



11 January 2017

Manchester Airport toasts strongest Christmas Ever

- Manchester passenger numbers in December up 20% year on year and cargo up 19% - the biggest jump in monthly passenger volumes seen at the airport
- London Stansted Airport adds 145,000 passengers in December to grow 9% year-on-year
- MAG served over 55m passengers in 12 months for the first time, only 15 months after breaking through 50m passenger mark

Passengers

	Manchester	London Stansted	East Midlands	Bournemouth	MAG
Rolling 12 month total	25,614,035	24,317,100	4,650,433	667,799	55,249,367
December 2016 total	1,806,597	1,852,250	202,726	31,718	3,893,291
December 2016:	+19.7%	+8.5%	+/- 0%	+0.9%	+12.8%

Cargo

	Manchester	London Stansted	East Midlands
December 2016 tonnes	10,233	21,976	24,869
% change year on year	+18.9%	+2.8%	-18.0%

Manchester Airport's growth has now hit record levels, with 20% more passengers flying through the UK's third biggest airport in December 2016 than in the previous year - the biggest year-on-year growth the airport has ever seen. At just over 1.8 million passengers in the month, this amounts to almost 300,000 additional passengers compared to December 2015.

The increase was driven by a 35% jump in short-haul point-to-point traffic, demonstrating the growing strength of the airport's network of European routes. Strong take-up of new long haul routes to Houston, Beijing and Singapore have also contributed to the soaring figures.

The growth in Manchester's cargo volumes is the result of new capacity to long haul destinations, coupled with heightened demand for luxury British exports, including cars, fashion and food; December saw exports dominating imports to an extent not seen since 2010.



December's figures are further evidence of the importance of Manchester Airport's leading role in driving the Northern Powerhouse forward and supporting economic growth nationally - worth some £3.2 billion annually.

Manchester Airport's ability to accommodate significant growth also highlights the national role it is set to play over the next 10-15 years in meeting a greater share of the UK's global connectivity needs.

Across 2016, the airport handled 25.6m passengers, and saw particularly strong growth in numbers flying to Spain, as holiday makers sought alternatives to Turkish and North African resorts. In the year to December, compared with 2015, almost 800,000 additional passengers (+27%) flew to mainland Spain and the Balearics from Manchester, while 330,000 more passengers (+21%) flew to the Canary Islands. Completing the top five growth markets at Manchester were France, Germany and the Netherlands.

London Stansted grew 9% in December and finished the year having handled 24.3m passengers in the previous 12 months. The five destinations showing the greatest year-on-year growth from Stansted in 2016 included the up-and-coming destinations of Split and Dubrovnik, as well as the top holiday destinations of Zakynthos, Faro and Corfu, which all proved popular with sun-seekers looking for value around the Adriatic and Atlantic costs.

East Midlands Airport welcomed the same number of passengers in 2016 as in December 2015, even though the runway was closed for resurfacing at weekends in the first part of the month. Bournemouth Airport saw passenger volumes grow in the month, up by 1% year-on-year.

Together, MAG airports served over 55 million passengers in 2016, 9% up on last year.

Ken O'Toole, CEO of Manchester Airport, said: "Last year was an historic one that saw a number of major milestones celebrated at the airport. Passing 25 million passengers in a year was a huge achievement and we also saw the launch a number of key long haul services to the likes of Beijing, Houston and Los Angeles commence.

"We expect continued growth in 2017, with route launches to San Francisco, Boston and Muscat to come in the Spring. Looking ahead to the rest of the year we continue to look at expanding our route network to ensure we connect the North to the rest of the world."

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Notes to Editors:

MAG is the UK's leading airport group and owns and operates Manchester, London Stansted, East Midlands and Bournemouth Airports, together with a significant property business. MAG employs over 4,500 people and annually serves over 50 million passengers.



MAG's strategy is to increase long-term shareholder value by generating profitable growth through the further development of its assets and by offering a high quality user experience for customers using its airports. By achieving this goal, MAG aims to become a global leader in airport management, products and services.

MAG also includes the commercial property division, MAG Property, which has over £640m of investment property assets across its four airports and has a 50% investment in the £800m major Enterprise Zone development, Airport City, at Manchester. In North America, the new MAG USA is looking to work with airports to develop and operate terminal and retail solutions, passenger lounges and car parking facilities.

MAG is managed on behalf of its shareholders who comprise Manchester City Council (35.5%), IFM Investors (35.5%) and the nine other Greater Manchester local authorities (29%).