Air passenger transport - monthly statistics | Statistics Explained
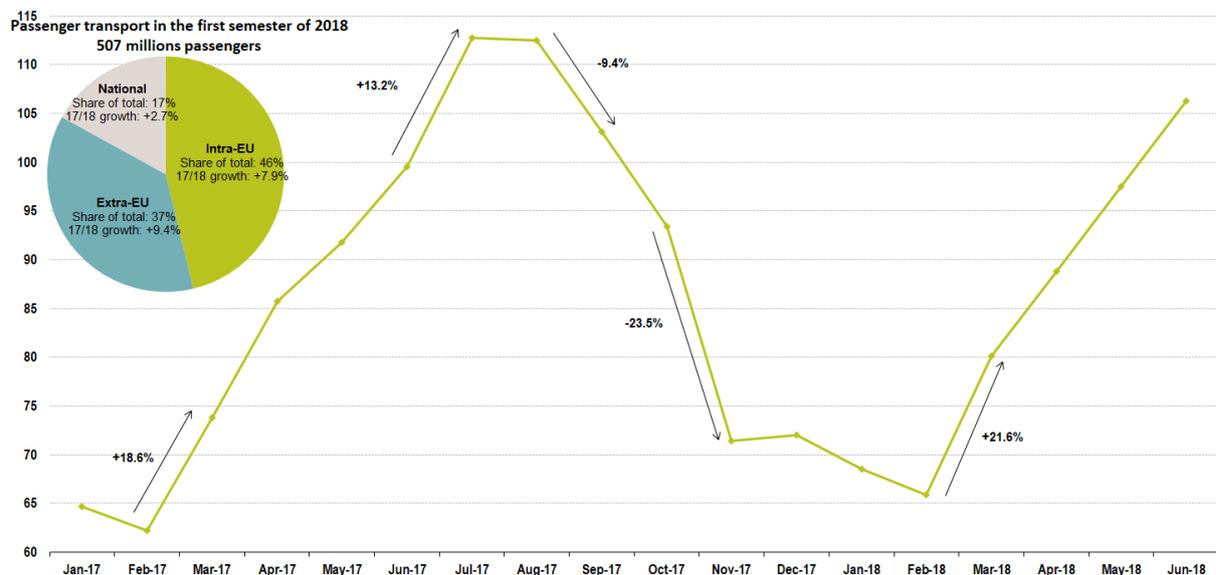
This article describes the recent monthly development of passenger transport by air in the European Union (EU). A distinction is made between national (domestic), intra and extra-EU transport, and the article also looks at the importance of airports.

Development of air passenger transport at EU level

Over the course of 2017 and during the first semester of 2018, the upward trend already observed in passenger transport by air for previous years was confirmed at EU-28 level, an increase of 7.2 % was recorded between 2016 and 2017 and the figures for the first semester of 2018 indicate a rise of 6.1 % compared with the same period of 2017.

Figure 1: Share of and change in EU-28 monthly passengers carried in 2017 and in the first semester of 2018
(million passengers)*

* For more details about the data presented, please see the notes from the "Methodology" section.
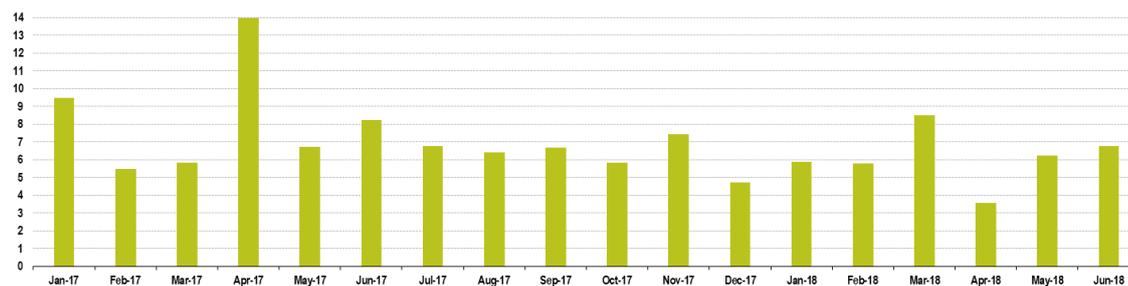*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoc)

