

Press Release

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Leipzig/Halle Airport
Dresden International
PortGround

Leipzig/Halle Airport: freight volumes continue to grow significantly

Hundreds of thousands of rapid tests for schools in Saxony

Freight volumes at Leipzig/Halle Airport (LEJ), Europe's fourth-largest air cargo hub, rose by 20.9 percent to a figure of more than 359,000 tonnes during the first quarter of this year. This means that the significant growth in freight operations is continuing in 2021 too. LEJ handled more than 1.38 million tonnes of cargo last year, which set a new record.

The volume of cargo handled in March, approx. 135,000 tonnes, signified an increase of 25.5 percent compared to the same month in the previous year.

The airport is increasingly being used as a handling centre for medical air supplies and protective equipment in the battle against the Covid-19 pandemic. It has therefore regularly handled cargo charter flights that have been transporting millions of Covid-19 tests during the past few weeks, in addition to normal traffic. These shipments included about 690,000 COVID-19 antigen rapid tests for schools in Saxony. Nearly all these cargo flights are being operated by passenger aircraft.

LEJ – the hub for express and e-commerce shipments, freight charter flights and medical aid supplies

LEJ is one of the cargo airports with the most dynamic growth anywhere in the world. As the second-largest air freight handling centre in Germany, the airport safeguards important logistical and supply chains for industry and the general population.

LEJ is DHL's largest hub in the world and it is the first regional air cargo centre for Amazon Air in Europe. This makes the airport one of the most important hubs for express and e-commerce shipments.

Overall, about 60 cargo airlines fly to the airport and serve a network of routes, which covers more than 200 destinations around the globe.

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More than 10,800 people are currently employed at Leipzig/Halle Airport or are working for companies and public authorities based there. This figure includes about 8,200, who work in the freight handling, cargo airline, logistics and freight forwarding sectors alone.

About Mitteldeutsche Flughafen AG

Mitteldeutsche Flughafen AG has three subsidiaries: Leipzig/Halle Airport, Dresden Airport and PortGround.

Leipzig/Halle Airport handled 532,690 passengers and approx. 1.38 million tonnes of air freight during 2020. This makes it Germany's second-largest cargo airport. The airport is connected to the A9 and A14 motorways and has a railway station that forms an integral part of the central terminal. This ensures that passengers from Central Germany and beyond can reach the airport directly.

Dresden Airport handled 385,651 passengers in 2020. A link to the A4 motorway and a local railway station in the terminal ensure that passengers from the catchment areas in Saxony, the south of Brandenburg, the north of the Czech Republic and western Poland can reach the airport and leave it again in comfort.

PortGround offers ground, freight and other extensive handling services at Leipzig/Halle and Dresden Airports round the clock.

The two airports belonging to Mitteldeutsche Flughafen AG registered 79,636 aircraft movements and handled 918,341 passengers in 2020.