



*Los Angeles*  
*World Airports*

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS GROUP



# **LAX SPECIFIC PLAN AVIATION ACTIVITY ANALYSIS REPORT CY 2018**

**Prepared May 2019**

**Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)  
Specific Plan Compliance Review  
Aviation Activity Analysis  
January - December 2018**

**A. Purpose of this Report**

Per Appendix A, Subsection 1(b) of the Los Angeles International Airport Specific Plan,<sup>[1]</sup> Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) is required to prepare and submit an annual Aviation Activity Analysis Report to the Board of Airport Commissioners, the Department of City Planning, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, and the Los Angeles City Council. The purpose of this report is: 1) to provide an analysis that identifies the current number of passengers, volume of air cargo and aircraft operations served at LAX; and 2) to compile aviation activity statistics for other airports in the Los Angeles region for monitoring and reporting purposes. This Aviation Activity Analysis Report has been updated for the calendar year 2018.

**B. Summary and Conclusions**

An analysis of LAX and regional air traffic activity for January through December 2018 led to the following conclusions:

- Preliminary data reported by individual airports indicates that LAX is the fourth busiest airport in the world by passenger volume and the second busiest in the United States.
- Passenger volume at LAX totaled approximately 87.53 million annual passengers (MAP) in 2018, a 3.52% increase compared to the previous year.
- Load factor for departures from LAX was 86.51% for international flights and 81.94% for domestic flights. This represents a decrease in load factor of 0.76% for international flights and an increase in 0.44% for domestic flights when compared to 2017.
- Load factor for arrivals at LAX was 86.04% for international flights and 82.62% for domestic flights. This represents a decrease in load factor of 0.75% for international flights and an increase in 1.30% for domestic flights when compared to 2017.
- Cargo volume at LAX totaled approximately 2.45 million tons in 2018, a 2.37% increase over 2017.
- Commercial aircraft operations (landings and takeoffs) at LAX increased by 1.07% in 2018 to 707,833 from 700,362 operations in 2017.
- LAX handled 76.26% of passenger traffic among the six major commercial Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region airports in 2018, a 0.51% decrease from 2017.

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<sup>[1]</sup> City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, LAX Specific Plan, adopted January 20, 2005, last amended September 8, 2017.

**C. LAX Global and National Ranking**

**Table 1. Top 20 World Airports Ranked by Passenger Volume**  
(preliminary rankings as reported by individual airports, April 9, 2019)

| U.S. Rank | Global Rank | Airport                                  | Location                         | Total Passengers |
|-----------|-------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1         | 1           | Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International | Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.         | 107,394,029      |
|           | 2           | Beijing Capital International            | Beijing, China                   | 100,983,290      |
|           | 3           | Dubai International                      | Dubai, U.A.E.                    | 89,149,387       |
| 2         | 4           | Los Angeles International                | Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.  | 87,534,384       |
|           | 5           | Tokyo Haneda International               | Tokyo, Japan                     | 87,131,973       |
| 3         | 6           | O'Hare International                     | Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.        | 83,339,186       |
|           | 7           | London Heathrow                          | London, United Kingdom           | 80,126,320       |
|           | 8           | Hong Kong International                  | Hong Kong, China                 | 74,517,402       |
|           | 9           | Shanghai Pudong International            | Shanghai, China                  | 74,006,331       |
|           | 10          | Paris-Charles de Gaulle                  | Paris, France                    | 72,229,723       |
|           | 11          | Amsterdam Schiphol                       | Amsterdam, Netherlands           | 71,053,147       |
|           | 12          | Indira Gandhi International              | New Delhi, India                 | 69,900,938       |
|           | 13          | Guangzhou Bai Yun International          | Guangzhou, China                 | 69,769,497       |
|           | 14          | Frankfurt Airport                        | Frankfurt, Germany               | 69,510,269       |
| 4         | 15          | Dallas/Fort Worth International          | Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A. | 69,112,607       |
|           | 16          | Seoul Incheon International              | Incheon, Republic of Korea       | 68,350,784       |
|           | 17          | Istanbul Atatürk                         | Istanbul, Turkey                 | 68,192,683       |
|           | 18          | Soekarno-Hatta International             | Jakarta, Indonesia               | 66,908,159       |
|           | 19          | Singapore Changi Airport                 | Singapore                        | 65,628,000       |
| 5         | 20          | Denver International                     | Denver, Colorado, U.S.A.         | 64,494,613       |

