GROWING NUMBERS OF TRAVELERS AND AIR CARGO PASS THROUGH SEA-TAC AIRPORT

Passenger Travel
Passenger volumes at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport continue to increase, with over 51 million passengers passing through the airport in 2019. Between 2014 and 2019, total passenger volumes grew by more than 14 million, a 38% increase.

Passenger volumes increased 4% between 2018 and 2019. While this increase is less than the growth experienced a few years ago, it shows continuing strong demand.

The summer months of June, July and August continue to be the busiest at Sea-Tac, accounting for 30% of total passenger volumes in 2019.

Air Cargo
More than 450,000 metric tons of air cargo passed through Sea-Tac Airport in 2019. While the growth in air cargo isn’t as high as the record increase seen in 2017, air cargo tonnage in 2019 increased 5% over the previous year. Air cargo handled by Sea-Tac Airport has increased 39% between 2014 and 2019.

July was the busiest month for air cargo movement, accounting for 11% of the total tonnage in 2019. Domestic air freight forms the bulk of air cargo at the airport. In 2019, domestic air freight accounted for 56% of the total cargo volumes, followed by international air freight at 30% and air mail at 13%.
How do we compare nationally?

Sea-Tac Airport is one of the fastest growing airports in the U.S. for both passenger travel and air cargo.

Sea-Tac is the eighth busiest airport in the U.S. in 2018 based on passenger boardings (enplanements). The chart below provides a comparison of the 30 largest airports in the U.S.

![2018 Passenger Boardings Across Airports](image)

A year-over-year comparison of change in passenger boardings across airports shows Sea-Tac Airport third among the 30 largest airports in the country (see chart on following page).

The top two performers in this category are Hartfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and Los Angeles International Airport, which routinely rank as the busiest airports in the U.S with annual passenger boardings almost double that of Sea-Tac Airport. The growth in passenger boardings at Sea-Tac Airport between 2010 and 2018 is on par with the growth seen at Atlanta airport during the same time period. In terms of the percent increase, Sea-Tac Airport ranks second among the 30 largest airports in the country, with a 56% increase in passenger boardings between 2010 and 2018.
A similar ranking of airports, using annual data on all-cargo operations, ranks Sea-Tac Airport seventh among the top 25 U.S. airports, with a 77% increase in landed weight (i.e., weight of aircraft transporting only cargo) between 2010 and 2018.

**Percent Change in All-Cargo Landed Weight*, 2010–2018**

*Showing top 25 airports in terms of landed weight

**Data Sources:**
- Passenger Boardings (Enplanement) and All-Cargo Data for U.S. Airports – Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), https://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/passenger_allcargo_stats/passenger/