



Emirates and the UK

5.4 million passengers on Emirates' flights to and from the UK*

82 percent seat factor on Emirates' flights to and from the UK*

122 thousand tonnes of cargo carried on Emirates' flights to and from the UK*

£24.2 billion UK-UAE bilateral trade in goods and services in 2023

120 thousand British nationals living in the UAE

2,779 British nationals employed by the Emirates Group

*2023-24

The United Kingdom has been a key part of Emirates' network since the launch of Dubai-London Gatwick flights in 1987. Since then, Emirates has steadily increased capacity and routes across the UK in line with growing market demand.

Emirates is currently the largest non-European airline operating to the UK in terms of seat capacity, with 133 weekly passenger flights to eight UK airports – all served with large, widebody aircraft. Emirates' passenger network in the UK includes London (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted), Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Newcastle and Edinburgh, as well as twice weekly dedicated freighter services to London Heathrow.

Connecting UK regions

Connectivity plays a significant role in enabling tourism, international business relationships, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and international trade of goods and services. Emirates is the only carrier serving non-stop flights between Dubai and Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle, and London Gatwick and Stansted. This unique connectivity creates a catalytic impact on British GDP, FDI and international trade.

Emirates' multiple flights from the UK have facilitated the trade and timely transport of goods across the world, particularly to the Far East. In Newcastle, Emirates' flights have contributed significantly to the growth of local businesses. In fact, Emirates transported the majority of the £350 million worth of annual exports flown out of Newcastle Airport. Before Emirates launched flights to Newcastle in 2007, annual exports by air totalled less than £20 million. Additionally, trade between the UK's North East and Australasia grew by 140% from £150 million in 2007 to over £360 million a decade later. Emirates regularly transports high value, time sensitive and specialty cargo such as luxury vehicles, automotive and engine parts, animals, pharmaceuticals, food, textiles, electronics, machinery, oil-well equipment, construction material and works of art into and out of the UK.



Impact on the British economy

Our commitment to the UK market throughout the years is demonstrated not only by this measured capacity growth, but also via the purchase of British goods and services as well as sponsorships of British entities.

Emirates directly contributes over £694 million annually to the British economy through operational expenditures such as fuel uplift, over-flight costs, aircraft landing and handling costs, crew layover costs and area overheads, as well as advertising, promotions and sponsorships. However, the economic impact of Emirates' operations in the UK by far exceeds direct expenditure and employment in the UK when taking into account supply chain economic activity as well - for example that induced by ground handling and catering companies and their employees.

A loyal customer of British aerospace

At the Dubai Airshow 2019, Emirates confirmed an order for 50 Airbus A350-900 XWB aircraft worth US\$16 billion, powered by Rolls Royce Trent XWB engines.

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 late 2024, with deliveries continuing until early 2028. Edinburgh will be the first destination on Emirates' network to be served by the A350.

Emirates is also the biggest customer of the Airbus A380 by a large margin, with 123 aircraft ordered. Emirates' A350 and A380 purchases support thousands of jobs at Airbus, and among suppliers in the UK. One of the major components of these aircraft, the wings, are manufactured in Broughton and Filton.

In April 2015, Emirates placed an order for 217 Rolls-Royce Trent 900 engines to power 50 A380 aircraft, and a long-term TotalCare package. The US\$9.2 billion deal was the largest order in Rolls-Royce's history, and one of the largest ever export orders for a UK-based company. Emirates continues its long-term commitment to Rolls-Royce with its future A350 aircraft, having used its engines on previous Airbus A330 and A340, as well as Boeing 777 aircraft.

Sponsorships in the UK

Emirates' numerous sponsorships in the UK demonstrate the significance of this market. Emirates has held a shirt partnership with the Arsenal Football Club since 2006-07, and the latest extension of this partnership until 2028 makes it the longest running in the Premier League and the longest relationship in world sports. Emirates also holds the naming rights to Arsenal's home ground, the Emirates Stadium, up to 2028 and is the title sponsor of the FA Cup, the oldest domestic club competition in the world.

In addition, Emirates holds various other sponsorships in cricket such as the Lancashire Cricket Club and Emirates Old Trafford until 2029, is a tournament partner of the BMW PGA Championship, as well as the Official Airline Partner of The Championships, Wimbledon, and ATP tennis tournaments such as the cinch Championships at The Queen's Club, London, and horse racing in the UK. In 2023, Emirates announced a three-year sponsorship deal with the Great Britain SailGP Team.



Emirates' partnerships in the UK

Emirates' partnerships with Virgin Atlantic and Loganair offer enhanced products, choice and flexibility to consumers. Emirates' railway partners include Great Western Rail and Heathrow Express, National Express, and First TransPennine Express. Emirates also joined the Worldwide by easyJet programme, allowing easyJet passengers to seamlessly connect to Emirates flights at London Gatwick. dnata, an Emirates Group company, operates several wholly owned subsidiaries in the UK including dnata Travel Holdings UK Limited, dnata Aviation Services Limited and dnata Catering UK Limited, as well as holds extensive investments in local travel, catering, ground handling and logistics service providers.

Environmental sustainability

Emirates is committed to environmentally-responsible operations. Our environmental efforts are focused 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 actions towards minimising emissions include investing in new fleet and technology, a comprehensive fuel efficiency program, and renewable energy. Emirates also supports initiatives that contribute to the deployment of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and advocates for the application of constructive policies to support the scaling up of SAF supply. In 2023 and 2024, Emirates purchased SAF for supply at Dubai, Amsterdam, Singapore and London Heathrow.



Furthermore, we were the first international airline to join The Solent Cluster in January 2024, a UK initiative focused on low carbon investments established to reduce CO₂ emissions from industry, transport and households in the South Coast of England. Emirates also became an industrial partner of the University of Cambridge Aviation Impact Accelerator (AIA) in May 2024.

Our commitment to wildlife and habitats led us to become a founding signatory to the 2016 United for Wildlife Buckingham Palace Declaration, affirming our part in combatting the illegal trade in wildlife. Emirates has a zero-tolerance policy on transporting banned species, hunting trophies or any products associated with illegal wildlife activities.

More than 35% of dnata's Ground Support Equipment (GSE) in the UK is electric. Among other initiatives, dnata has 100% green energy tariffs across its UK facilities, 100% zero to landfill contracts in place at all sites and aim to have a 100% electric or hybrid vehicle fleet by 2024.

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 FY2023-24, Emirates operated a global network of 149 destinations in 78 countries across six continents from its hub in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 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.