

## Air passenger transport in the EU

# More than 900 million air passengers in 2015

## Air passenger transport continues to rise in every Member State

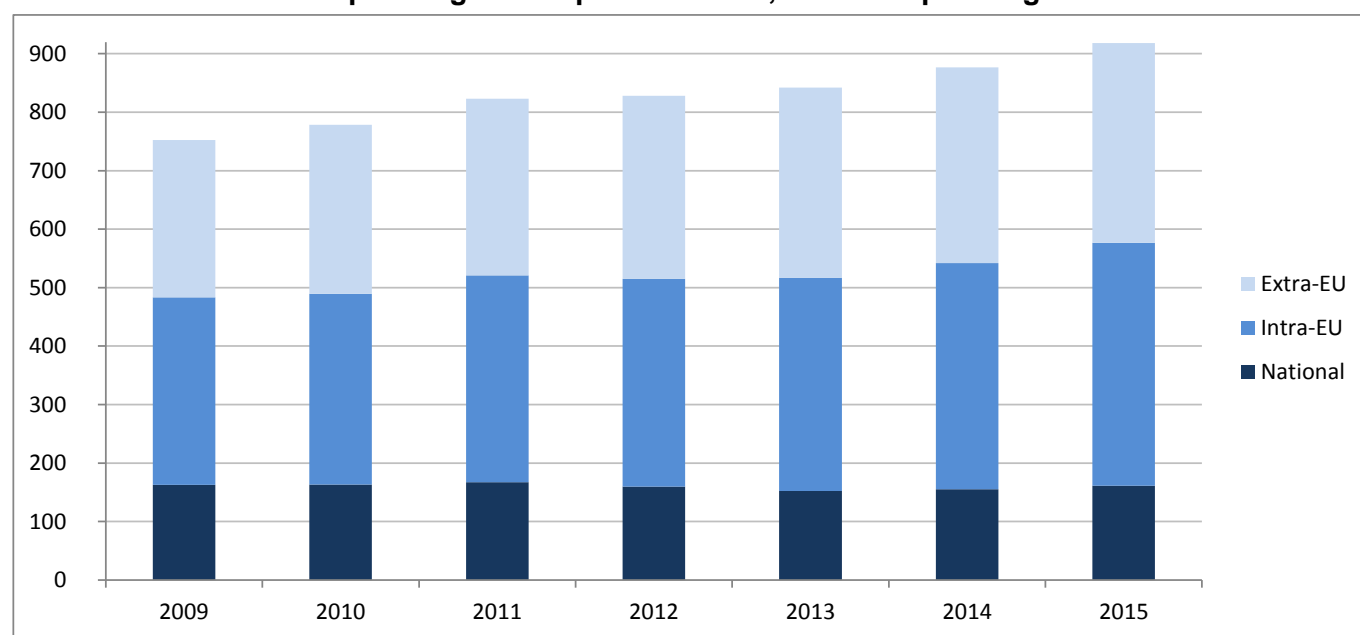
In 2015, 918.3 million passengers travelled by air in the **European Union (EU)**, up by 4.7% compared with 2014 and by 22.0% compared with 2009. Over this period, air passenger transport has steadily risen in the **EU**.

In 2015, intra-EU transport represented 45.2% of total air passenger transport in the **EU**, followed by extra-EU transport (37.2%), while national transport accounted for fewer than 1 in every 5 passengers (17.6%).

On the **EU** territory in 2015, 155 people were killed in commercial air transport accidents with EU aircraft. Since 2009, 211 persons were killed.

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 Slovakia and Romania

In 2015, one in four air passengers was recorded in the **United Kingdom**, where total air passenger transport amounted to 232 million. It was followed by **Germany** (194 million passengers), **Spain** (175 mn), **France** (141 mn) and **Italy** (128 mn). The number of air passengers carried in 2015 rose in all EU Member States compared with 2014. The largest increases were registered in **Slovakia** (+16.3%) and **Romania** (+15.3%), followed by **Hungary** (+13.0%), **Poland** (+12.4%), **Ireland** (+12.3%), **Lithuania** (+11.3%) and **Portugal** (+10.6%). In contrast, the lowest increases were observed in **Bulgaria** (+1.2%), **Austria** (+1.4%) and **Finland** (+1.8%). Overall in the **EU**, the number of air passengers rose by 4.7% between 2014 and 2015, notably driven by the rise in intra-EU transport (+7.3%).

