SEA
Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

Air Cargo at SEA

October 30, 2025



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SEA Seattle-Tacoma International Airport


SEA
Seattle-Tacoma
International
Airport

Air Cargo Important to Trade, Aviation & Jobs

Air cargo has a unique role in global trade

- Less than 1% of reported world trade *tonnage* is carried by air cargo
- 35% of reported world trade *value* is carried by air cargo

Air cargo represents an important revenue source for airlines

- Revenue from cargo can make the difference on route profitability
- Revenue from cargo defrays passenger ticket costs

Air cargo, part of the trade and logistics supply chain, supports employment

- Industry sources estimate each 1,000 metric tons of air cargo generates 10 – 15 jobs systemwide
- For an airport equivalent to SEA that represents 4,600 - 6,900 direct jobs


cargolux
Cargolux
AIRCRAFT SERVICE INTERNATIONAL GROUP
TIMCO
8/6/2015 6:49:11 AM Cargo 2 Light Pole 03


CHINA
AIRLINES CARGO


B-2077
Northwest Cherries
美国西北樱桃
BOEING 777F


AIR CARGO
SKYTEAM
CARGO
대한항공


Prime Air
AAX 0213 AMZ
amazon


FedEx


American


QATAR

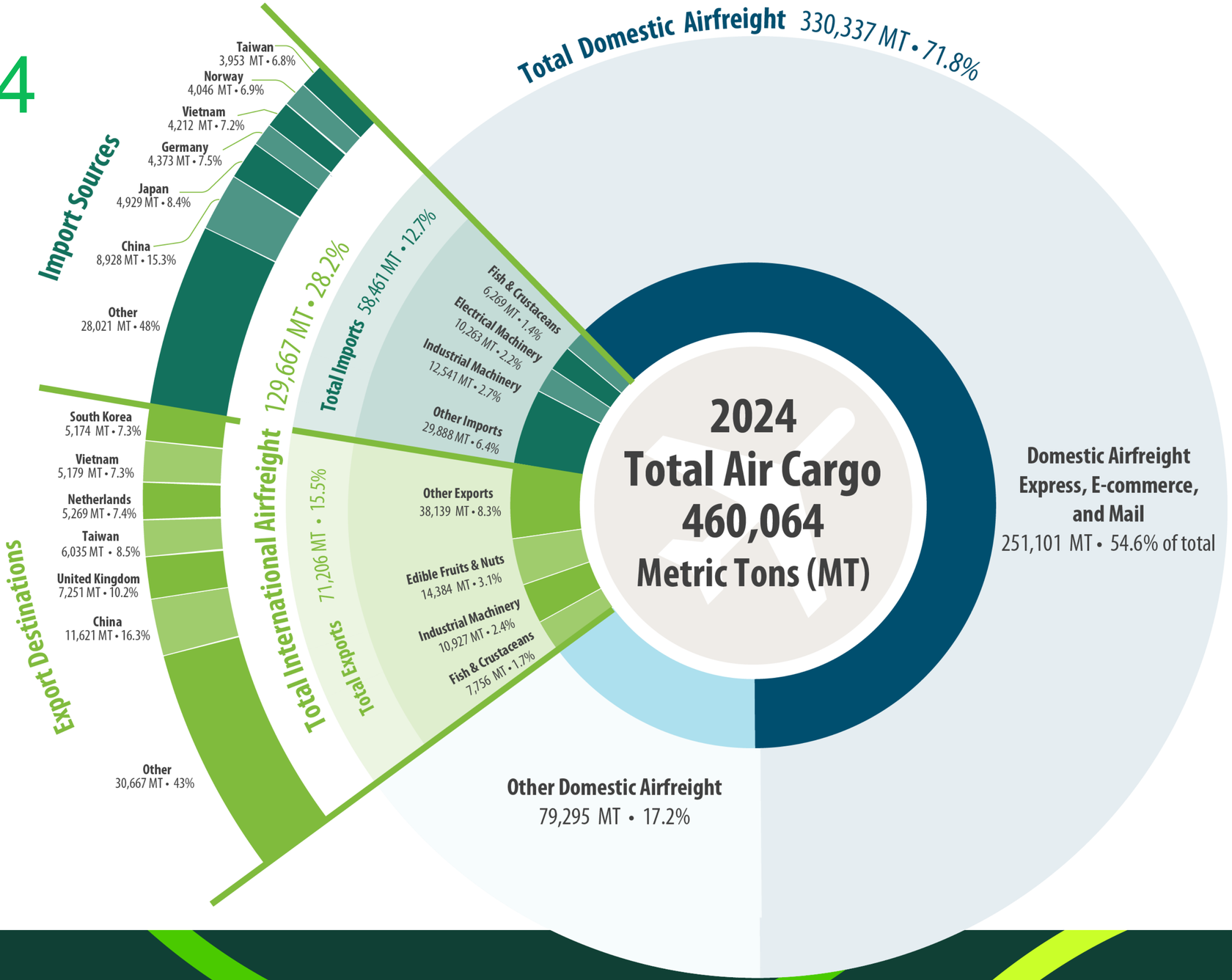

Lufthansa

Air Cargo 2024

Total Value of International Air Cargo (through SEA Airport):

