

CHAPTER

03

Socio- Economic Contribution

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Socio-Economic Contribution

Key Facts

\$5.6b

Gross Value
Added to
Queensland's
economy in
2025-26

\$11.5b

in Gross Value
Add anticipated
to contribute
towards
Queensland's
economy in
2045-46

\$780

in Queensland
economic activity
is generated
for every
Brisbane Airport
passenger

25,000

direct jobs in
2025-26

50,500

direct jobs at
Brisbane Airport
by 2045-46

5.2m

passengers
to and from
Brisbane
Airport with
Queensland's
regional centres
in 2023-24

Brisbane Airport's role in enabling trade, tourism,
international education, resources and business
sectors was assessed in 2023-24 to directly enable



\$12.0b

in economic activity

Source: The Economic Contribution of Brisbane Airport, Queensland Economic Advocacy Solutions, 2024.

Brisbane Airport plays a crucial role in supporting the economic development at a national, state and local level.

\$536m

contributed indirectly to the
Australian economy
in 2025-26

One of the key strengths of Brisbane Airport is its role in enabling economic growth and the communities it supports. The enabling role Brisbane Airport is realised in several ways:

- Connecting people, families and communities to the rest of Australia and the world
- Facilitating access by those communities in rural and remote areas to essential and emergency services
- Enabling businesses across Queensland to connect their goods and services to their customers, and
- Sourcing from Queensland and Australian businesses as part of Brisbane Airport's extensive supply chain.

The Master Plan assesses the airport's economic impact using input-output modelling to evaluate both current and future contributions.



Socio-Economic Contribution

Economic Hub

Brisbane Airport's significance as an economic and employment hub is evidenced through the operation of 600 businesses at the airport today who collectively:

- *Directly* contribute to the Brisbane and SEQ region through economic activity and employment opportunities
- *Indirectly* contribute through their supply chain and the expenditure of employee wages, economic activity and employment opportunities, and
- *Enable* trade, tourism, international education, resources and business sectors through the frequency of air transportation services and large choice of flights and destinations.

Brisbane Airport fulfils a core role in Brisbane, South-East Queensland and the State of Queensland's economy by the operation of an airport facility, including the runway, terminals and critical aviation safety and security. In addition to its aviation focus, BAC also plans and develops commercial, mixed use and industrial precincts at Brisbane Airport. These precincts also directly contribute to the economy, both in terms of value and jobs creation. It's the continued development of these non aviation precincts which will support the continued long-term growth of businesses choosing to operate at Brisbane Airport.

In addition to these core activities, Brisbane Airport supports a much larger range of activity through other businesses operating within the airport precinct. These activities include all those not operated by Brisbane Airport Corporation directly such as airline and charter operations, retail and tourism services, maintenance facilities, landside transport as well as logistics and catering.

In 2025-26 Brisbane Airport contributed \$5.6 billion in Gross Value Added to Queensland's economy. This includes \$3.6 billion direct Gross Value Added,

with the largest contribution through the airlines, aviation – freight (and other) and aircraft maintenance as well as \$2 billion indirect Gross Value Added through Brisbane Airport's substantial supply chain and expenditure of employee wages.

Brisbane Airport contributes an additional \$536 million indirectly to the rest of the Australian economy.

Employment

There are more than 600 businesses operating across the Brisbane Airport precinct, employing 25,000 people directly and another 18,000 indirectly in the Queensland economy in 2025-26.

This represents the largest employment clustering in Queensland outside of Brisbane's Central Business District. A breakdown of the direct employment by sector is shown in Figure 3.1, with more than 5,000 in airline operations and more than 2,800 in aircraft maintenance.

In 2025-26, indirectly across the rest of Australia, Brisbane Airport has an employment contribution of an additional 5,000 people.