Data Source: Airports Council International (ACI) – World

**Table 2. Top 15 U.S. Airports Ranked by Passenger Volume**  
(preliminary rankings as reported by individual airports, April 9, 2019)

| U.S. Rank | Global Rank | Airport                                  | Location                  | Total Passengers |
|-----------|-------------|--|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1         | 1           | Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International | Atlanta, Georgia          | 107,394,029      |
| 2         | 4           | Los Angeles International                | Los Angeles, California   | 87,534,384       |
| 3         | 6           | O'Hare International                     | Chicago, Illinois         | 83,339,186       |
| 4         | 15          | Dallas/Fort Worth International          | Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas  | 69,112,607       |
| 5         | 20          | Denver International                     | Denver, Colorado          | 64,494,613       |
| 6         | 22          | John F. Kennedy International            | Queens, New York          | 61,623,756       |
| 7         | 25          | San Francisco International              | San Francisco, California | 57,708,196       |
| 8         | 29          | McCarran International                   | Las Vegas, Nevada         | 49,863,090       |
| 9         | 30          | Seattle-Tacoma International             | SeaTac, Washington        | 49,849,520       |
| 10        | 34          | Orlando International                    | Orlando, Florida          | 47,694,573       |
| 11        | 37          | Charlotte Douglas International          | Charlotte, North Carolina | 46,446,721       |
| 12        | 40          | Newark Liberty International             | Newark, New Jersey        | 46,065,175       |
| 13        | 42          | Miami International                      | Miami, Florida            | 45,044,312       |
| 14        | 43          | Phoenix Sky Harbor International         | Phoenix, Arizona          | 44,943,686       |
| 15        | 47          | George Bush Intercontinental             | Houston, Texas            | 43,807,539       |

Data Source: Airports Council International (ACI) – World

## D. LAX Air Traffic Activity

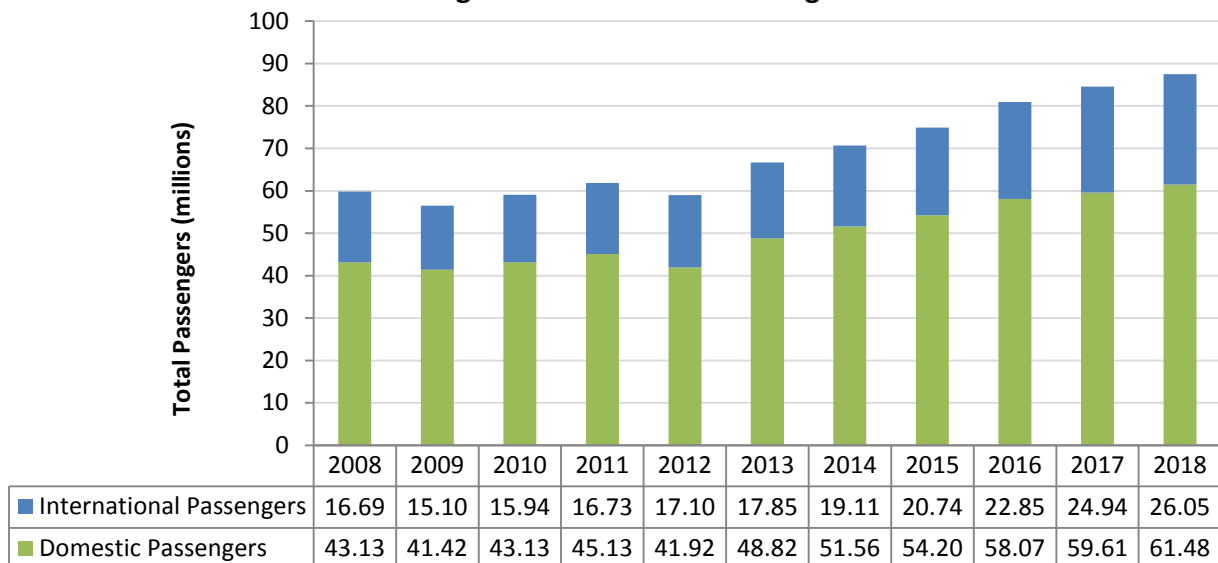
Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) reports air traffic activity on a monthly basis, and keeps an archive of this activity online at <https://www.lawa.org/en/lawa-investor-relations/statistics-for-lax>. The subpages entitled “Air Traffic Ten Year Summary” and “Volume of Air Traffic” provides air passenger, air cargo and aircraft operations activity statistics for Los Angeles International Airport for the calendar year 2018.

