International air cargo in Latin America and the Caribbean grew 8.5% in August

Executive Summary

- **International air cargo growth accelerated in August.**
  - A total of **346,079 metric tonnes** of international cargo was transported to, from and within Latin America and the Caribbean, **26,990 tonnes more** than in August 2025. Year-on-year growth reached **8.5%**, up from **4.0% in July**, and the region completed **eight consecutive months of growth**.

- **Brazil, Colombia and Mexico led regional growth.**
  - The three markets posted the largest absolute increases: Brazil **8,697 tonnes**, Colombia **7,448** and Mexico **5,354**. Brazil and Colombia grew **11.8%**, and Mexico **9.6%**.

- **Brazil recorded the largest absolute increase.**
  - The country handled **82,649 tonnes**, **8,697 more** than in August 2025 (**+11.8%**), and completed **six consecutive months of growth**.

- **Colombia accelerated to double-digit growth, driven primarily by the United States.**
  - Colombia handled **70,526 tonnes** (**+11.8%**). The Colombia–U.S. corridor grew **14.4%** and added **5,120 tonnes**, equivalent to **68.7% of the country's total increase**.

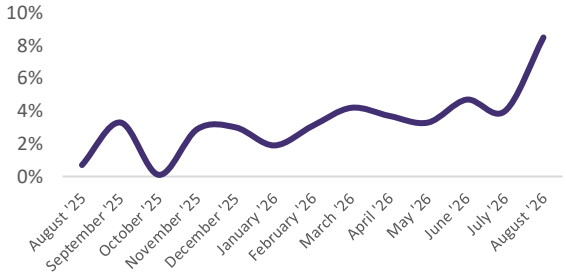
- **Mexico recorded its strongest growth since April.**
  - The country handled **61,211 tonnes**, **5,354 more** than a year earlier (**+9.6%**), after growing **0.4%** in July. The largest increases were recorded with **Spain, France, Luxembourg, Hong Kong and Germany**.

- **Argentina returned to strong growth, while Panama maintained positive results.**
  - Argentina grew **17.0%** after declining **1.6%** in July. Panama increased **7.5%**, El Salvador **6.6%**, Chile **3.3%**, Peru **1.3%** and Ecuador **0.3%**.

Regional Air Cargo Overview

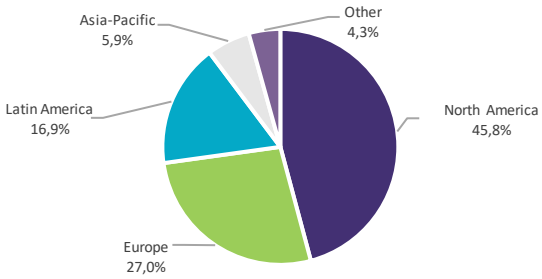
In August 2026, **346,079 metric tonnes of international cargo** was transported to, from and within Latin America and the Caribbean. Volume **increased 8.5% from August 2025**, equivalent to **26,990 additional tonnes**.

Chart 1. Monthly year-on-year growth in international air cargo



Source: ALTA analysis based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities
Note: Air cargo figures are based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities and are subject to revision.

Chart 2. International air cargo distribution by origin-destination region – August 2026 (share of tonnes)



Source: ALTA analysis based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities
Note: Air cargo figures are based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities and are subject to revision.

The region completed **eight consecutive months of growth** and recorded its **highest year-on-year increase of 2026**. International air cargo had grown **1.9% in January, 3.1% in February, 4.2% in March, 3.7% in April, 3.3% in May, 4.7% in June and 4.0% in July**, before reaching **8.5% in August** (see Chart 1).

At the origin-destination level, the region's international air cargo remained concentrated primarily in flows with **North America and Europe** (see Chart 2).

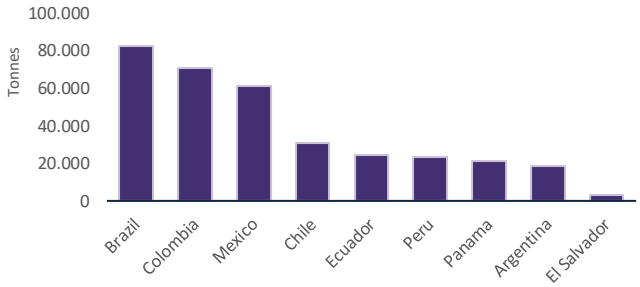
Brazil, Colombia and Mexico remained the region's three largest international cargo markets (see Chart 3). For the third consecutive month, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico all recorded year-on-year growth: Brazil and Colombia increased **11.8%**, and Mexico **9.6%** (see Chart 4).

