

## The importance of Baghdad and Erbil international airports in the Iraqi air transport network.

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### Abstract:

Air transport plays an important role on the economic, tourism, political and military levels, as well as the spatial relations of Baghdad and Erbil airports. The two airports are great importance in terms of international air transport ,also both airports characterized by multiple relationships. the researchers note that there is a strong correlation between the growth that occurs in air transport and the economic activity of Iraq, which is reflected in the significant contribution that air transport provides the growth of the gross product and increase the financial returns, whether direct or indirect ways. The world is like a small village, and the tourist is interested in the time it needs reach to the tourism place that wants to go , air transport is one of the most important reasons that led to the progress and development of tourism, furthermore the economic importance in general affects air transport through the high costs of transporting people and goods that uses of limited goods that are characterized by high prices both airports are contributed to transport of the goods as well as the acceleration between the exporters and importers countries , in addition providing a means of transporting shipments and postal parcels all over the world.

Keywords: Airport, Air transport, Baghdad, Erbil.

### أهمية مطاري بغداد واربيل الدوليين في شبكة النقل الجوي العراقي

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### مستخلص:

يلعب النقل الجوي دورا هاما على المستوى الاقتصادي والسياحي والسياسي والعسكري فضلا عن العلاقات المكانية لمطاري بغداد واربيل، اذ يتمتع المطارين بأهمية كبيرة من حيث النقل الجوي الدولي وكما يتميز بعلاقات متعددة، فالنمو والازدهار اللذان يحققان في النقل الجوي يمتد تأثيرهما ليشمل جميع الأنشطة الاخرى، ومن ثم نلاحظ ان هناك ارتباط قوي ما بين النمو الذي يحصل في النقل الجوي وبين النشاط الاقتصادي للبلد بمجملة، مما ينعكس ذلك في المساهمة الكبيرة التي يقدمها النقل الجوي على نمو الناتج الاجمالي وزيادة العوائد المالية سواء كانت مباشرة أو غير مباشرة، ان سرعة وسائل النقل الجوي حاليا جعلت العالم اشبه بقرية صغيرة، ويهم السائح الوقت الذي يلزمه من اجل الوصول الى مكان السياحة الذي يرغب الذهاب اليها، يعتبر النقل الجوي من اهم اسباب التي ادت الى تقدم السياحة وتطورها، كما تؤثر أهمية الاقتصادية بصورة عامة على النقل الجوي من خلال ارتفاع تكاليف نقل الاشخاص والبضائع بالرغم من اختصار عامل النقل الا ان استخداماته اقتصرت بالنسبة للبضائع التي تتميز بارتفاع اثمانها وساهم المطارين في نقل البضائع فضلا عن تسريع البضائع بين دول المصدرين والمستوردين بالإضافة الى توفير وسيلة لنقل الشحنات وطرود البريدية في كافة انحاء العالم.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المطار، النقل الجوي، بغداد، اربيل .

### Introduction:

Air transport is one of the main pillars on which economic activity depending in the modern era, in the present time it is one of the most important criteria that measures countries development. Its effected economic, political and social aspects are multiple, and air transport is one of the best means of transporting people over long distances and between different regions and countries, also it is suitable for transporting high-priced goods. Air transport is characterized by speed, comfort and safety. Air transport connects cities at the international level and at the regional level. Baghdad and Erbil international airports are among the most important Iraqi airports.

### Research Problem:

What is the impact of the location of Baghdad and Erbil international airports on the Iraqi air traffic?

### Research Hypothesis:

The locations of the Baghdad and Erbil airports have a great impact and importance on the Iraqi air transport movement, whether this movement is tourist or economic at the level of Iraq.

### Research importance:

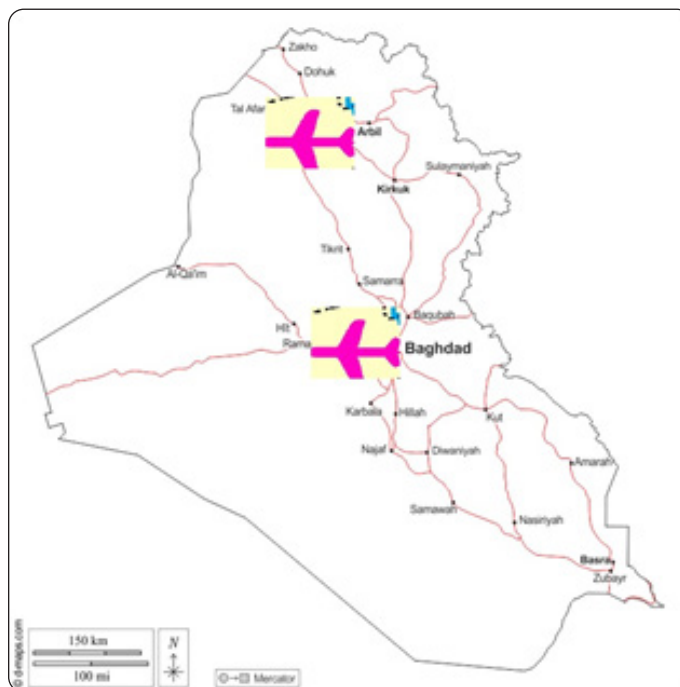
- 1\_ To highlight the importance of air transport in Baghdad and Erbil airports,
- 2\_ Identifying the tourism and economic importance of Baghdad and Erbil airports.