## E. LAX Passenger Volume

As shown below in Figure 1, LAX passenger volume totaled approximately 87.53 million annual passengers (MAP) in 2018, a 3.52% increase over 2017.<sup>[2]</sup>

International passenger volume was approximately 26.05 MAP for 2018, a 4.45% increase over the previous record high of 24.94 MAP in 2017. Domestic passenger volume is up 3.13% over 2017, from approximately 59.61 MAP in 2017 to 61.48 MAP in 2018.

**Figure 1. LAX Annual Passengers 2008-2018**



Data Source: LAWA, Financial Management Systems, Revenue Agreement Management System (aka PROPworks™).



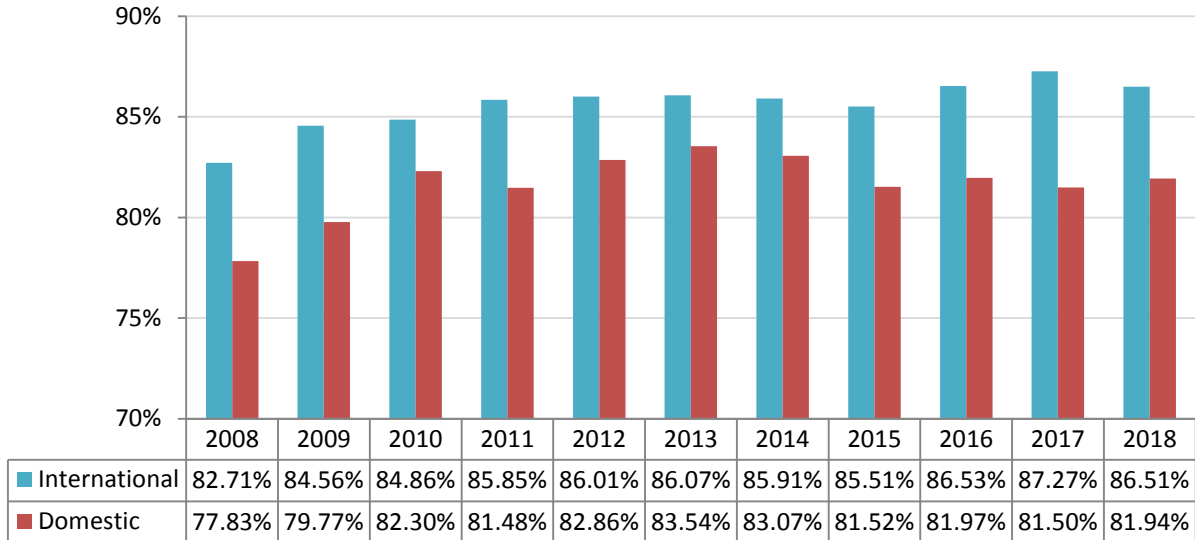
Photo Credit: Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

<sup>[2]</sup> The 2017 LAX passenger numbers were revised by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA).

