



GLOBAL AVIATION MONITOR

May 2025

Statistical Report of Global, European and German Air Transport

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The DLR Global Aviation Monitor

The Global Aviation Monitor is a statistical report series from the DLR Institute of Air Transport of the German Aerospace Center, which serves as a supplement to various statistics, such as those from the Federal Statistical Office or the German Airports Association (ADV).

It provides monthly reports on the supply of flights in Germany, Europe, and worldwide. The development of flights over the last fifteen months is presented in the form of a time series. Additionally, there is a monthly ranking of the largest airports and airlines in Germany, Europe, and worldwide, which are compared to the values of the previous year. The data is released during each month and represents the planned data for the current month.

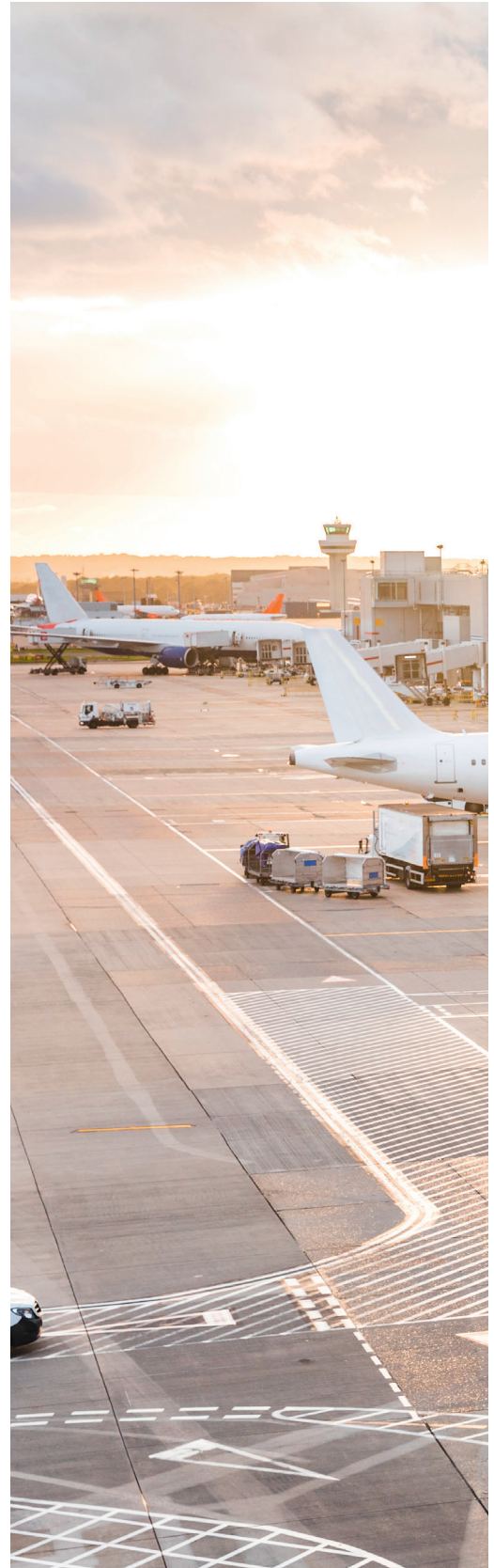
This report fills a gap that is of interest to both airports and airlines in assessing their position on a global scale. It is of interest to policy-makers, administrators, industry stakeholders, and tourism offices to gauge the performance of their region. In the event of significant changes, it is worthwhile to examine closely what has caused them. Due to its monthly updates, the report can serve as a leading indicator for trends and developments.

The Institute of Air Transport provides further advanced forecasting capabilities. Combining established statistical techniques with innovative modelling approaches and a broad dataset, it delivers short-, medium-, and long-term forecasts on passenger and cargo traffic, airport capacity, fleet development, and route networks. These insights support strategic decision-making for stakeholders across the sector, reinforcing the institute's role in shaping future air transport planning at regional and global levels.



The report is being developed at the Air Transport Development department of the DLR Institute of Air Transport.

Global air traffic and emissions are projected to rise in the coming decades, driving the need for sustainable technological advancements. The department researches forecasting methods to anticipate demand and supply across different regions and aircraft types. These forecasts support strategic planning for infrastructure, connectivity, and environmental measures. By combining ecological, economic, and social factors, the department assesses new technologies and develops scenarios and roadmaps to guide the aviation sector towards climate-compatible growth.