Share of and change in EU-28 monthly passengers carried in 2017 and in the first semester of 2018 (million passengers).For more details about the data presented, please see the notes in the 'Data sources and availability' section. Source: Eurostat (avia_paoc)

In the first semester of 2018, international intra-EU transport represented around 46 % of all passengers carried at EU28 level, followed by extra-EU transport (around 37 %) and national transport (around 17 %) - see Figure 1.

Figure 2 shows that all the months of 2017 displayed an increase on the previous year (ranging from +4.7 % in December to +14.0 % in April). All months of 2018 showed rises compared with the same period in 2017, the largest rise taking place in March (+8.5 % compared with the corresponding month of 2017).

Figure 2: Change in EU-28 monthly passengers carried for 2017 and the first semester of 2018 (compared to the same month of the previous year)*
(%)

* For more details about the data presented, please see the notes from the "Methodology" section.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoc)

eurostat

Figure 2: Change in EU-28 monthly passengers carried for 2017 and the first semester of 2018 (compared to the same month of the previous year) (%). For more details about the data presented, please see the notes in the 'Data sources and availability' section. Source: Eurostat (avia_paoc)

Air passenger transport at country level

Analysing passenger transport at country level generally confirms the upward trend observed in 2017 and the first semester of 2018 at EU-28 level, although transport development varies significantly depending on the country considered. For the first six months of 2018, all Member States and all extra-EU reporting countries showed an increase in passenger volumes compared with the same period in 2017. Particularly notable is the growth observed for Slovakia (+21 %), Latvia (+18 %) and Malta (+16.5 %) among the EU Member States. At the other end of the scale, minor increases were observed in passenger transport for the United Kingdom (+2 %), Sweden (+3 %) and Germany (+3 %).

Outside the EU-28, the level of growth differs across countries: on the one hand, the highest increases were registered in Iceland (+35 %) and North Macedonia (+21 %) while, on the other hand, only a slight increase was observed for Norway (+3 %) when comparing the first semesters of 2017 and 2018 - see Table 1.

Passengers carried per country: monthly data for 2017 and the first semester of 2018
(thousand)