## F. Load Factor

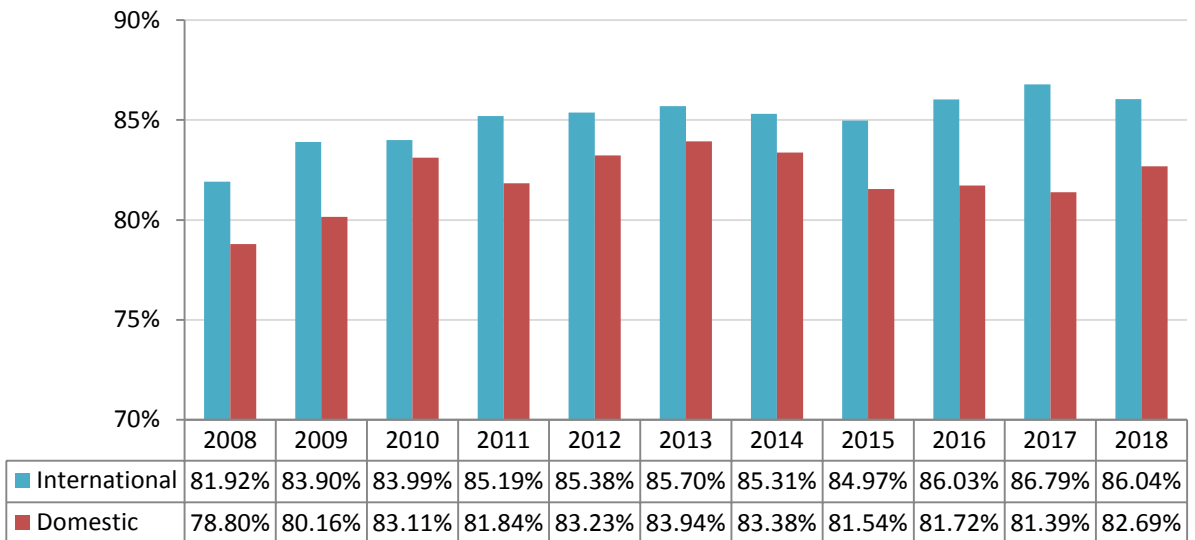
Load factor is the proportion of available seats filled per aircraft that measures how much passenger carrying capacity is used. Load factor is calculated by dividing Revenue Passenger Miles<sup>[3]</sup> by the Available Seat Miles.<sup>[4]</sup> Figure 2a below shows the change in load factor for aircraft departing LAX for the past decade, while Figure 2b shows the change in load factor for aircraft arriving at LAX for the same timeframe.<sup>[5]</sup> In 2018, load factor for departures from LAX decreased by 0.76% for international flights and increased by 0.44% for domestic flights. For arrivals at LAX load factor decreased by 0.75% for international flights and increased by 1.30% for domestic flights when compared to 2017.

**Figure 2a. Load Factor for Departures from LAX 2008-2018**



Data Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics T-100 Segment Data

**Figure 2b. Load Factor for Arrivals to LAX 2008-2018**



Data Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics T-100 Segment Data

<sup>[3]</sup> Revenue Passenger Miles show the number of miles traveled by paying passengers. It is calculated as the number of paying passengers multiplied on a flight by the total distance traveled.

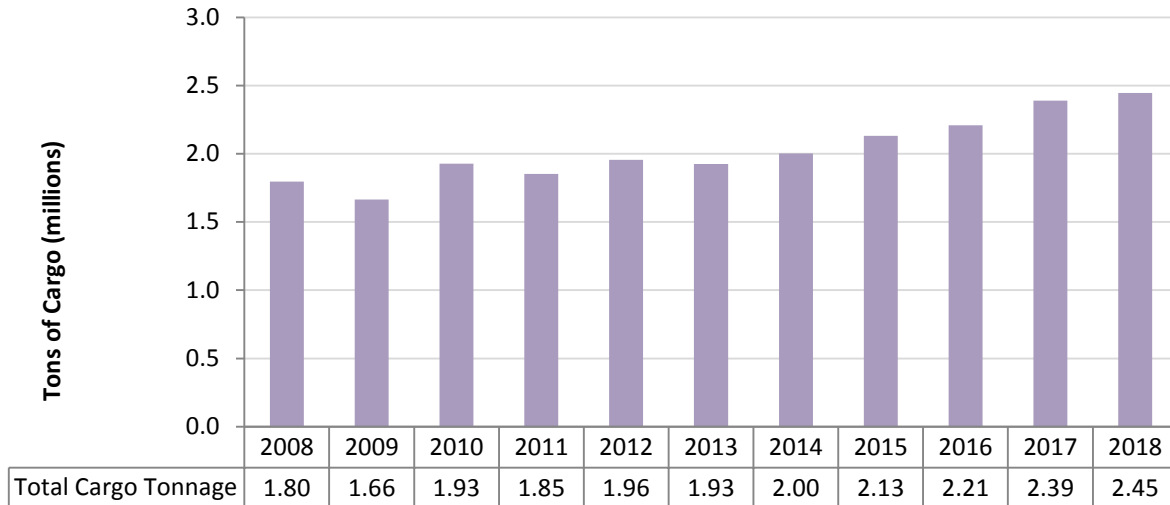
<sup>[4]</sup> Available Seat Miles is the total passenger capacity of an airline in miles and is captured by multiplying the total number of seats available on a flight and the total number of miles in which those seats were flown during scheduled flights.

<sup>[5]</sup> 2018 percentages are based on available data from January 2018 through September 2018.

## G. LAX Cargo Volume

Cargo volume in 2018 totaled approximately 2.45 million tons, a 2.37% increase over 2017. Figure 3 below shows historical cargo volumes for LAX over the past ten years.

