

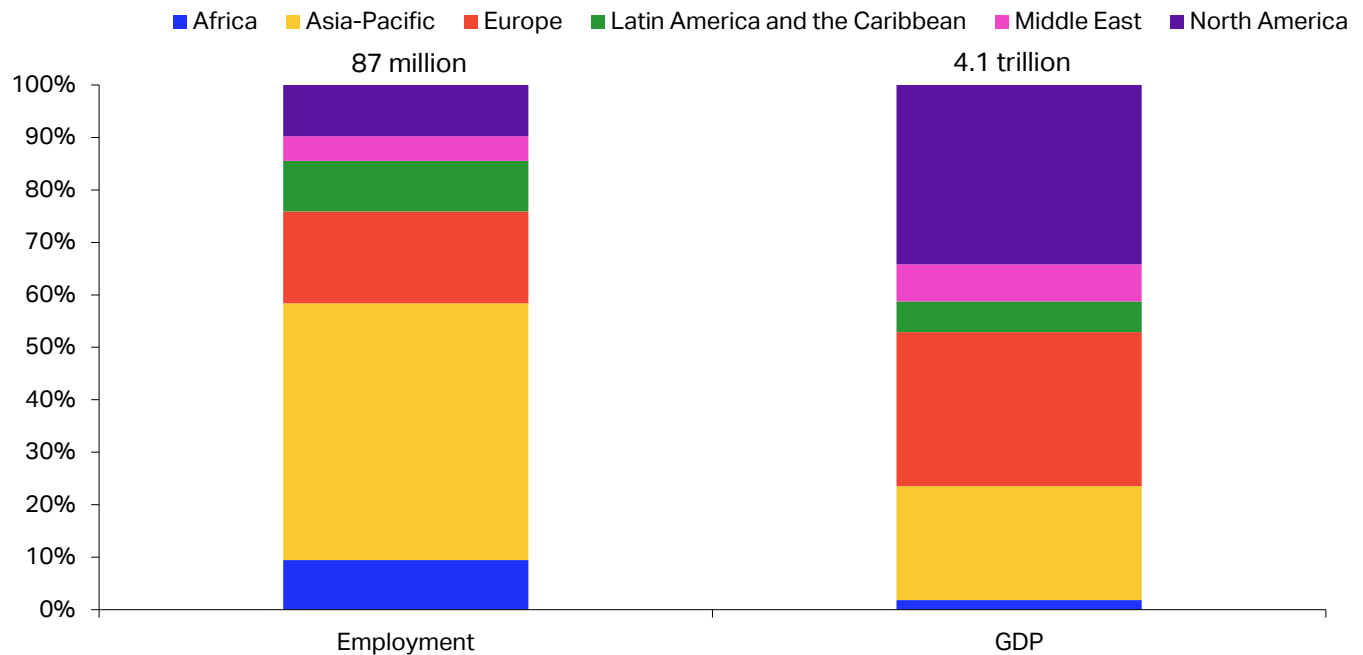


Chart of the Week

31 January 2024

The significant value of air transport to the global economy

Aviation contribution to the employment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of countries



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, Oxford Economics, 2024

- Aviation serves as the only rapid global transportation network, making it indispensable for international business and tourism. It plays a crucial role in driving economic growth and prosperity, particularly in developing countries, and is vital for the global distribution of goods, wealth, and employment. The industry generates jobs, facilitates trade, and stimulates tourism, among other benefits.
- The world's airlines collectively transported 4.4 billion passengers to airports all over the globe and carried 61.4 million tonnes of freight in 2023. To enable this activity, according to the latest ATAG [Aviation Benefits Beyond Borders report](#), the industry supported a total of 87 million jobs and added USD 4.1 trillion of economic activity, equivalent to 3.9% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP). To put that into context, if aviation were a country, it would rank 5th in size by GDP, similar to the size of Japan or India. For a more detailed perspective, we have also assessed the socio-economic impact of aviation in [82 individual countries](#) around the globe.
- At a regional level, North America is the leading contributor to GDP from aviation, with an estimated gross value-add (GVA) of USD 1.4 trillion (34% of the global total). Europe follows with a USD 1.2 trillion contribution (29%), and Asia-Pacific ranks third with approximately USD 890 billion (22%). On the other hand, the Asia-Pacific region leads in employment supported by aviation, with approximately 42 million jobs (49% of the global total). Europe follows with nearly 15 million jobs (17%), and Latin America and the Caribbean with around 8.3 million jobs (10%). These figures underscore the robust performance and resilience of the aviation industry across regions, despite some not yet recovering to their pre-covid levels in 2023.
- Aviation plays a critical role in the global economy, fostering social and economic growth worldwide. As we strive to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, it is essential to facilitate this transition while recognizing and preserving the significant value that aviation contributes.

Terms and Conditions for the use of this IATA Economics Report and its contents can be found [here](#):
By using this IATA Economics Report and its contents in any manner, you agree that the IATA Economics Report Terms and Conditions apply to you and agree to abide by them. If you do not accept these Terms and Conditions, do not use this report.

IATA Sustainability & Economics

economics@iata.org