

Schiphol Cargo cushions impact of weak markets

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol finished 2012 with its strongest quarter for cargo, and resilience in most markets largely overcame continuing softness in traffic to and from Asia and the USA.

The last quarter was the best of 2012 for both exports and imports, reaching a total of 380,284 tonnes.

2012 as a whole saw improvements in exports to Europe, including Russia (up 29%), and also to Latin America (up 8.9%). Imports from Europe including Russia rose 57%, and from Africa were up 1.8%. Exports accounted for 49.34% of all cargo – up slightly from 48.96% in 2011.

These positive figures largely counteracted continuing weakness in Asia and the USA - Schiphol's top two markets. These were both down 8% overall year on year, although exports to Asia held up better than imports.

Asia retained its number one slot with a 37.8% share of all traffic, although this slipped from 40% in the previous year. The USA meanwhile accounted for 17.6% of Schiphol's traffic, down from 18.6% in 2011.

Total freighter movements in 2012 fell slightly to 15,543 – down 2.5% on 2011.

Says Senior VP Cargo Enno Osinga: “The weak beginning to 2012 was the largest factor in the full year's slight drop in tonnage. After that, the year displayed steadier traffic flows than 2011, with less pronounced peaks and troughs. Amid the ongoing economic problems in the Euro Zone and their adverse effect on consumer confidence and spending, we cannot be too unhappy with the final total.

“We continue to look at new markets, and we continue to drive the streamlining of processes at Schiphol. These are long-term investments that will eventually pay handsome dividends for our air cargo community, and further support our drive to be Europe's preferred air cargo gateway.”

(NB: all tonnages are provisional and subject to final confirmation)

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Download the December and full 2012 tonnage statistics from: <http://www.schiphol.nl/B2B/Cargo/CargoSTATS.htm>

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol Cargo at a glance:

- third largest cargo airport in Europe
- seventeenth largest cargo airport in the world
- Schiphol's air cargo community employs over 26,000 people.
- 1.5 million tonnes of cargo in 2011
- 313 scheduled airline destinations in 90+ countries
- 106 scheduled airlines
- 22 scheduled freighter operators
- Highest share of (non-integrator) maindeck capacity in Europe
- 25 dedicated full freighter Cat 8/9 stands
- 5 main runways, ranging from 3,400 – 3,800 metres in length
- Ready to handle multiple A380s & B747-8Fs
- Eight cargo handling companies
- 400,000 m² of cargo warehouses, of which 60% have direct air side access
- 11,000 m² of new cargo buildings under construction with direct air side access
- Airside access for logistic service providers
- Over 150 logistic service providers situated at or in vicinity of Amsterdam Airport Schiphol
- Over 50% of all American and Asian European Distribution Centres located in the Netherlands
- Airport-seaport synergies: Amsterdam Airport Schiphol close to Ports of Rotterdam and Amsterdam
- Unparalleled European road feeder and distribution network
- Over 25 trucking companies operate at the airport

Amsterdam Connecting Trade:

- 3 new logistic parks planned
- dedicated freight lane planned to connect air cargo terminal directly to logistic parks, truck-, water- and High Speed Train Cargo terminal of ACT

Schiphol SmartGate Cargo

The airport, air cargo industry & customs have joined forces to integrate monitoring of goods leaving the EU from Schiphol, allowing rapid and efficient clearance:

- Integrated cargo control & inspection
- Shorter lead times & lower costs
- Increased reliability, safety & security

See www.schiphol.com/smartgate

About e-freight:

E-freight is an IATA initiative which aims to replace paper with digital documents throughout all elements of the air cargo supply chain – including shippers, forwarders and export customs, carriers, import customs, handling agents, forwarders and consignees. Traditional paper-based air cargo involves some thirty documents for every shipment, and is estimated to create the equivalent of eighty Boeing 747 freighter-loads of paper every year. E-freight eliminates re-keying of data: reducing cost, speeding processes and enhancing accuracy.

About E-Freight@NL:

E-freight@NL is an important initiative to turn Amsterdam Airport Schiphol into a paperless cargo hub. In 2010 the project was awarded a € 1.2 million grant from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. With KLM Cargo as secretary, the project's participants include various supply chain partners and organisations including Air Cargo Netherlands. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol plays a key role in strengthening relations with other major worldwide hubs involved in e-freight, such as Singapore and Hong Kong.

About e-Link:

This is a pilot scheme operated by Amsterdam Connecting Trade in collaboration with Schiphol Smartgate Cargo. Three handling agents and three forwarders are currently testing the system, whose aim is to reduce customs clearance times and unnecessary paper in the supply chain.

Under E-link, the existing ACN pass has been expanded into a “smartcard” that carries data for Customs-cleared shipments. The card provides security access for vehicle and driver at the handling agent's premises, where the data and responsibility for the shipment is transferred from the card to the next party in the supply chain. The system then allocates a door for offloading the cargo. E-link complies with all customs procedures, and has already demonstrated 25% time savings in some processes.