

Air passenger transport in the EU

Record number of air passengers carried at more than 1 billion in 2017

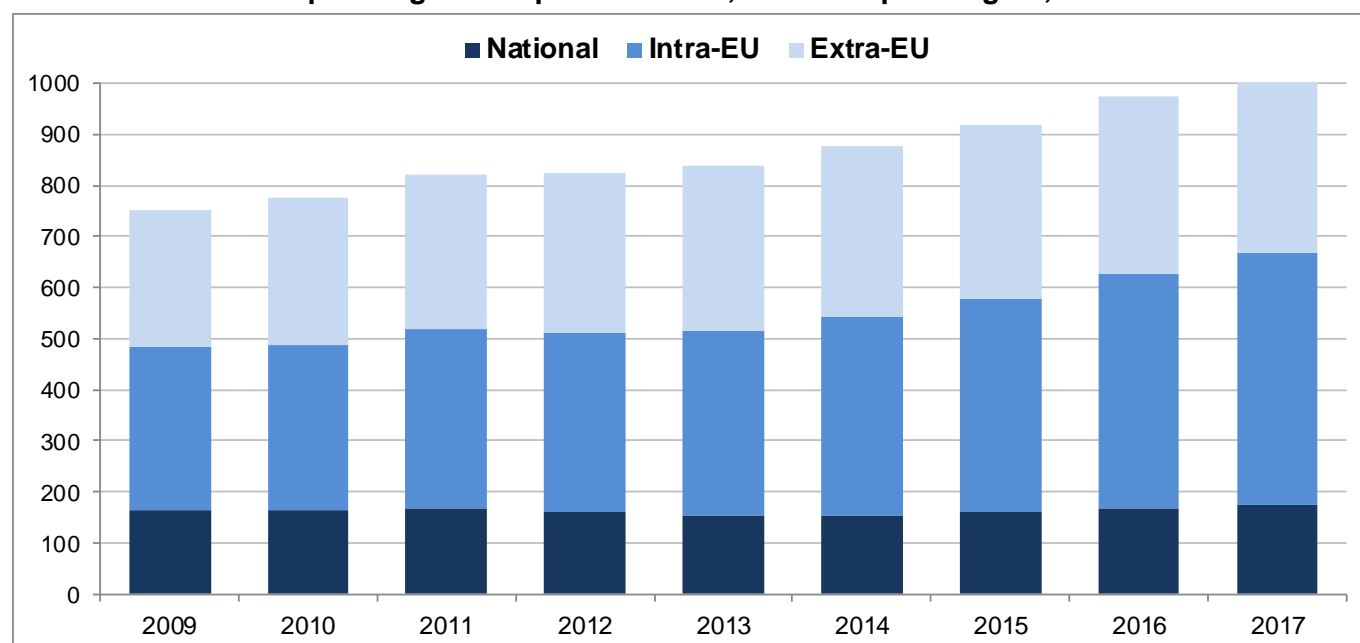
Around 71 million more than in 2016

In 2017, 1.043 billion passengers travelled by air in the **European Union (EU)**, up by 7% compared with 2016 and by 39% compared with 2009. Over this period, air passenger transport has steadily risen in the **EU**.

In 2017, intra-EU transport represented almost half (47%) of total air passenger transport in the **EU** and extra-EU transport over a third (36%), while national transport accounted for fewer than 1 in every 5 passengers (17%).

These figures are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Air passenger transport in the EU, in million passengers, 2017



Largest increase in air passenger transport in Slovenia, Luxembourg, Estonia, Bulgaria and Czechia

In 2017, the largest number of air passengers was recorded in the **United Kingdom** (265 million passengers), followed by **Germany** (212 million), **Spain** (210 million), **France** (154 million) and **Italy** (144 million). The number of air passengers carried in 2017 rose in all EU Member States compared with 2016. The highest increases were registered in **Slovenia** (+20%), **Luxembourg, Estonia, Bulgaria** and **Czechia** (all +19%), **Romania, Croatia** and **Malta** (all +18%), ahead of **Poland** and **Portugal** (both +17%). Among the top 5 Member States in terms of air passengers transported in 2017, the highest increases were registered in **Spain** (+8%) and the **United Kingdom** (+6%). Overall in the **EU**, the number of air passengers rose by 70.5 million (+7%) between 2016 and 2017, driven by the rise in extra-EU (+9%) and intra-EU transport (+7%).

