

Dubai International is tops in passenger numbers

Dubai Airports has released its year-end traffic report, which confirms that Dubai International is the number one airport for international passenger numbers.



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2014's passenger numbers totalled 70.4 million, up 6.1% from the 66.4 million recorded in 2013. This followed passenger traffic growth of 7.5% in December with 6.5 million passengers passing through the facility compared to 6.0 million recorded in the corresponding month last year.

"This historic milestone is the culmination of over five decades of double-digit average growth that was inspired by the vision of the late Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum. It is a vision that has been carried forward strongly by our leader HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai," said HH Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Airports.

"The shared goal is to make Dubai a global centre of aviation and we are nearing that goal thanks to an open-skies policy, a friendly business environment, Dubai's growing attractiveness as a centre for trade, commerce and tourism, growing network connectivity due to the rapid expansion of Emirates and flydubai, and timely investment in aviation infrastructure."

Aircraft movements in December rose 4% to 34,136, up marginally from the 32,832 recorded during December 2013. Full-year aircraft movements totalled 357,339 compared to 369,953 versus 2013, a contraction of 3.4%, primarily due to the temporary reduction of flights experienced during the 80-day runway refurbishment project during the summer, and the shift of freighter operators and general aviation to Al Maktoum International at Dubai World Central (DWC) earlier this year. Spurred by an ongoing increase in the number of wide-bodied aircraft servicing the airport, the numbers of passengers per flight increased 5.1% to 208.3 passengers for the full year.

Freight down

Freight volumes at Dubai International totalled 2,367,574 tonnes in 2014 compared to 2,443,624 tonnes in 2013, down 3.4% again due to the shift of freighter operators to DWC. December's freight volumes decreased by 7% with 202,836 tonnes passing through the facility compared to 218,138 tonnes recorded during the same month last year.

"Much like 2014, 2015 promises to be another eventful year featuring more record passenger numbers and facility upgrades including the opening of Concourse D, which will boost Dubai International's capacity to 90 million," said Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports. "Today we are also releasing our projections for 2015 traffic at Dubai International which forecast 79 million passengers. We will have more flights connecting more people to more destinations. And we will be fully focussed on rolling out technology, new F&B concepts and service initiatives that further enhance the passenger experience."

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