

# LAX SPECIFIC PLAN AVIATION ACTIVITY ANALYSIS REPORT CY 2014

**Prepared April 2015** 

#### Los Angeles International Airport Specific Plan LAX Specific Plan Compliance Review Aviation Activity Analysis January - December 2014

#### Purpose of This Study

Per Section 7 Subsection G.1(b), Monitoring and Reporting, of the Los Angeles International Airport Specific Plan, 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, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, and the City Council. This report is to include an "analysis that identifies the current number of passengers, volume of air cargo and aircraft operations served at LAX". The report is also 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 2014.

#### **Summary and Conclusions**

An analysis of LAX and regional air traffic activity for January through December 2014 led to the following conclusions:

- Passenger volume at LAX totaled approximately 70.67 Million Annual Passengers (MAP) in 2014, a 5.62% increase compared to the previous year, and a record-breaking high for LAX. Cargo volume at LAX totaled 2.00 million tons in 2014, a 3.90% increase compared to 2013.
- Commercial aircraft operations (landings and takeoffs) at LAX increased about 3.38% in 2014 to 578,002 from 559,080 operations in 2013.
- LAX handled 76.2% of regional passenger traffic in 2014, a 0.8% increase over 2013. All other regional airports maintain or increased passenger volume in 2014 except Burbank, which lost nearly 9% of its 2013 volume.
- In preliminary data reported by Airports Council International <sup>(1)</sup>, LAX was the fifth busiest airport in the world by passenger volume and the second busiest in the United States for calendar year 2014. Atlanta ranked first in U.S. passenger volume, and Chicago-O'Hare, third, followed by Dallas, Denver, and JFK.

<sup>(1)</sup> ACI World releases preliminary world airport traffic and rankings for 2014 - DXB becomes busiest airport for international passenger traffic - Mar 26, 2015 http://tinyurl.com/nwn6kc2

# LAX Air Traffic Activity

LAWA reports air traffic activity on a monthly basis throughout the year. Reports are posted each month on the LAWA web site (www.lawa.org). The attached reports entitled "Traffic Comparison Report (TCOM)" and "Volume of Air Traffic (VOAT)" provides passenger, cargo and aircraft operations activity statistics for Los Angeles International Airport for the Calendar Year 2014.

### LAX Passenger Volume

As shown in Figure 1, LAX passenger volume totaled approximately 70.67 Million Annual Passengers (MAP) in 2014, a 5.62% increase compared to the previous year. 2014 surpassed the previous peak volume of 67.3 MAP in 2000. LAX passenger levels in 2014 were 3.56 million greater than the 2000 peak, and 3.99 million greater than 2013.



Data Source: RAMS

In 2014, international passengers increased to approximately 19.1 MAP from the previous record of 17.85 MAP in 2013, a 7.02% increase. The percentage share of international passengers increased 26.52% since five years ago, just following the Great Recession in 2009, but only by 9.70% as compared to 2000.

## LAX Load Factor

Load factor is the percentage of seats filled per aircraft. Average Load Factor (ALF) includes LAX's entire operations for the calendar year. Figure 2 - *"LAX Average Load Factor 2001-2014,"* below shows the change in ALF at LAX since 2001. The domestic LAX ALF rose to its highest point to 85.6% in 2014 and the international load factor increased over the previous year to 83.7%, but not as high as in recent years. A number of changes have influenced load factor over the past several years; these include American Airlines fleet renewal program, United Airlines merger of Continental Airlines, and a rapid increase in A380 operations at LAX.



\*Percentages are rounded up

Data Source: T-100 DOT Reports

# LAX Cargo Volume

Total cargo volume in Calendar Year 2014 totaled 2.00 Million Annual Tons, a 3.90% increase from 2013. Figure 3 – "*LAX Annual Cargo Tonnage 1999-2014*" shows historical cargo volumes for LAX between 1999 and 2014.



Data Source: RAMS

## LAX Commercial Aircraft Operations

*Figure 4 - "LAX Annual Operations 1999-2014"* shows the change in operations at LAX between 1999 and 2014. Operations data in Figure 4 includes only scheduled, commuter and charter service; it excludes cargo, military and other operations. The number of commercial aircraft operations (landings and takeoffs) totaled 578,002 in 2014, up from 559,080 commercial operations in 2013, or a 3.38% increase.