Air passenger transport, 2017

	Total air passenger transport		National	International	
	Passengers, (in 1000)	Growth 2017/2016		Intra-EU	Extra-EU
			Passengers, (in 1000)	Passengers, (in 1000)	Passengers, (in 1000)
EU*	1 043 169	+7.3%	175 572	491 188	376 409
Belgium	33 260	+10.4%	10	24 512	8 739
Bulgaria	11 093	+19.0%	280	8 508	2 304
Czechia	16 246	+18.8%	68	11 381	4 798
Denmark	33 244	+1.5%	1 949	22 716	8 579
Germany	212 389	+5.8%	23 833	117 892	70 664
Estonia	2 635	+19.0%	25	2 095	516
Ireland	34 272	+5.1%	87	28 716	5 469
Greece	50 171	+10.2%	8 335	33 329	8 507
Spain	209 824	+8.2%	36 166	143 750	29 908
France	154 112	+6.1%	30 035	69 566	54 511
Croatia	8 843	+18.3%	527	6 875	1 442
Italy	144 306	+7.3%	31 121	85 688	27 497
Cyprus	10 239	+14.3%	0	6 811	3 428
Latvia	6 078	+12.9%	6	4 414	1 658
Lithuania	5 246	+9.6%	0	4 002	1 244
Luxembourg	3 555	+19.1%	1	3 215	339
Hungary	13 350	+14.5%	0	10 605	2 745
Malta	6 008	+18.3%	0	5 497	511
Netherlands	76 240	+8.4%	2	48 365	27 873
Austria	28 327	+4.2%	532	19 561	8 235
Poland	37 685	+16.8%	2 212	28 034	7 438
Portugal	47 673	+16.5%	4 955	34 156	8 562
Romania	17 935	+18.4%	1 369	14 341	2 224
Slovenia	1 682	+19.8%	-	1 009	674
Slovakia	2 403	+11.3%	24	1 792	586
Finland	20 055	+10.8%	2 759	12 478	4 819
Sweden	38 456	+7.0%	7 859	23 478	7 119
United Kingdom	264 629	+6.3%	23 417	165 191	76 021
Iceland**	8 319	+22.3%	5	8 314	
Norway	38 740	+2.7%	15 591	23 149	
Switzerland	53 565	+6.1%	731	52 834	

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

** Data concern only Keflavik airport

0: less than 500 passengers carried

- 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 2017, with 78 million passengers handled, slightly up (+3%) compared with 2016. **Paris/Charles de Gaulle** (69 million, +5%), **Amsterdam/Schiphol** (68 million, +8%), **Frankfurt/Main** (64 million, +6%) and **Madrid/Barajas** (52 million, +6%) completed the top 5 of the busiest airports in the EU. They were followed by **Barcelona/El Prat** (47 million, +7%), **London/Gatwick** (46 million, +6%), **München** (45 million, +6%) and **Roma/Fiumicino** (41 million, -2%). Each of the top 30 EU airports registered an increase in the number of passengers handled in 2017, except **Berlin/Tegel** (-4%) and **Roma/Fiumicino** (-2%). The highest rises among the top 30 EU airports were registered in (**Warszawa/Chopin** (+23%), ahead of **Lisboa** and **Praha/Ruzyně** (both +19%), **Milano/Malpensa** and **Brussels/National** (both +14%), **Malaga/Costa del Sol** (+12%), **Alicante** and **Helsinki/Vantaa** (both +11%).

In 2017, **London/Heathrow** (46 million) handled the most passengers on extra-EU transport and **Amsterdam/Schiphol** (41 million) the most on intra-EU transport, while **Madrid/Barajas** (15 million) led for national transport.

