

# Emirates and France



France has been an integral part of Emirates' global network for over three decades since the launch of Dubai-Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG) flights in 1992. Since then, Emirates has gradually increased capacity and routes across France in line with growing market demand, with flights to Nice launched in July 1994 and Lyon in December 2012.

Emirates currently operates three times daily to Paris CDG with the Airbus A380, and daily each to Nice and Lyon – fully utilising the passenger frequency entitlements under the France-UAE bilateral agreement. With 35 weekly flights, France remains comparatively underserved by Emirates relative to other European countries such as the UK, Germany and Italy. Extremely high load factors, especially on the Paris CDG-Dubai route (84% prior to COVID-19) meant that passengers were being turned away.

Emirates plays an important role in delivering daily, intercontinental connectivity to the French regions. In December 2012 Emirates was the first international carrier to link Lyon with the UAE and the wider Middle East, East Africa and the South Asian subcontinent via Dubai.

Emirates was the first and is the only airline to operate an A380 to Nice Côte d'Azur Airport. Other large French cities remain underserved in terms of Middle East connectivity, for example Marseille, Toulouse and Bordeaux.

## Emirates and Airbus

In November 2019 Emirates confirmed an order for 50 Airbus A350-900 XWB aircraft worth US\$16 billion. At the Dubai Airshow 2023, Emirates announced an order for 15 additional Airbus A350-900s worth US\$6 billion, taking its total A350 order book to 65 units. The first A350 is scheduled to join Emirates' fleet in August 2024, with deliveries continuing until early 2028.

Emirates is also the biggest customer of the Airbus A380 by a large margin, with 123 aircraft ordered. Emirates' A350 and A380 purchases have supported thousands of jobs at Airbus and its suppliers in France.

## A major investor in France

In addition to being a major Airbus customer, Emirates is also a significant purchaser of aircraft parts made in France, for example Michelin tyres, Zodiac aircraft seats and Thales avionics. In September 2022, Emirates invested over US\$350

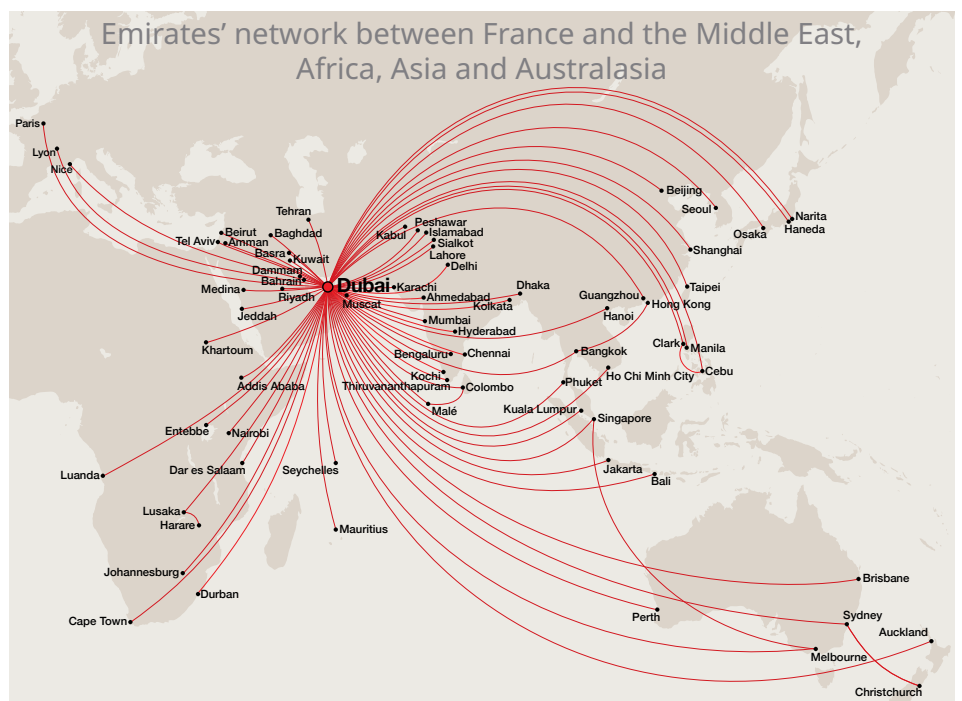
million in Thales' AVANT Up system for its new A350 aircraft. Emirates also directly contributes over €189 million to the French economy each year through operational expenditures such as fuel uplift, over-flight charges, inflight catering, aircraft landing and handling fees, crew layover, staff salaries, advertising and sponsorship.

France is by far Emirates' top source market globally for the procurement of wines – 58% of the red wine consumed in Emirates' First and Business Class is from Bordeaux. Emirates has been a long-standing customer of French wines and maintains its own wine cellar in Burgundy, which houses 6.2 million bottles of fine wines. While most airlines purchase their

wines through tenders, Emirates has, for many years, pursued direct relationships with producers in leading French wine regions. Emirates is currently the only commercial airline in the world officially serving Moët & Chandon, Veuve Clicquot and Dom Pérignon on board – making it the world's largest customer of Dom Pérignon, having featured in its First Class wine lists for over three decades.

