

Air passenger transport in the EU

Record number of air passengers carried at almost 1 billion in 2016

54.4 million more than in 2015

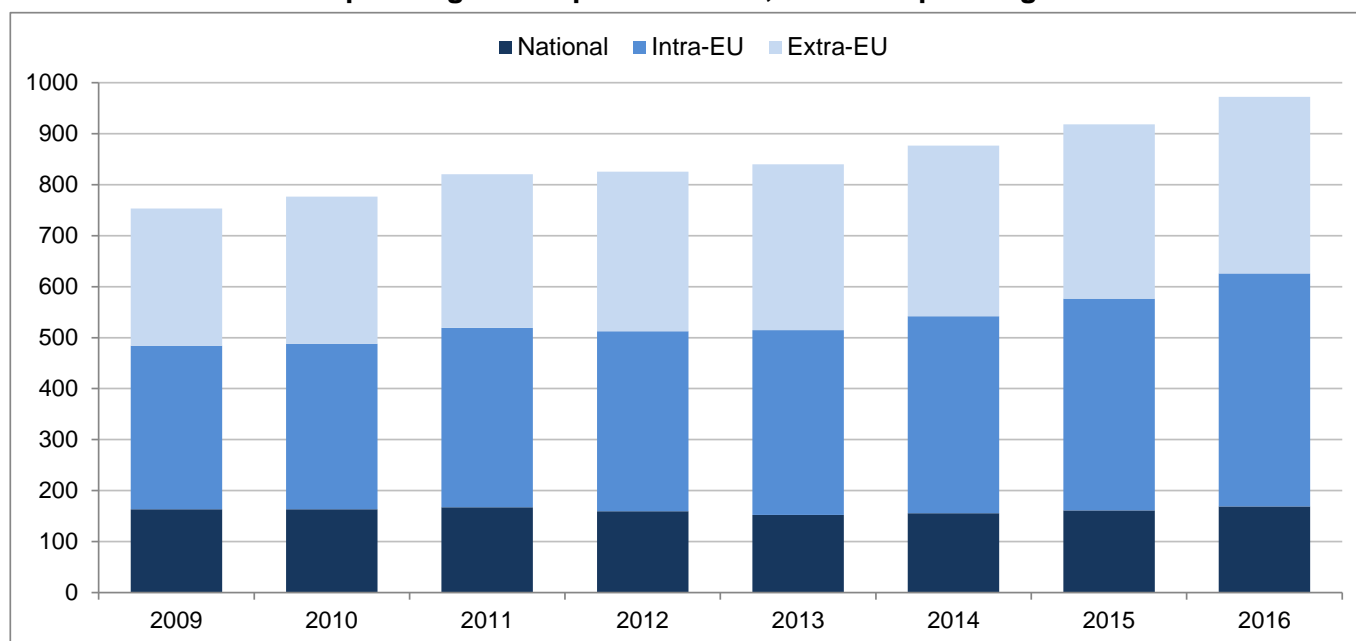
In 2016, 972.7 million passengers travelled by air in the **European Union (EU)**, up by 5.9% compared with 2015 and by 29.1% compared with 2009. Over this period, air passenger transport has steadily risen in the **EU**.

In 2016, intra-EU transport represented almost half (47.0%) of total air passenger transport in the **EU** and extra-EU transport over a third (35.6%), while national transport accounted for fewer than 1 in every 5 passengers (17.3%).

On the **EU** territory in 2016, six people were killed in commercial air transport accidents with EU aircraft.

These figures come from an [article](#) issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Air passenger transport in the EU, in million passengers



Largest increase in air passenger transport in Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus

In 2016, the highest number of air passengers was recorded in the **United Kingdom**, where total air passenger transport amounted to 249 million. It was followed by **Germany** (201 million passengers), **Spain** (194 mn), **France** (145 mn) and **Italy** (135 mn). The number of air passengers carried in 2016 rose in all EU Member States compared with 2015, except in **Belgium** (-2.7%) and **Slovenia** (-2.2%). The largest increases were registered in **Bulgaria** (+22.5%), **Romania** (+20.5%) and **Cyprus** (+18.1%), ahead of **Hungary** (+14.1%), **Croatia** (+13.8%), **Portugal** (+13.7%), **Lithuania** (+13.3%) and **Luxembourg** (+12.5%). Among the top 5 Member States in terms of air passengers transported in 2016, the largest growths were registered in **Spain** (+11.0%) and the **United Kingdom** (+7.1%). Overall in the **EU**, the number of air passengers rose by 54.4 million (+5.9%) between 2015 and 2016, notably driven by the rise in intra-EU transport (+10.2%).

