ROBUST GROWTH CONTINUES AT SEA-TAC AIRPORT

Passenger volumes at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport hit a record with more than 49 million passengers traveling through the airport in 2018.

Consistent with previous years, the summer months of July and August continue to be the busiest, accounting for 21 percent of the total passenger volumes in 2017.
While volumes are not as high as the record increase seen in 2015, the total passenger volumes in 2018 saw a 6 percent increase, compared to the previous year.

A similar year-over-year comparison showed a 2.6 percent increase between 2016-2017. Since 2014, passenger volumes through the airport have grown by more than 12 million, a 33 percent increase.
What About Air Cargo?

Over 432,475 metric tons of cargo passed through the airport in 2018, a 1.5 percent increase compared to the previous year. Similar to passenger travel, July was the busiest month for cargo and accounted for 10 percent of the total cargo volumes at the airport in 2018. Since 2014, air cargo volumes passing through the airport have increased 32 percent.

Annual Total Cargo at Sea-Tac Airport

Air cargo is primarily made up of freight and air mail. Freight accounts for the major share at 87 percent, while air mail accounts for the remaining 13 percent of the air cargo passing through the airport in 2018.
How do we compare nationally?

A comparison of airports across the U.S. highlights the sharp increase in passenger travel at Sea-Tac Airport. Between 2010 and 2017, the growth in passenger boardings (enplanements) has increased 47 percent, the largest increase among the 30 large airports in the country. Sea-Tac Airport ranked among the top 10 busiest airports in the U.S. for passenger boardings.

Growth of Passenger Boardings, 2010 – 2017

The growth in passenger and cargo volumes mirrors the strong economy in the region. Passenger and air cargo volume trends will be updated on a continuous basis and considered along with other economic indicators to understand the story of growth in the region. PSRC is conducting a Regional Aviation Baseline Study to understand aviation activities and needs in the region and provide a technical foundation for future decisions by regional and state leaders.

Data sources:
Monthly passenger and cargo volumes are from Port of Seattle: https://www.portseattle.org/page/airport-statistics
National comparison is based on data from FAA: https://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/passenger_allcargo_stats/passenger/