Number of Monthly Departures in May 2025

Ranking by Airports Globally, for Europe & Germany

Global airport departure volumes in May 2025

In May 2025, 24 of the world's 25 largest airports recorded an increase in departures compared to the previous year. The six busiest airports are located in North America, with Chicago leading at approximately 35,600 departures. Asian airports Guangzhou and Shanghai Pudong rank 7th and 8th, respectively, while Istanbul and London Heathrow hold the 9th and 10th positions in Europe. Frankfurt ranks 14th globally.

This figure shows the twenty-five largest **airports worldwide**, measured in passenger flights.

Leading European airports by passenger flights

The busiest European airports in terms of scheduled passenger flights in May 2025 are Istanbul, London Heathrow, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, and Paris. Each recorded more than 19,000 departures and showed an upward trend compared to the previous year.

This table shows the twenty-five largest **European airports**, measured in passenger flights.

Tab. 1: Number of monthly departures at the largest airports in the world			
Rank	Airport	05/2025	Growth rate
1	Chicago O'Hare International	35,587	10.2
2	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Intl	34,188	1.6
3	Dallas/Fort Worth Intl	31,149	0.7
4	Denver Intl	28,905	0.5
5	Charlotte	23,329	-2.8
6	Los Angeles International	22,443	1.4
7	Guangzhou	22,105	5.2
8	Shanghai Pudong International	21,737	4.4
9	Istanbul	21,574	3.7
10	London Heathrow	20,866	0.6
11	Amsterdam	20,780	2.0
12	Tokyo Haneda	20,422	1.0
13	Delhi	19,817	4.9
14	Frankfurt	19,751	6.1
15	Paris Charles de Gaulle	19,077	2.6
16	New York J F Kennedy	18,814	1.7
17	Phoenix Sky Harbor Intl	18,765	2.4
18	Beijing Capital	18,737	3.4
19	Las Vegas McCarran International	18,690	2.0
20	Dubai	18,641	4.0
21	Houston George Bush	18,589	1.2
22	Seattle/Tacoma International	18,574	2.2
23	Shenzhen	17,740	2.3
24	San Francisco International	16,837	15.1
25	Chengdu Tianfu	16,789	2.1

Source: DLR

Tab. 2: Number of monthly departures at the largest airports in Europe			
Rank	Airport	05/2025	Growth rate
1	Istanbul	21,574	3.7
2	London Heathrow	20,866	0.6
3	Amsterdam	20,780	2.0
4	Frankfurt	19,751	6.1
5	Paris Charles de Gaulle	19,077	2.6
6	Madrid Barajas	16,630	-0.2
7	Barcelona	15,547	4.4
8	Rome Fiumicino	14,913	3.2
9	Munich	14,874	3.5
10	Palma Mallorca	12,350	3.1
11	London Gatwick	11,986	0.6
12	Athens Intl Eleftherios Venizelos	11,599	5.5
13	Dublin	11,317	5.2
14	Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen	11,030	9.7
15	Zurich	10,981	2.4
16	Copenhagen	10,887	5.2
17	Vienna	10,734	1.0
18	Paris Orly	10,103	3.3
19	Moscow Sheremetyevo	10,001	7.2
20	Lisbon	9,855	1.1
21	Antalya	9,204	-1.4
22	Oslo	8,977	-0.8
23	Manchester International	8,884	2.4
24	Milan Malpensa	8,539	9.1
25	Stockholm Arlanda	8,509	3.8

Source: DLR

Number of Monthly Departures in May 2025

Source: DLR

Tab. 3: Number of monthly departures at the largest airports in Germany			
Rank	Airport	05/2025	Growth rate
1	Frankfurt	19,751	6.1
2	Munich	14,874	3.5
3	Berlin	8,159	0.3
4	Dusseldorf	7,207	3.8
5	Hamburg	5,122	-3.8
6	Stuttgart	3,553	-0.6
7	Cologne/Bonn	3,214	-2.4
8	Hanover	1,894	2.4
9	Nuremberg	1,445	0.8
10	Memmingen	975	14.2
11	Bremen	844	12.5
12	Dortmund	761	-7.9
13	Leipzig/Halle	702	3.1
14	Weeze	674	18.2
15	Karlsruhe/Baden Baden	642	30.0
16	Hahn	596	26.3
17	Munster	463	-20.6
18	Dresden	427	4.4
19	Paderborn	231	-28.3
20	Westerland	135	-12.9
21	Saarbrücken	130	-24.4
22	Erfurt	100	143.9
23	Friedrichshafen	58	48.7
24	Luebeck	41	-6.8
25	Kassel	24	-47.8

