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Dubai International Airport shows phenomenal overall growth in 2000 with passenger traffic up by 14.6%

Dubai International Airport has recorded a growth of 14.6% in the year 2000. A total of 12.3 million passengers passed through the airport as compared to 10.7 million in 1999. Total aircraft movement in 2000 stood at 141,281 - an increase of 6.5% over the previous year. Dubai Cargo Village handled 581,995.90 tonnes of freight in 2000, showing a growth of 18.6% over the previous year.

Executive flights which registered at 1502 in 1999, went up by 25.7% in 2000, with total movement recorded at 1888. The number of airlines operating out of Dubai International Airport has gone up to 95, serving 137 destinations. Terminal 2 has witnessed a surge in number of airlines operating out of it. While in 1999 a total of 26 airlines used Terminal 2, the end of 2000 saw an additional 9 airlines, bringing the total to 35.

Dubai Duty Free has also witnessed a record growth of 17%—over the previous year—in annual turnover for the year 2000 with sales touching US\$ 220 million.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Department of Civil Aviation and Chairman of Emirates, commented: "The opening of Sheikh Rashid Terminal has marked a new high in passenger movement.

While 1999 witnessed growth of 10.5%, the year 2000 had a phenomenal growth of 14.6%. With the increased capacity and excellent facilities offered by Sheikh Rashid Terminal, we expect this growth to continue and hence are finalising our next phase of expansion due to begin in the year 2003. The Department of Civil Aviation, with the support of the Government of Dubai, aims to build the most important and advanced aviation hub for the future. "

Experts predict a continuous and big growth in travel demands worldwide - which in the Middle East is an average growth of 4.7% annually. The Middle East is an attractive market due to Dubai's role as a major business hub, and as an up market tourist destination it attracts the lion's share in this market.

Dubai International Airport is now the busiest airport in the Middle East, having surpassed Jeddah, in 1999. In 2001 passenger movement at Dubai International Airport is expected to reach 14 million.