

AFRICA¹⁹⁶

Air transport supported 7.7 million jobs and \$63 billion in African economic activity. That is 2.2% of all employment and 2.7% of all GDP in African countries in 2018.

Every person directly employed in the aviation sector and in tourism made possible by aviation supported another 16.5 jobs elsewhere in Africa. Similarly, \$6 of economic activity was supported elsewhere in Africa for every \$1 of gross value added directly created by the air transport sector.

The aviation sector in Africa directly employed 440,000 people in 2018. A sub-sectoral analysis²⁰⁴ of these workers suggests that:

- » **252,000 (57% of the total)** were employed by airlines or handling agents as, for example, flight crew, check-in staff, maintenance crew, or head office staff;
- » **45,000 (10%)** had jobs with airport operators in, for example, airport management, maintenance, and security;
- » **112,000 (25%)** worked on-site at airports in, for example, retail outlets, restaurants, and hotels;
- » **17,000 (4%)** were employed in the manufacture of civil aircraft (including systems, components, airframes, and engines); and
- » **13,000 (3%)** 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 Africa. In 2018, the operations of these businesses directly generated a \$9 billion contribution to GDP, about the equivalent to the entire GDP of Rwanda.

The aviation sector's spending with suppliers is estimated to have supported a further 500,000 jobs and a \$5.5 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 333,000 more jobs and a \$4 billion gross value-added contribution to GDP.

The aviation sector also facilitates a substantial amount of tourism in Africa. 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 2018, spending by foreign visitors who flew to African countries supported an estimated 6.5 million jobs and a \$44 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 7.7 million jobs and a \$63 billion contribution to GDP in Africa in 2018.

Air travel in Africa is expected to continue to grow at about 3.4% per year over the next two decades²⁰⁵. 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 2038 the impact of air transport and the tourism it facilitates in Africa will have grown to support 13.3 million jobs (72% more than in 2018) and a \$144 billion contribution to GDP (a 129% increase).



1,252,228
flights¹⁹⁸

115
million passengers¹⁹⁷

198
airlines²⁰⁰

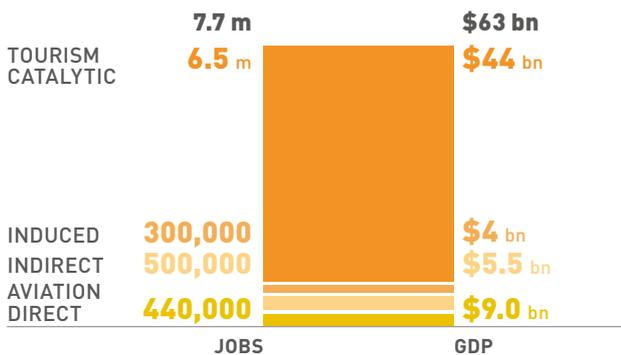
1
million tonnes of cargo²⁰¹

352
commercial airports¹⁹⁹

36
air navigation service providers²⁰²

73%
average regional load factor²⁰³

Total jobs and GDP generated by air transport in Africa, 2018.



Direct jobs generated by air transport in Africa.

