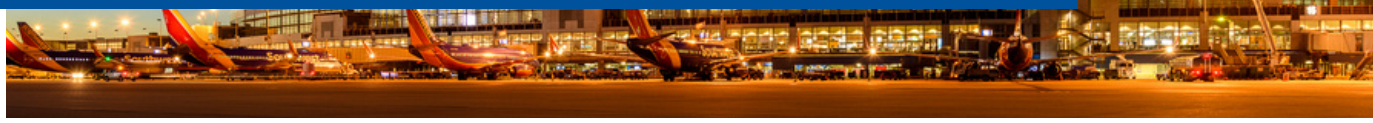
Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

growing with Austin



Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) is owned and operated by the City of Austin and is the second-fastest-growing, mid-sized airport in the United States. Opening in 1999, the airport sits on 4,242 acres of land in Southeast Austin and supports the growing demand for air travel and cargo shipments annually. Operating 24/7, the airport is an economic engine for the region. It serves as a critical infrastructure that connects Austinites and Central Texas travelers to over 90 nonstop destinations. It supports the delivery of essential materials across the state, country, and international borders. So how has the airport evolved since 1999?

People & things (i.e. cargo)

[people]

The airport is the world's gateway to Austin and Central Texas, providing air service to Austinites and travelers from 21 surrounding counties. The airport was constructed to support 11 million passengers annually. As more people and businesses move to Austin and the surrounding areas, the airport is experiencing a significant increase in demand for air travel. AUS first surpassed the 11 million annual passenger mark in 2014, and the single busiest year for the airport was in 2019, with over 17 million annual passengers. While fewer people traveled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the airport's recovery continues and has been faster than initially expected. In 2021, passenger loads during some months exceeded 2019's passenger numbers and set new records for the single busiest days of travel. With the 2040 Master Plan projecting the passenger travel numbers to grow to 31 million annual passengers by 2037, the airport is anticipating robust growth in the years ahead. It plans to modernize AUS by building critical infrastructure and delivering improvements to meet the demand.

[things]

In 2019, over 149 million pounds of air cargo made its way to and through AUS. As of October 2021, the amount of air cargo at AUS reached over 189 million pounds.

The demand for e-commerce goods, mail delivery, and air cargo is not slowing down. A new 10,000 square-foot cargo facility will be built on airport property and is scheduled to open in 2023.

A self-sustaining airport

While the airport is owned by the City of Austin and operated by the Department of Aviation, the airport is entirely separate from the City of Austin's general budget. It does not receive City of Austin taxpayer dollars. The airport is self-sustaining and generates revenue to cover operating costs. AUS funds improvement projects and development with revenue, federal grants, cash reserves, and future revenue bond proceeds.

Record-breaking days are the new normal at AUS. AUS's top 5 busiest days in airport history were within the last 2.5 years:

1. 35,298 passengers on Oct. 25, 2021
2. 32,175 passengers on Nov. 21, 2021
3 31,934 passengers on Nov. 4, 2019
4. 31,165 passengers on Oct. 14, 2019
5. 30,909 passengers on Nov. 19, 2021

An economic engine

AUS supports over 74,000 direct and indirect jobs. The range of opportunities spans from City of Austin airport operations to airline and concessionaire partnerships, engineering and construction projects, parking and shuttle service partnerships, federal security operations, and more. As of 2018, our mid-sized airport has an economic impact of $7.6 billion in the Austin area.

AUS's growth and development will be reflected in employment opportunities for our community. In 2018, AUS infused more than $300 million in construction projects and created more than 2,000 construction jobs to support the nine-gate terminal expansion.

Looking ahead, AUS's new cargo facility will include office space that can accommodate 150 employees. Additional employment opportunities will be created as the airport continues to deliver new capital improvements.

Critical development

Increases in population and air travel demand are not the only factors driving AUS's improvements and development. AUS serves as the airport of choice for Austin and the Central Texas region and is a reliever airport for other Texas airports. It receives more diversions than any airport in the country. A reliable and smooth airport operation at AUS is required to continue providing this level of support to other airports in the state.

Key to the success of AUS during its period of growth is providing a quality passenger experience through improvements. A terminal enlargement project known as the "nine-gate expansion" was completed in 2019. The 175,000 square foot development:

- Increased the total number of gates from 25 to 34 & increased international flight gates from 2 to 6.
- The nine-gate expansion increased the terminal's footprint and was designed to meet the needs of 15 million annual passengers. However, 2019 saw more than 17 million yearly passengers.

Using the 2040 Master Plan and the Airport Expansion and Development Program, AUS is committed to meeting Central Texas's travel needs, driving regional economic recovery, and accommodating airline service growth needs, all while maintaining excellent passenger service.

AustinTexas.gov/Airport