BOEING: AFRICA'S AIRPLANE FLEET WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE BY 2045 TO MEET RISING AIR TRAVEL DEMAND

News / Manufacturer

Africa's rapidly expanding urban youth population, rising middle class and accelerating infrastructure development are set to propel passenger traffic growth of nearly 6% per year through 2045, one of the strongest trajectories worldwide, Boeing said. According to Boeing's 2026 Commercial Market Outlook (CMO) for Africa, the region's commercial fleet is expected to more than double over the next two decades — from 755 aircraft today to 1,625 — to meet this surging demand.

Fleet expansion

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Of the nearly 1,200 newly delivered airplanes expected by 2045, 870 will be single?aisle jets to support expanding domestic and regional networks. Demand for widebody airplanes will more than double, supporting fleet modernization and long?haul network growth. Boeing also forecasts that the cargo fleet will grow from 60 to 150 freighters as the continent's logistics, e?commerce and high?value export markets develop.

Passenger traffic growth

Intra?African passenger traffic is expected to grow at a faster pace than the regional average, enabled by better flight connections. Europe remains the largest international passenger market for flights to and from Africa and is forecast to remain so through 2045. This is driven by expanding economic ties, enduring cultural and family connections, and rising tourism investment.

Shahab Matin, Boeing managing director of Commercial Marketing commented: "Africa's aviation market is entering a period of sustained growth driven by improving connectivity, expanding intraregional travel and deeper economic ties across the continent and with key global markets. Meeting this demand will require a broader commitment to fleet modernization, expanded capacity, digital solutions and workforce development. The opportunity extends well beyond airplanes. It will require investment in affordable access, and the people who will support a larger fleet."

Commercial services and workforce needs

The expansion of Africa's aviation ecosystem will create growing demand for services and skilled personnel through 2045. Boeing's Commercial Services Market Outlook forecasts a $140 billion market for maintenance, repair, overhaul and modifications (MRO), digital solutions.

Boeing's Pilot and Technician Outlook forecasts that as airlines grow their fleets and expand route networks, they will need 75,000 new aviation professionals: 22,000 pilots, 25,000 technicians and 28,000 cabin crew.

New deliveries (2026-2045)

Airplane type	**Deliveries**
Regional jet	40
Single-aisle	870
Widebody	240
Freighter	15
Total	1,165

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