Germany is one of the key markets on Emirates’ global network. Currently 70 weekly passenger flights between Dubai and Germany are operated – three times daily to Frankfurt and Munich, and double daily to Düsseldorf and Hamburg.

Currently six of the ten daily services to Germany are operated by Airbus A380s. The number of passengers has increased by 136% during the last decade, reaching 2.4 million passengers on Emirates’ flights to and from Germany in 2016/17. In addition, Emirates operates 10 weekly all-cargo flights to Frankfurt.

Emirates has a significant impact on employment and economic growth in Germany. A 2015 study by Frontier Economics shows that Emirates’ operations at German airports supported 11,050 direct, indirect and induced jobs in 2013 alone. This represents a GDP impact of €1 billion.

Emirates & Airbus

During a 2014 visit of the Airbus production site in Toulouse, France, the German Vice-Chancellor and Federal Foreign Minister, at the time Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Sigmar Gabriel stressed the “outstanding importance of Airbus”, not only for Germany, but for the entire European economy.

Emirates is one of the major buyers of Airbus aircraft, currently filling up 45% of the A380 order book. With 100 A380s in operation, there are an additional 42 aircraft on order. The value of past and future investments of Emirates A380s has been estimated at $69.9 billion. Through its purchases at Airbus, Emirates has supported 14,500 jobs in Germany in 2013 which equals a GDP impact of €1.2 billion.

Increasing connectivity

Connectivity plays an important role in enabling tourism, international business relationships, FDI and trade. In Europe, connectivity is mainly provided by a few big hub airports, as a result of which intercontinental connections from other cities in Europe often require an additional stopover. This creates a
Thierry Antinori at the Emirates A380 display at ILA
Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer

German Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel with Emirates

US$ 69.9 billion
value of past and future investments on Emirates A380s

45 percent
Emirates’ share of the A380 order book

148,000 tonnes
of cargo carried on Emirates' flights to and from Germany in 2016/17

€300 million
Emirates’ spend on operational costs in Germany in 2016/17

€14.6 billion
value of German exports to the UAE in 2016

Myth vs. Fact: Setting the record straight

In Germany, some stakeholders frequently point out that Emirates competes unfairly or negatively impacts the aviation market. Such misconceptions, when repeated often enough can ultimately be accepted as fact, thus we aim to openly address some of the existing myths.

Myth: Emirates acts like a predator and is destroying German air transport.

Fact: Since commencing operation to Germany in 1987, our services have been built up progressively and in line with increased demand. Emirates operates a mere 70 flights a week between Dubai and Germany. Our current presence in Germany supports 11,050 direct, indirect and induced jobs and through the Emirates share of the A380 programme, a further 14,500 jobs are sustained in Germany alone.

Myth: Emirates is heavily subsidised by the Dubai Government, with free infrastructure, reduced taxes and exceptional financing conditions.

Fact: Emirates is commercially managed, financially transparent and receives no government subsidies. Our funds are raised on a fully commercial basis through a wide range of sources including operating leases, commercial asset-backed debt and equity from investors.

Myth: Emirates steals passengers from the European market and harms Lufthansa.

Fact: Generally, no airline owns passengers. Besides, Emirates accounts for only 5% of all intercontinental flights at the German airports it operates to, in comparison to 41% of the intercontinental departures operated by Lufthansa. Emirates does not divert traffic from its German competitor. In fact, Lufthansa has expanded its global network from 134 destinations in 2004 to 194 destinations in Summer 2017.

Myth: The social conditions in which some of Emirates’ employees work are unacceptable and far removed from industry standards.

Fact: As a responsible multinational company, Emirates complies with the labour laws in each of the countries that we operate to. To attract and retain top talent Emirates offers competitive salaries and benefits. Emirates currently employs over 64,000 staff with over 160 nationalities worldwide. The company’s status as an excellent employer is shown by its high staff retention rates – with more than 15,000 staff having worked for 10 years or longer of which 3,000 have worked for over 20 years.

Visit our website to read more on “Airlines and subsidy: our position”

Germany and the UAE – a strategic partnership

Since signing a strategic partnership agreement in 2004, the relationship between Germany and the UAE has strengthened in political, economic and cultural terms. The trade volume between the two countries exceeded €15.4 billion in 2016 with German exports to the UAE reaching €14.6 billion, an increase of 94% over 2011, making the UAE Germany’s top export market in the entire Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. There are about 1,000 German firms operating in the UAE, 600 of them in Dubai.

Besides the economic ties in trade that have grown between Germany and the UAE over the last decade, tourism between the two regions has also increased significantly. Between 1994 and 2015 overnight stays of travellers from the Gulf region in Germany has increased by more than 1000%. In 2016, more than 2 million overnight stays have been recorded, with projections of a rise up to 3.6 million by 2030. Visitors from the Gulf tend to stay in Germany for 12 days on average, with a mean spending per holiday trip of €4,470; or €367 per day. The UAE accounts for 45% of the travellers from the Gulf region to Germany.

Emirates has also played a major role in creating and increasing the tourism flows between Germany and the Middle East over the past thirty years. Over 460,000 Germans visited Dubai in 2016, making it the ninth biggest source market.

Launching new routes to Berlin and Stuttgart

Since 2004 Emirates has sought to launch two new routes in Germany, connecting Dubai to Berlin and Stuttgart. A 2012 study by the Institute of Air Transport and Airport Research (DLR) titled ‘The Impact of Emirates Airline on the German Economy’, estimates that a daily flight to each of these destinations could support 1,000 additional jobs. The study also found that each additional flight would increase passenger numbers by approximately 140,000 for each airport and increase incoming tourism by 55,000 annual overnight stays.

Emirates firmly believes that creating connectivity through the expansion of our network will have positive effects on economic growth, the global competition of companies, trade as well as tourism and will thus generate additional economic value for Germany.