

LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES¹⁹⁴

Air transport supports nearly six million jobs and \$31.5 billion in economic activity across LDCs. That is 2.1% of all employment and 3.4% of all GDP in LDCs in 2016.

47 million
passengers²⁰²

1%
share of passenger traffic

280
airports

116
airlines

520
aircraft in service

Every person directly employed in the aviation sector and in tourism made possible by aviation supported another 29.6 jobs elsewhere in least-developed countries (LDCs). Similarly, \$2.90 of economic activity was supported elsewhere in LDCs for every \$1 of gross value added directly created by the air transport sector.

The aviation sector in least developed countries directly employed an estimated 201,300 people in 2016 in the following sub-sectors:

- » **Airlines: 140,400** (69.7% of the total)
- » **Airport operators: 16,900** (8.4%)
- » **Other on-airport: 41,500** (20.6%)
- » **Air navigation service providers: 2,500** (1.3%)

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 LDCs. In 2016, the operations of these businesses directly generated a \$10.8 billion contribution to GDP.

The aviation sector's spending with suppliers is estimated to have supported a further 1.3 million jobs and a \$4.8 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 413,900 more jobs and a \$1.6 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 nearly 6 million jobs and a \$31.5 billion contribution to GDP in LDCs in 2016.

Air travel in LDCs is expected to continue to grow at about 5.2% 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 LDCs will have grown to support 8.7 million jobs (46% more than in 2016) and a \$88.2 billion contribution to GDP (a 180% increase).

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

