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Air transport in the EU27

Air passenger transport down by 6% in 2009

Signs of recovery in second half of 2009

The total number of passengers[1] transported by air fell by 6% in the **EU27** in 2009 compared with 2008, to 751 million, showing the impact of the economic crisis. This is the first fall recorded in the EU since 2002, marked by the effect of 11 September 2001 on passenger numbers. The number of passengers decreased by 8% on intra-EU flights in 2009, to 318 million, by 4% on extra-EU flights to 271 million and by 5% on national flights to 162 million. Total freight and mail transported by air in the **EU27** also fell in 2009 compared with 2008, by 12%.

Quarterly data indicate that air transport has already begun to recover from the effects of the economic crisis. There was a gradual improvement throughout 2009, with passenger numbers falling by 12% in the first quarter, compared with the same quarter of 2008, then by 7% in the second quarter, by 5% in the third quarter and by 1% in the fourth quarter of 2009. In the first quarter of 2010, passenger numbers increased by 2% compared with the first quarter of 2009. Preliminary data for April 2010 indicate that the volcanic eruption in Iceland brought a temporary halt to this recovery, with passenger numbers falling by 18%, compared with April 2009.

These figures are published in a report[2] from **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, on air transport in the **EU27** in 2009. This report also looks in detail at national, intra-EU and extra-EU air transport of passengers and freight, as well as the most important airport pairs within the EU27.

London/Heathrow and Paris/Charles de Gaulle busiest passenger airports

In 2009, the highest numbers of passengers were registered in the **United Kingdom** (199 million, -7% compared with 2008), **Germany** (158 mn, -5%), **Spain** (148 mn, -8%), **France** (118 mn, -4%) and **Italy** (102 mn, -3%). The number of air passengers fell in all Member States except **Latvia**. The largest decreases in the number of air passengers were recorded in **Lithuania** (-27%), **Estonia** (-26%), **Slovakia** (-25%) and **Denmark** (-15%).

London/Heathrow was still the EU's busiest passenger airport, with 66 million passengers handled in 2009, down by 1% compared with 2008. **Paris/Charles de Gaulle** (58 mn, -5%) and **Frankfurt/Main** (51 mn, -5%) were the second and third busiest airports, followed by **Madrid/Barajas** (48 mn, -5%) and **Amsterdam/Schiphol** (44 mn, -8%). All the top 30 airports in terms of passengers handled in 2009 registered decreases in the number of passengers, with **Dublin** and **Manchester** (both -12%) showing the largest falls and **Athinai** and **London/Heathrow** (both -1%) the lowest.

London/Heathrow (39 mn) handled the most extra-EU passengers, **Amsterdam/Schiphol** and **Paris/Charles de Gaulle** (both 24 mn) the most intra-EU passengers and **Madrid/Barajas** (19 mn) the most national passengers.

EU27 air passenger transport, 2009

	Total transport		National	Intra-EU	Extra-EU
	Passengers, 000s	% growth 2009/2008	Passengers, 000s	Passengers, 000s	Passengers, 000s
EU27*	**751 059**	**-5.9**	**162 231**	**317 503**	**271 326**
Belgium	21 314	-3.0	58	14 633	6 623
Bulgaria	5 839	-9.0	171	4 527	1 141
Czech Republic	12 367	-7.9	258	8 648	3 462
Denmark	20 860	-15.3	1 878	13 355	5 627
Germany	158 150	-4.8	23 728	80 268	54 154
Estonia	1 341	-25.7	22	1 038	281
Ireland	26 269	-12.5	627	22 662	2 980
Greece	32 882	-4.4	6 886	21 643	4 353
Spain	148 318	-8.1	37 597	91 731	18 990
France	117 562	-4.2	26 005	48 772	42 784
Italy	101 824	-3.2	28 431	54 577	18 816
Cyprus	6 730	-6.8	0	5 527	1 202
Latvia	4 063	10.2	0	3 112	950
Lithuania	1 867	-26.8	0	1 530	337
Luxembourg	1 535	-10.4	0	1 204	331
Hungary	8 081	-4.1	-	6 211	1 870
Malta	2 919	-6.1	-	2 672	247
Netherlands	46 479	-7.8	3	26 895	19 582
Austria	21 817	-8.7	691	14 515	6 612
Poland	17 046	-9.0	862	12 555	3 629
Portugal	24 104	-4.3	3 004	16 770	4 330
Romania	7 984	-0.6	625	6 323	1 037
Slovenia	1 423	-13.7	0	816	607
Slovakia	1 948	-25.0	106	1 503	340
Finland	13 829	-6.9	2 401	8 551	2 877
Sweden	25 219	-9.3	5 966	14 825	4 428
United Kingdom	198 532	-7.2	22 913	111 881	63 738

