



Widely Opening Airways from Blockade

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An average of 2,139 flights per day in 2023 indicating full recovery to pre-COVID-19 levels

The number of flights using Korea's airways was approximately 780,000 (an average of 2,139 per day) last year, an increase of about 44.6%* compared to the previous year (2022).

* Annual increase rate: 4.7% (2019) → - 50.1% (2020) → 10.8% (2021) → 16.0% (2022) → **44.6% (2023)**

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT, Minister PARK Sang-woo) announced that the air traffic volume in 2023 reached up to 92.7% (international flights 91.6%, domestic flights 95.4%) as the result of an official counting* compared to 2019 before COVID-19, while revealing that the scale of air traffic has fully recovered by exceeding the average daily traffic volume in 2019 (2,307 flights) since August 2023**.

* Aggregation standard: Based on flight plans submitted to the MOLIT by all domestic and foreign aircraft operators, including transportation and non-transportation aircraft (indicated the congestion level of Korea's entire airspace and airports)

** (August) 2,321 → (September) 2,313 → (October) 2,358 → (November) 2,373 → (December) 2,402



Throughout the year of 2023, international flights steadily increased by an average of about 4.4% per month, and overall, they increased by an average of about 3.1% per month, significantly exceeding the average monthly increase in 2022 (1.6%).

In particular, due to newly launching and increasing international routes connecting short and medium distances such as Southeast Asia, South China, and Japan, the average volume of international flights per day increased by nearly twice (97.5%↑) compared to the previous year, and about 48% of the total international air traffic was shown in Southeast Asia and South China

[Number of international flights per day] 1,632 (2019) → 547 (2020) → 556 (2021) → 757 (2022) → **1,495 (2023)**

Meanwhile, domestic traffic volume, which reached an all-time high in 2022, decreased by about 11% compared to the previous year due to the shift of domestic travel demand to international ones, shown similar to the average domestic air traffic volume before COVID-19.

[Number of domestic flights per day] 675 (2019) → 605 (2020) → 719 (2021) → 722 (2022) → **644 (2023)**

In addition, the air traffic at Incheon Int'l Airport (82.7%↑) as well as at local international airports such as Cheongju, Gimhae, and Daegu increased significantly by 31%, 22%, and 43%, respectively, because of the pent-up effect* caused by the end of COVID-19.

* (Pent-up effect) A phenomenon in which demand suppressed due to external factors increases rapidly as those factors are resolved



Deputy Minister at the Office of Aviation Policy, MOLIT said, “Although uncertainties of external situations such as several conflicts around the world are variables, the year of 2024 is expected to record the highest air traffic volume ever.”, and “We will continue to closely monitor fluctuations in air traffic volume, striving to provide safe and efficient air transportation services”.

Adding, “We especially plan to continue to expand operations at local airports to enhance the convenience of traveling for residents and revitalize the local economies”.