### Research limits:

**Spatial borders:** The spatial borders of the study include the coordinates of ((Baghdad city) Baghdad International Airport is located in the center of Iraq, in the province of Baghdad (N33°15'45") and the coordinates of (Erbil) located latitudes (N 36.07.21).

**Temporal limits:** The data in the year (2019) was used to compare the outputs of the airports, Baghdad and Erbil.

**Map 1 . location of Baghdad and Erbil Airport**



**Sources: Ministry of Transportation.  
Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority.**

### 1: The importance of the location of Baghdad and Erbil airports on air transport routes

- Baghdad International Airport:

Baghdad International Airport was established in 1968 in the northwest of Baghdad city center in a spacious agricultural area that enjoys a modern network of paved roads far from residential neighborhoods. The internal and external navigation and the expansion of the size and capacity of the aircraft, the airport was opened in (1969) after the Muthanna airport did not meet the advanced needs and the landing of large aircraft <sup>(1)</sup>, as the airport was built by French and British companies between (1979-1982), where it cost was more than (900 million dollars).

Baghdad International Airport is a great importance in air transportation for domestic or international transportation because it is located in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, and its central location between the main Iraqi cities, and for its importance in political, economic, cultural, social and industrial terms. Baghdad International Airport is one of the largest airport in Iraq is located (16 km) west of Baghdad, as an airport equipped with luminous devices at night in order to provide safety for landing. The ground service facilities provided by the airport to passengers are represented by rotating the building for cargo and goods.

To make it the reception hall for trav-

elers comfortably while providing a suitable and spacious place for a section of goods and freight. These technical and service features at Baghdad Airport made it a main station for many planes transiting towards the far East or coming from it. It is clear from any visible protrusions that could pose a danger to the movement of aircraft when taking off and landing.<sup>(2)</sup>

It is considered the main course for Iraqi Airways and the main center for all airport operations due to the increase in the number of aircraft at Baghdad International Airport, which has led to the importance of this location for the airport because it is in the capital and has helped to be a center for the air transport process at the local and international levels, especially in terms of economic and political importance. As for the military, the tourism, and for air transport, Baghdad International Airport has become the first in Iraq, and the capital, Baghdad, is inhabited by more than the population of Iraq.

Baghdad International Airport was designed from the beginning for both military and civilian use, with a capacity of around 7.5 million passengers annually. The airport contains four main terminals (Samarra, Babylon, Nineveh, Karbala), each with a capacity of (2.5 million passengers annually), each gate includes Of these gates (6 bridges) are mobile to deliver passengers to aircraft, as well as large halls for visitors, which

are designated for rulers and heads of delegations. In addition to the service facilities provided at the airport for passengers from the terminal to receive passengers and cargo.<sup>(3)</sup>

**- Erbil International Airport:**

Erbil International Airport is located in Erbil Governorate, northwest of Erbil city, 7 km away from the city center. The airport was built on land that was used for military purposes before (1991), but after (2003) the Kurdistan government decided to establish a civilian airport on the same place. As a gateway through which the Kurdistan Region of Iraq overlooks the world, Erbil Airport is one of the most important airports in the Kurdistan Region and the third largest airport in Iraq in terms of the number of passengers. Erbil is the capital of the Kurdistan region of Iraq, and the airport has an intermediate location between the provinces of the region. An airport was established in (2003) and was opened in (2005) by the Kurdistan Regional Government. The airport includes lounges to receive passengers with a capacity of (3 million passengers annually)<sup>(4)</sup>

