

Daily Bulletin

February 2, 2026

Saudi passenger traffic hit 140.9M in 2025, powered by a 2H pickup after a muted first half.

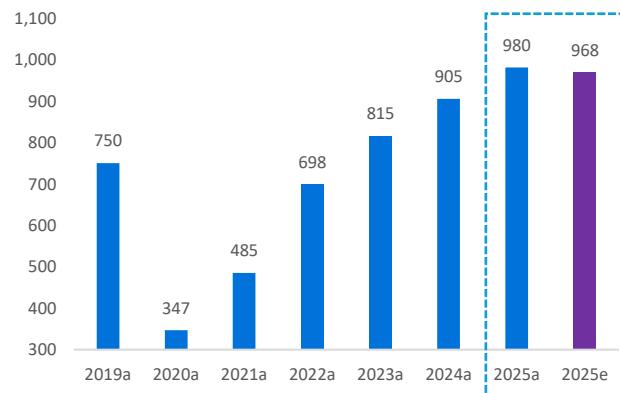
Passenger volumes at Saudi airports reached nearly 141 mn in 2025, a 9.6% YoY increase, while total flights rose to 980,000, up 8.3% YoY, according to GACA. Both metrics were broadly aligned with our forecasts, coming in 1.2% above our expectations for flights and 2.4% above for passenger traffic. The number of international destinations increased to 176 in 2025, up from 172 the previous year. In contrast, air cargo volumes fell by 1.7% YoY over the same period.

The YoY increase in total flights and passenger volumes was likely driven by stronger tourist inflows (up 5% YoY in 2025), a larger number of external Umrah pilgrims (over 18 mn vs. 17 mn in 2024), and an expanded network of international destinations during the year.

Despite the annual headline growth, momentum moderated during 1H25, with total flights and passenger numbers growing by 2.3% and 5.8% YoY, respectively. This softer performance is largely attributed to regional disruptions, the suspension of visit visas ahead of the Hajj season, and lower external Hajj pilgrims in 1H25. However, 2H25 was a considerably better period with both total flights and passenger numbers growing by 14.4% and 13.1% YoY, respectively.

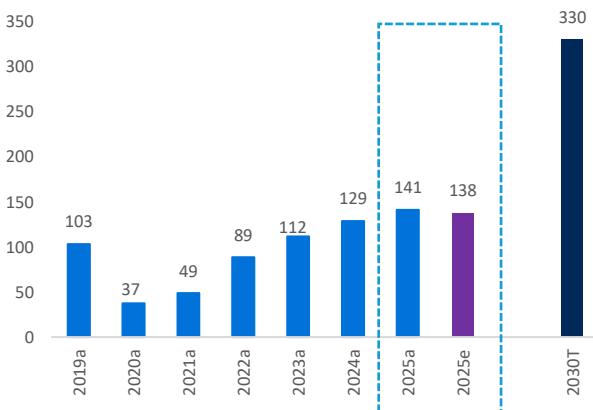
Overall sector dynamics remain firmly aligned with Vision 2030 targets and continues to underpin our positive stance on the aviation sector linked names under coverage — SGS, Catrion, and Flynas — for which we maintain Overweight ratings.

Total annual flights (k)



Source: GACA, anbc research

Total passenger traffic (mn)



Source: GACA, anbc research

To view our Travel sector coverage report, please ([click here](#)).

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