Air traffic trends at German airports

Frankfurt remains Germany's busiest airport, with approximately 19,800 departures. Almost all major German airports recorded positive growth in May 2025, with the exceptions of Hamburg, Stuttgart, and Cologne. Airports primarily served by low-cost carriers—such as Karlsruhe, Hahn, and Weeze—experienced particularly strong growth. In contrast, smaller airports like Münster and Paderborn saw a decline in the number of departures.

Here, the twenty-five largest **German airports** are listed, measured in passenger flights.

Ranking by Airlines Globally, for Europe & Germany

Source: DLR

Tab. 4: Number of monthly departures by the largest airlines in the world			
Rank	Airline	05/2025	Growth rate
1	American Airlines	196,168	4.0
2	Delta Air Lines	156,735	6.5
3	United Airlines	148,248	8.7
4	Southwest Airlines	122,569	-2.2
5	Ryanair	105,554	4.2
6	China Eastern Airlines	76,745	2.2
7	IndiGo Air	69,677	11.2
8	China Southern Airlines	69,234	-2.5
9	easyJet	54,138	-0.3
10	Air China	52,963	0.7
11	LATAM Airlines	47,400	3.8
12	Alaska Airlines	39,773	6.6
13	Lufthansa German Airlines	36,899	-4.3
14	Turkish Airlines	35,881	2.3
15	Air Canada	32,707	-1.1
16	All Nippon Airways	30,314	1.0
17	British Airways	27,283	0.8
18	Japan Airlines International	26,519	-0.6
19	Azul	26,484	-3.2
20	JetBlue Airways Corporation	26,062	-6.6
21	Aeroflot Russian Airlines	25,474	6.1
22	Air France	25,084	1.8
23	Qantas Airways	23,629	-1.7
24	Hainan Airlines	23,277	4.1
25	KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines	23,124	2.0

Airline departure volumes worldwide in May 2025

Most major airlines worldwide increased their number of scheduled passenger flights in May 2025. However, some low-cost carriers, including Southwest and JetBlue, experienced a decline. American Airlines operated the most flights, with around 196,200 departures. Lufthansa ranked 13th globally, with approximately 36,900 departures, showing a downward trend. When comparing figures year-on-year, it is important to account for special factors such as holidays or school vacations, which can influence flight volumes.

This figure shows the **world's** twenty-five **largest airlines**, measured in passenger flights.

Number of Monthly Departures in May 2025

Ranking by Airlines Globally, for Europe & Germany

Largest European airlines by number of flights

Ryanair was Europe's leading airline by flight volume in May 2025, with nearly 102,700 departures, representing a 3.7% increase compared to the previous year. EasyJet followed in second place with approximately 52,600 departures.

The twenty-five **airlines in Europe** with the most passenger flights are listed here.

Tab. 5: Number of monthly departures by the largest airlines in Europe from European airports

Rank	Airline	05/2025	Growth rate
1	Ryanair	102,659	3.7
2	easyJet	52,612	-1.0
3	Lufthansa German Airlines	34,266	-4.5
4	Turkish Airlines	30,246	2.0
5	British Airways	23,848	0.6
6	SAS Scandinavian Airlines	21,831	10.5
7	Air France	21,585	2.0
8	KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines	21,265	2.1
9	Vueling Airlines	20,404	2.3
10	Aeroflot Russian Airlines	19,695	7.6
11	Pegasus Airlines	18,047	13.2
12	Eurowings	17,794	2.6
13	Iberia	17,634	-3.9
14	Jet2.com	13,490	10.0
15	Swiss	12,495	1.5
16	Wizz Air Malta	11,832	5.7
17	Wizz Air	11,688	12.4
18	Austrian Airlines AG	11,139	1.1
19	Ajet	10,796	1.0
20	ITA Airways	10,464	-6.7
21	Wideroe's Flyveselskap	10,419	1.0
22	Aer Lingus	10,003	3.3
23	Finnair	9,893	4.5
24	Aegean Airlines	9,754	-0.6
25	SunExpress	9,583	8.3

