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Dortmund Airport **21**

Press Release

Seite
1/2

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Dortmund Airport

Basic Information, as at 01/2016

With 10 airlines, Dortmund Airport offers travellers connections to some 40 destinations in 15 European countries. Almost 2 million passengers used the airport in 2015. This makes Dortmund Airport the third-largest airport in North Rhine-Westphalia, after Düsseldorf and Cologne-Bonn.

According to airline passenger surveys, approximately 80% of the passengers come from within a radius of 100 kilometres, many even travelling from the Netherlands. Its proximity, low prices and fast connections to attractive destinations are regularly stated as the most important reasons for choosing to fly from Dortmund Airport. "That's proof of the drawing power of the airport far beyond the region", says Managing Director Udo Mager.

Business and holidays in Europe

Among the around 40 destinations in 15 countries in Eastern and Western Europe as well as Turkey, the holiday island of Majorca has headed the popularity chart for years. Nevertheless, the airport is more than just a medium-haul starting point for your holidays. In 2015, the majority of passengers flew on the route to and from Kattowitz. London (Luton and Stansted) as well as Munich, followed on the list of most popular destinations. With its fast connections to large European cities and business centres, such as Budapest or Warsaw, the airport has many offerings that are used by tourists as well as business travellers.

Business travellers account for about a quarter of all passengers each year. They especially appreciate the connection to the Munich hub and the extensive offerings to destinations in Central and Eastern Europe such as Kattowitz and Krakau in Poland, Vilnius in Lithuania and Bucharest in Romania. The East European offerings represent a unique selling point for Dortmund Airport. For Managing Director Udo Mager, Dortmund Airport is the "gateway to the East" for the Ruhr and Westphalia metropolitan regions - with rising demand". Wizz Air, the largest low cost airline in Central and Eastern Europe, is an important partner in this regard. With more than 1 million passengers, Wizz Air is Dortmund's biggest airline. Almost one-third of its German flights take off from here.

From Europe to the local region

Dortmund Airport is also an important transport hub for incoming airline passengers. Approximately 25 percent of all passengers fly from throughout Europe to the Ruhr airport for a stay in Dortmund and the surrounding area. Forty percent of these travellers state that they are travelling on business. They fly in as trade fair visitors or congress participants, for example. Those arriving as tourists come to discover the Ruhr region or to visit the Dortmund Christmas market. They all bring purchasing power, which boosts the local economy. The majority of incoming passengers travel from London to Dortmund. However, Wizz Air carries the majority of passengers in the region.

An important factor for business

Dortmund Airport is an important factor for business far beyond the Westphalian Ruhr region. Three hundred employees work directly for the airport, while more than 1000 work in its direct vicinity. Regionally, about 3000 jobs are related directly and indirectly to the airport. Independent appraisers predict rising numbers of jobs here. Based on calculations, business activities at the airport following the extension of the operating hours by one hour from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. will generate an annual added value of EUR 561 million nationwide (regionally EUR 383 million) by 2025. As a result, Dortmund Airport will ensure 7020 jobs throughout Germany (4610 regionally) and a gross income of EUR 253 million (EUR 179 million regionally).

Airport with a history

In 2016, Dortmund Airport looks back on a 90-year history. The company was founded on 16 April 1926 - the start of aviation in the Ruhr region. In the early years at the original location in Dortmund-Brackel, there were even more scheduled flights from there than from Düsseldorf, for example. The start of civil aviation in Dortmund after the Second World War dates back to 1960 in the Wickede district. But it was not until 1974 that a 650-metre long asphalt runway was built at the airport to replace the original grass strip. The first scheduled airlines took off again in 1979 with the opening of the Dortmund-Munich route by RFG (Regionallfluggesellschaft), later Eurowings AG. These days, the big players in the industry such as Wizz Air and easyJet or Eurowings and Ryanair take off from Dortmund with their Airbus and Boeing aircraft.

With 13 parking places, 13 gates, 3 luggage conveyors, 28 check-in counters as well as a 2000 m long and 45 m wide take-off and landing runway, around 3.2 million airline passengers can be carried annually. Accordingly, the original regional airport of Dortmund-Wickede has developed into one of the largest commercial airports in North Rhine-Westphalia: Dortmund Airport.

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