



GLOBAL AVIATION MONITOR

September 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.

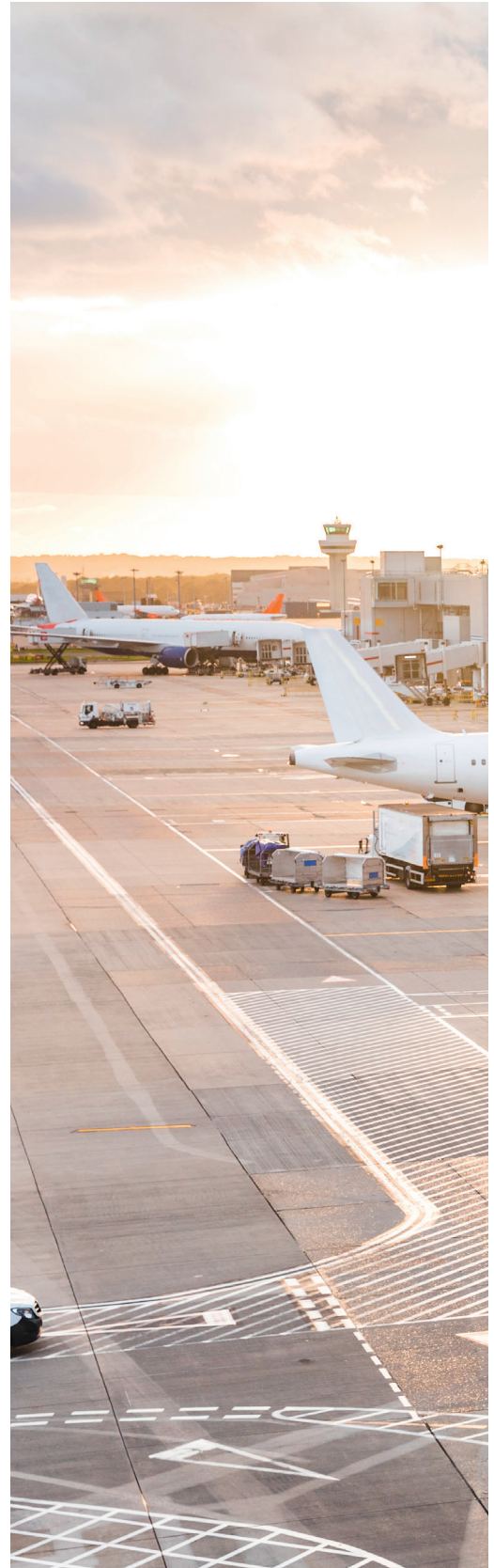
This report fills a gap that is of interest to both airports and airlines in assessing their position on a global scale. It is of interest to policy-makers, administrators, industry stakeholders, and tourism offices to gauge the performance of their region. In the event of significant changes, it is 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 September 2025

Ranking by Airports Globally, for Europe & Germany

Chicago Leads Global Ranking

At only 12 of the world's 25 largest airports did the number of departures increase in September 2025 compared with last year. The four largest airports are in North America, with Chicago ranking first at around 35,300 departures. However, most US airports recorded declining traffic. In 5th and 10th place are the European airports Istanbul and Amsterdam, while Guangzhou, Shanghai Pudong and Tokyo Haneda occupy 6th, 7th and 9th place in Asia. Frankfurt ranks 13th worldwide.

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

Istanbul and Amsterdam Remain Europe's Leaders

The busiest European airports by passenger departures in September 2025 were Istanbul, Amsterdam, London Heathrow, Frankfurt and Paris, each with more than 18,000 scheduled departures. Most European airports recorded growth compared with 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	09/2025	Growth rate
1	Chicago O'Hare International	35,300	8.7
2	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Intl	31,477	-0.1
3	Dallas/Fort Worth Intl	28,819	-2.2
4	Denver Intl	28,183	1.3
5	Istanbul	22,577	8.2
6	Guangzhou	21,675	14.0
7	Shanghai Pudong International	21,342	1.6
8	Los Angeles International	20,715	-1.8
9	Tokyo Haneda	20,627	0.5
10	Amsterdam	20,589	1.3
11	Charlotte	20,457	-9.5
12	London Heathrow	20,301	-0.6
13	Frankfurt	19,706	6.3
14	Paris Charles de Gaulle	18,948	-0.4
15	Dubai	18,528	5.4
16	Seattle/Tacoma International	18,168	-2.8
17	Delhi	18,050	-2.5
18	Beijing Capital	17,862	-0.8
19	New York J F Kennedy International	17,699	-2.2
20	Shenzhen	17,174	1.0
21	Houston George Bush Intercontinental	17,152	0.1
22	Madrid Barajas	16,645	-0.2
23	Boston Logan International	16,620	-2.0
24	Las Vegas McCarran International	16,282	-7.1
25	Kuala Lumpur International	16,174	10.3

Source: DLR

Tab. 2: Number of monthly departures at the largest airports in Europe

Rank	Airport	09/2025	Growth rate
1	Istanbul	22,577	8.2
2	Amsterdam	20,589	1.3
3	London Heathrow	20,301	-0.6
4	Frankfurt	19,706	6.3
5	Paris Charles de Gaulle	18,948	-0.4
6	Madrid Barajas	16,645	-0.2
7	Barcelona	15,336	3.4
8	Rome Fiumicino	15,272	2.2
9	Munich	15,039	5.0
10	Palma Mallorca	12,787	1.3
11	Athens Intl Eleftherios Venizelos	12,498	3.6
12	London Gatwick	12,359	-3.3
13	Antalya	12,134	12.2
14	Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen	11,993	24.3
15	Dublin	11,167	4.0
16	Copenhagen	11,162	8.0
17	Vienna	11,117	1.7
18	Zurich	11,018	2.4
19	Moscow Sheremetyevo International	10,653	-4.2
20	Paris Orly	10,125	6.0
21	Lisbon	9,854	0.4
22	Oslo	9,414	0.1
23	Manchester International	9,309	0.8
24	Milan Malpensa	9,027	3.8
25	Stockholm Arlanda	8,792	7.3