## Air passenger transport, 2015

|                       | Total air passenger transport |                  | National                  | Intra-EU                  | Extra-EU                  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|                       | Passengers,<br>( in 1000)     | Growth 2015/2014 | Passengers,<br>( in 1000) | Passengers,<br>( in 1000) | Passengers,<br>( in 1000) |
| <b>EU*</b>            | <b>918 252</b>                | <b>4.7%</b>      | <b>161 307</b>            | <b>415 031</b>            | <b>341 914</b>            |
| <b>Belgium</b>        | 30 957                        | 7.6%             | 26                        | 22 251                    | 8 680                     |
| <b>Bulgaria</b>       | 7 609                         | 1.2%             | 162                       | 5 431                     | 2 016                     |
| <b>Czech Republic</b> | 12 672                        | 4.9%             | 108                       | 8 977                     | 3 587                     |
| <b>Denmark</b>        | 30 090                        | 3.7%             | 1 925                     | 20 018                    | 8 147                     |
| <b>Germany</b>        | 193 936                       | 4.0%             | 23 157                    | 102 897                   | 67 882                    |
| <b>Estonia</b>        | 2 161                         | 7.0%             | 20                        | 1 622                     | 520                       |
| <b>Ireland</b>        | 29 547                        | 12.3%            | 71                        | 25 109                    | 4 366                     |
| <b>Greece</b>         | 42 096                        | 7.6%             | 7 482                     | 27 564                    | 7 050                     |
| <b>Spain</b>          | 174 653                       | 5.6%             | 30 881                    | 118 168                   | 25 604                    |
| <b>France</b>         | 140 880                       | 3.3%             | 28 170                    | 61 966                    | 50 744                    |
| <b>Croatia</b>        | 6 572                         | 7.0%             | 467                       | 4 997                     | 1 107                     |
| <b>Italy</b>          | 127 652                       | 5.4%             | 29 657                    | 73 968                    | 24 028                    |
| <b>Cyprus</b>         | 7 591                         | 3.6%             | 0                         | 5 345                     | 2 246                     |
| <b>Latvia</b>         | 5 146                         | 7.2%             | 0.2                       | 3 793                     | 1 352                     |
| <b>Lithuania</b>      | 4 227                         | 11.3%            | 0.3                       | 3 254                     | 973                       |
| <b>Luxembourg</b>     | 2 652                         | 8.9%             | 1.0                       | 2 280                     | 371                       |
| <b>Hungary</b>        | 10 228                        | 13.0%            | 0                         | 8 092                     | 2 136                     |
| <b>Malta</b>          | 4 620                         | 7.7%             | 0.3                       | 4 188                     | 431                       |
| <b>Netherlands</b>    | 64 571                        | 5.9%             | 1.5                       | 39 164                    | 25 405                    |
| <b>Austria</b>        | 26 754                        | 1.4%             | 530                       | 18 128                    | 8 096                     |
| <b>Poland</b>         | 28 907                        | 12.4%            | 1 587                     | 21 621                    | 5 699                     |
| <b>Portugal</b>       | 36 004                        | 10.6%            | 3 661                     | 26 028                    | 6 315                     |
| <b>Romania</b>        | 12 581                        | 15.3%            | 506                       | 10 254                    | 1 821                     |
| <b>Slovenia</b>       | 1 436                         | 9.9%             | 0.1                       | 814                       | 622                       |
| <b>Slovakia</b>       | 1 944                         | 16.3%            | 22                        | 1 577                     | 345                       |
| <b>Finland</b>        | 17 479                        | 1.8%             | 2 599                     | 10 761                    | 4 119                     |
| <b>Sweden</b>         | 34 011                        | 3.8%             | 7 446                     | 19 873                    | 6 691                     |
| <b>United Kingdom</b> | 232 270                       | 5.6%             | 22 828                    | 137 883                   | 71 559                    |
| <b>Iceland**</b>      | 4 847                         | 25.8%            | 0                         | -                         | -                         |
| <b>Norway</b>         | 37 501                        | -0.3%            | 15 062                    | -                         | -                         |
| <b>Switzerland</b>    | 49 091                        | 6.4%             | 667                       | -                         | -                         |