The importance of the Erbil airport comes from the international air transport industry, which plays a major role in that industry by advancing the economy of the city of Erbil towards the development of the actor, which contributes to increasing its national income, in addition to its strong influence in the process of civilized and social progress

that all countries seek for their stability, prosperity and progress. Which in turn reflects positively or another on development in general and urban development in particular.<sup>(5)</sup> In order to clarify this, the air transport industry is of course linked to continuous changes that require a parallel line of interaction and keeping pace with an effort to modernize and develop this important human activity, especially in the areas of security, safety and environmental protection, thus benefiting The maximum use of modern technologies and by adapting them and then using them optimally in developing all the elements that are within the framework of the air transport industry system.<sup>(6)</sup>

Erbil International Airport is also the beginning of air transport in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. It is characterized by a geographical location that helped it to serve as the first air gateway for the provinces of the region in front of air and commercial transport, and is considered the link in providing all transport services for passengers and goods between the provinces of the region within the provinces of Iraq And with neighboring Arab and European countries.

The importance of Erbil International Airport shows that it is the first airport in the Kurdistan region of Iraq and is an important center for achieving the economic and commercial development process in the region.

## 2: The tourism importance of air-ports

Air transport represents one of the reasons for the development of the tourism movement in the world, especially the international ones, due to its distinguished role in bringing the different regions of the world closer, which helps to discover many new tourist destinations and expand the entire tourism market in the aftermath of the Second World War, which led to the development of air transport. There has been a development in the use of warplanes for modern purposes such as transporting passengers, where air transport is characterized at the present time by comfort, speed, cost, safety, food and drink, as well as other services such as television, fax, and so on. The tourist is interested in the time he needs to reach the tourist destination he wants to go to, as some tourism experts say that the accessibility of the tourist site plays an important role that is hardly different from the aesthetic characteristics of the site itself.<sup>(7)</sup>

Air transport is one of the most important reasons for the progress and development of tourism, as (50%) of all travelers around the world are for tourism, and the air transport industry generates approximately (200 billion dollars) in annual income, employing nearly (3 million people), and it must be emphasized However, providing and improving the main elements of tour-

ism transport (airplanes, airports and airlines) and working to link them with the exporting markets for future areas is of great importance in the tourism business.<sup>(8)</sup>

As the air transport facilities in most countries of the world have helped to discover cities, villages and tourist resorts, in order to help individuals who wish to spend their vacations in recreation and entertainment or who wish to rest. The city of Erbil is characterized by multiple and varied natural, archaeological and historical components, and the city of Erbil is characterized by abundant wealth. Diverse tourism and distributed among its regions in a fairly balanced manner, and it has multiple types of tourism, foremost of which is (natural, archaeological, historical, recreational and environmental and medical ,religious and political) .

In addition to the existence of political stability and the provision of security and safety in the Kurdistan region, which led to a significant increase in attracting large numbers of tourists, and the development process could be the starting point for the comprehensive development process in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, where the strategic importance of Erbil Airport lies in what is characterized From the beauty of the site, which has a picturesque nature, and important tourist areas, it has started receiving tourism pioneers and researchers from Arabs and Europeans

because of the archaeological treasures it contains.

### **3: The economic Importance of airports.**

Air transport is one of the most important infrastructure for any geographical region at the present time. It represents an important means that provides people with spatial movement through air transport, given the important role that this sector plays in the economic and social development of societies. It represents a basic requirement to ensure development. The level of development of countries is measured by the extent of development. This sector, where air transport is the main pillar on which the development programs of the state are based, has a significant role and a clear impact in the development of peoples in all economic fields. Place a surplus to a place of shortage will increase its value.

The economic importance affects air transport, through the high costs of transporting people and goods despite the shortening of the transport factor, so its uses were limited to goods and characterized by high prices depending on their sizes and weights, the economic importance contributed to the establishment of Erbil International Airport through the Kurds obtaining a large proportion of The share of Iraqi oil, which amounted to (17%) in 2013, from Iraq's budget, as the Americans took it in favor of the Kurds, and with the support

of America, Erbil International Airport was established.

Baghdad International Airport contributes to transporting goods, as well as accelerating goods between exporters and importers, and providing a good way to transport shipments, and postal parcels, between different parties around the world, which improves and supports different economies, as well as achieving greater profits, and Baghdad International Airport has also helped in developing The economic reality of the city of Baghdad. This is reflected in the city's development and economic recovery, as well as the airport's significant and decisive contribution in order to facilitate the entry of Arab and foreign investors and companies to participate in building Iraq through investment projects in the province of Baghdad and nearby provinces. The growth of tourism movement and the activity of tourist attractions This indicates an increase in the financial and economic revenues of the development process, to clarify that the Erbil International Airport is about (7 km) away from the city center of Erbil. Air transport and the increase in the number of flights at Erbil Airport The Kurdistan Regional Government decided to expand the current airport site and encourage the development of the city of Erbil through and Put it on the face of the region, in addition to raising the capabilities and levels of Erbil International Airport to global levels, the



impact of Baghdad International Airport on the progress and development of tourism movement in the Baghdad Governorate in particular and in Iraq in general, and this is evident through the significant increase in the number of arrivals to Iraq through Baghdad International Airport, To show the extent of the impact of air transport on the national economy and its connection with the promotion of tourism, whether internal or external.