	2017													2018							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total 2017	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total 2018	Growth 2017-2018 (%)
EU-28	64 694	62 257	73 829	85 708	91 813	99 585	112 770	112 484	103 097	93 430	71 453	72 001	1 043 121	68 483	65 869	80 113	88 772	97 529	106 315	507 080	6.1
Belgium	2 064	2 083	2 463	2 891	2 983	2 986	3 468	3 409	3 202	2 982	2 422	2 306	33 260	2 190	2 194	2 591	3 062	3 092	3 111	16 241	5.0
Bulgaria	493	481	544	616	768	1 385	1 902	1 882	1 305	671	507	539	11 093	545	510	610	705	918	1 569	4 856	13.3
Czechia	869	850	1 072	1 264	1 342	1 616	1 869	1 863	1 732	1 419	1 163	1 186	16 246	974	972	1 227	1 369	1 459	1 821	7 823	11.6
Denmark	2 209	2 208	2 548	2 736	2 955	3 192	3 532	3 192	3 092	3 030	2 357	2 209	33 261	2 184	2 218	2 692	2 842	3 157	3 387	16 480	4.0
Germany	13 147	12 850	15 602	17 907	19 101	19 908	21 789	21 572	21 252	20 230	14 971	14 061	212 389	13 357	13 254	16 736	17 975	19 905	20 575	101 801	3.3
Estonia	154	149	184	203	233	259	271	273	265	255	202	188	2 635	174	171	210	238	274	298	1 364	15.4
Ireland	2 112	2 047	2 488	2 874	3 035	3 410	3 680	3 616	3 175	2 993	2 442	2 399	34 272	2 230	2 109	2 562	3 011	3 329	3 648	16 889	5.8
Greece	1 438	1 339	1 663	2 817	4 753	6 664	8 228	8 336	7 007	4 484	1 751	1 691	50 171	1 519	1 421	1 892	3 015	5 565	7 301	20 713	10.9
Spain	11 722	11 511	14 162	17 739	19 041	20 927	23 635	23 573	21 439	19 380	13 458	13 237	209 824	12 596	12 418	15 642	18 071	20 092	21 891	100 710	5.9
France	10 254	9 890	11 308	13 452	13 617	13 863	16 131	15 981	14 104	13 524	10 658	11 315	154 096	10 881	10 179	12 246	13 601	14 233	14 853	75 994	5.0
Croatia	192	178	239	528	842	1 172	1 647	1 577	1 220	747	264	237	8 843	220	200	302	550	971	1 319	3 561	13.0
Italy	8 759	8 302	10 062	12 062	12 846	13 950	15 882	15 863	14 585	12 787	9 554	9 653	144 306	9 329	8 809	10 749	12 830	13 682	14 882	70 280	6.5
Cyprus	365	348	467	781	1 012	1 160	1 362	1 404	1 242	1 129	548	423	10 239	388	386	559	848	1 084	1 253	4 518	9.4
Latvia	369	343	419	486	526	592	644	642	569	552	461	475	6 078	442	404	504	568	634	684	3 236	18.3
Lithuania	356	325	382	450	510	527	408	415	519	529	415	408	5 246	406	377	452	516	587	610	2 949	15.6
Luxembourg	203	207	242	316	318	336	357	355	346	328	269	278	3 555	238	241	297	353	373	364	1 866	15.0
Hungary	832	799	960	1 110	1 158	1 221	1 359	1 363	1 273	1 216	1 037	1 022	13 350	975	929	1 135	1 261	1 319	1 384	7 002	15.2
Malta	297	296	384	531	548	579	674	693	626	596	406	378	6 008	352	349	471	591	643	663	3 070	16.5
Netherlands	5 026	4 790	5 720	6 528	6 993	6 908	7 537	7 611	7 047	6 979	5 660	5 440	76 240	5 413	5 239	6 155	6 734	7 265	7 238	38 044	5.8
Austria	1 887	1 868	2 199	2 426	2 498	2 615	2 871	2 808	2 734	2 425	1 947	2 051	28 327	1 905	1 937	2 404	2 442	2 586	2 823	14 097	4.5
Poland	2 310	2 223	2 561	2 818	3 222	3 687	4 120	4 090	3 849	3 310	2 755	2 741	37 685	2 713	2 606	2 985	2 970	3 393	3 933	18 601	10.6
Portugal	2 632	2 621	3 177	4 161	4 369	4 637	5 167	5 257	4 881	4 473	3 152	3 147	47 673	2 954	2 903	3 627	4 406	4 767	4 935	23 591	9.2
Romania	1 183	1 117	1 293	1 465	1 538	1 635	1 831	1 888	1 756	1 621	1 309	1 298	17 935	1 266	1 179	1 377	1 565	1 618	1 749	8 754	6.4
Slovenia	89	90	109	132	146	156	198	196	180	154	122	109	1 682	100	99	130	158	168	176	830	14.9
Slovakia	122	111	134	149	160	231	381	375	270	176	146	148	2 403	142	132	159	185	190	286	1 094	20.6
Finland	1 444	1 415	1 584	1 575	1 695	1 826	1 830	1 791	1 767	1 785	1 563	1 780	20 055	1 625	1 600	1 819	1 783	1 898	2 033	10 760	12.8
Sweden	2 548	2 517	2 960	3 125	3 553	3 682	3 791	3 637	3 557	3 424	2 930	2 733	38 456	2 645	2 603	3 142	3 235	3 541	3 732	18 898	2.8
United Kingdom	16 838	16 661	19 315	22 138	23 582	25 256	27 616	28 151	25 669	23 215	17 652	18 536	264 629	17 134	16 929	19 970	22 118	24 278	26 347	126 777	2.4
Iceland	494	487	582	617	249	928	1 098	1 079	865	726	593	606	8 323	594	569	702	679	867	1 122	4 534	35.1
Norway	2 560	2 632	3 089	3 059	3 363	3 770	3 941	3 675	3 535	3 507	2 943	2 665	38 740	2 631	2 733	3 131	3 239	3 501	3 820	19 055	3.2
Switzerland	3 716	3 703	4 314	4 653	4 495	4 720	5 354	5 248	4 875	4 876	3 596	4 015	53 565	3 832	3 840	4 562	4 864	4 788	4 907	26 793	4.7
Montenegro	65	61	76	115	155	300	393	395	300	140	86	87	2 173	80	71	89	132	189	328	887	15.1
North Macedonia	123	105	125	149	150	151	201	216	185	172	140	144	1 861	145	130	156	176	175	192	974	21.3
Turkey	11 462	11 067	12 828	14 770	16 745	17 100	21 296	21 713	19 867	17 746	14 275	14 195	193 065	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 1: Passengers carried per country: monthly data for 2017 and the first semester of 2018 (thousand)Source: Eurostat (avia_paoc)

