

ACI World's top airports see substantial traffic shifts in 2023

Today, Airports Council International (ACI) World released the preliminary list of the top 10 busiest airports globally for 2023, noting substantial changes driven by a revival in international air travel.

The projected global passenger volume for 2023 is nearly 8.5 billion, marking a recovery of 93.8% to pre-pandemic levels. A significant recovery in international traffic, nearing domestic levels, has been crucial in driving the overall industry's rebound and growth.

International passenger traffic has been pivotal in supporting the recovery of major hub airports, influencing the top 10 rankings for total passenger traffic.

Luis Felipe de Oliveira, ACI World Director General, stated, "Global air travel in 2023 was chiefly fuelled by the international segment, propelled by several factors. Among these were the anticipated benefits from China's reopening and a growing inclination towards travel despite macroeconomic conditions. While perennial leaders from the US continue to dominate the top 10 busiest airports for passengers, notably Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport retaining its number one position, there are notable shifts. Dubai International Airport jumped to second rank for the first time, while Tokyo Haneda International Airport witnessed a remarkable ascent from 16th position in 2022 to 5th in 2023. Additionally, the unwavering strength of Istanbul and New Delhi airports keep them in top ranks, marking significant progress over 2019.

"Notably, cargo continues to play a key role in world commerce despite the year-over-year decrease. Hong Kong International Airport has maintained the top position, followed by Memphis International Airport and Shanghai Pudong International Airport. Doha International Airport rejoins the top 10, jumping to number 8 with a growth of 6.3% over 2019.

"The rankings highlight the crucial role these transportation hubs play in global connectivity, commerce, and economic development. Airports continue to demonstrate their resilience and adaptability amidst the challenges posed by the ever-evolving landscape of global travel. ACI World remains dedicated to advocating for airports worldwide throughout pivotal stages of policy formulation and to advancing the pursuit of airport excellence."

Data for these rankings comes from over 2,600 airports in more than 180 countries and territories, affirming ACI World's leading role in analyzing airport travel demand.

PASSENGERS*

2023	2022	2019	AIRPORT	2023	% CHANGE VS 2022	% CHANGE VS 2019
1	1	1	ATLANTA, USA (ATL)	104 653 451	11.7	-5.3
2	5	4	DUBAI, UAE (DXB)	86 994 365	31.7	0.7
3	2	10	DALLAS/FORT WORTH, USA (DFW)	81 755 538	11.4	8.9
4	8	7	LONDON, UK (LHR)	79 183 364	28.5	-2.1
5	16	5	TOKYO, JAPAN (HND)	78 719 302	55.1	-7.9
6	3	16	DENVER, USA (DEN)	77 837 917	12.3	12.8
7	7	28	ISTANBUL, TURKEY (IST)	76 027 321	18.3	45.7
8	6	3	LOS ANGELES, USA (LAX)	75 050 875	13.8	-14.8
9	4	6	CHICAGO, USA (ORD)	73 894 226	8.1	-12.7
10	9	17	NEW DELHI, INDIA (DEL)	72 214 841	21.4	5.4

* Total passengers enplaned and deplaned, passengers in transit counted once

Passenger traffic highlights include:

- The global total passenger count for 2023 is approximately 8.5 billion, a 27.2% increase from 2022 or a recovery of 93.8% compared to 2019.

- Domestic traffic grew by 20.2% (96.8% recovery of 2019 levels), while international traffic saw a 36.5% increase (90.4% of 2019 levels).

- The top 10 airports, accounting for nearly 10% of global traffic, saw an increase of 19.8% from 2022, reaching around 806 million passengers compared to 801 million in 2019.

- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport continues to lead, now followed by Dubai International Airport, with Dallas Fort Worth International Airport in third. Five of the top 10 airports are in the US, with Tokyo Haneda making the largest leap from 16th in 2022 to 5th in 2023.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport will host the 2024 ACI World Customer Experience Summit and Exhibition from September 23 to 26.

INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS*

2023	2022	2019	AIRPORT	2023	% CHANGE VS 2022	% CHANGE VS 2019
1	1	1	DUBAI, UAE (DXB)	86 994 365	31.7	0.8
2	2	2	LONDON, UK (LHR)	74 909 019	28.6	-1.5
3	3	3	AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS (AMS)	61 882 546	17.9	-13.7
4	4	6	PARIS, FRANCE (CDG)	61 412 198	18.6	-12.1
5	9	7	SINGAPORE, SINGAPORE (SIN)	58 411 000	83.1	-13.6
6	5	14	ISTANBUL, TURKEY (IST)	58 232 674	20.0	47.1
7	32	5	INCHEON, KOREA (ICN)	55 763 768	212.9	-21.0
8	6	8	FRANKFURT, GERMANY (FRA)	54 089 293	20.8	-14.2
9	8	15	DOHA, QATAR (DOH)	45 913 805	28.5	18.4
10	7	11	MADRID, SPAIN (MAD)	43 799 968	20.9	-2.5

* International passengers enplaned and deplaned

Cargo traffic highlights:

- Estimated air cargo volumes in 2023 fell by 3.1% year-over-year to roughly 113 million metric tonnes.
- The top 10 cargo airports, comprising about 26% of global volumes, experienced a 3.5% decrease in 2023, with Hong Kong International Airport leading, followed by Memphis International Airport and Shanghai Pudong International Airport.

CARGO (METRIC TONNES)*						
2023	2022	2019	AIRPORT	2023	% CHANGE VS 2022	% CHANGE VS 2019
1	1	1	HONG KONG, HONG KONG (HKG)	4 331 976	3.2	-9.9
2	2	2	MEMPHIS, USA (MEM)	3 881 211	-4.0	-10.2
3	4	3	SHANGHAI, CHINA (PVG)	3 440 084	10.4	-5.3
4	3	6	ANCHORAGE, USA (ANC**)	3 380 374	-2.4	23.1
5	6	5	INCHEON, KOREA (ICN)	2 744 136	-6.9	-0.7
6	5	4	LOUISVILLE, USA (SDF)	2 727 820	-11.1	-2.2
7	8	12	MIAMI, USA (MIA)	2 525 591	1.0	20.7
8	11	8	DOHA, QATAR (DOH)	2 355 503	1.5	6.3
9	9	13	LOS ANGELES, USA (LAX)	2 130 835	-14.9	1.9
10	7	9	TAIPEI, TAIWAN (TPE)	2 112 988	-16.8	-3.2

* Cargo: loaded and unloaded freight and mail in metric tonnes ** includes transit freight

2023 saw nearly 95 million global aircraft movements, up 11.8% from 2022, showing a recovery of 92.7% from pre-pandemic levels. The top 10 airports, representing over 6% of global traffic, saw a 7.4% increase from 2022, recovering 96.4% of their 2019 levels. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport remains the busiest, followed by Chicago O'Hare Airport and Dallas Fort Worth International Airport.

AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS*						
2023	2022	2019	AIRPORT	2023	% CHANGE VS 2022	% CHANGE VS 2019
1	1	2	ATLANTA, USA (ATL)	775 818	7.1	-14.2
2	2	1	CHICAGO, USA (ORD)	720 582	1.3	-21.7
3	3	3	DALLAS/FORT WORTH, USA (DFW)	689 569	5	-4.2
4	4	5	DENVER, USA (DEN)	657 218	8.1	4.0
5	5	8	LAS VEGAS, USA (LAS)	611 806	5.3	10.6
6	6	4	LOS ANGELES, USA (LAX)	575 097	3.3	-16.8
7	7	7	CHARLOTTE, USA (CLT)	539 066	6.6	-6.8
8	10	54	ISTANBUL, TURKEY (IST)	505 968	18.8	53.4
9	9	21	NEW YORK, USA (JFK)	481 075	7.2	5.5
10	18	19	TOKYO, JAPAN (HND)	464 910	19.8	1.4

*Movements: landings and takeoffs