Air transport is of great importance in communication between peoples, as it is considered one of the most developed means of transport. It has also become one of the requirements for travel and tourism for many reasons, including the factor of speed and time. The tourist must spend a large part of his trip on the means of transport by sea or land, as he spends his time Enjoy the trip itself at the expense of the time available in the transition.

The development that took place at Baghdad International Airport led to the provision of comfortable travel opportunities to many countries of the world, through which the economy class and economy class were introduced in order to encourage transportation from one place to another by air. The introduction of the necessary improvements helped provide better services at the airport. Which had a significant impact on increasing the demand for tourists to travel by air, whether internally or externally.

#### **4: The Political Importance of airports.**

The civil aviation operation may not directly enter into the midst of international politics or its contemporary problems, however, the situation of states and their right of sovereignty over the land and its airspace brings civil aviation in the midst of international politics indirectly, and international law guarantees the right of each state to impose its sovereignty over its airspace, on the grounds that it preserves the right to self-defense in times of war and peace together, and this law holds the state with specific responsibilities before civil aviation that passes through its airspace. It also plays a positive role through the creation and use of airports on the territory of the state. The controls of the political dimension and the associated responsibilities and the associated payment of the price and the wage set for all services provided to aviation upon landing, guidance, refueling, and inspection of its precise devices are established. When taking off is directly or indirectly affected by the volume, density and flexibility of air traffic in general, the process of civil air transport may be affected by responding to and adhering to these controls, and of course that These critical controls vary from one country to another in terms of severity and strictness. Some countries impose the closure of their airspace when there are military operations on

their lands, for fear that the planes will be injured as a result of military operations or so that military secrets and the movements of sectors on the battlefield are not seen. The factor affects Politics in air transport over the freedom of navigation in the air in terms of transit and the accompanying landing rights at airports.

The other is that the Convention on Civil Aviation signed in Chicago in 1944 emphasized the complete and absolute sovereignty of each country over the airspace above its territory. According to this air sovereignty, each country has the right to deny or grant it air transport rights that determine at the site the dimensions and features of the air route network.

### 5: The Military Importance of airports:

Airports that are established for the purpose of specializing in functional performance, but some airports are prepared for military aviation service, and others are for civil aviation service. Military Air Service needs.

This does not mean sometimes between the use of the civil airport for military aviation, but the military airport cannot be used for civil aviation. The geographical location of Baghdad International Airport contributed to providing its services to the armed forces in emergency situations and benefiting from it as a military airport in order to confront any aggression against Iraq.

### 6: The relative importance of air transport traffic of Baghdad and Erbil airports:

Baghdad and Erbil airports have a large air traffic volume due to their association with many countries, airlines and aviation destinations. They are considered among the most important airports in Iraq. Baghdad International Airport serves the center of the capital, Baghdad, and the central and southern governorates, while Erbil International Airport provides services to the northern regions of the Kurdistan Region.

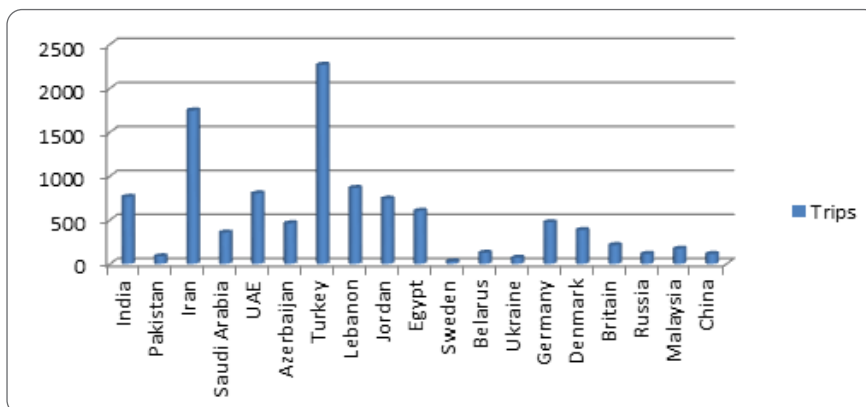
**Table 1. External transport flights at Baghdad Airport 2019**

Countries	Trips	%
India	762	7
Pakistan	86	1
Iran	1746	17
Saudi Arabia	356	3
UAE	802	8
Azerbaijan	462	4
Turkey	2266	22
Lebanon	864	8
Jordan	742	7
Egypt	604	6
Sweden	28	0.2
Belarus	126	1
Ukraine	70	1
Germany	474	5
Denmark	386	4
Britain	214	2
Russia	114	1
Malaysia	173	2
China	114	1
Total	5195	100

**Sources: Ministry of Transportation.  
.Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority**



Fig: 1 . External transport flights at Baghdad Airport 2019



Sources: Table 1.

