



International passengers boost Gold Coast Airport

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THE Gold Coast Airport is flying high despite the tourism and business doldrums, recording an 11.6 per cent surge in passenger numbers in August compared to a year ago.

International numbers have been the star performers, posting a 123 per cent jump on last year to 59,169.

More than 412,000 passengers passed through the airport in August, helping its owner Queensland Airports Limited to a combined 9.1 per cent increase in movements to 566,795.

QAL also owns the Townsville and Mt Isa airports.

Mt Isa recorded a drop in numbers as the mining industry continued to feel the pinch, but the August figures were the highest since November last year.

"While Mt Isa numbers remain down on last year, we are starting to see an increase in monthly passenger numbers," said QAL managing director Dennis Chant.

"Most pleasing is that Townsville and Gold Coast both had an increase in their domestic passenger movements.

"Gold Coast continues to experience exceptional growth in the international passenger numbers."

More than 4.6 million passengers passed through the Gold Coast Airport in the 2008-09 financial year.



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