August's result differed from July, when Mexico had grown **0.4%** and Argentina had declined **1.6%**. In August, Brazil added **8,697 tonnes**, Colombia **7,448** and Mexico **5,354**.

Argentina also made a significant contribution, with **2,716 additional tonnes**, followed by Panama (**+1,505 tonnes**) and Chile (**+990**). Peru added **303 tonnes**, El Salvador **201** and Ecuador **76**.

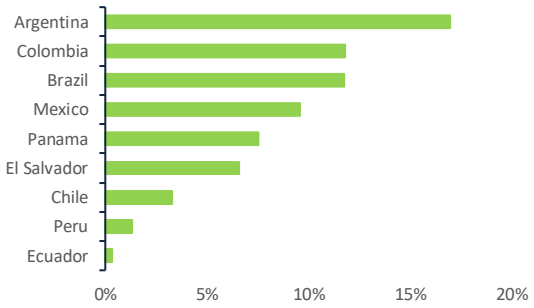
Corridors with the United States posted mixed results. **Colombia–U.S. grew 14.4%**, **Peru–U.S. 3.4%** and **Mexico–U.S. 1.6%**. **Chile–U.S. declined 1.8%**. In Brazil, the corridor with the United States grew moderately (+2.2%), while the largest increases were recorded in other markets.

Chart 3. Largest international air cargo markets in Latin America and the Caribbean – August 2026 (tonnes)



Source: ALTA analysis based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities
Note: Air cargo figures are based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities and are subject to revision.

Chart 4. Year-on-year change in international air cargo in the largest markets – August 2026 (%)



Source: ALTA analysis based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities
Note: Air cargo figures are based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities and are subject to revision.

Markets Driving Regional Growth

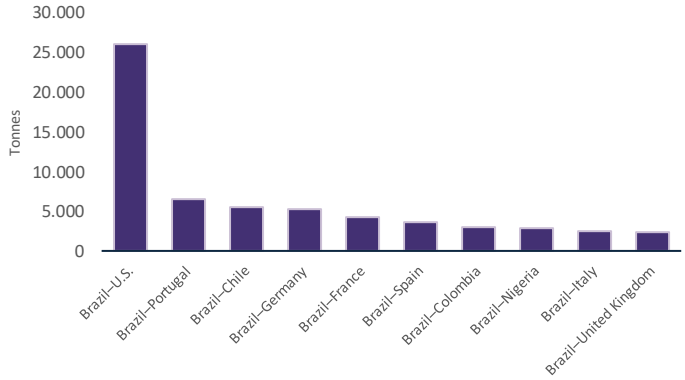
Brazil recorded the largest absolute increase in August. The country handled **82,649 tonnes** of international cargo, **8,697 more** than in August 2025 (**+11.8%**). The increase was equivalent to 32.2% of the region's additional tonnes.

With this result, Brazil completed **six consecutive months of growth**, following declines between August 2025 and February 2026. Growth also accelerated from the **9.8% recorded in July**.

The corridor with the United States grew 2.2% from August 2025, below the country's overall rate. Brazil's growth was concentrated primarily in other international markets (see Charts 5 and 6).

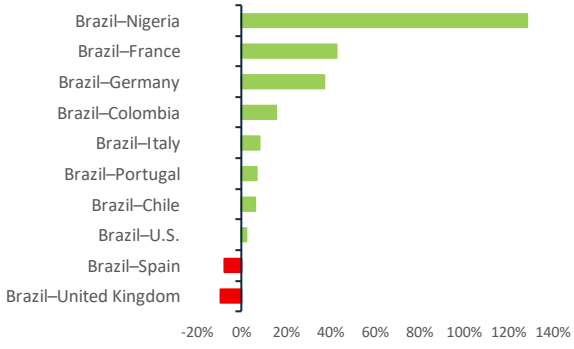
The largest increases were recorded in corridors with **Nigeria, Germany, France, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands**. This differed from previous months, when developments in the largest corridor with the United States had a greater influence on the country's monthly performance.

Chart 5. Top 10 international air cargo corridors in Brazil – August 2026 (bidirectional metric tonnes)



Source: ALTA analysis based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities

Chart 6. Year-on-year change in Brazil's main international air cargo corridors – August 2026 (%)



Source: ALTA analysis based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities

Colombia handled **70,526** tonnes of international cargo, **7,448** more than in August 2025 **(+11.8%**), equivalent to **27.6%** of the region's additional tonnes. The country completed seven consecutive months of growth and accelerated from 8.4% in July.