Air passenger transport at airport level

Passengers handled in top airports: monthly data for 2017 and the first semester of 2018

(thousand)

Rank 2017	Airports*	Country	2017 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total 2017	2018 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total 2018	Growth 2017-2018 (%)
1	LONDON/HEATHROW	UK	5 739	5 266	6 156	6 732	6 476	6 758	7 532	7 480	6 929	6 664	5 920	6 336	77 987	5 805	5 392	6 492	6 582	6 677	7 124	38 072	2.5
2	PARIS/CHARLES DE GAULLE	FR	4 963	4 619	5 294	5 954	5 952	6 110	6 863	6 852	6 202	6 037	5 154	5 419	69 418	5 211	4 744	5 620	5 749	6 082	6 496	33 901	3.1
3	AMSTERDAM/SCHIPHOL	NL	4 561	4 326	5 163	5 839	6 211	6 147	6 731	6 791	6 260	6 245	5 172	4 977	68 422	4 910	4 743	5 562	6 019	6 396	6 380	34 010	5.5
4	FRANKFURT/MAIN	DE	4 216	4 018	4 865	5 421	5 593	5 786	6 381	6 282	6 221	6 048	5 000	4 559	64 390	4 538	4 356	5 504	5 734	6 124	6 353	32 608	9.1
5	MADRID/BARAJAS	ES	3 740	3 489	4 095	4 375	4 409	4 631	4 954	4 822	4 685	4 600	4 085	4 138	52 023	4 018	3 819	4 468	4 693	4 850	4 969	26 817	8.4
6	BARCELONA/EL PRAT	ES	2 765	2 766	3 431	4 073	4 289	4 550	4 994	4 896	4 593	4 132	3 159	3 155	46 802	3 018	2 996	3 792	4 201	4 508	4 762	23 275	6.4
7	LONDON/GATWICK	UK	2 798	2 960	3 390	3 796	4 089	4 402	4 751	4 909	4 463	3 917	2 889	3 171	45 534	2 847	2 980	3 476	3 742	4 103	4 499	21 648	1.0
8	MUNCHEN	DE	2 918	2 949	3 524	3 719	3 935	4 074	4 364	4 203	4 367	4 050	3 330	3 103	44 535	2 942	2 954	3 672	3 794	4 074	4 247	21 682	2.7
9	ROMA/FIUMICINO	IT	2 655	2 483	3 047	3 456	3 664	3 836	4 265	4 207	3 969	3 654	2 823	2 781	40 841	2 625	2 564	3 212	3 662	3 911	4 080	20 054	4.8
10	PARIS/ORLY	FR	2 296	2 250	2 536	2 856	2 833	2 789	3 162	2 978	2 764	2 812	2 309	2 454	32 040	2 384	2 188	2 640	2 959	2 894	2 938	16 003	2.8
11	DUBLIN	IE	1 839	1 777	2 162	2 473	2 587	2 876	3 098	3 048	2 716	2 574	2 118	2 089	29 356	1 951	1 831	2 235	2 595	2 848	3 088	14 549	6.1
12	KØBENHAVN/KASTRUP	DK	1 974	1 976	2 273	2 415	2 581	2 768	3 007	2 771	2 669	2 611	2 091	1 965	29 101	1 917	1 948	2 366	2 485	2 745	2 937	14 399	2.9
13	PALMA DE MALLORCA	ES	641	720	1 107	2 226	3 035	3 632	4 155	4 173	3 637	2 876	941	807	27 951	705	781	1 270	2 200	3 150	3 771	11 877	4.5
14	MANCHESTER	UK	1 665	1 662	1 915	2 243	2 508	2 755	3 029	3 165	2 867	2 402	1 730	1 832	27 774	1 664	1 678	1 991	2 199	2 491	2 849	12 872	1.0