**Figure 3. LAX Annual Cargo Tonnage 2008-2018**

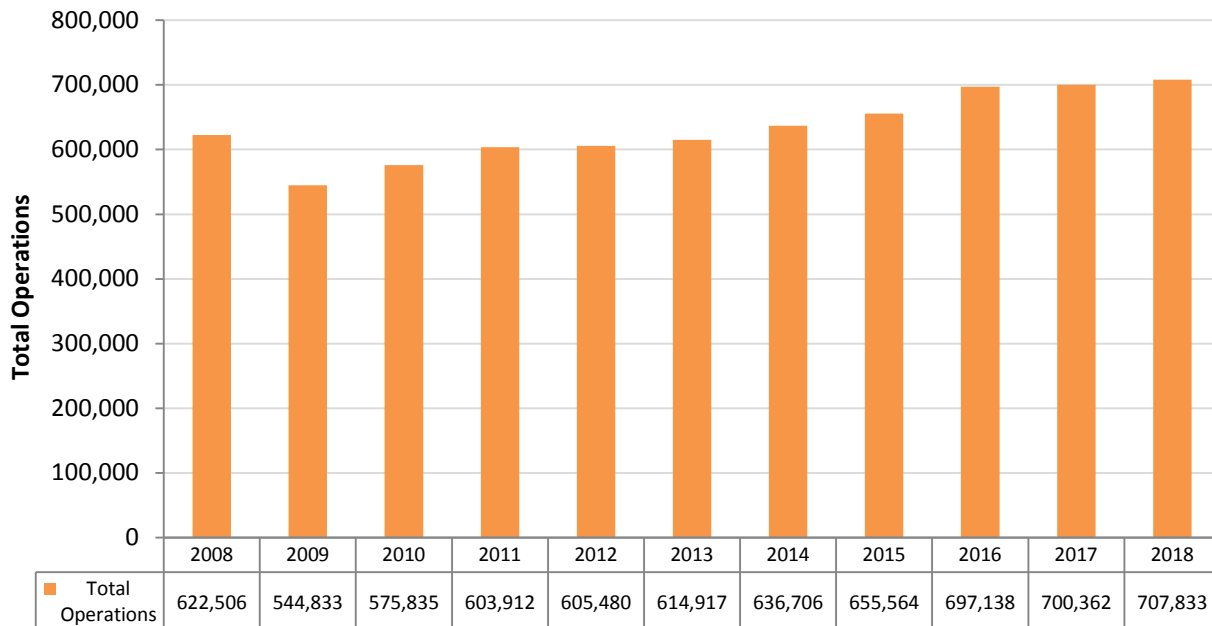


Data Source: LAWA, Financial Management Systems, *Revenue Agreement Management System* (aka PROPworks™).

## H. LAX Aircraft Operations

Figure 4 below shows the change in aircraft operations activity at LAX for the past decade. The number of aircraft operations (landings and takeoffs) totaled 707,833 in 2018, up 1.07% from 700,362 commercial operations in 2017.

**Figure 4. LAX Annual Operations 2008-2018**



Data Source: LAWA, Financial Management Systems, *Revenue Agreement Management System* (aka PROPworks™).

## I. Aviation Activity in the SCAG Metropolitan Planning Region

There are six major commercial airports in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) metropolitan planning region:<sup>[6]</sup>

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR)         | 4) Ontario International Airport (ONT)      |
| 2) Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) | 5) Palm Springs International Airport (PSP) |
| 3) Long Beach Airport (LGB)                | 6) John Wayne Airport (SNA)                 |

These airports served approximately 114.79 million annual passengers in 2018 (up 4.21% from 110.16 million annual passengers in 2017) and approximately 2.64 million tons of cargo/mail in 2018. The six major SCAG region airports had about 2.22 million aircraft operations in 2018. LAX handled approximately 76.26% of regional passenger volume among the six airports in 2018.

The tables below summarize 2017 and 2018 air passengers, cargo/mail tonnage, and aircraft operations totals by airport in absolute numbers (Table 3) and the percentage of total (Table 4). An aircraft operation is defined as an arrival or departure of one aircraft at an airport.

