

## Utahn of the Year

### Salt Lake City's new airport is The Tribune's Utahn of the Year

It cost more than \$5 billion — so far — and sees more than 70,000 customers pass through its doors and gates every day. Plus the more than 17,000 people who work there.

Every time it grows, its managers and the businesses they serve see — and fill — a need to make it even larger. Even though it was already the largest construction project in the history of Utah.

It links Salt Lake City and its environs with direct connections to more than 90 cities across the nation and to Europe, as far away as Germany.

It is a major economic engine for the state of Utah, generating more than \$11 billion in financial impact for the area every year. It is about as environmentally responsible as such a facility can be, scores high



The Salt Lake City International Airport on Dec. 20.

2017 and was replaced by Bill Wyatt, lured out of retirement as the

FRANCISCO KJOLSETH | Tribune file photo

airport's largest tenant, kept thinking of new and bigger facilities it

those little service vehicles you see scurrying around the aircraft are now mostly electric rather than diesel or gas. There are also 164 charging stations for electric vehicles and most shuttle buses and other vehicles now run on compressed natural gas.

All that, according to the airport, cuts annual greenhouse emissions by more than 19,000 metric tons. That's the same as getting 3,900 cars off of Utah's roads.

Many of the restaurants, bars and shops along the concourses are satellites of local businesses. They are expected to follow a rule, which Wyatt brought with him from Portland, that they will not charge more for a beer, a cheeseburger or a pair of earbuds at the airport than they do at their downtown facilities.

## Record-breaking Passenger Numbers

SLC hit a new high with a record number of passengers reported in 2023. From Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2023, the airport recorded 26,952,754 passengers, surpassing the previous record of 26,808,014 in 2019. The growth is attributed primarily to an increase in international passengers. Salt Lake Department of Airports Executive Director Bill Wyatt credited the robust Utah economy and partnership with Delta Air Lines as a reason for the rebound in passenger traffic.

## Rankings



Top Performing Global Airport: SLC International Airport was ranked in fifth place by Cirium in the 2023 Top Performing Global Airport category for on-time performance. Only one other U.S. airport ranked in the top five...congratulations to Minneapolis!



J.D. Power released its North America Airport Satisfaction Study last fall, and SLC ranked third in the size category. The study measures overall traveler satisfaction with mega, large and medium North American airports based on facilities, security screening and check-in processes, as well as retail and food/beverage offerings.



USA Today announced its 10 Best Readers' Choice Award winners on Oct. 13, and SLC ranked second for Best Airport Dining and fourth for Best Large Airport. An expert panel nominated SLC in both categories, and USA TODAY readers voted for their favorites to determine the winners.

---

## SLC Air Service Update

After a record-breaking 2023, 2024 is already shaping up to be a banner year. For the first half of 2024, almost every carrier at SLC added seats in the form of new routes, added frequencies or aircraft upgrades, which is an 8% increase over the same period last year. In addition, the airport will welcome its newest carrier, Hawaiian Airlines, to the market on May 16, with daily flights to Honolulu. Other exciting developments include the following:

- March 10: Delta's daily service to Indianapolis (IND) resumed.
  - April 3: KLM's seasonal service to Amsterdam (AMS) resumed.
  - April 10 and 11: Frontier begins new service to Dallas/Ft. Worth (DFW), Ontario (ONT) and San Francisco (SFO).
  - May 16: Frontier's new service to Cleveland (CLE) and Portland (PDX) begins.
  - June 3: Air Canada's seasonal service to Toronto (YYZ) resumes one month earlier.
  - June 5: American's seasonal service to Philadelphia (PHL) begins.
  - June 7: Delta's daily service to Columbus (CMH) and Santa Barbara (SBA) resumes.
  - June 20: Spirit's new service to Fort Lauderdale (FLL) and San Diego (SAN) starts.
  - July 1: Aeromexico's seasonal service to Mexico City (MEX) begins.
- 

## Airport News & Notes

### Phase 2 Opening Celebration

The completion of Phase 2 of The New SLC Redevelopment Program took place at 5:30 a.m. the morning of Oct. 31 when a 45' wide x 14' tall curtain opened to reveal the remaining 13 gates and a dozen new shops and concessions on Concourse A-east. Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall joined Executive Director Bill Wyatt and Delta's Managing Director of SLC Operations Adam Ryan along with the Utah Jazz Bear and concession managers for the early morning unveiling. [Watch the video to relive the festivities at the Phase 2 unveiling.](#)



---

## The Hoberman Arch Unveiling

The Hoberman Arch—an iconic symbol of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games—has a new home at the SLC International Airport. The structure was reassembled and placed on a commemorative base near the airport's exit. It will welcome travelers to Salt Lake City for years to come. [Watch a video of the unveiling here.](#)

---

## SLC Dedicates The Peaks Entry Feature

Travelers to SLC are now welcomed by a new entry feature titled “The Peaks,” which is a monumental sculpture imagined by Artist Gordon Huether then fabricated and installed by Huether’s team. The Peaks installation was inspired by the Wasatch Mountains and pays tribute to Utah’s five Native American tribes, part of the state’s eight sovereign nations, as well as the five elements of the natural world: air, earth, fire, space and water. The Peaks is made from weathering steel with the tallest structure standing 90 ft. high. The combined weight of the sculpture is about 75 tons and the skin of each of the five sculptures has a graphic of the globe etched on the surface. A glass orb, placed near the top of the tallest peak, pinpoints the location of Utah on the globe. [Click to watch the The Peaks Dedication ceremony.](#)



# 12-Month Rolling Airport Statistics December 2023

## Passengers Domestic

Total Enplaned: 12,721,740  
Total Deplaned: 12,907,720  
Total Passengers: 25,629,460

## Mail (lbs.)

Enplaned: 14,454,898  
Deplaned: 9,156,679  
Total Mail: 23,611,577

## International

Total Enplaned: 660,510  
Total Deplaned: 662,784  
Total Passengers: 1,323,294

## Cargo (lbs.)

Enplaned: 163,981,455  
Deplaned: 169,001,009  
Total Cargo: 332,982,464

## Landed Weight (lbs.)

Air Carriers: 14,896,223,128  
Cargo Carriers: 1,035,818,636  
Total Landed Weight: 15,932,041,764

## Operations

Passenger Aircraft: 235,130  
All Cargo Aircraft: 16,078  
General Aviation: 63,235  
Military: 4,563  
Total Aircraft Ops: 319,006

