

## Saudia cargo grows on e-commerce boom

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Riyadh: Saudia Cargo experienced a double-digit rise in air cargo volumes last year, driven by e-commerce growth, increased local exports, and additional flights.

In 2024, the airline recorded a 13pc year-on-year increase in cargo volumes, reaching 577,870 tons.

Meanwhile, the number of flights rose 6pc from 2023 levels to 193,599 flights.

The increase was fuelled by e-commerce volumes which improved by 23pc to 64,107 tons, while high-value shipments accounted for 54pc of total revenues.

Exports from Saudi Arabia also helped boost volume performance. The airline said it transported 13,740 tons of locally produced goods, which is a 14% increase compared with the prior year.

The airline said exports out of Saudi Arabia were boosted by partnerships, including with development firm Red Sea Global to "connect the Kingdom to over 800 global destinations" and a collaboration with the Royal Commission for AlUla to transport artefacts and boost tourism.

Saudia Cargo has also been investing in its digital services and has launched an e-portal and enhanced customer communications channels. In terms of network, the airline introduced new permanent routes to Shenzhen, amongst others, and seasonal routes to Athens and Nice.

Looking ahead, the company said it is in the process of expanding its fleet with next-generation aircraft - it has outstanding orders for Airbus A321 and Boeing 787 aircraft - adopting sustainable transportation methods and investing in AI-driven digital infrastructure to enhance tracking and efficiency.

The company also plans to advance automated cargo handling systems, reduce costs, and "implement eco-friendly logistics". It also highlighted its 92% on-time performance.

Loay Mashabi, chief executive and managing director of Saudia Cargo, said: "Our 2024 results reflect our steadfast dedication to delivering innovative and agile cargo solutions that drive global trade and adapt to market dynamics.

"We remain focused on growth, strengthening partnerships, and providing advanced solutions that drive success for our customers. By prioritising sustainability and operational excellence, we are steadily progressing toward our goal of ranking among the world's top 10 air cargo carriers by 2030."

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