15	LISBOA	PT	1 664	1 612	1 906	2 261	2 279	2 421	2 709	2 732	2 576	2 467	2 022	2 029	26 677	1 917	1 853	2 233	2 465	2 583	2 655	13 706	12.9
16	STOCKHOLM/ARLANDA	SE	1 800	1 768	2 100	2 151	2 445	2 502	2 576	2 506	2 459	2 368	2 048	1 911	26 589	1 838	1 802	2 214	2 232	2 427	2 561	13 074	2.4
17	LONDON/STANSTED	UK	1 746	1 652	1 881	2 187	2 306	2 363	2 582	2 743	2 459	2 325	1 822	1 832	25 899	1 802	1 732	1 989	2 364	2 516	2 635	13 038	7.4
18	BRUSSELS	BE	1 532	1 562	1 878	2 145	2 203	2 223	2 563	2 496	2 397	2 230	1 831	1 716	24 776	1 619	1 647	1 957	2 252	2 262	2 310	12 048	4.4
19	DÜSSELDORF	DE	1 566	1 499	1 918	2 128	2 334	2 327	2 556	2 546	2 478	2 258	1 572	1 428	24 610	1 418	1 389	1 779	1 872	2 162	2 213	10 833	-8.0
20	WIEN/SCHWECHAT	AT	1 435	1 383	1 717	2 120	2 225	2 310	2 541	2 490	2 425	2 179	1 757	1 751	24 333	1 467	1 479	1 903	2 167	2 314	2 496	11 826	5.7
21	MILANO/MALPENSA	IT	1 439	1 348	1 629	1 874	1 871	2 032	2 285	2 278	2 124	1 920	1 586	1 650	22 037	1 590	1 348	1 629	2 036	2 052	2 243	10 898	6.9
22	ATHINAI/ELEFTHERIOS VENIZELOS	EL	1 206	1 125	1 379	1 644	1 872	2 175	2 561	2 546	2 299	2 047	1 444	1 425	21 723	1 285	1 193	1 518	1 863	2 161	2 429	10 448	11.1
23	BERLIN/TEGEL	DE	1 377	1 393	1 537	1 810	1 965	2 018	2 124	1 966	2 031	1 739	1 313	1 179	20 451	1 124	1 278	1 573	1 650	1 820	1 971	9 417	-6.8
24	HELSINKI/VANTAA	FI	1 345	1 320	1 497	1 502	1 628	1 764	1 782	1 739	1 696	1 689	1 493	1 525	18 981	1 510	1 486	1 710	1 692	1 822	1 966	10 185	12.5
25	MALAGA/COSTA DEL SOL	ES	865	912	1 195	1 691	1 804	1 903	2 180	2 166	1 972	1 830	1 062	995	18 575	929	958	1 281	1 691	1 833	1 920	8 613	2.9
26	HAMBURG	DE	1 085	1 089	1 378	1 453	1 603	1 611	1 757	1 704	1 724	1 717	1 267	1 201	17 589	1 093	1 085	1 371	1 421	1 552	1 522	8 044	-2.1
27	LONDON/LUTON	UK	996	1 060	1 222	1 358	1 465	1 522	1 641	1 705	1 506	1 423	1 018	1 073	15 989	1 034	1 053	1 225	1 404	1 519	1 585	7 820	2.6
28	WARSZAWA/CHOPINA	PL	962	939	1 082	1 159	1 320	1 518	1 716	1 708	1 649	1 430	1 152	1 121	15 757	1 121	1 060	1 242	1 332	1 520	1 740	8 015	14.8
29	PRAHA/RUZYNE	CZ	839	824	1 041	1 228	1 302	1 505	1 701	1 702	1 609	1 367	1 114	1 141	15 372	934	941	1 186	1 323	1 413	1 675	7 472	10.9
30	ALICANTE	ES	683	686	906	1 224	1 282	1 397	1 627	1 610	1 433	1 274	801	745	13 670	705	710	955	1 218	1 303	1 411	6 301	2.0