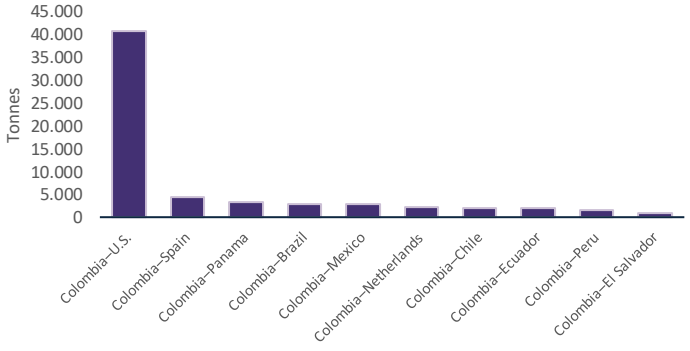
The bidirectional **Colombia–U.S.** corridor handled **40,671 tonnes**, **5,120 more** than in August 2025 (**+14.4%**). This increase accounted for **68.7% of Colombia's additional tonnes** (see Charts 7 and 8).

The largest increase was recorded in the **U.S.–Colombia** flow, which grew **40.7%**, reached **15,390 tonnes** and added **4,453 tonnes** compared with the same month of 2025. In the **Colombia–U.S.** direction, volume **increased 2.7%**, equivalent to **667 additional tonnes**.

At airport level, **Bogotá–Miami** handled **31,237 tonnes**, **4,462 more** than in August 2025 (**+16.7%**). The corridor accounted for most of the growth between Colombia and the United States.

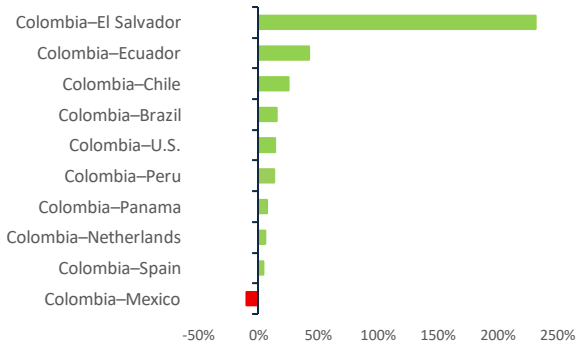
Outside the United States, the largest absolute increases were recorded with **El Salvador, Ecuador, Chile and the Dominican Republic**. In contrast, volumes with **Venezuela and Mexico** declined.

Chart 7. Top 10 international air cargo corridors in Colombia – August 2026 (bidirectional metric tonnes)



Source: ALTA analysis based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities

Chart 8. Year-on-year change in Colombia's main international air cargo corridors – August 2026 (%)



Source: ALTA analysis based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities

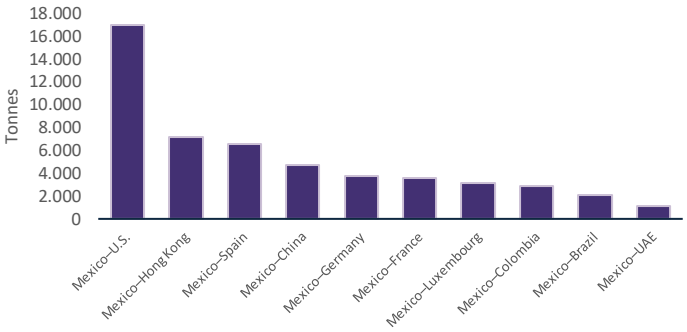
Mexico handled **61,211 tonnes** of international cargo, **5,354 more** than in August 2025 (**+9.6%**). This was its strongest year-on-year growth since April and an acceleration from the **0.4% recorded in July**. The country completed **three consecutive months of growth**.

The **Mexico–U.S.** corridor grew **1.6%**, adding **263 tonnes**. Most of the country's total increase was concentrated in other markets (see Charts 9 and 10).

Spain recorded the largest absolute increase, adding **1,372 tonnes**. France (**+991 tonnes**), Luxembourg (**+928**), Hong Kong (**+842**) and Germany (**+569**) also grew. Together, these five corridors added **4,702 tonnes**, equivalent to **87.8% of Mexico's total increase**.

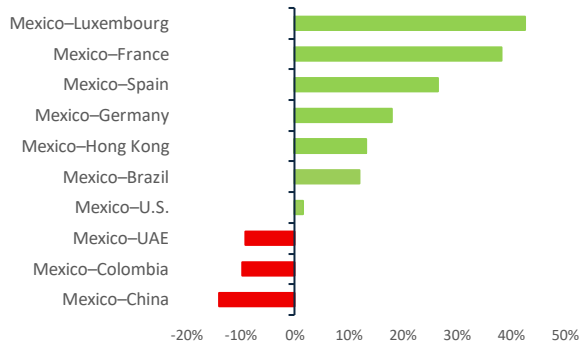
In contrast, **China–Mexico declined 13.9%**, equivalent to **758 fewer tonnes** than in August 2025.