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

\*\* Data concern only Keflavik airport

- Not applicable 0: real zero (no passengers carried)

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

### London/Heathrow, Paris/Charles de Gaulle and Frankfurt/Main: top 3 passenger airports in the EU

**London/Heathrow** remained the EU's busiest passenger airport in 2015, with 75.0 million passengers handled, slightly up (+2.2%) compared with 2014. **Paris/Charles de Gaulle** (65.7 mn, +3.2%), **Frankfurt/Main** (60.9 mn, +2.5%) and **Amsterdam/Schiphol** (58.2 mn, +5.8%) were the second, third and fourth busiest airports, followed at a distance by **Madrid/Barajas** (46.3 mn, +11.4%), **München** (40.9 mn, +3.3%), **London/Gatwick** (40.3 mn, +5.7%), **Roma/Fiumicino** (40.2 mn, +5.2%) and **Barcelona/El Prat** (39.4 mn, +5.4%). Each of the top 30 airports registered an increase in the number of passengers handled in 2015, except **Milano/Malpensa** (-1.2%). The highest rises among the top 30 airports were registered in **Athens** (+19.1%) and **London/Luton** (+17.0%), ahead of **Dublin** (+14.9%), **London/Stansted** (+12.9%), **Madrid/Barajas** (+11.4%) and **Lisbon** (+10.8%).

As in 2014, **London/Heathrow** (44.0 million) handled in 2015 the most passengers on extra-EU transport, **Amsterdam/Schiphol** (33.4 mn) the most on intra-EU transport and **Paris/Orly** (14.0 mn) the most on national transport.

