

Dubai world's busiest international airport

4th February, 2016



Dubai International Airport (DXB) has retained its crown of being the world's busiest international airport in terms of passenger numbers. In 2014, it overtook London's Heathrow airport, which had been number one

for more than a decade. DXB handled a record 78 million travellers in 2015. This is an average of one passenger flying in or out every 2.5 seconds. Heathrow handled 75 million passengers but did have more daily flights than DXB. In January 2015, there were over 8,000 weekly flights from DXB, operated by 140 airlines to over 270 destinations on six continents. Dubai's other airport, Al Maktoum International, has a projected annual capacity of up to 250 million passengers.

DXB is a vital part of Dubai's economy. Wikipedia says it employs, "approximately 90,000 people, indirectly supports over 400,000 jobs and contributes over \$26.7 billion to the economy, which represents around 27 per cent of Dubai's GDP and 21 per cent of the employment in Dubai". The CEO of DXB, Paul Griffiths, said in a statement: "It's another banner year for Dubai International where we broke records, engaged and entertained our customers in new ways, and retained our position as the world's number one international hub." DXB will soon see another landmark when in March, the airline Emirates launches the world's longest non-stop flight, connecting Dubai with Auckland.

Sources: *Independent.co.uk* / *Khaleej Times* / *Wikipedia*

Writing

What are the advantages and disadvantages of a city having a major airport?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

airport / crown / passengers / number one / decade / average / daily flights / capacity / economy / approximately / employment / entertained / airline / non-stop flight

True / False

- A Dubai airport (DXB) is the world's busiest for the first time ever. T / F
- London's Heathrow airport was the world's busiest last year. T / F
- A passenger flies in or out of DXB every 2.5 seconds (on average). T / F
- Flights from DXB go to more than 270 places around the world. T / F
- DXB has around 90,000 employees. T / F
- DXB contributes to around 27% of Dubai's Gross Domestic Product. T / F
- DXB's CEO said the airport entertained people in new ways. T / F
- The world's longest non-stop flight will soon depart from DXB. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. retained | a. estimated |
| 2. in terms of | b. dealt with |
| 3. handled | c. centre |
| 4. operated | d. linking |
| 5. projected | e. kept |
| 6. vital | f. constitutes |
| 7. represents | g. milestone |
| 8. hub | h. regarding |
| 9. landmark | i. essential |
| 10. connecting | j. run |

Discussion – Student A

- How did DXB come to be the world's busiest airport?
- What are the good and bad things about airports?
- In what ways are big airports like small cities?
- What do you think of the shops and restaurants at airports?
- How do airports entertain passengers?
- What dangers are there at airports?
- Would you like to go on the world's longest non-stop flight?
- What questions would you like to ask DXB's CEO?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. DXB has retained | a. a decade |
| 2. in terms of passenger | b. GDP |
| 3. number one for more than | c. of Dubai's economy |
| 4. DXB handled a record | d. numbers |
| 5. a projected annual | e. hub |
| 6. DXB is a vital part | f. non-stop flight |
| 7. represents around 27 per cent of Dubai's | g. its crown |
| 8. the world's number one international | h. landmark |
| 9. DXB will soon see another | i. 78 million travellers |
| 10. Emirates launches the world's longest | j. capacity |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Dubai and its airport?
- What's your favourite airport and why?
- What should a good airport have?
- What's the airport nearest to you like?
- What things about airports surprise you most?
- What job would you like at an airport?
- What are your favourite and least liked airport experiences?
- What will airports be like in 50 years from now?

Spelling

- DXB has rneitead its crown
- in terms of gaernpsse numbers
- This is an vreaaeg of one...
- trdpeoae by 140 airlines
- 270 destinations on six cnntoniest
- a projected annual citapcya
- it employs txrplpieayoma 90,000 people
- ...which srtntrepees around 27% of Dubai's GDP
- Paul Griffiths said in a emtattens
- endegag and entertained our customers
- DXB will soon see another akmlradn
- ntecocngni Dubai with Auckland

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. a
6. i	7. f	8. c	9. g	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Restaurants

You think restaurants are the best thing about airports. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): people watching, duty free shopping or airport staff.

Role B – People watching

You think people watching is the best thing about airports. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): restaurants, duty free shopping or airport staff.

Role C – Duty free shopping

You think duty free shopping is the best thing about airports. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): people watching, restaurants or airport staff.

Role D – Airport staff

You think airport staff are the best thing about airports. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): people watching, duty free shopping or restaurants.

Speaking – Airports

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about airports at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| • restaurants | • people watching |
| • boarding | • duty free shopping |
| • check-in | • airplane watching |
| • airport staff | • the thought of flying |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.