



# ANNUAL WORLD AIRPORT TRAFFIC REPORT

REVIEW OF 2024 OPERATING YEAR AND AIRPORT TRAFFIC TRENDS IN THE WORLD'S MAJOR AVIATION MARKETS

2025 EDITION



# Foreword



Dear Members and Readers,

We are proud to present the 2025 edition of the **World Airport Traffic Report (WATR)**—providing the most extensive overview of the global airport industry. Drawing on data from more than **2,800 airports** across **over 185 countries and territories**—our largest pool yet—this report provides the clearest picture available of where our industry stands and where it is headed.

**2024** marked a decisive milestone. Global passenger traffic rose to **9.4 billion**, surpassing pre-pandemic levels for the first time. **Air cargo** likewise reached a historic high of **126.5 million tonnes in 2024**, reflecting the sector’s adaptability in sustaining supply chains amid shifting trade and logistics dynamics.

By **mid-2025**, overall passenger volumes had **reached nearly 105% of 2019** levels—driven by robust international travel. Growth, however, has been uneven, reflecting a mix of structural strengths, policy challenges, and evolving travel patterns.

Against this uneven backdrop, the WATR looks beyond headline volumes to explain why performance diverges. **It maps the structural shifts reshaping aviation and turns them into guidance for decision-makers**, including planning capacity, investing in people and technology, and building a more sustainable system.

Accordingly, this flagship report covers the **2024 operating year** and the **first half of 2025**, and includes full **rankings and analyses** for **passenger, cargo, and aircraft movements**.

**Built on the commitment of our members and partners**, this report owes special thanks to the airports that contributed data—their participation strengthens the evidence base the industry relies on.

We invite leaders across the ecosystem to use these insights to navigate uncertainty with confidence and to shape a future that is safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally sustainable.

Sincerely,



**Justin Erbacci**  
ACI World Director General

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# 2024 Highlights

from 2,805 airports located in 187 countries and territories

## Passenger traffic

**9.4 billion**

total passengers

**+8.4%**

total passenger growth rate  
(vs 2023)

**68%**

airports recorded growth in total  
passenger traffic



# 2024 Highlights

from 2,805 airports located in 187 countries and territories

## Aircraft movements

**100.6 million**

takeoffs and landings

**+3.9%**

total aircraft movement growth rate  
(vs 2023)



# 2024 Highlights

from 2,805 airports located in 187 countries and territories

## Air cargo volumes

# 126.5 million tonnes

total cargo volume handled by airports

# +9.9%

total cargo volume change  
(vs 2023)

The Middle East (+17%) and Asia-Pacific (+15.3%) recorded the largest increases in cargo volumes, followed by Europe (+9.7%), Latin America and the Caribbean (+6.9%), Africa (+6.5%), and North America (+2.8%).





# 1. Global analysis

## 1.1 Regional dynamics of global economic recovery: Steady progress with large variations

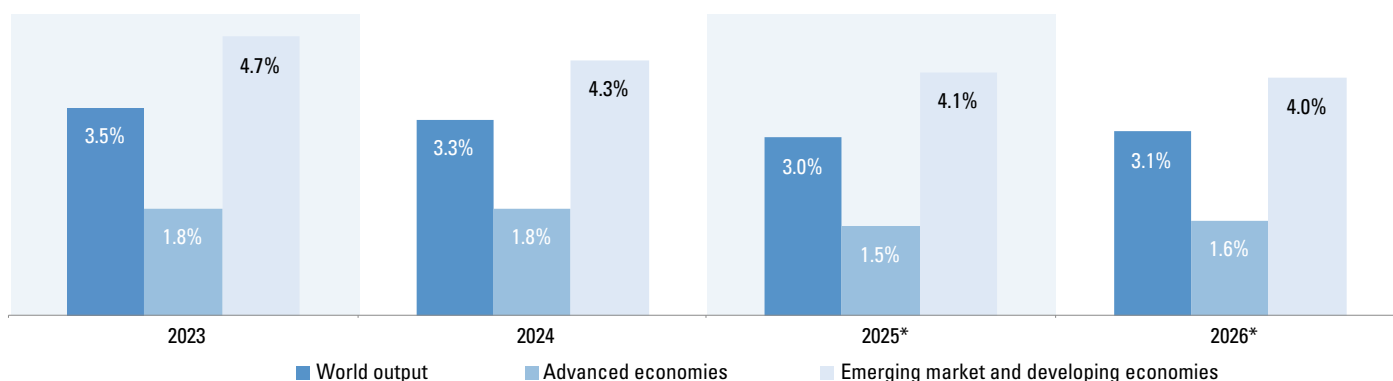
At the end of 2024, the global economy was a complex mix of stabilization and emerging challenges. China experienced a strong recovery in 2024, achieving a real GDP growth rate of 5.0%, reflecting the effects of sustained external demand and policy-driven support. However, this headline growth masked underlying fragilities, such as persistent weakness in domestic consumption, low consumer confidence, and ongoing strains in the property sector. At the global level, supply chain bottlenecks continued to ease, and volatility in energy and food markets related to the war in Ukraine gradually diminished. Nonetheless, the trade landscape shifted notably, with rising tariffs and heightened policy uncertainty reshaping global production and consumption patterns.<sup>1</sup>

The broad-based monetary policy tightening undertaken in recent years by most major central banks succeeded in reducing inflation, which had surged to multi-decade highs in 2022. By 2024, global headline inflation had declined significantly, approaching central bank targets in many advanced economies. Contrary to early fears of stagflation or a synchronized global recession, economic activity remained resilient through 2022–2024. This outcome was bolstered by strong labor markets, higher-than-expected consumer spending, and continued fiscal support in many countries, particularly in infrastructure and social protection.<sup>2</sup>

The resilience of economic activity despite high interest rates was due in part to pandemic-era savings that remained available to households in advanced economies, allowing them to maintain consumption even as borrowing costs rose. In addition, the structural characteristics of housing market and mortgage financing arrangements, shaped by years of low interest rates, helped mitigate the immediate impact of policy tightening. By early 2025, with inflation expectations broadly anchored, many central banks began to pivot toward easing, though fiscal policy was expected to tighten to address high public debt levels. This tightening, largely through reduced spending and increased taxation, was anticipated to temper growth in the near term.

According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates, global real GDP grew 3.3% in 2024 and is projected to decelerate to 3.0% in 2025. This deceleration reflects a convergence of factors, including trade policy shocks, weaker external demand, and increased uncertainty. Importantly, this headline figure conceals a stark divergence between advanced economies and emerging and developing economies. In 2025, advanced economies are projected to grow just 1.5% while emerging and developing economies are expected to grow 4.1%. This follows a similar pattern to 2024, when advanced economies grew 1.8% and emerging markets 4.3%.

**Chart 1: Global economic growth (year-over-year % change in GDP, 2023–2026)**



<sup>1</sup> IMF, World Economic Outlook; A Critical Juncture amid Policy Shifts; April 2025

<sup>2</sup> IMF, World Economic Outlook; Global Economy: Tenuous Resilience amid Persistent Uncertainty, July 2025