Top airports* in the EU in terms of total passengers carried, 2017

Rank	Airport		Total air passenger transport		National	Intra-EU	Extra-EU
			in 1000	Growth 2017/2016	in 1000 passengers	in 1000 passengers	in 1000 passengers
1	UK	London/Heathrow	77 987	+3.1%	4 801	26 903	46 283
2	FR	Paris/Charles De Gaulle	69 414	+5.4%	6 363	27 480	35 571
3	NL	Amsterdam/Schiphol	68 422	+7.7%	0.35	41 008	27 413
4	DE	Frankfurt/Main	64 390	+6.1%	7 256	27 226	29 909
5	ES	Madrid/Barajas	52 023	+5.8%	14 716	22 869	14 437
6	ES	Barcelona/El Prat	46 802	+7.0%	12 694	26 011	8 097
7	UK	London/Gatwick	45 534	+5.5%	4 083	29 341	12 111
8	DE	München	44 535	+5.6%	9 814	21 992	12 728
9	IT	Roma/Fiumicino	40 841	-1.8%	11 460	17 556	11 825
10	FR	Paris/Orly	32 040	+2.6%	14 183	10 817	7 040
11	IE	Dublin	29 356	+5.9%	87	24 235	5 035
12	DK	København/Kastrup	29 100	+0.5%	1 836	19 231	8 033
13	ES	Palma De Mallorca	27 951	+6.6%	6 375	20 227	1 350
14	UK	Manchester	27 774	+8.5%	2 384	17 985	7 405
15	PT	Lisboa	26 677	+18.8%	3 512	16 496	6 668
16	SE	Stockholm/Arlanda	26 588	+7.7%	5 367	15 192	6 028
17	UK	London/Stansted	25 899	+6.5%	1 748	22 578	1 573
18	BE	Brussels/National	24 776	+13.8%	3	17 238	7 535
19	DE	Düsseldorf	24 610	+4.7%	4 456	12 541	7 613
20	AT	Wien/Schwechat	24 333	+4.4%	543	15 843	7 947
21	IT	Milano/Malpensa	22 037	+14.1%	3 164	11 628	7 245
22	EL	Athinai/Eleftherios Venizelos	21 723	+8.6%	7 330	9 845	4 547
23	DE	Berlin/Tegel	20 451	-3.7%	7 736	8 829	3 886
24	FI	Helsinki/Vantaa	18 981	+10.5%	2 743	11 488	4 750
25	ES	Malaga/Costa Del Sol	18 575	+11.8%	2 454	14 650	1 472
26	DE	Hamburg	17 589	+8.6%	5 232	9 153	3 204
27	UK	London/Luton	15 989	+9.2%	1 162	13 251	1 576
28	PL	Warszawa/Chopina	15 757	+22.7%	2 094	9 198	4 465
29	CZ	Praha/Ruzyne	15 372	+18.3%	33	10 745	4594
30	ES	Alicante	13 670	+11.1%	1 377	10 796	1 496

33	HU	Budapest/Liszt Ferenc Int	13 032	+14.6%	-	10 319	2 713
37	RO	Bucuresti/Henri Coanda	12 803	+16.6%	1 290	9 566	1 948
56	CY	Larnaka	7 724	+16.5%	0	4 626	3 098
63	BG	Sofia	6 478	+30.5%	272	5 389	816
66	LV	Riga	6 078	+12.9%	6	4 414	1 658
67	MT	Luqa	6 008	+18.3%	0	5 497	511
95	LT	Vilnius	3 759	-1.4%	0	2 776	983
97	LU	Luxembourg	3 554	+19.1%	0	3 215	339
102	HR	Zagreb/Pleso	3 081	+11.8%	492	1 804	785
114	EE	Lennart Meri Tallinn	2 635	+19.0%	25	2 095	516
137	SK	Bratislava/M.R.Stefanik	1 929	+10.5%	17	1 403	509
150	SI	Ljubljana/Brnik	1 682	+19.8%	-	1 009	674

* The 30 busiest airports in 2017 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: less than 500 passengers carried

- : real zero (no passengers carried)

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

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, 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 2017.

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 2017 is covered.

More information

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

Eurostat [database](#) on transport

Eurostat [metadata](#) on air transport

Eurostat [data visualisation tool](#) on air transport

This news release marks the International Aviation Day (7 December).


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