When looking at the above table, we find that the highest percentage of the number of flights recorded in the state of Turkey, with the total number of flights, amounted to (2266 incoming and outgoing flights) at a rate of (22%), as it ranks first in the number of flights, I am the lowest percentage of

the number of flights recorded in the state of Sweden with a total The number of flights amounted to (28 incoming and outgoing flights) at a rate of (0.2%) of the total number of flights, which is the least frequented country by travelers to and from Baghdad International Airport.

Table 2. Table 1.External transport flights at Erbil Airport 2019

Airline	City	Airline	City
Turkish Airlines	Istanbul	Australia	Sydney
Lufthansa	Munich	Qatar Airways	Doha
Pegasus	Istanbul	Atlas Global	Istanbul
Fly Baghdad	Baghdad	Azerbaijan	Baku
Mahan Air	Tehran	Arabia Airlines	Sharjah
Middle east	Beirut	Germany	Munich
fly Dubai	Dubai	Royal Jordanian	Amman
Sham wing	Saudi Arabia	Egypt Air	Cairo
Sham wing	Damascus	Iraqi Airways	Baghdad
Air Armenia	Yerevan	Iraqi Airways	Madina
Turkish Airlines	Denmark	Pegasus	Azerbaijan
Atlas Global	United kingdom	Arabia Airlines	Iran
Azerbaijan Fonts	Diameter	fly Dubai	UAE
Mahan Air	Syria	fly Dubai	Lebanon
Turkish Airlines	Holland	Fly Baghdad	Egypt

Sources : Erbil International Airport 2019.

It appears in the above table that Erbil International Airport contains a large number of airlines that serve flights to various cities, which are divided into local, regional and international lines, as they have a major role in the multiplicity of destinations. The table shows a number of airlines, the most important of which is the Iraqi Airways Company, which in turn serves many internal and external cities, as well as Arab companies, which are represented in a number of companies and Qatar Airways. As for foreign companies, the most important are German and Australian airlines.

### Conclusions:

- 1\_ Choosing the location of the airport in Baghdad in a plain area devoid of terrain that poses a threat to the movement of aircraft when taking off and landing. It enjoys a network of paved roads in several residential neighborhoods. The airport was handed over to French and British companies between (1979-1982), where its construction cost more than (900 million dollars ).
- 2\_ Choosing the location of the airport, Erbil, in a flat surface area characterized by the solidity of rock formations, which helped establish the ground corridors and runways that secure the landing of aircraft and bear the weight of aircraft during the take-off and landing processes.
- 3\_ The city of Erbil is one of the most

important tourist places due to the beauty of a site of a picturesque nature, which led to an increase in the number of travelers from all over the world, because of the archaeological treasures it contains.

- 4\_ Baghdad International Airport contributed to making the necessary improvements, which helps to provide better and faster services at the airport, which had a significant impact on increasing the demand for tourists to travel by air, whether internally or externally.
- 5\_ Baghdad Airport provides its services to the center of the capital Baghdad and the southern and central governorates, while Erbil Airport provides its services to the northern regions of the Kurdistan Region.

### Recommendations:

- 1\_ It is possible to lift the pressure on the airports of Baghdad and Erbil, which are the main airports in the air traffic through the movement of passengers and goods by making Basra airport as an entry center to Iraq from the south, which will lead to attracting international airliners that cross Iraqi airspace to use it as a refueling station, which leads Therefore, to the recovery of the city in all respects, and the case applies to the airports located in the northern region.
- 2\_ Not to allow the establishment of

residential or industrial complexes near the airport, while working to increase the green areas surrounding the airport site.

- 3\_ The introduction of the electronic computer in the reservation to overcome all the difficulties encountered in the subject of the reservation, which is a regular and very feasible process that shortens time and effort, so it must be implemented quickly.
- 4\_ Not allowing contracts with carriers (passengers or air cargo) that do not use modern technology in aircraft engines, which contribute to noise and pollution.

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