Data Source: RAMS

# LAX Fleet Mix

The fleet mix or types of aircraft used at LAX changes as airlines seek to match aircraft size to demand, to optimize operating costs, and as companies shift priorities at LAX (mergers, market expansion or withdrawals).

Between 2013 and 2014, the LAX fleet mix has remained relatively stable. There's been a small increase of narrow body operations of less than one percent. Over the past five years, the only significant change has been an increase in turbo props after 2012. This can be attributed to "right-sizing" regional flights and perhaps, a return of corporate aircraft since the recession.

A380's and 747's fall under the Jumbo category. While there has been an increase in A380's, the percentage share of Jumbo jets remains at about 3.5% over recent years.



# Aviation Activity in the Los Angeles Region

There are six primary commercial airports in the six-county Southern California region (the planning region excludes San Diego County). These airports in total served approximately 92,775,000 passengers and handled approximately 2.58 million tons of air cargo in 2014.

The six Southern California airports generated about 1.46 million aircraft commercial and private operations in 2014. In 2014, regional passenger volume increased 4.9% from 2013. LAX handles approximately 76.2% of the 2014 passenger volume.

*The tables below, "Aviation Activity SCAG Region Air Carrier Airports"* below summarizes 2013 and 2014 passengers, cargo, and operations totals by airport in absolute numbers (Table 1) and percentage of total (Table 2).

Table 1 Aviation Activity SCAG Region Air Carrier Airports 2013 - 2014								
		2013		2014				
Airport	Passengers	Cargo & Mail (tons)	Total Operations	Passengers	Cargo & Mail (tons)	Total Operations		
BUR	3,844,390	54,715	130,560	3,861,179	57,604	118,543		
SNA	9,232,789	17,568	248,225	9,386,033	17,127	269,189		
LAX	66,665,726	1,928,720	614,917	70,662,212	2,001,152	636,706		
LGB	2,942,873	24,336	251,957	2,823,996	25,529	291,896		
ONT	3,971,136	460,535	83,087	4,127,278	474,346	83,766		
PSP	1,752,180	118,800	54,411	1,914,402	340	57,307		
Totals	88,409,094	2,604,674	1,383,157	92,775,100	2,576,098	1,457,407		

Table 2 Aviation Activity SCAG Region Air Carrier Airports								
2013 - 2014 by percentage of total								
		2013		2014				
Airmont	Passengers	Cargo & Mail	Total	Passengers	Cargo & Mail	Total		
Airport		(tons)	Operations		(tons)	Operations		
BUR	4.3%	2.1%	9.4%	4.2%	2.2%	8.1%		
SNA	10.4%	0.7%	17.9%	10.1%	0.7%	18.5%		
LAX	75.4%	74.0%	44.5%	76.2%	77.7%	43.7%		
LGB	3.3%	0.9%	18.2%	3.0%	1.0%	20.0%		
ONT	4.5%	17.7%	6.0%	4.4%	18.4%	5.7%		
PSP	2.0%	4.6%	3.9%	2.1%	0.0%	3.9%		
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		

BUR: Burbank Bob Hope Airport - Burbank, CA

SNA: John Wayne International Airport – Orange County, Santa Ana, CA

LAX: Los Angeles International Airport - Los Angeles, CA

LGB: Long Beach International Airport – Long Beach, CA

ONT: Los Angeles/Ontario International Airport – Ontario, CA

PSP: Palm Spring International Airport - Palm Springs, CA

Table 3   Airport Share of Regional Passenger Traffic   SCAG Region Air Carrier Airports   1996-2014							
	Los Angeles	Ontario	Long Beach	John Wayne	Burbank	Palm Springs	Regional
	(LAX)	(ONT)	(LGB)	(SNA)	(BUR)	(PSP)	Total
1996	74.4%	8.0%	0.6%	9.4%	6.2%	1.4%	100%
1997	74.6%	7.8%	0.8%	9.6%	5.8%	1.5%	100%
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	<u>69.7%</u>	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%

Table 4 - "Airport Share of Regional Passenger Traffic SCAG Region Air Carrier Airports 1996-2014" shows the airport share of regional passenger traffic.