

## **IATA ECONOMICS' CHART OF THE WEEK**

**5 OCTOBER 2018** 

AIR TRANSPORT MAKES A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL PROSPERITY

Aviation's global employment and GDP impact



GDP

Source: Aviation Benefits Beyond Borders

- This week marked the holding of the 10<sup>th</sup> Global Sustainable Aviation Summit as well as the release of the latest Aviation Benefits Beyond Borders report by the Air Transport Action Group. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the economic and social benefits brought about by aviation, particularly the significant contribution that the sector makes to global economic activity and employment.
- Altogether, the aviation sector is estimated to support US\$2.7 trillion of economic activity around the world equivalent to 3.6% of global GDP. Around one-quarter of this (US\$704 billion) is activity generated directly by the air transport industry, which, for context, puts the sector ahead of the direct contribution made by the automotive and pharmaceutical manufacturing industries. The remainder reflects the wider activity supported by the industry, including the indirect impact through aviation's varied supply chain, as well as the huge contribution that aviation makes to the tourism sector. (Note that 57% of international tourists travel by air.)
- Similarly, the air transport sector directly employs 10.2 million people worldwide, but its wider impact on global employment rises to 65.5 million once the indirect and induced impacts through the supply chain, and the 36.7 million jobs supported in the tourism sector, are factored in.
- It is important to note that the figures presented above are based on the standard approach of measuring the economic impact of different sectors and industries. However, in the case of aviation, this approach does not capture all the wider benefits that air travel makes possible. Indeed, the estimation of catalytic benefits does not capture the importance of aviation to economic flows other than tourism, such as trade in high-value goods or foreign direct investment. While these impacts are hard to measure with any degree of certainty, including them would increase the employment and global economic impact numbers shown.

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