



MEDIA STATEMENT

27 January 2026

ATNS delivers an exceptional and safe air traffic services during the festive season

The festive season (from 12 December to 15 January) is traditionally the busiest time for the air transport system and at times stretches the capacity of air navigation services, requiring various service providers in the sector to plan and execute service packages meeting the demands of the flying public.

Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) SOC Limited is pleased to report that it has once again rose to the occasion by delivering a world class safe and efficient air traffic services despite the higher-than-normal operational demand during this period.

ATNS wishes to thank its staff throughout the organisation and most specifically at the various air traffic service units, most of whom did not take festive season leave in order to enable ATNS to provide the mandated services.

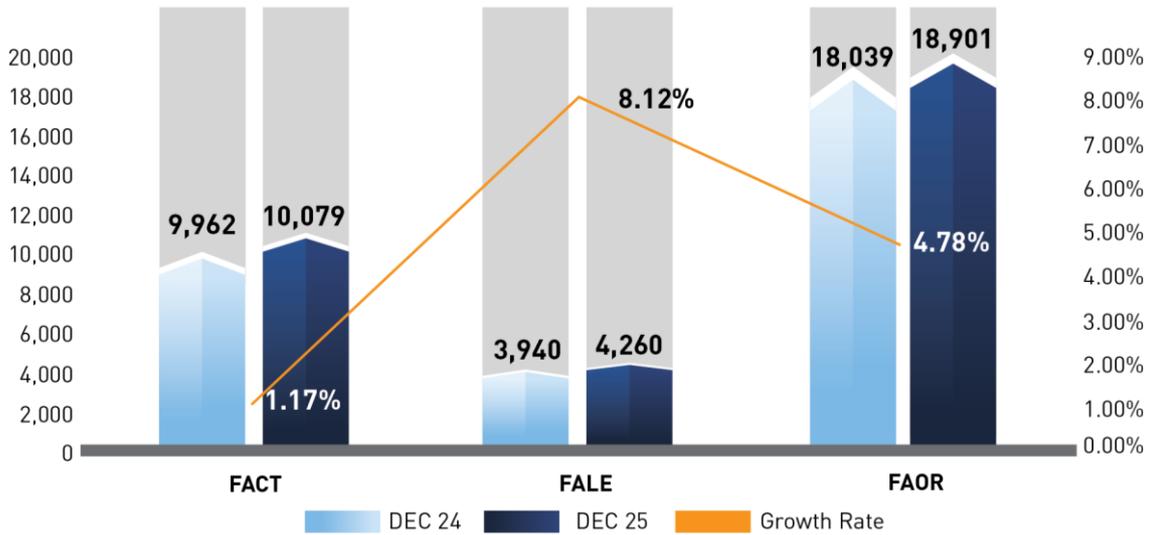
The consolidated service delivery performance report covers December 2025 and January 2026, with particular focus on the highest demand hours of the day, between 10:00hrs and 16:00hrs.

Air traffic movements facilitated at major airports

The country's three main airports recorded an increase in air traffic movement in December 2025 compared to December 2024, indicating continued recovery and growth in air travel.