Tourism

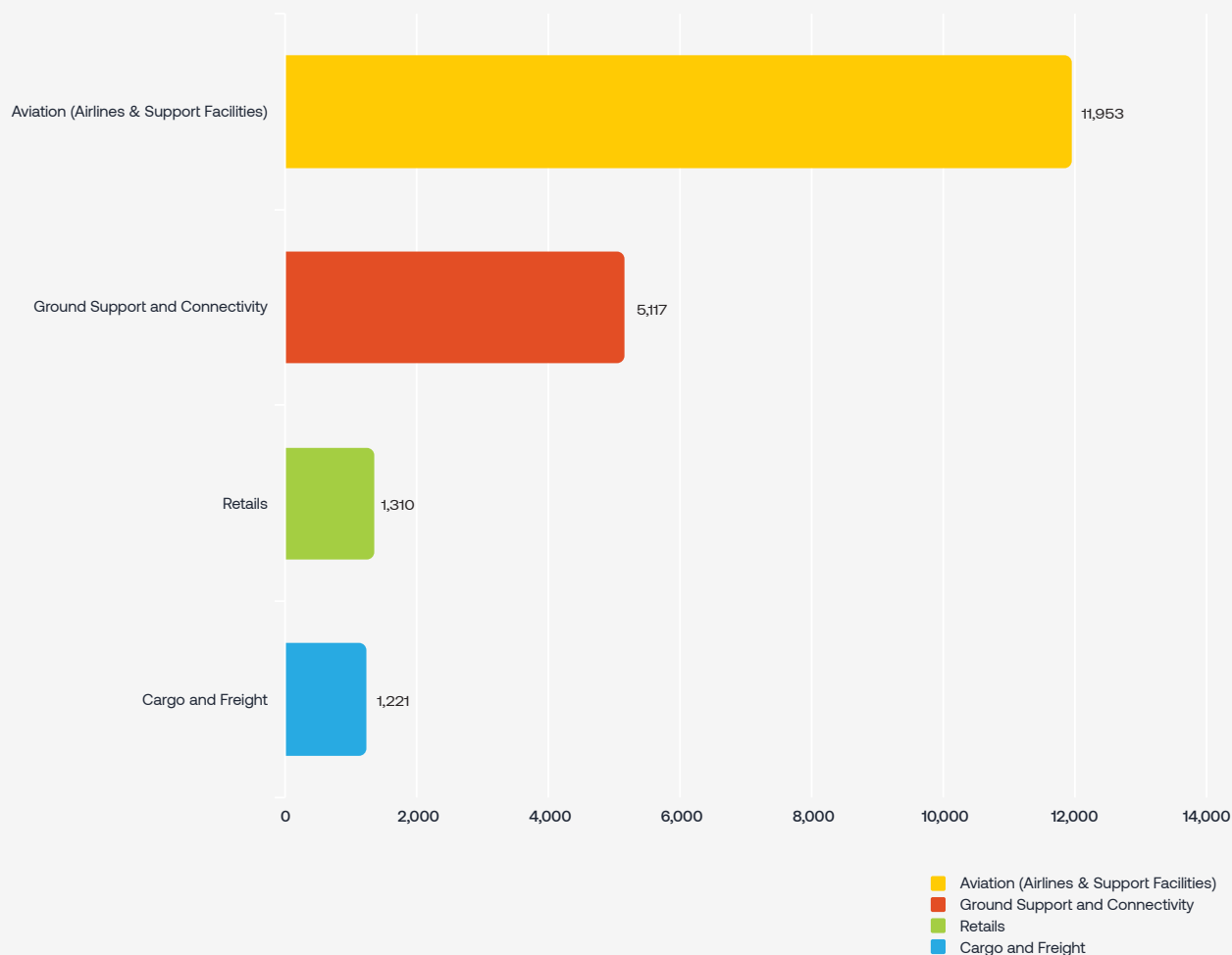
Tourism plays a significant role in Queensland and its regional communities. The tourism industry is a major employer and key driver of economic growth. Brisbane is a key entry point for visitors to Queensland and Australia. Brisbane is a gateway to Queensland, particularly for international visitors and as a hub airport for flights connecting regional Queensland.

Unlike many other industries that tend to be concentrated in certain geographic areas, the benefits of tourism are widespread across Queensland. This makes Brisbane Airport a central component of regional Queensland's interactions with the rest of Australia and the world.

Brisbane Airport plays an important facilitation role for major conferences and sporting events in Queensland. In total, Brisbane Airport is helping facilitate the Queensland tourism sector enabling a total economic contribution of tourism to Queensland estimated at \$34.1 billion in 2023-24 and the creation of 260,000 jobs.



FIGURE 3.1: BRISBANE AIRPORT DIRECT EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR (PERSONS)



Freight

Air freight is an important part of the Queensland transportation supply chain for time-critical or perishable goods such as medical supplies, live seafood and fresh produce. Although air freight makes up a small portion of exports by weight, it plays an important role in export value. Air freight supports jobs in exporting businesses, their suppliers and the transport industry.

Many Queensland businesses rely on the role Brisbane Airport plays in the Australian freight network and its connections to global markets.

In 2023-24 this equated to 76,000 tonnes of exports and 53,000 tonnes of imports.

International Education

International education is one of Queensland's largest service exports. In 2022, 1 in 23 international visitors to Queensland were education visitors and international students represent 3.7 per cent of total passengers, with 107,126 international student enrolments in 2022.

Accordingly, Brisbane Airport is helping facilitate international students studying in Queensland estimated to be contributing \$3.2 billion toward the Queensland economy and creating more than 16,000 jobs.

Industry

Connectivity is one of the main influencers for regional Queensland employers being able to attract the right skills and employees. Queensland industries use Brisbane Airport to move their people to where they need them. The resources sector is a key driver of economic growth in Queensland.

