



Increasing International Air Traffic Back Again

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Result of air traffic counting for the first half of 2023 shows about 31% increase compared to the previous year and 70% increase in international flights

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT, Minister WON Hee-ryong) announced that as a result of the air traffic counting for the first half of 2023, the number of aircraft using Korea's airways increased by about 31% year-on-year to an average of 1,941 per day (a total of 351,000 in the first half).

* (Aggregated) Based on flight plans submitted by aircraft operators to the MOLIT

* (Annual increase rate) 4.7% (2019) → -50.1% (2020) → 10.8% (2021) → 16.0% (2022) → 31.2% (H1 2023)

In particular, from January to June of 2023, international flights increased by about 5.2% on average per month, and total traffic, including domestic flights, increased by about 4.1% on average per month, significantly exceeding the average of monthly increase in 2022.

Moreover, the volume of air traffic in the first half of 2023 was recorded as 84% of the total compared to 2019, and it has recovered considerably, exceeding 2,000 aircrafts per day on average as of April 2023 due to increased airline demand.



Especially, while the demand for air traffic on the Korea-China route is still sluggish, international flights increased significantly by more than 70% year-on-year due to new and increased flights centered on Japan and Southeast Asia, and about 46% of the total international traffic was in and out of the directions to Southeast Asia and South China, connecting the Seoul metropolitan area and the southern tip of Jeju Island.

* (International aircraft traffic per day by year) 1,632 (2019) → 547 (2020) → 556 (2021) → 757 (2022) → 1,291 (H1 2023)

On the other hand, the demand for domestic air traffic, which had been driven by the difficulty of overseas travel, decreased by about 10% year-on-year due to the increase of international flights, but it was found to be at a similar level to the domestic traffic in 2019.

* (Domestic aircraft traffic per day by year) 675 (2019) → 605 (2020) → 719 (2021) → 722 (2022) → 650 (H1 2023)

To see by airport, the increases in traffic volume at Incheon Airport (63.7%↑), and Gimhae and Daegu Airports compared to the previous year stood out due to the recovery of international flights, while most airports that are focused on domestic routes such as Jeju and Gimpo Airports showed a decreasing trend in air traffic.

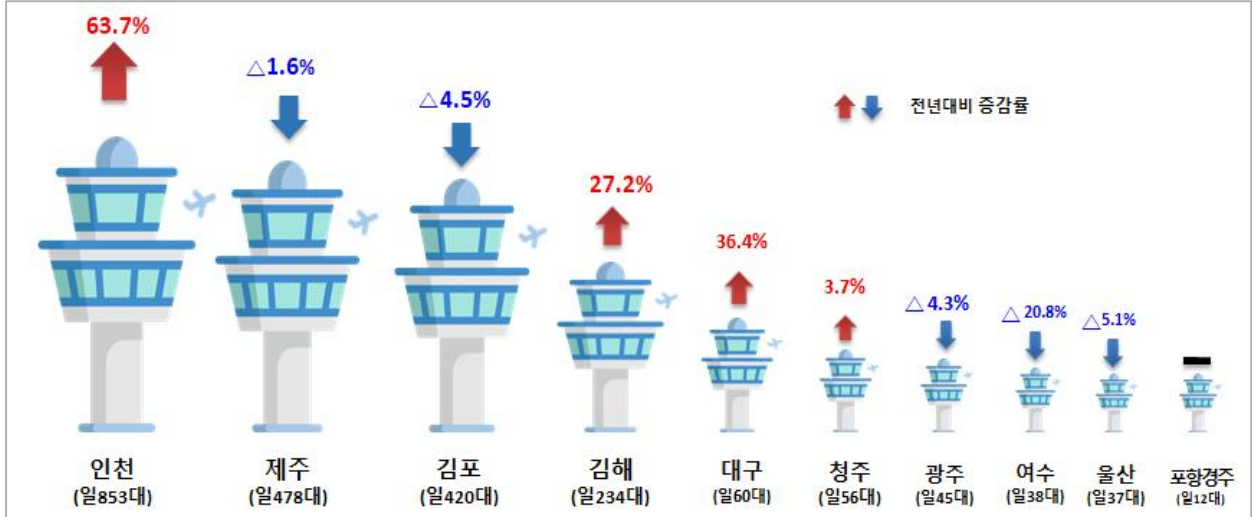
Director General for Aviation Safety Policy YOO Kyung-su of the MOLIT stated, "When the airline demand on Chinese routes recovers in earnest, it is expected to exceed the traffic volume in pre-COVID.", adding, "We will continue to closely monitor the fluctuations in air traffic volume and strive to provide safe and efficient air transportation services".



Ref.

Summary of Air Traffic Trends

Air traffic in major domestic airports



Air traffic per year from 2014 until H1 2023



Air traffic per month from July 2022 until June 2023