Golden triangle movements comparison



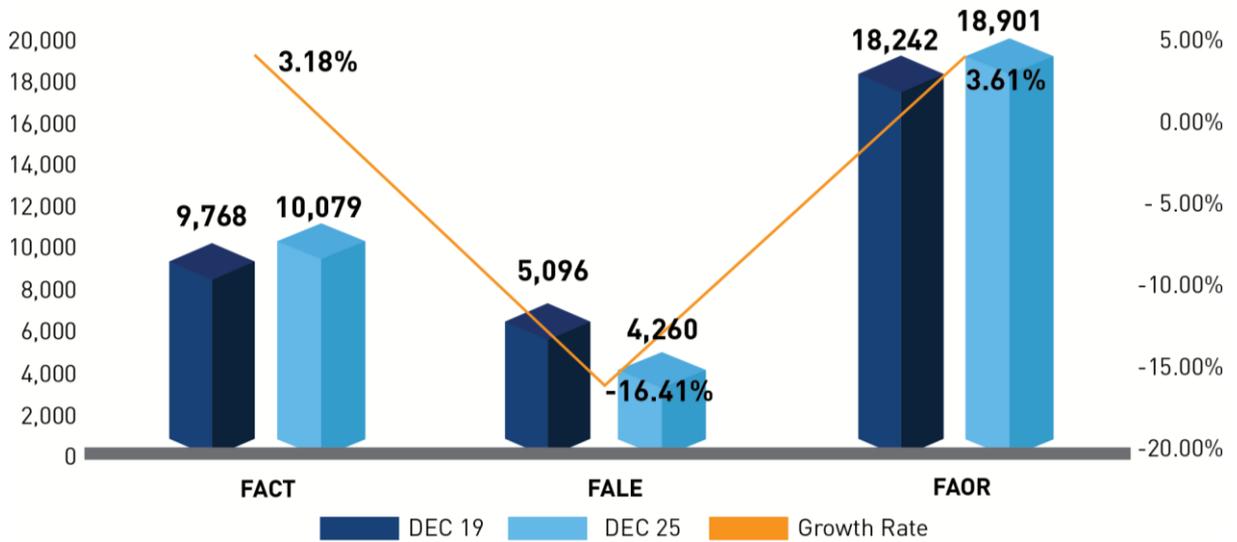
King Shaka International Airport (FALE) recorded an increase of 8.12% of air traffic movement followed by 4.78% at O.R Tambo International Airport (FAOR). Cape Town International Airport (FACT) recorded a more modest but positive increase of 1.17%.

Traffic movements exceeding pre-COVID 19 levels

It is worth noting that traffic movements in O.R Tambo and Cape Town International Airports have exceeded pre-COVID levels recording a 3.61% and 3,18% increase in air traffic movements respectively, indicating a positive growth in air travel (notwithstanding this increase being seasonal). King Shaka International Airport, however, remains below pre-COVID levels and is currently 16.41% lower, indicating that recovery at this airport is still lagging behind the other two major airports.



Golden triangle movements – Pre-Covid 19 levels



The picture depicting good news in air travel, brings new challenges in air navigation services which ATNS must address. Key to these challenges is the need for increased capacity to manage the growth. Having delivered a safe and efficient air traffic services during this increased demand period demonstrate that ATNS is ready and able to meet service delivery requirements when normal operations reaches the festive season demands.

It will not be the first time in this financial year where ATNS delivers air traffic service supporting national air transport requirements, namely the G20 Leaders’ Summit.

Pivotal role in G20 Leaders’ Summit

ATNS played a pivotal role in South Africa’s hosting of G20 Leaders’ Summit by delivering safe, uninterrupted and secure air traffic management services during a period of increased operational complexity. This included the seamless handling of high-level diplomatic, state and commercial flights, underscoring ATNS’s capability to manage major international events of strategic importance. During the Summit, ATNS maintained continuous 24-hour operations across the three designated international airports (O.R Tambo; Lanseria and Airforce Base Waterkloof), ensuring that all critical services remained fully operational.

As a result, ATNS facilitated safe landings and departures of about 40 Heads of State and Governments, and multilateral organisations, with the overall air traffic system functioning without any major disruptions to safety or service delivery. The seamless coordination of this high-level event was preceded by a comprehensive risk management analysis that highlighted airspace congestion due to late or early arrivals, ground constraints and adverse weather as well as limited flexibility for last-minute changes.



The G20 Leaders' Summit was not only a moment of national and continental pride but also an opportunity for South Africa and its agencies such as ATNS to demonstrate their capabilities to safely and efficiently host the world's most powerful leaders while maintaining the highest standards of air navigation service delivery. ATNS stands proud of its contribution towards South Africa's successful hosting of the G20 Leaders' Summit.

Whilst ATNS remains proud of the level of service provided, this would not be achieved without collaboration with its stakeholders.

Collaborative engagement with industry

ATNS continues to prioritise stakeholder relations and collaborative efforts with industry stakeholders, including its heightened engagements with airlines and their representative bodies, the Board of Airline Representatives of South Africa (BARSA) and the Airlines Association of Southern Africa (AASA). After recent engagements, ATNS and the airline associations agreed on regular engagements to address operational challenges, align planning assumptions and strengthen system-wide resilience in support of a stable and efficient aviation sector.

ATNS remains committed to ensure that recent isolated interruptions that occurred at O.R Tambo International Airport on 4 January 2026 are managed proactively to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.

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Issued by Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) SOC Limited

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