operations of these businesses directly generated a \$549 billion contribution to GDP.

The aviation sector's spending with suppliers is estimated to have supported a further 6.1 million jobs and a \$596 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 4 million more jobs and a \$392 billion gross value added 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 24 million jobs and a \$2.1 trillion contribution to GDP in OECD countries in 2016.

Air travel in OECD countries is expected to continue to grow at about 3.5% 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 OECD countries will have grown to support 37 million jobs (54% more than in 2016) and a \$4 trillion contribution to GDP (a 91% increase).

Total jobs and GDP supported by air transport in the OECD economies