For example, Fly-In, Fly-Out charters have supported new resource developments across South East Queensland, with a significant portion of the mining workforce using Brisbane Airport as their means of accessing their work site. In 2023-24, Brisbane Airport facilitated more than 500,000 workers to and from the key mining region airports.

Socio-Economic Contribution

Looking to the Future

Population growth is set to continue, driven by economic opportunities, and an enviable lifestyle. The Queensland Government's population forecast (2023) predicts Queensland's population will grow by more than 30 per cent. It is anticipated that the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will also supercharge the South East Queensland and Queensland economy over the next decade.

Queensland's population growth, combined with continued growth in employment and tourism means air travel and freight demand for Brisbane Airport will grow as well. Brisbane Airport is forecast to contribute approximately \$7.8 billion worth of capital projects by 2046.

The economic analysis presented in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 follows a staged approach that begins with firmographic assessments, followed by input-output modeling.

The firmographic assessment characterises the types of businesses located at Brisbane Airport and identifies various employment indicators, including:

- Number of employees and approximate salaries
- Types of industry
- Range of professions
- Number of apprentices.

Input-output modeling then examines the relationships between different industries identified in the firmographic analysis.

It quantifies how the outputs of one industry serve as inputs for another. This modeling incorporates several indicators to evaluate the economic contribution of Brisbane Airport. These include:

- Passenger forecasts
- Capital investment plans
- Operating expenditures
- Existing asset values
- Number of businesses
- Employment characteristics
- Tax contributions.

By 2045-46, Brisbane Airport is expected to contribute more than \$11.5 billion in Gross Value Added to Queensland's economy, with an additional \$1 billion to the rest of Australia.

Employment

In line with a strong economic outlook for the region, the direct employment contribution of Brisbane Airport is forecast to reach 50,500 people by 2045-46, with the indirect employment contribution anticipated to reach 47,000 people by 2045-46 – an overall increase of 49,500 people from 2025-26.

Table 3.2 sets out the employment forecast as a result of the growth outlined in this Master Plan.

TABLE 3.1: FORECASTED ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION (\$ BILLIONS)

	2025-26	2031-32	2045-46
DIRECT QLD	\$3.6	\$4.9	\$7.3
INDIRECT QLD	\$2.0	\$2.8	\$4.2
INDIRECT REST OF AUSTRALIA	\$0.5	\$0.7	\$1.0
TOTAL	\$6.1	\$8.4	\$12.5

TABLE 3.2: TOTAL EMPLOYMENT CONTRIBUTION (PERSONS)

	2025-26	2031-32	2045-46
DIRECT BRISBANE AIRPORT	25,000	33,500	50,500
INDIRECT QLD	18,000	24,500	37,000
INDIRECT REST OF AUSTRALIA	5,000	6,500	10,000
TOTAL	48,000	64,500	97,500

Tourism, Freight, International Education and Industry

As a consequence of Brisbane Airport's role in enabling trade, tourism, international education, resources and business sectors, it is estimated that the annual enabled economic activity will rise to \$27.7 billion by 2045-46, an increase of \$14 billion from 2025-26.

Additionally, the enabled employment is anticipated to rise to 319,000 persons by 2045-46, an increase of 162,000 persons.

Social Contribution

The jobs and transport connectivity supplied by Brisbane Airport are in themselves major social contributors to the surrounding communities of Brisbane and Queensland.

Brisbane Airport connects people and families, it plays a pivotal role in the Australian freight network and the supply of time sensitive goods needed in communities. It's each of these services that add to the social contribution of Brisbane Airport.

Most Queensland airports rely on the availability of services to and from Brisbane Airport for domestic air travel. For many regional Queensland airports, all of their passenger flights are to and from Brisbane Airport. In these instances, without Brisbane Airport, that regional airport and the communities it

supports, would not have air connectivity to the rest of Queensland or Australia. In 2023-24, Brisbane Airport facilitated the travel of more than 5.2 million passengers to and from regional Queensland, with an average of 1,200 weekly flights.

Aeromedical Services

Brisbane Airport plays a crucial role facilitating medical flights for rural and remote Queenslanders to major hospitals and life-saving medical care in Brisbane. The Royal Flying Doctor Service and Lifeflight operate at Brisbane Airport and bring medical services to the most remote areas in Queensland providing primary healthcare and emergency services to regional Queensland.

Reinforcing Brisbane Airport's aeromedical role is a new facility which is set to commence operations in 2026.

This facility will incorporate patient transfer facilities, state-of-the-art hangars for fixed and rotary wing aircraft, administration areas, and a medical base for regional patient and donor transfers. Once operational, this facility will expand the capability Brisbane Airport has to facilitate medical transfers across Queensland.

An estimated
9,000
patients were transported
through Brisbane Airport for
emergency and non-emergency
health services in 2023-24

