Abstract

This Master's thesis aims to study the correlation between air connectivity, and some economic variables, which contribute to economic growth already mentioned in previous researches. In order to achieve this goal, and regarding the air connectivity data, the Netscan model was used, developed by SEO Aviation Economics, in partnership with ACI (Airports Council International), World Bank, and Eurostat provided the economic variables' data.

The empirical results of this thesis and the conclusions presented in the literature survey allow determining that there is a cause-effect relationship between air connectivity and the economic variables. Therefore, air connectivity can contribute to increase economic growth.

In comparison with previous research, this thesis distinguishes the different impacts that both airport connectivity and hub connectivity can have in economic variables related to growth. This distinction appears to be relevant as the correlation between Hub connectivity and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is becoming stronger.

In addition, this study is conducted using data for specific airports in the European Union. In the case of Portugal, we observe a very significant difference between Portugal/Lisbon and the main European hubs. With that in mind, it is clear that Portugal should increase its Hub connectivity, which could be achieved by taking advantage of its geographic position, mainly regarding the American and African continents. By doing so, it could be an exceptional opportunity for Portugal to achieve a higher economic development and growth.