



news release

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Air transport in the EU25

Air passengers transport up 8.8% in 2004

London/Heathrow processes most passengers; Frankfurt handles most freight

In 2004, the total number of passengers¹ transported by air in the **EU25** rose by 8.8%, to 650 million. Of these, 24% were carried on national flights, 42% on intra-EU flights and 34% on extra-EU flights. **London/Heathrow** remained EU's busiest airport in terms of passengers, handling 67 million in 2004 - about 10% of all air passengers in the EU, and up 6.2% on 2003. With just under 51 million passengers each **Paris/Charles de Gaulle** (up 6.1%) and **Frankfurt** (up 5.6%) were the second and third busiest airports in the EU, followed by **Amsterdam** (42 million passengers) and **Madrid** (38 million). **Prague/Ruzyně**, with 9.6 million passengers, remained the top airport of the new Member States, moving to 27th place compared to 36th in 2003.

While passenger numbers rose in all Member States in 2004, seven of the new Member States recorded growth above 25%, the highest being **Slovakia** (+73%), followed by the three Baltic countries: **Latvia** (+49%), **Estonia** (+40%) and **Lithuania** (+38%). The smallest increases were recorded in **Portugal** and **Luxembourg** (+4% each).

These figures and more are published in a recent report² from **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**, on air transport in the EU, Candidate countries and Iceland, Norway and Switzerland in 2004. This wide-ranging report also looks in detail at national, intra-EU and international air transport passengers and freight, as well as the most important airport pairs, nationally and internationally.

Air freight transport up 9.6 % in 2004

In 2004, air freight rose in the **EU25** by 9.6% to almost 10.7 million tonnes, 80% of which was with non-EU countries. The main partners were **North America**, up 7% on 2003, and representing 31% of freight traffic with non-EU countries, the **Far East** (up 16% and accounting for 27%) and the **Near and Middle East** (an increase of 8%, making up 14% of the total).

German and British airports handled almost half of all EU air freight. **Frankfurt** (1.8 million tonnes, up 11% on 2003) was in 2004 EU's leading airport for air freight, followed by **Amsterdam** (1.5 million, up 8%), **London/Heathrow** (1.4 million, up 9%) and **Paris/Charles de Gaulle** (1.3 million, up 7%). Together, they handled 56% of all EU air freight. A second group, **Brussels**, **Cologne/Bonn**, and **Luxembourg**, each handling more than 600 000 tonnes, accounted for another 18%.

EU passenger and freight air transport, 2004

	Passenger transport		Freight transport	
	1000 passengers	Growth, 2003-2004	1000 tonnes	Growth, 2003-2004
EU25	650 434	8.8%	10 670.0	9.6%
Belgium	17 469	15.7%	663.1	9.3%
Czech Republic	9 950	28.2%	57.5	8.1%
Denmark	21 006	8.2%	7.9	-8.9%
Germany	135 850	12.1%	2 786.0	14.0%
Estonia	991	39.5%	5.0	-1.0%
Greece	29 544	4.6%	111.8	-18.5%
Spain	129 791	7.9%	520.7	18.4%
France	102 432	6.4%	1 484.1	4.8%
Ireland	20 851	6.8%	62.5	41.5%
Italy	81 630	10.4%	784.8	14.8%
Cyprus	6 422	5.7%	37.2	16.9%
Latvia	1 056	48.7%	8.3	-38.5%
Lithuania	994	37.7%	5.2	-0.7%
Luxembourg	1 509	4.1%	616.6	2.3%
Hungary	6 445	28.6%	60.4	19.6%
Malta	2 790	5.4%	15.9	-3.5%
Netherlands	44 494	8.1%	1 512.0	8.9%
Austria	18 297	15.8%	160.0	24.0%
Poland	6 092	25.8%	31.4	-20.9%
Portugal	18 424	3.9%	123.3	-0.2%
Slovenia	1 046	13.0%	5.0	-3.0%
Slovakia	1 081	72.7%	8.2	-36.2%
Finland	11 785	12.1%	123.5	37.7%
Sweden	21 719	6.2%	153.2	21.0%
United Kingdom	192 307	8.1%	2 470.4	7.9%

Top 20 EU airports in terms of total passengers and total freight carried in 2004

	Passenger air transport				Freight air transport			
	Country	Airport	1000 passengers	Growth, 2003-2004	Country	Airport	1000 tonnes	Growth, 2003-2004
1	UK	London/Heathrow	67 110	6.2%	DE	Frankfurt am Main	1 827.3	11.2%
2	FR	Paris/C. de Gaulle	50 951	6.1%	NL	Amsterdam/Schipol	1 467.0	8.4%
3	DE	Frankfurt am Main	50 700	5.6%	UK	London/Heathrow	1 412.0	8.6%
4	NL	Amsterdam/Schipol	42 425	6.6%	FR	Paris/C. de Gaulle	1 275.8	6.9%
5	ES	Madrid/Barajas	38 155	7.9%	BE	Brussels/National	660.4	8.9%
6	UK	London/Gatwick	31 392	5.0%	DE	Cologne/Bonn	621.9	17.3%
7	IT	Rome/Fiumicino	27 160	6.6%	LU	Luxembourg	616.6	2.3%
8	DE	Munich	26 601	11.1%	IT	Milan/Malpensa	360.6	13.3%
9	ES	Barcelona	24 354	8.3%	ES	Madrid/Barajas	352.8	19.1%
10	FR	Paris/Orly	24 049	7.1%	UK	East Midlands	277.2	16.8%
11	UK	Manchester	20 970	7.4%	UK	London/Stanstead	239.0	17.9%
12	UK	London/Stanstead	20 909	11.7%	UK	London/Gatwick	226.9	-2.8%
13	ES	Palma de Majorca	20 363	6.5%	DE	Munich	192.4	17.8%
14	DK	Copenhagen/Kastrup	18 889	7.6%	AT	Vienna/Schwechat	158.1	24.5%
15	IT	Milan/Malpensa	18 419	5.4%	UK	Manchester	153.3	21.9%
16	IE	Dublin	17 032	7.9%	IT	Rome/Fiumicino	139.6	-14.8%
17	SE	Stockholm/Arlanda	16 467	7.7%	IT	Bergamo/Orio al Serio	129.6	1.3%
18	BE	Brussels/National	15 445	2.3%	FI	Helsinki/Vantaa	118.0	33.9%
19	DE	Düsseldorf	15 092	6.8%	IT	Genoa/Sestri	111.4	:
20	AT	Vienna/Schwechat	14 711	15.7%	EL	Athens	104.1	-20.8%

- Air passenger figures exclude double counting of national passenger transport, i.e. counting the same passengers twice, once reported by the origin airport as departures and once by the partner airport as arrivals. Similarly, the aggregated figures for the EU25 exclude the double counting effect on intra-EU traffic, thus for total intra-EU air transport, Member States figures do not add up to the EU25 values. 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 EU25 level.
- Eurostat**, *Statistics in Focus*, Transport, 2/2006, 'Air transport in Europe 2004'. The publication is available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat website.

<p>Issued by: Eurostat Press Office Philippe BAUTIER BECH Building L-2920 LUXEMBOURG Tel: +352-4301-33 444 Fax: +352-4301-35 349 eurostat-pressoffice@cec.eu.int</p>	<p>For further information on data: Luis DE LA FUENTE LAYOS Tel: +352-4301- 35 583 Fax: +352-4301- 32 389 luis.de-la-fuente-layos@cec.eu.int Eurostat news releases on the Internet: http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/</p>
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