

Brisbane Airport reports 4.8% growth in international passengers in 2018



New airlines, increased flights to and from several destinations and additional seats, all contributed to the growth in Brisbane Airport's passenger numbers in 2018

Brisbane Airport (BNE) has reported a 4.8% year-on-year growth in international passengers in 2018. The increase in passenger numbers was attributed to new airlines, increased flights to and from several global destinations and additional seats.

According to BNE, international traveler numbers grew by 277,000 to 6 million passengers for the calendar year. Additionally, the airport also recorded a 5.5% year-on-year increase in international seats.

In terms of domestic passengers, there was a modest increase of 0.7% to over 17.5 million.

Overall, BNE's domestic and international passengers rose by 1.7% to over 23.6 million.

Commenting on the growth in passenger numbers, Gert-Jan de Graaff, Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) Chief Executive Officer, said: "The city is evolving before our very eyes with billions of dollars-worth of investment in infrastructure projects currently underway, including our new runway, a vibrant arts and major events sector, direct access to some of Australia's greatest natural assets and a reputation for being a safe and friendly destination."

"This all contributes to boosting Brisbane's international profile, attracting more visitors, new airlines, and additional services and new destinations, truly cementing our position as Australia's future international gateway."

He also noted that with the opening of Brisbane's new runway in just 18 months' time, the focus was firmly on expanding and developing world-class airport facilities to meet forecast passenger demand.

This year, BNE's new runway will also be entering its final stage of construction.

Commenting on BNE's plans for 2019, de Graaff said: "It will be business as usual for passengers

moving through the terminals, but they can expect to see extensive works and upgrades happening across the Domestic Terminal, with new retail offering and upgraded amenities opening throughout the year.

“It is more crucial than ever before that we continue collaborating and innovating with our airline, industry and business partners in growing BNE’s profile as the preferred gateway to Queensland and Australia,” he said.

Reasons for growth in BNE’s passenger numbers

Data from BNE showed that its top three markets were China including Hong Kong (+12.6%), India (+17.8%) and Malaysia (+53.9%).

Specifically, BNE experienced strong growth during the Chinese New Year period as Hainan Airlines’ Shenzhen service first anniversary contributed to an additional 51,400 passengers in the China (including Hong Kong) market.

Additionally, United Kingdom (+5.2%) also recorded a strong year-on-year growth, with the Commonwealth Games driving an additional 14,700 passengers through BNE.