Air passenger transport, 2016

	Total air passenger transport		National Passengers, (in 1000)	International	
	Passengers, (in 1000)	Growth 2016/2015		Intra-EU Passengers, (in 1000)	Extra-EU Passengers, (in 1000)
EU*	972 693	+5.9%	168 676	457 422	346 594
Belgium	30 116	-2.7%	12	22 514	7 590
Bulgaria	9 324	+22.5%	164	6 818	2 343
Czech Republic	13 672	+7.9%	83	9 881	3 709
Denmark	32 763	+8.9%	2 012	22 245	8 507
Germany	200 687	+3.5%	23 775	110 683	66 229
Estonia	2 215	+2.5%	17	1 763	435
Ireland	32 596	+10.3%	82	27 783	4 731
Greece	45 543	+8.2%	8 176	29 703	7 664
Spain	193 872	+11.0%	33 435	132 932	27 506
France	145 257	+3.1%	28 952	65 352	50 954
Croatia	7 475	+13.8%	488	5 734	1 254
Italy	134 505	+5.4%	30 273	79 374	24 858
Cyprus	8 962	+18.1%	0	5 951	3 011
Latvia	5 384	+4.6%	1.0	3 943	1 440
Lithuania	4 788	+13.3%	0.4	3 710	1 077
Luxembourg	2 984	+12.5%	0.7	2 686	298
Hungary	11 668	+14.1%	0.2	9 487	2 181
Malta	5 080	+10.0%	0.3	4 648	432
Netherlands	70 318	+8.9%	1.6	44 192	26 124
Austria	27 182	+1.6%	511	18 958	7 713
Poland	32 267	+11.6%	1 834	24 668	5 765
Portugal	40 930	+13.7%	4 472	29 457	7 002
Romania	15 154	+20.5%	895	12 356	1 903
Slovenia	1 404	-2.2%	0	857	547
Slovakia	2 158	+11.0%	25	1 817	316
Finland	18 100	+3.6%	2 689	11 265	4 146
Sweden	35 953	+5.7%	7 702	21 599	6 652
United Kingdom	248 869	+7.1%	23 077	153 581	72 211
Iceland**	6 802	+40.3%	0	6 802	
Norway	37 728	+0.6%	15 182	22 545	
Switzerland	50 505	+5.2%	740	49 765	

* Double counting is excluded in the intra-EU and total aggregates by taking into consideration only departure declarations.

** Data concern only Keflavik airport

0: real zero (no passengers carried)

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

London/Heathrow, Paris/Charles de Gaulle and Amsterdam/Schiphol: top 3 passenger airports

London/Heathrow remained the EU's busiest passenger airport in 2016, with 75.7 million passengers handled, slightly up (+1.0%) compared with 2015. **Paris/Charles de Gaulle** (65.8 mn, +0.3%), **Amsterdam/Schiphol** (63.6 mn, +9.3%), **Frankfurt/Main** (60.7 mn, -0.4%) and **Madrid/Barajas** (49.2 mn, +6.2%) completed the top 5 of the busiest airports in the EU. They were followed by **Barcelona/El Prat** (43.8 mn, +11.0%), **London/Gatwick** (43.1 mn, +7.2%), **München** (42.2 mn, +3.2%) and **Roma/Fiumicino** (41.6 mn, +3.3%). Each of the top 30 EU airports registered an increase in the number of passengers handled in 2016, except **Brussels/National** (-6.4%) and **Frankfurt/Main** (-0.4%). The highest rises among the top 30 EU airports were registered in **London/Luton** (+19.4%), **Malaga/Costa del Sol** (+15.7%) and **Warszawa/Chopina** (+14.5%), ahead of **Lisboa** (+11.7%), **Dublin** (+11.2%), **Barcelona/Prat** (+11.0%), **Manchester** (+10.9%), **Athinai/Eleftherios Venizelos** and **Palma de Mallorca** (both +10.6%).

As in 2015, **London/Heathrow** (44.8 million) handled in 2016 the most passengers on extra-EU transport and **Amsterdam/Schiphol** (37.9 mn) the most on intra-EU transport, while **Paris/Orly** and **Madrid/Bajas** (both 14.1 mn) led for national transport.