**Table 3. 2017 and 2018 Aviation Activity at the Six Major SCAG Region Airports**

| Airport      | 2018               |                   |                  | 2017 <sup>[7]</sup> |                   |                  |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|              | Passengers         | Cargo/Mail (Tons) | Total Operations | Passengers          | Cargo/Mail (Tons) | Total Operations |
| BUR          | 5,263,972          | 54,704            | 132,023          | 4,739,466           | 54,453            | 131,661          |
| LAX          | 87,534,384         | 2,446,137         | 707,833          | 84,557,968          | 2,389,474         | 700,362          |
| LGB          | 3,884,721          | 23,848            | 256,254          | 3,783,805           | 25,335            | 302,350          |
| ONT          | 5,115,894          | 100,454           | 751,529          | 4,552,225           | 654,378           | 97,380           |
| PSP          | 2,327,018          | 198               | 57,667           | 2,100,072           | 173               | 51,814           |
| SNA          | 10,664,038         | 19,543            | 316,783          | 10,423,578          | 18,888            | 293,649          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>114,790,027</b> | <b>2,644,884</b>  | <b>2,222,089</b> | <b>110,157,114</b>  | <b>3,142,701</b>  | <b>1,577,275</b> |

Data Source: Individual airport's statistical reports and correspondence, FAA ATADS, and SCAG

**Table 4. 2017 and 2018 Aviation Activity at the Six Major SCAG Region Airports (by percentage of total)**

| Airport      | 2018           |                   |                  | 2017 <sup>[8]</sup> |                   |                  |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|              | Passengers     | Cargo/Mail (Tons) | Total Operations | Passengers          | Cargo/Mail (Tons) | Total Operations |
| BUR          | 4.59%          | 2.07%             | 5.94%            | 4.30%               | 1.73%             | 8.35%            |
| LAX          | 76.26%         | 92.49%            | 31.85%           | 76.76%              | 76.03%            | 44.40%           |
| LGB          | 3.38%          | 0.90%             | 11.53%           | 3.43%               | 0.81%             | 19.17%           |
| ONT          | 4.46%          | 3.80%             | 33.82%           | 4.13%               | 20.82%            | 6.17%            |
| PSP          | 2.03%          | 0.01%             | 2.60%            | 1.91%               | 0.01%             | 3.29%            |
| SNA          | 9.29%          | 0.74%             | 14.26%           | 9.46%               | 0.60%             | 18.62%           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100.00%</b> | <b>100.00%</b>    | <b>100.00%</b>   | <b>100.00%</b>      | <b>100.00%</b>    | <b>100.00%</b>   |

Data Source: Individual airport's statistical reports and correspondence, FAA ATADS, and SCAG

<sup>[6]</sup> The SCAG region encompasses Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties.

<sup>[7]</sup> The 2017 passenger and operations numbers in Table 3 were revised to reflect updated data published and/or provided by each airport, the FAA, and/or SCAG.

<sup>[8]</sup> The 2017 percentages in Table 4 were recalculated with the updated 2017 numbers in Table 3.

Table 5 below shows each airport's share of regional air passenger traffic from 1998 to 2018.

**Table 5. Share of Passenger Activity at the Six Major SCAG Region Airports from 1998-2018 (by percentage of total)<sup>[9]</sup>**

