

LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES²¹⁸

Air transport supported nearly 5.2 million jobs and \$19.5 billion in economic activity across LDCs. That is 1.8% of all employment and 1.8% of all GDP in LDCs in 2018.

Every person directly employed in the aviation sector and in tourism made possible by aviation supported another 24.1 jobs elsewhere in LDCs. Similarly, \$5.90 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 LDCs directly employed an estimated 209,400 people in 2018 in the following sub-sectors:

- » **Airlines: 164,000** (78% of the total)
- » **Airport operators: 13,000** (6%)
- » **Other on-airport: 29,000** (14%)
- » **Air navigation service providers: 3,300** (2%)

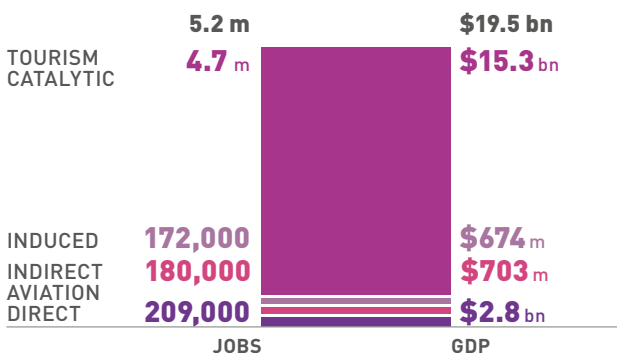
Airlines, airport operators, retailers and other on-site businesses at airports and air navigation service providers and civil aircraft manufacturers also contribute to GDP in LDCs. In 2018, the operations of these businesses directly generated a \$2.8 billion contribution to GDP.

The aviation sector's spending with suppliers is estimated to have supported a further 180,000 jobs and a \$703 million 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 172,000 more jobs and a \$674 million gross value-added contribution to GDP, equivalent to the entire GDP of Central African Republic.

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 5.2 million jobs and a \$19.5 billion contribution to GDP in LDCs in 2018.

Air travel in LDCs is expected to continue to grow at about 3.8% 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 2038 the impact of air transport and the tourism it facilitates in LDCs will have grown to support 8.6 million jobs (63% more than in 2018) and a \$52 billion contribution to GDP (a 165% increase).

Total jobs and GDP generated by air transport in the LDCs.



- 56** million passengers
- 1.2%** share of global passenger traffic
- 120** airlines
- 283** airports
- 658** aircraft in service