



ICAO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Voluntary Air Transport Fund

Air Transport Satellite Account (ATSA)

Overview

The aviation sector generates multiples economic benefits, both through direct employment and via indirect demand for related jobs, education, and community services. As aviation continues its rapid expansion, it will remain a crucial driver of the world economy. Some of its major influences in diverse areas of the economy include:

- triggering the development of technology-intensive manufacturing and telecommunications
- serving as a central link in the value chain of tourism and trade; and
- catalysing infrastructure development, especially in island, landlocked, or developing states.

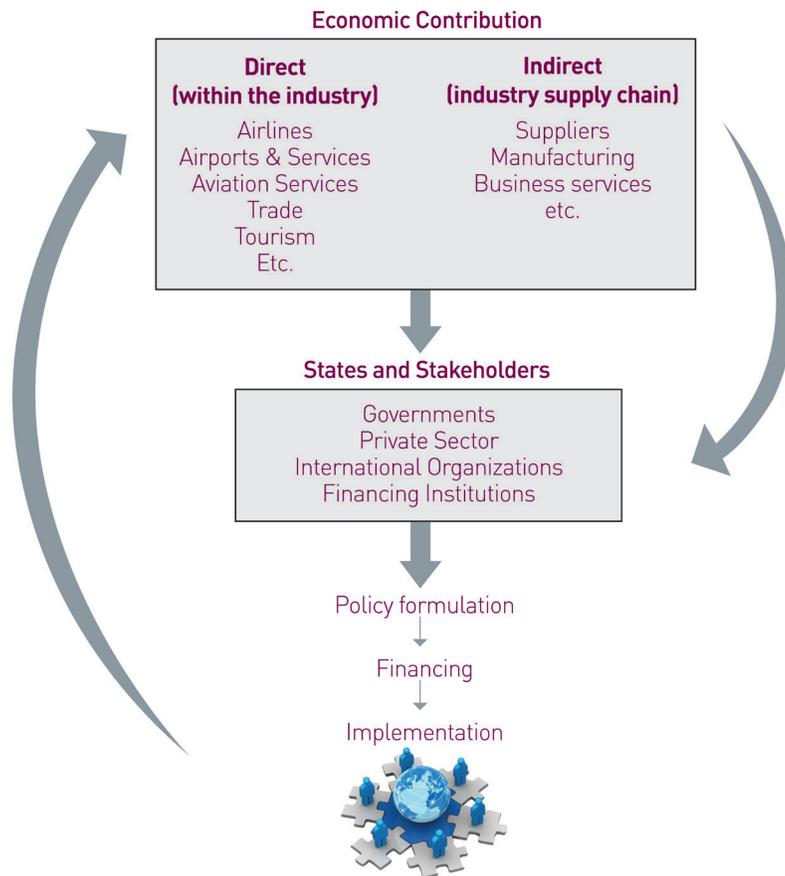
The integration of aviation into the global economy can be seen in the attention many policymakers and forecasters pay to air cargo traffic, which is widely considered to be an indicator of the near-future economic performance of a State. Similarly, aviation infrastructure is a useful proxy measure for a State's economic competitiveness: since demand for air transport services is principally driven by economic growth, the higher the growth, the greater the need for airports, air navigation systems, and related infrastructure. Subsequently, the development of the aviation sector has multiple positive externalities for tourism and trade, as well as consumer spending.

Project purpose and description

A study of civil aviation's economic contributions will provide States with a complete understanding of the direct, indirect and catalytic benefits of the air transport sector in their economies. These insights will assist States in formulating appropriate policies to improve connectivity and solicit funding for infrastructure investments that can unlock the full economic potential of aviation. As a United Nations specialized agency for civil aviation, ICAO is committed to generating impartial, highly accurate economic indicators on behalf of all States, as well as aviation stakeholders. This project would create an "Air Transport Satellite Account," or a comprehensive description of all economic effects attributable to the aviation sector, with an emphasis on creating awareness of the industry's considerable complexity and breadth.

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Air Transport Satellite Account (ATSA)



ICAO seeks to create a standardized, harmonized methodology of air transport through a collaborative partnership with the UN Statistics Commission. This Air Transport Satellite Account (ATSA), following the model established in 2008 by the UNWTO Tourism Satellite Account, will calculate the value aviation adds to global, regional, and national gross domestic product. Throughout the ATSA, all values will be calculated in a transparent manner that allows for convenient comparisons to multiple indices across regions and years.

States, stakeholders, academic researchers, policymakers, and executives will find the ATSA a valuable resource for evaluating decisions and allocating resources in an accurate fashion. The methodology will also allow for improved policy compliance, financial planning, and infrastructure development involving public and private funds alike.

Budget and support requested

To develop the ATSA, ICAO will require continued financial support from States, international organizations, and private entities, particularly for those additions essential to maintaining long-term accuracy and relevance.



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For more information on ICAO's Voluntary Air Transport Fund please visit:
www.icao.int/sustainability/Pages/TRAF.aspx

Or contact us via:
ecd@icao.int