

Air transport supports 490,000 jobs, contributes \$12bn to GDP

New data shows that the air transport sector in South Africa supporting some 490,000 jobs including tourism-related employment and contributing \$12 billion or 3.5% to the country's GDP.



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These findings are among the highlights of 'The Importance of Air Transport to South Africa' study conducted by Oxford Economics on behalf of IATA.

"The study confirms the vital role of air transport in facilitating over \$110 billion in exports, some \$140 billion in foreign direct investment and around \$9.2 billion in inbound leisure and business tourism for South Africa. With the country now in a recession it's time to re-double efforts to promote South Africa as a destination for business, trade and tourism," said Muhammad Ali Albakri, IATA's regional vice president for the Middle East and Africa.

Infrastructure, ease of travel and cost competitiveness vital:

- According to executives surveyed by the World Economic Forum for the study, South Africa's transport infrastructure quality score places the country first out of 37 African countries surveyed and 48th globally.
- South Africa ranks 19th out of 37 African countries for visa openness
- It ranks 17th out of 37 for cost competitiveness in the air transport industry, based on air ticket taxes, airport charges and VAT.

Around 390,000 aircraft land and take off from one of South Africa's main airports every year. Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport is the country's busiest in terms of passengers with over 18.5 million travellers passing through the airport in 2014.

“Affordable, safe and reliable air transport is crucial to economic growth. It promotes skills development and is a catalyst for jobs. We urge the South African government to remove any impediments, including unnecessary red-tape and policies that hinder air connectivity and the trade, investment, tourism and job opportunities it facilitates and stimulates,” added Albakri.

For more, download [‘The Importance of Air Transport to South Africa’](#).

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