* Top-30 airports according to the total annual passengers handled in 2017
Source: Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoa)

Table 2: Passengers handled in top airports: monthly data for 2017 and the first semester of 2018 (thousand)Source: Eurostat (avia_paoa)

Within the top 30 airports in terms of passenger transport, growths between the first semester of 2017 and the corresponding period of 2018 also differ substantially depending on the airport considered, reflecting the trends observed at country level. For the first six months of 2018, 27 out of the top 30 airports showed an increase over this period. Warsaw/Chopina and Lisboa registered the highest rises among the largest airports with an increase of 15 % and 13 % respectively, followed by Helsinki/Vantaa (+12 %). This contrasts with Düsseldorf and Berlin/Tegel airports, where passenger transport decreased by 8 % and 7% respectively in the first six months of 2017 compared with the same period of 2018 - see Table 2.

Source data for tables and graphs

- Air passenger transport statistics

Data sources

Definition of 'passengers carried'

All passengers on a particular flight are counted once only and not repeatedly on each individual stage of that flight. This excludes direct transit passengers.

Exclusion of double counting

The national transport (included in total transport at country level) and intra-EU transport aggregates (included in total transport at EU level) have been calculated so as to exclude double counting by taking into account only departure declarations.

Notes on some reporting countries

- Turkey: only provides flight stage data (Dataset A1) (in which there is no information on passenger carried) and airport declarations (Dataset C1) in which the partner airport is not provided (exclusion of double counting is not possible). The sum of all Turkish airport declarations (available in avia_tf_apal) is used in this publication. As a consequence the national total presented in Table 1 is overestimated (as it is not possible to apply double counting exclusion for national transport).

Context

The content of this statistical article is based on data collected within the framework of the EU air transport statistics Regulation (EC) No 437/2003 on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of passengers, freight and mail by air.

Other articles

- Air transport statistics
- Passenger transport statistics
- Transport statistics at regional level (see air transport)

Tables

- Transport , see:

Air transport (t_avia)

    Air transport of passengers (ttr00012)
    Air transport of goods (ttr00011)

Database

- Transport , see:

 Air transport (avia)

      Air transport measurement - passengers (avia_pa)
      Air transport measurement - freight and mail (avia_go)

Dedicated section

- Transport

Publications

- Air transport recovers in 2010 - Issue number 21/2012

- Passenger air transport – monthly data for the first half of 2009 - Issue number 13/2010

- Passenger air transport – 2009 monthly data - Issue number 34/2010

- Passenger air transport – 2009 and 2010 monthly data - Issue number 48/2010

- Signs of recovery for air transport in Europe in 2009 - Issue number 2/2011

- Illustrated Glossary for Transport Statistics - 4th Edition

Methodology

- Passenger and freight transport by air/Traffic data/Air transport at regional level (ESMS metadata file — avia_pa_esms)

- Reference Manual on Air Transport Statistics - Version 12 (Methodological manual)

Legislation

The basic legal act was amended by:

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1358/2003

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 546/2005

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 158/2007

External links

- Eurocontrol - Air Traffic Statistics and Forecasts

- European Commission - Transport - Air