

16. Transport Services - Air Transport

Ethiopian Air Lines was founded on 21 December 1945 and commenced operations on 8 April 1946, expanding to international flights in 1951. The firm was, and remains, wholly owned by the Government of Ethiopia but operates as a private company, with its own Board of Directors, and Government does not get involved in the management of the company. It became a share company in 1965 and changed its name from Ethiopian Air Lines to Ethiopian Airlines. The airline has been a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) since 1959 and of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) since 1968. Ethiopian Airlines is a Star Alliance member, having joined in December 2011.

Ethiopian Airlines is headquartered at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, from where it serves a network of 127 passenger destinations, 23 of them domestic and 44 freighter destinations.

Ethiopian Airlines was organised into an aviation holding group in July 2017 consisting of:

- Ethiopian Airports Enterprise (EAE);
- Passenger Airline Company;
- Cargo Airline and Logistics Company;
- Ethiopian Aviation Academy;
- Ethiopian In-flight Catering Services;
- Ethiopian Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Services - the largest such operation in Africa and the Med-Eastern region and fully accredited by FAA and EASA; . and
- Ethiopian Hotel and Tourism Services.

Ethiopian Airlines is Africa's largest airline in terms of passengers carried, destinations served, fleet size, and revenue. Ethiopian is also the world's 4th largest airline by the number of countries served³⁵. From its main hub, Bole international Airport, Ethiopian Airlines provide daily passenger flight services to destinations in Ethiopia and throughout the African continent, as well as offering nonstop service to Asia, Europe, and North and South America. In 2020, Ethiopian Airlines carried 11.02 million international passengers and this traffic expected to grow to over 52 million international passengers by 2030. A total of 2.16 million domestic passengers were carried in 2020 and this is expected to grow to over 12 million by 2030.

Ethiopian Airlines carried 0.47 million tons of cargo in 2020 and this is expected to increase to 1.5 million tons³⁶.

Ethiopian Airlines has 177 aircraft, of which 129 are passenger aircraft, 12 are cargo freighters and 36 are training aircraft.

The Ethiopian Cargo Terminals are as follows:

- Ethiopian Cargo Terminal I (ETCT-I) – Capacity of 300,000 ton/year.
- Ethiopian Cargo Terminal II (ETCT-II) - Design Capacity of 600,000 ton/year – 36,900 m².
- Perishable Cargo - 336,000 ton/year – 16,500m² -56% handling 276,000 tons (82%) import cargo per year; 17,000 tons (5%) of transit cargo per year and 43,000 tons (13%) of export cargo per year.

³⁵ Ethiopian factsheet, December 2017

³⁶ ["Ethiopian Airline Group's restructuring to enhance customer experience"](#). 24 July 2017.

Ethiopian Cold Storage facilities include:

- A floor area of 12,789.5m² and a room volume of 99,502.25m³ of warehousing with controlled temperatures of 2-8°C.
- A floor area of 1,939m² and a room volume of 10,868m³ of warehousing with controlled temperatures of 15-25°C.
- A floor area of 130m² and a room volume of 455m³ of deep-freezing warehousing with controlled temperatures of up to -25°C at ETCT-II
- A floor area of 112.26m² and a room volume of 449m³ of deep-freezing warehousing with controlled temperatures of up to -25°C at ETCT-I

Ethiopian Airlines handles about 264,000 tons of dry cargo annually and has warehousing space of about 20,400 m².

Additional facilities at the Cargo Terminal include a van and truck fleet, pallet movers, forklifts, stackers, generators and an administrative office equipped with air conditioned, data centre rooms and battery charging rooms.

The cargo terminals have fully Automated Guided Elevating Transfer Vehicles (ETV machines) integrated with Inventory Control System (ICS) application software in both cargo terminals having load handling capacity of 7,000 KG

In addition to the state-owned enterprise, Ethiopian Airlines, there are an additional eight air transport operators in Ethiopia:

- Abyssinia Flight Service: 18 aircraft, of which 8 are used for passenger flight service and the remaining ten are used for training purposes.
- National Airways: 3 passenger aircraft.
- Waliya Airways Flight Service: 2 passenger aircraft.
- Aquaris Aviation: 1 passenger aircraft.
- Amibara General Aviation Service: 2 aerial spraying aircraft.
- East Africa Aviation: 1 passenger aircraft.
- Trans-nation Airways Flight Service: 1 passenger aircraft.
- Zemen Flight Service: 2 aerial spraying aircraft.