* Double counting is excluded in the intra-EU and total aggregates by taking into consideration only departure declarations.
- Not applicable
0 Less than 500 passengers recorded

Top airports* in the EU27 in terms of total passengers handled
1000's of passengers in 2009 and % growth 2009/2008

Rank		Airport	Total air transport		National	Intra-EU	Extra-EU
			000s	Growth 2009/2008	000s	000s	000s
1	UK	London/Heathrow	65 904	-1.5	5 255	21 648	39 001
2	FR	Paris/Charles de Gaulle	57 689	-4.6	5 135	23 837	28 717
3	DE	Frankfurt/Main	50 573	-4.9	5 964	18 799	25 810
4	ES	Madrid/Barajas	47 944	-4.8	18 855	17 664	11 425
5	NL	Amsterdam/Schiphol	43 532	-8.2	3	24 181	19 348
6	IT	Roma/Fiumicino	33 416	-4.0	12 554	12 458	8 404
7	DE	München	32 560	-5.3	9 195	14 429	8 936
8	UK	London/Gatwick	32 360	-5.3	3 662	18 759	9 939
9	ES	Barcelona	27 287	-10.1	11 073	12 690	3 525
10	FR	Paris/Orly	25 087	-4.2	13 747	5 730	5 611
11	ES	Palma de Mallorca	21 173	-7.2	6 314	13 989	870
12	IE	Dublin	20 469	-12.4	626	17 389	2 454
13	UK	London/Stansted	19 949	-10.7	1 895	16 740	1 315
14	DK	København/Kastrup	19 605	-9.6	1 869	12 309	5 426
15	UK	Manchester	18 630	-11.5	2 566	10 246	5 818
16	AT	Wien/Schwechat	18 045	-8.3	674	11 341	6 029
17	DE	Düsseldorf	17 724	-2.1	4 235	8 206	5 283
18	IT	Milano/Malpensa	17 348	-8.8	3 041	8 776	5 531
19	BE	Bruxelles/National	16 785	-8.6	2	10 744	6 039
20	EL	Athinai	16 138	-1.4	6 108	7 540	2 491
21	SE	Stockholm/Arlanda	16 058	-11.4	3 946	8 394	3 717
22	DE	Berlin/Tegel	14 133	-2.2	6 618	5 352	2 163
23	PT	Lisboa	13 265	-2.5	2 179	7 646	3 441
24	FI	Helsinki/Vantaa	12 602	-6.2	2 373	7 420	2 808
25	DE	Hamburg	12 178	-4.7	5 366	4 651	2 161
26	CZ	Praha/Ruzyně	11 602	-7.8	134	8 285	3 182
27	ES	Malaga	11 601	-9.0	2 268	8 760	572
28	FR	Nice/Côte d'Azur	9 813	-5.3	4 061	4 279	1 473
29	DE	Köln/Bonn	9 696	-5.8	3 640	4 335	1 721
30	UK	London/Luton	9 115	-10.4	1 178	6 967	970
36	PL	Warszawa/Okęcie	8 333	-12.1	835	5 333	2 165
38	HU	Budapest/Ferihegy	8 081	-4.1	-	6 211	1 870
51	CY	Larnaka	5 156	-5.9	-	4 021	1 135
65	RO	Bucureşti/Otopeni	4 481	-11.5	495	3 178	808
68	LV	Riga	4 063	10.2	0	3 112	950
82	BG	Sofia	3 116	-2.8	168	2 547	401
85	MT	Malta/Luqa	2 919	-6.1	-	2 672	247
113	SK	Bratislava/Ivanka	1 701	-22.9	108	1 304	289
125	LU	Luxembourg	1 535	-10.4	0	1 204	331
131	SI	Ljubljana/ Jože Pučnik	1 423	-13.7	0	816	607
133	EE	Tallinn/Ülemiste	1 341	-25.7	22	1 038	281
136	LT	Vilnius	1 306	-36.1	0	994	312

* The 30 busiest airports in 2009 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.
- Not applicable
0 Less than 500 passengers recorded

1. 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 EU27 aggregate excludes double counting on intra-EU traffic, Member States' figures do not add up to the EU27 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 EU27 level.

   Air transport at airports in the Member States with a total transport of more than 150 000 passengers carried in 2009 is covered.

2. **Eurostat**, Statistics in Focus 2/2011, "**Signs of recovery for air transport in Europe in 2009**". The publication is available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat website.