Chart 9. Top 10 international air cargo corridors in Mexico – August 2026 (bidirectional metric tonnes)



Source: ALTA analysis based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities

Chart 10. Year-on-year change in Mexico's main international air cargo corridors – August 2026 (%)



Source: ALTA analysis based on preliminary reports from Civil Aviation Authorities

Other Regional Markets

Argentina handled **18,712 tonnes** of international cargo, **2,716 more** than in August 2025 (**+17.0%**), returning to positive territory after a **1.6%** decline in July. The largest increase was recorded in the **Argentina–Brazil** corridor, which grew **72.7%** and added **1,139 tonnes**. **Argentina–U.S.** increased **8.2%**, adding **515 tonnes**. Volume with **Nigeria** also increased.

Panama handled **21,473 tonnes**, **1,505 more** than a year earlier (**+7.5%**), and completed **eight consecutive months of growth**. The corridor with the United States grew **1.2%**, while the largest increases were recorded with **Chile, Ecuador and Costa Rica**.

Chile handled **30,947 tonnes**, **990 more** than in August 2025 (**+3.3%**). Growth occurred despite declines with the United States (**–1.8%**), Spain (**–31.5%**) and Peru (**–14.8%**). These reductions were offset by higher volumes with **Nigeria, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Argentina, Australia and Türkiye**.

Peru handled **23,546 tonnes**, **303 more** than in August 2025 (**+1.3%**). Growth moderated from the **7.5% recorded in July**. The **Peru–U.S.** corridor increased **3.4%**. Volumes also grew with **France, the Netherlands, Canada, Panama and Ecuador**, while declining with **Brazil, Spain, Chile and Mexico**. With this result, Peru recorded year-on-year growth in **seven of the first eight months of 2026**.

Ecuador handled **24,565 tonnes** and was virtually unchanged from August 2025 (**+0.3%; +76 tonnes**), after **four consecutive months of decline**.

El Salvador handled **3,250 tonnes**, **201 more** than a year earlier (**+6.6%**), after declining **5.5%** in July.

Freighter Capacity Offered in Latin America and the Caribbean

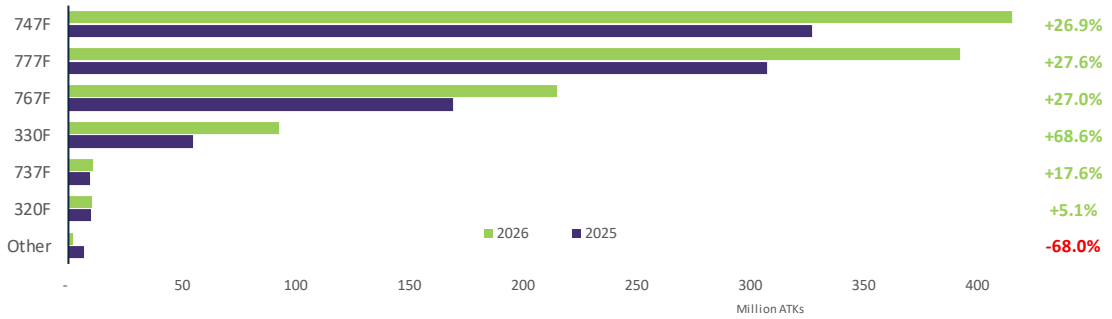
Regional freighter capacity grew 28.7% in August and completed three consecutive months of expansion, led by the A330F in percentage terms.

In August, capacity offered on freighter aircraft to and from Latin America and the Caribbean increased **28.7%** year on year, reaching **1,139.7 million available tonne-kilometres (ATK)**, **254.0 million more than in August 2025**. With this result, the region completed **three consecutive months of growth**.

By aircraft type, the **B747F** grew **26.9%**, broadly in line with the **25.9%** increase recorded in July. With **415.8 million available tonne-kilometres (ATK)**, it accounted for **36.5%** of total capacity offered. The **A330F** again recorded the strongest percentage growth, increasing **68.6%**, below the **90.7%** recorded in July, and completed **fourteen consecutive months of growth**.

The B777F, B767F and B737F also recorded double-digit increases. The **B777F**, the second-largest aircraft type with **34.4%** of total capacity offered, grew **27.6%**. The **B767F** increased **27.0%** after declining **54.5%** in July. The **B737F** grew **17.6%** and completed **seven consecutive months of expansion**. The A320F grew 5.1%, compared with **56.5%** in July and **10.5%** in June, and completed **five consecutive months of expansion** (see Chart 11).

Chart 11. Freighter capacity offered by aircraft type in LAC – August 2026 vs. August 2025 (million available tonne-kilometres)



Source: ALTA analysis based on Cirium SRS Analyzer data