Source: DLR

Airline rankings by number of flights within Germany

Lufthansa remained the leading airline in Germany in May 2025, with around 22,400 departures, followed by Eurowings with over 9,300 flights and Ryanair with approximately 4,800. Lufthansa and Ryanair showed a declining trend. The decrease in Lufthansa's figures is partly attributed to a shift of services to its new subsidiary, Lufthansa City Airline.

This table ranks the twenty-five **airlines** that offer the most passenger flights in **Germany**.

Tab. 6: Number of monthly departures by the largest airlines in Germany from German airports

Rank	Airline	05/2025	Growth rate
1	Lufthansa German Airlines	22,376	-4.4
2	Eurowings	9,335	1.0
3	Ryanair	4,813	-3.0
4	Condor Flugdienst	2,820	34.3
5	Air Dolomiti	2,467	13.7
6	SunExpress	2,420	-0.6
7	easyJet	1,813	13.9
8	KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines	1,402	-0.9
9	Austrian Airlines AG	1,344	6.1
10	Swiss	1,327	34.2
11	Pegasus Airlines	1,320	7.9
12	TUIfly	1,154	-2.7
13	Turkish Airlines	1,089	4.4
14	Eurowings Discover	1,086	14.4
15	British Airways	952	-4.3
16	Air France	951	4.4
17	Wizz Air	864	25.4
18	Lufthansa City Airlines	855	----
19	Wizz Air Malta	740	25.0
20	SAS Scandinavian Airlines	632	-4.0
21	Marabu Airlines	560	27.0
22	United Airlines	513	3.4
23	Aegean Airlines	506	-2.5
24	Brussels Airlines	502	65.1
25	LOT - Polish Airlines	473	11.3

Source: DLR

Air Transport Development in May 2025

Development and Changes Globally and for Germany

Global and German air traffic trends in May 2025

The following diagrams show the development of global and German flight capacity over the last fifteen months, both worldwide and in the individual region.

Fig. 1-2: Global flight volume development

In May 2025, the number of scheduled passenger flights worldwide rose by approximately 3.0% compared to the previous year, reaching a total of 3.3 million departures. The regions with the highest volumes were Asia, North America, and Europe. The Middle East saw the strongest growth, at around 4.9%.

Fig. 3-4: Passenger air traffic in Germany

In Germany, approximately 72,000 scheduled passenger flights were operated in May 2025, representing a 2.8% increase compared to the same period last year. Of these, around 63,900 flights were to destinations within Europe.