## Top airports\* in the EU in terms of total passengers carried, 2015

| Rank | Airport |                               | Total air passenger transport |                  | National           | Intra-EU           | Extra-EU           |
|------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|      |         |                               | in 1000                       | Growth 2015/2014 | in 1000 passengers | in 1000 passengers | in 1000 passengers |
| 1    | UK      | London/Heathrow               | 74 954                        | +2.2%            | 5 141              | 25 808             | 44 005             |
| 2    | FR      | Paris/Charles de Gaulle       | 65 698                        | +3.2%            | 5 941              | 25 720             | 34 036             |
| 3    | DE      | Frankfurt/Main                | 60 889                        | +2.5%            | 6 881              | 24 936             | 29 072             |
| 4    | NL      | Amsterdam/Schiphol            | 58 168                        | +5.8%            | 0.2                | 33 404             | 24 763             |
| 5    | ES      | Madrid/Barajas                | 46 297                        | +11.4%           | 12 965             | 20 289             | 13 042             |
| 6    | DE      | München                       | 40 861                        | +3.3%            | 9 550              | 19 487             | 11 824             |
| 7    | UK      | London/Gatwick                | 40 257                        | +5.7%            | 3 597              | 26 082             | 10 578             |
| 8    | IT      | Roma/Fiumicino                | 40 231                        | +5.2%            | 11 950             | 17 681             | 10 601             |
| 9    | ES      | Barcelona/El Prat             | 39 425                        | +5.4%            | 10 646             | 22 439             | 6 340              |
| 10   | FR      | Paris/Orly                    | 29 663                        | +2.8%            | 13 988             | 9 669              | 6 006              |
| 11   | DK      | København/Kastrup             | 26 512                        | +3.8%            | 1 778              | 17 166             | 7 568              |
| 12   | IE      | Dublin                        | 24 924                        | +14.9%           | 71                 | 20 888             | 3 965              |
| 13   | ES      | Palma de Mallorca             | 23 717                        | +2.8%            | 5 588              | 17 054             | 1 075              |
| 14   | BE      | Brussels/National             | 23 269                        | +7.0%            | 2                  | 15 744             | 7 523              |
| 15   | SE      | Stockholm/Arlanda             | 23 155                        | +3.2%            | 5 072              | 12 614             | 5 469              |
| 16   | UK      | Manchester                    | 23 093                        | +5.2%            | 2 382              | 13 850             | 6 861              |
| 17   | AT      | Wien/Schwechat                | 22 740                        | +1.2%            | 527                | 14 673             | 7 540              |
| 18   | UK      | London/Stansted               | 22 514                        | +12.9%           | 1 746              | 19 432             | 1 336              |
| 19   | DE      | Düsseldorf                    | 22 448                        | +2.9%            | 4 377              | 10 752             | 7 319              |
| 20   | DE      | Berlin/Tegel                  | 20 995                        | +1.6%            | 7 756              | 9 179              | 4 060              |
| 21   | PT      | Lisboa                        | 20 111                        | +10.8%           | 2 474              | 12 660             | 4 977              |
| 22   | IT      | Milano/Malpensa               | 18 445                        | -1.2%            | 2 535              | 9 032              | 6 878              |
| 23   | EL      | Athinai/Eleftherios Venizelos | 18 090                        | +19.1%           | 6 440              | 8 027              | 3 622              |
| 24   | FI      | Helsinki/Vantaa               | 16 418                        | +3.0%            | 2 590              | 9 843              | 3 984              |
| 25   | DE      | Hamburg                       | 15 581                        | +5.7%            | 5 281              | 7 240              | 3 061              |
| 26   | ES      | Malaga/Cosat del Sol          | 14 360                        | +4.8%            | 2 034              | 11 082             | 1 244              |
| 27   | UK      | London/Luton                  | 12 263                        | +17.0%           | 946                | 9 902              | 1 415              |
| 28   | FR      | Nice/Côte d'Azur              | 12 013                        | +3.1%            | 4 298              | 5 520              | 2 195              |
| 29   | CZ      | Praha/Ruzyně                  | 11 868                        | +6.6%            | 50                 | 8 443              | 3 374              |
| 30   | PL      | Warszawa/Chopina              | 11 218                        | +5.8%            | 1 178              | 7 150              | 2 890              |

|     |    |                             |        |        |     |       |       |
|-----|----|-----------------------------|--------|--------|-----|-------|-------|
| 37  | HU | Budapest/ Liszt Ferenc Int. | 10 228 | +13.0% | 0   | 8 092 | 2 136 |
| 40  | RO | Bucuresti/Henri Coanda      | 9 274  | +12.0% | 503 | 7 190 | 1 582 |
| 64  | CY | Larnaka                     | 5 316  | +1.5%  | 0   | 3 257 | 2 058 |
| 66  | LV | Riga                        | 5 146  | +7.2%  | 0.2 | 3 793 | 1 352 |
| 72  | MT | Malta/Luqa                  | 4 620  | +7.7%  | 1   | 4 188 | 431   |
| 87  | BG | Sofia                       | 4 057  | +6.5%  | 158 | 3 256 | 642   |
| 96  | LT | Vilnius                     | 3 333  | +13.4% | 0.3 | 2 448 | 884   |
| 103 | LU | Luxembourg                  | 2 652  | +8.9%  | 1   | 2 280 | 371   |
| 107 | HR | Zagreb/Pleso                | 2 576  | +6.5%  | 432 | 1 519 | 625   |
| 123 | EE | Lennart Meri Tallinn        | 2 161  | +7.0%  | 20  | 1 622 | 520   |
| 144 | SK | Bratislava/M.R Stefanik     | 1 556  | +16.4% | 19  | 1 258 | 278   |
| 152 | SI | Ljubljana/Brnik             | 1 436  | +9.9%  | 0.1 | 814   | 622   |

\* The 30 busiest airports in 2015 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 2015.

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 2015 is covered.

Data on air transport fatalities are source European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). 2015 data presented in this News Release include the 150 persons killed in the tragedy of Germanwings flight 9525.

## 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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