Emirates' sponsorships also illustrate its long-term commitment to France. Emirates has been an Official Partner of the Roland Garros tennis tournament since 2013, a sponsorship deal worth €17.5 million. The partnership with the French Tennis Federation has since been extended until 2027, with Emirates being upgraded to Premium Partner status in 2018.

In February 2020, Emirates and Olympique Lyonnais signed a five-year sponsorship deal, making Emirates the Official Main Sponsor of the Lyon-based football club from the 2020/2021 season. Emirates is also a proud sponsor of UAE Team Emirates, supporting some of the biggest cycling tours such as Tour de France.



€643 million  
direct, indirect and induced  
GDP impact\*

6,720 jobs  
direct, indirect and induced  
(DII), supported through  
Emirates' operations\*

#1 UAE's rank  
French exports to the  
Middle East in 2022

€4.4 billion  
value of exports from France  
to the UAE in 2022

€189 million  
Emirates' operational spend  
in France in 2022-23

\*Frontier Economics report (2015): Emirates' Economic Impact in Europe

## France-UAE relations

The UAE is France's largest export partner in the Middle East. Bilateral trade between France and the UAE exceeded €6.9 billion in 2022, with exports from France to the UAE reaching €4.4 billion – amounting to a €2 billion trade surplus for France. Emirates transports 34,000 tonnes of cargo annually between points in France

and Dubai – carrying items such as wine, cheese, perfumes, garments, aircraft parts, medical equipment, and electronic products, among others. Dubai is home to 500 of the 1,000 French companies registered in the UAE, and 75% of the 25,000 French nationals that reside in the UAE.

## The importance of tourism to the French economy

Over 364,000 French nationals visited Dubai in 2022, a growth of 25% over 2021 – making France the eighth biggest source market for Dubai. Approximately one million high-spending tourists come from the Middle East region to France every year. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the European Travel Commission (ETC), tourists from the UAE and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, tend to spend nearly seven times the global average. Emirates' flights to and from France are integral to bringing in these important tourism segments which in turn contribute considerably to the French tourism sector and the direct and indirect jobs it supports.

## Additional Dubai-France flights

More connectivity equals more jobs. According to Frontier Economics, Emirates' flights to and from France had a GDP impact of €643 million and supported 6,720 DII jobs in France. Any future increases in connectivity would help spur French economic growth, lead to an increase in global competitiveness for businesses, facilitate exports, create more jobs and provide for incoming tourism – all in all, creating more value for France.

## About Emirates

Emirates is one of the largest airlines in the world in terms of international passenger and freight carriage. Established in 1985, the company's growth has been measured in line with the demand for air travel. In 2022-23, Emirates operated a global network of 150 destinations in 80 countries across six continents with a fleet of 260 wide-body aircraft, independently of the global airline alliances.

Emirates' independently audited financial accounts are published annually, in line with International Financial Reporting Standards.

## Our planet

At Emirates, we recognise our responsibility in preserving the planet's resources and are fully committed to minimising the environmental impact of our operations across all businesses and activities, including our supply chain. Our environmental efforts are focussed on three areas – reducing emissions, consuming responsibly, and preserving wildlife and habitats. Emirates achieved the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Environmental Assessment (IEnvA) Stage One certification in 2023 and supports IATA's industry commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Our opportunities to achieve this goal include fleet renewal, operational fuel efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable and low carbon aviation fuels.



### Reducing emissions

Reducing fuel consumption and maximising fuel efficiency are key to minimising carbon emissions from flights. An ongoing investment in future aircraft technology is Emirates' biggest commitment to reducing its environmental impact. The new generation of Airbus A350 XWB, Boeing 787, 777X and 777-200LR freighter aircraft that Emirates has on order, as well as its existing fleet of Boeing 777 and Airbus A380 aircraft that average nine years in age (significantly lower than the industry average), provide greater fuel efficiency compared to older generation aircraft. Emirates also has a comprehensive fuel efficiency program that actively investigates and implements ways to reduce unnecessary fuel burn and emissions, where operationally feasible. Furthermore, Emirates supports initiatives that contribute to the deployment of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), has participated in testing the use of 100% SAF, and advocates for the application of constructive policies to support the scaling up of SAF supply.



### Consuming responsibly

Emirates is committed to responsible consumption, encompassing the life cycle of purchasing, sourcing, consuming and managing the disposal of products and equipment. Since Emirates made a public commitment to reducing single-use plastic on board in 2019, we have diverted over 150 million single-use plastic items from landfill each year. Economy Class blankets, cups and bowl covers are made from recycled plastic, and young travellers' toys and amenity kits, including Premium Economy and Economy Class amenity kits, are also made of recycled plastic or other sustainable materials. Aircraft exteriors are cleaned using a pioneering dry washing technique that saves 11 million litres of water annually. In 2023, Emirates introduced closed loop recycling for onboard meal service items such as trays, bowls, snack dishes and casserole dishes.



### Preserving wildlife and habitats

Emirates is also committed to the preservation of fragile habitats and endangered wildlife. As a founding signatory to the 2016 United for Wildlife Buckingham Palace Declaration, Emirates recognises its role in combatting the illegal trade of wildlife and has a zero tolerance policy on transporting banned species, hunting trophies or any products associated with illegal wildlife activities. Emirates reinforced this commitment by successfully obtaining the IATA Illegal Wildlife Trade certification in 2023.