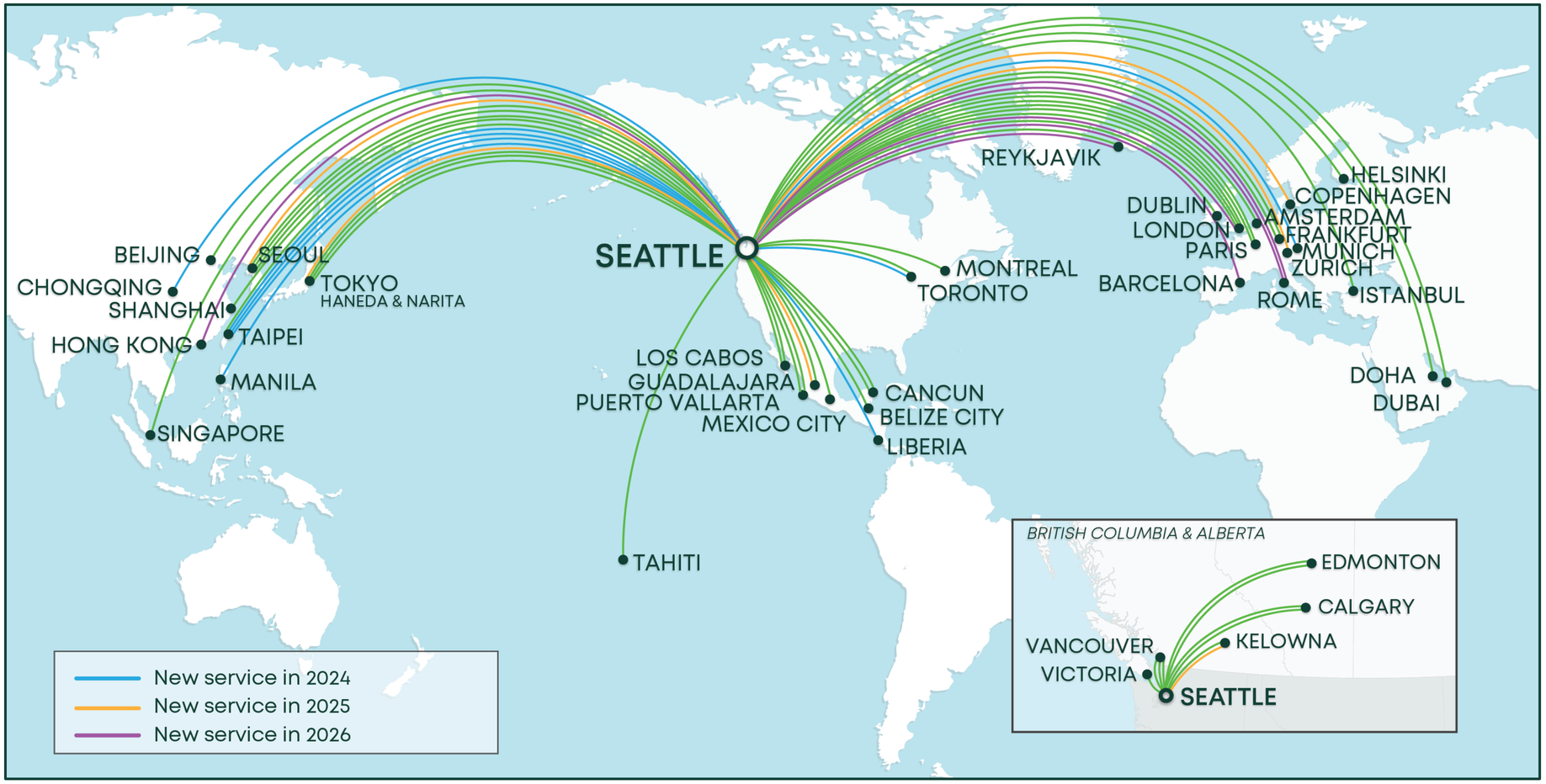
$26.3 Billion

- $15.7B Exports
- $10.6B Imports



SEA launched 6 new international services in 2025

And has already announced 6 new services so far for 2026



2025	
WESTJET	KELOWNA
Alaska	TOKYO-NARITA
SAS	COPENHAGEN
edelweiss	ZURICH
Alaska	SEOUL
LATAM	SOUTH AMERICA
2026	
Alaska	ROME
DELTA	ROME
DELTA	BARCELONA
Alaska	LONDON
Alaska	REYKJAVIK
CATHAY PACIFIC	HONG KONG

Aer Lingus ● AeroLogic ● Aeromexico ● Air Canada ● Air France ● Air Tahiti Nui* ● Alaska ● ANA Asiana ● British Airways ● Cargolux ● Cathay Pacific ● China Airlines ● Condor ● Delta ● Edelweiss Emirates ● EVA ● Finnair ● Hainan ● Icelandair ● Japan Airlines ● Korean ● LATAM ● Lufthansa Philippine Airlines ● Qatar ● SAS ● Singapore ● Starlux ● Turkish ● Virgin Atlantic ● Volaris ● WestJet

*Note: Ends January 2026

Air Cargo Statistics

Airline reported data

- Data is reported monthly by airlines in metric tons
  - Enplaned/deplaned, domestic/international trade lanes
  - Reports indicate whether freight carried by belly or freighter
- In 2024, 30% of *all cargo* flew in the bellies of passenger aircraft; 70% traveled by freighter
  - The belly ratio was historically higher (close to 40% in 2016) but reached a low of 22% in 2020
- In 2024, 65% of *international* cargo flew in the bellies of passenger aircraft; 35% traveled by freighter
  - International freighter tonnage decreased 22% in 2024, as belly tonnage surged by 24%
  - Through August 2025 the belly share now exceeds 70%
  - More than 85% of imports in 2025 through August have been carried as belly freight
- International air cargo trade flows are heavily reliant on belly capacity
  - Passenger trends dictate belly capacity, which has increased with the launch of new passenger services
  - Belly capacity at risk when passenger demand declines or services are curtailed
- Airline reported data is not very informative about WA state trade partners