Top airports* in the EU in terms of total passengers carried, 2016

Rank	Airport		Total air passenger transport		National	Intra-EU	Extra-EU
			in 1000	Growth 2016/2015	in 1000 passengers	in 1000 passengers	in 1000 passengers
1	UK	London/Heathrow	75 672	+1.0%	4 645	26 257	44 770
2	FR	Paris/Charles de Gaulle	65 849	+0.3%	6 055	26 040	33 755
3	NL	Amsterdam/Schiphol	63 550	+9.3%	0.5	37 890	25 659
4	DE	Frankfurt/Main	60 669	-0.4%	6 943	25 211	28 514
5	ES	Madrid/Barajas	49 178	+6.2%	14 133	21 585	13 460
6	ES	Barcelona/El Prat	43 750	+11.0%	11 789	24 837	7 124
7	UK	London/Gatwick	43 143	+7.2%	3 870	28 317	10 956
8	DE	München	42 159	+3.2%	9 593	20 709	11 858
9	IT	Roma/Fiumicino	41 569	+3.3%	12 470	17 991	11 108
10	FR	Paris/Orly	31 238	+5.3%	14 143	10 795	6 300
11	DK	København/Kastrup	28 946	+9.2%	1 880	19 123	7 944
12	IE	Dublin	27 709	+11.2%	82	23 299	4 328
13	ES	Palma de Mallorca	26 230	+10.6%	5 803	19 179	1 248
14	UK	Manchester	25 598	+10.9%	2 295	16 477	6 827
15	SE	Stockholm/Arlanda	24 698	+6.7%	5 275	13 776	5 647
16	UK	London/Stansted	24 317	+8.0%	2 051	20 997	1 269
17	DE	Düsseldorf	23 497	+4.7%	4 476	11 933	7 088
18	AT	Wien/Schwechat	23 318	+2.5%	509	15 405	7 405
19	PT	Lisboa	22 463	+11.7%	3 068	13 941	5 453
20	BE	Brussels/National	21 769	-6.4%	2	15 362	6 406
21	DE	Berlin/Tegel	21 245	+1.2%	7 769	9 596	3 880
22	EL	Athinai/Eleftherios Venizelos	20 009	+10.6%	7 157	8 959	3 892
23	IT	Milano/Malpensa	19 312	+4.7%	2 693	9 926	6 692
24	FI	Helsinki/Vantaa	17 181	+4.6%	2 679	10 443	4 059
25	ES	Malaga/Costa del Sol	16 620	+15.7%	2 274	12 982	1 363
26	DE	Hamburg	16 191	+3.9%	5 339	7 866	2 985
27	UK	London/Luton	14 642	+19.4%	1 043	12 132	1 467
28	CZ	Praha/Ruzyně	12 990	+9.5%	36	9 332	3 622
29	PL	Warszawa/Chopin	12 848	+14.5%	1 424	7 989	3 435
30	FR	Nice/Côte d'Azur	12 422	+3.4%	4 440	5 754	2 229

37	HU	Budapest/ Liszt Ferenc Int.	11 383	+11.3%	0.1	9 204	2 179
39	RO	Bucuresti/Henri Coanda	10 979	+18.4%	873	8 487	1 619
57	CY	Larnaka	6 628	+24.7%	0	3 840	2 788
64	LV	Riga	5 385	+4.6%	2	3 943	1 440
69	MT	Malta/Luqa	5 080	+10.0%	0.3	4 648	432
73	BG	Sofia	4 964	+22.4%	157	4 068	739
87	LT	Vilnius	3 811	+14.3%	0.4	2 820	991
94	LU	Luxembourg	2 984	+12.5%	0.7	2 686	298
102	HR	Zagreb/Pleso	2 757	+7.0%	444	1 642	670
118	EE	Lennart Meri Tallinn	2 215	+2.5%	17	1 763	435
132	SK	Bratislava/M.R Stefanik	1 746	+12.2%	19	1 444	283
146	SI	Ljubljana/Brnik	1 404	-2.2%	0	857	547

* The 30 busiest airports in 2016 in terms of total passengers carried and the top airport in each of the 12 Member States which have no airport among the top 30.

0: real zero (no passengers carried)

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

This release of air passenger transport statistics uses annualised monthly data for 2016.

Air passenger figures have been calculated excluding double counting of national and intra-EU passenger transport, i.e. not counting the same passengers twice, once reported by the origin airport as departures and once by the partner airport as arrivals. Since the EU aggregate excludes double counting on intra-EU traffic, Member States' figures do not add up to the EU aggregate. For example, a person flying from Paris to London will be counted in France as a 'departure passenger' and in the United Kingdom as an 'arrival passenger' but only once at EU level.

Air transport at airports in the Member States with a total transport of more than 150 000 passengers carried in 2016 is covered. Data on air transport fatalities are source European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

More information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to transport statistics

Eurostat [database](#) on transport

Eurostat [metadata](#) on air transport

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on air transport monthly statistics

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