Fig. 1: Development of the global air transport supply

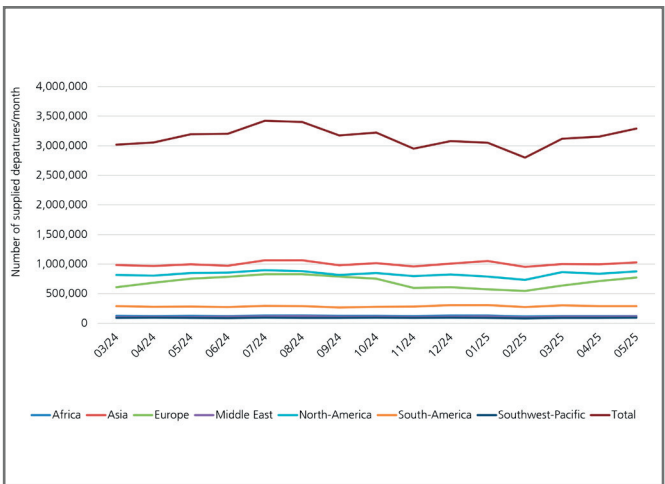


Fig. 2: Changes in the global air transport supply

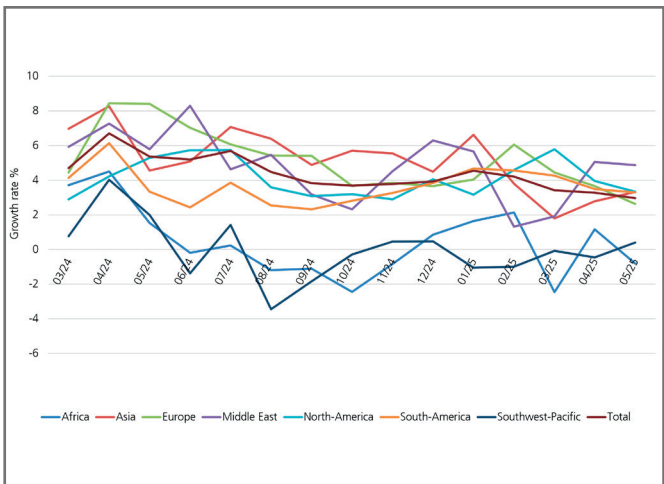


Fig. 3: Development of the German air transport supply

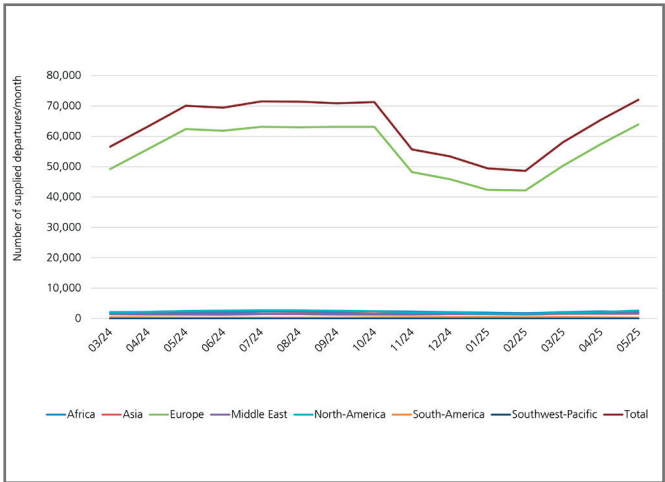
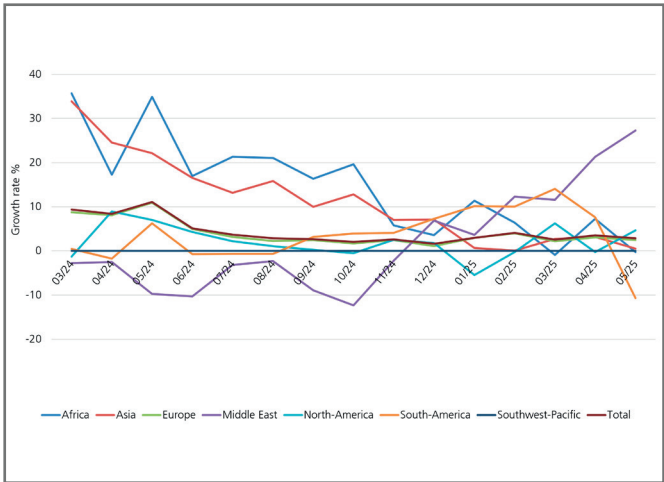


Fig. 4: Changes in the German air transport supply



Source: OAG 2024-2025, DLR 2024-2025

DLR Overview

The DLR is the research center of the Federal Republic of Germany for aerospace. We conduct research and development in aviation, space, energy, transportation, security, and digitalisation. The German Space Agency at DLR is responsible, on behalf of the Federal Government, for planning and implementing German space activities. Two DLR project agencies manage funding programmes and support knowledge transfer.

Climate, mobility, and technology are changing globally. The DLR utilises the expertise of its 54 institutes and facilities to develop solutions for these challenges. Our more than 10,000 employees have a common mission: we explore Earth and space and develop technologies for a sustainable future. In doing so, we contribute to strengthening Germany's knowledge and economic base.

DLR Institute of Air Transport

The DLR Institute of Air Transport researches the complex interactions within the air transport system. We develop future scenarios, conduct economic and business analyses, and model and simulate flight and fleet operations.

We forecast, shape, and evaluate air transport as part of the overall transport system to enhance climate compatibility and performance. To achieve this, we integrate ecological, economic, technological, and social aspects of air transport.

Within DLR, we consolidate expertise in analysing air transport markets and assessing the entire value chain. This positions us as a competent partner for industry, society, and policy makers.

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