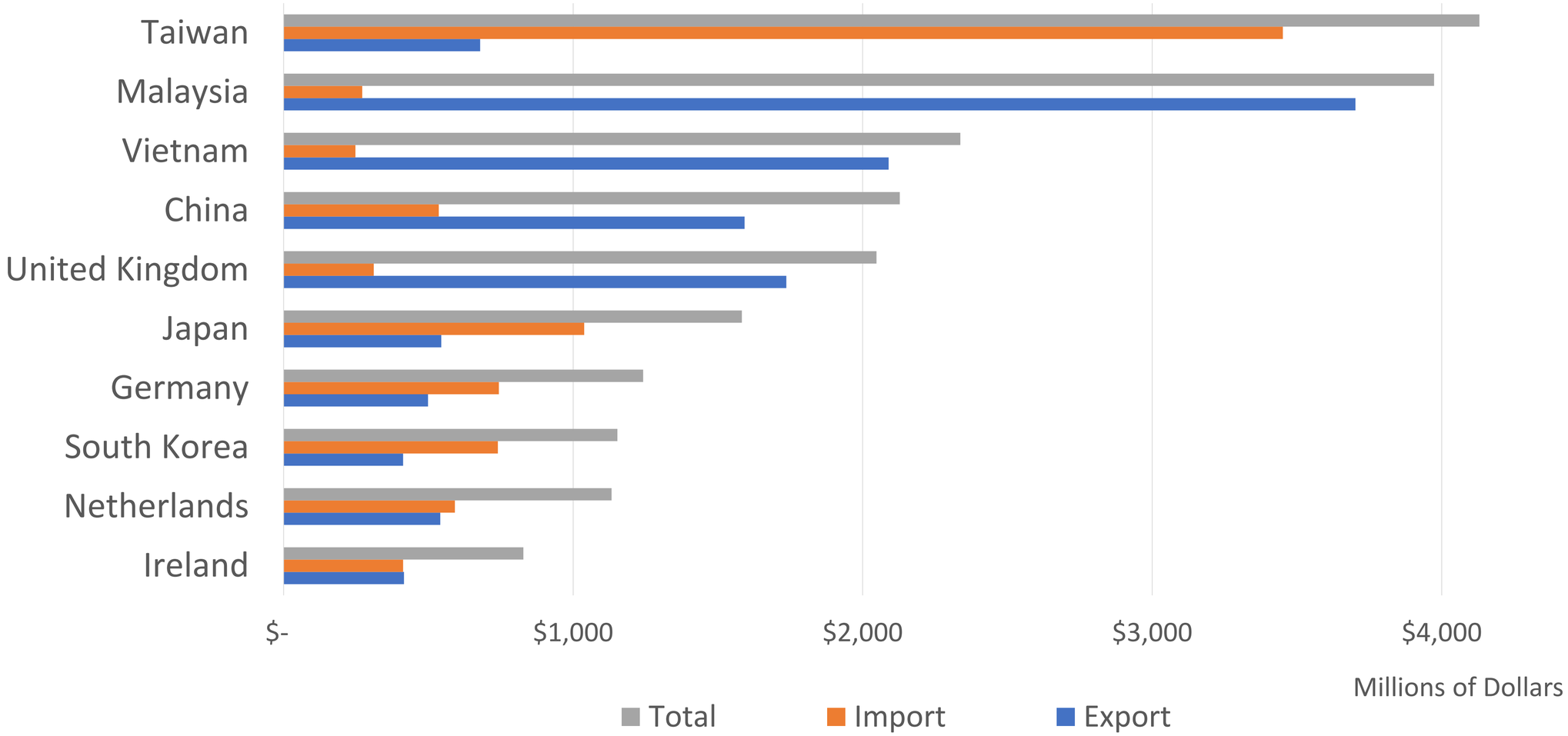
Air Cargo Statistics

Commercially available federal data

- Data is aggregated from US Customs reports – by tons or $ value
  - Can be searched by trade partner country and commodity type
- Does not indicate how cargo is flown (belly or freighter) or by which airline
  - 2024 international trade value was $26.3 billion – an increase of 44% over 2023
    - By value 40% imports (+45% over 2023) / 60% exports (+43% over 2023)
    - By weight 45% imports (+16% over 2023) / 55% exports (+10% over 2023)
- Year-to-date 2025 (through July) total trade value +18.5%
  - Imports up 61%, Exports down 7.5%
- Import taxes should in theory depress import demand
  - Tariff uncertainty fueling year-to-date surge in demand, augmented by capacity growth at SEA
- De minimis duty free exemption eliminated

2024 Air Cargo International Trade Through SEA

Top Washington State Global Trade Partners



Thank You



SEA
Seattle-Tacoma
International
Airport

Operated by the
Port of Seattle

FlySEA.org