| Year                 | LAX   | ONT  | LGB  | SNA   | BUR  | PSP  | Regional Total |
|----------------------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|----------------|
| 1998                 | 74.9% | 7.9% | 0.8% | 9.1%  | 5.8% | 1.5% | 100%           |
| 1999                 | 75.4% | 7.7% | 1.0% | 8.8%  | 5.6% | 1.5% | 100%           |
| 2000                 | 76.1% | 7.6% | 0.7% | 8.8%  | 5.3% | 1.4% | 100%           |
| 2001                 | 75.2% | 8.2% | 0.7% | 8.9%  | 5.5% | 1.4% | 100%           |
| 2002                 | 72.2% | 8.4% | 1.9% | 10.2% | 5.9% | 1.4% | 100%           |
| 2003                 | 69.7% | 8.3% | 3.6% | 10.8% | 6.0% | 1.6% | 100%           |
| 2004                 | 70.5% | 8.1% | 3.4% | 10.8% | 5.7% | 1.6% | 100%           |
| 2005                 | 69.6% | 8.2% | 3.4% | 10.9% | 6.2% | 1.6% | 100%           |
| 2006                 | 69.6% | 8.0% | 3.1% | 11.0% | 6.5% | 1.7% | 100%           |
| 2007                 | 69.3% | 8.0% | 3.2% | 11.1% | 6.6% | 1.8% | 100%           |
| 2008                 | 70.5% | 7.3% | 3.4% | 10.6% | 6.3% | 1.8% | 100%           |
| 2009                 | 71.5% | 6.2% | 3.7% | 11.0% | 5.8% | 1.9% | 100%           |
| 2010                 | 72.5% | 5.9% | 3.7% | 10.6% | 5.5% | 1.8% | 100%           |
| 2011                 | 73.7% | 5.4% | 3.7% | 10.3% | 5.1% | 1.8% | 100%           |
| 2012                 | 74.2% | 5.0% | 3.7% | 10.3% | 4.7% | 2.0% | 100%           |
| 2013                 | 75.4% | 4.5% | 3.3% | 10.4% | 4.3% | 2.0% | 100%           |
| 2014                 | 76.2% | 4.4% | 3.0% | 10.1% | 4.2% | 2.1% | 100%           |
| 2015                 | 76.7% | 4.3% | 2.6% | 10.4% | 4.0% | 1.9% | 100%           |
| 2016                 | 77.3% | 4.1% | 2.7% | 10.0% | 4.0% | 1.9% | 100%           |
| 2017 <sup>[10]</sup> | 76.8% | 4.1% | 3.4% | 9.5%  | 4.3% | 1.9% | 100%           |
| 2018                 | 76.3% | 4.5% | 3.4% | 9.3%  | 4.6% | 2.0% | 100%           |

Data Source: Individual airport's statistical reports and correspondence, FAA ATADS, and SCAG

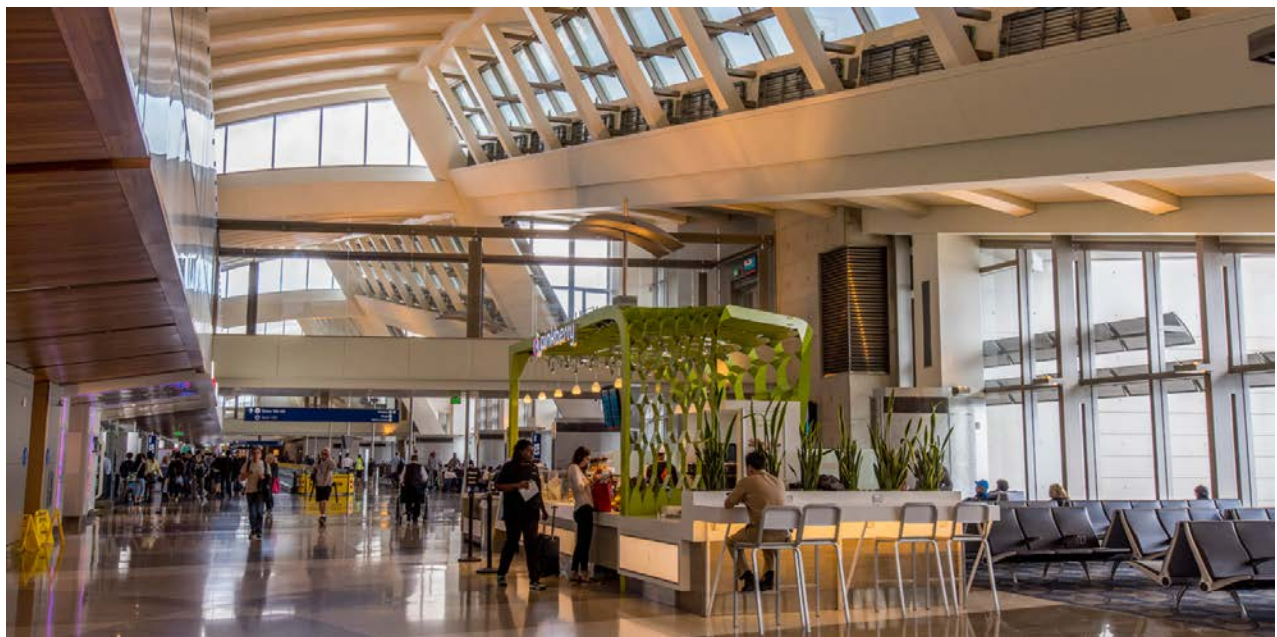


Photo Credit: Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

<sup>[9]</sup> Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth.

<sup>[10]</sup> The 2017 percentages were recalculated with the updated passenger numbers in Table 3.