Source: DLR

Number of Monthly Departures in September 2025

Tab. 3: Number of monthly departures at the largest airports in Germany

Rank	Airport	09/2025	Growth rate
1	Frankfurt	19,706	6.3
2	Munich	15,039	5.0
3	Berlin	8,313	2.5
4	Dusseldorf	7,449	2.4
5	Hamburg	5,165	-2.5
6	Stuttgart	3,830	4.2
7	Cologne/Bonn	3,416	-1.4
8	Hanover	2,056	1.8
9	Nuremberg	1,633	7.3
10	Memmingen	1,009	15.2
11	Dortmund	865	0.2
12	Bremen	842	14.7
13	Leipzig/Halle	717	1.0
14	Weeze	661	3.4
15	Karlsruhe/Baden Baden	630	28.0
16	Hahn	611	16.2
17	Dresden	487	16.0
18	Munster	483	-9.4
19	Paderborn	319	1.9
20	Saarbrücken	133	-34.2
21	Erfurt	125	160.4
22	Friedrichshafen	124	163.8
23	Westerland	123	-20.1
24	Luebeck	44	2.3
25	Kassel	33	-25.0

Source: DLR

New Airlines Boost Traffic in Germany

Frankfurt remained Germany's largest airport in September 2025 with around 19,700 departures. Apart from Hamburg and Cologne, all major German airports saw growth. Airports with high low-cost traffic such as Karlsruhe, Hahn and Memmingen recorded particularly strong gains. Small airports like Saarbrücken declined. Paderborn gained a new virtual airline, Skyhub PAD, based in East Westphalia. Erfurt grew through expansion towards Turkey and new links to Egypt and Greece, while in Friedrichshafen flyv / vini launched regional services with small aircraft.

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

Ranking by Airlines Globally, for Europe & Germany

Tab. 4: Number of monthly departures by the largest airlines in the world

Rank	Airline	09/2025	Growth rate
1	American Airlines	176,176	-0.1
2	Delta Air Lines	148,827	3.9
3	United Airlines	144,087	5.0
4	Southwest Airlines	111,955	-2.0
5	Ryanair	103,630	1.5
6	China Eastern Airlines	71,762	1.4
7	China Southern Airlines	70,894	1.9
8	IndiGo Air	63,149	-0.6
9	easyJet	55,290	-0.2
10	Air China	52,643	0.0
11	LATAM Airlines	49,028	7.5
12	Turkish Airlines	37,790	7.5
13	Alaska Airlines	37,568	3.0
14	Lufthansa German Airlines	35,446	-4.4
15	Air Canada	32,863	0.9
16	All Nippon Airways	31,703	0.6
17	Aeroflot Russian Airlines	27,829	-6.1
18	British Airways	26,760	-0.4
19	Japan Airlines International	25,772	0.0
20	Air France	24,941	0.4
21	Azul	24,536	-10.1
22	SAS Scandinavian Airlines	23,643	13.6
23	Qantas Airways	23,495	1.4
24	Hainan Airlines	23,147	0.9
25	KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines	22,605	3.0

Source: DLR

American Airlines Stays World's Largest Carrier

Most major airlines worldwide increased their scheduled passenger flights in September 2025. However, some low-cost carriers, including Southwest and Azul, reported declines. American Airlines remained the largest carrier, with around 176,200 departures, while Lufthansa ranked 14th with around 35,400 departures, showing a downward trend. When comparing with the previous year, special factors such as holidays or public events must be considered, as they can influence flight volumes.

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

Number of Monthly Departures in September 2025

Ranking by Airlines Globally, for Europe & Germany

Ryanair Dominates Europe with 100,000+ Flights

Ryanair operated the largest number of flights in Europe in September 2025, with more than 101,200 departures, an increase of 1.4% compared with last year. easyJet ranked second with around 53,700 departures.

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

Lufthansa Leads in Germany, Ryanair Reduces Services

In Germany, Lufthansa remained the leading airline with around 21,400 departures in September, followed by Eurowings with almost 9,500 and Ryanair with around 4,600 departures. While Ryanair continued to expand its services across Europe, it reduced its German operations by 4.6% compared with last year. Lufthansa's decline can partly be explained by the 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. 5: Number of monthly departures by the largest airlines in Europe from European airports

Rank	Airline	09/2025	Growth rate
1	Ryanair	101,244	1.4
2	easyJet	53,737	-0.9
3	Lufthansa German Airlines	32,837	-4.9
4	Turkish Airlines	31,936	7.4
5	British Airways	23,536	-0.3
6	SAS Scandinavian Airlines	23,271	13.9
7	Aeroflot Russian Airlines	21,489	-7.9
8	Air France	21,487	0.4
9	KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines	20,710	2.5
10	Vueling Airlines	20,687	3.2
11	Pegasus Airlines	19,511	17.5
12	Eurowings	18,156	1.1
13	Iberia	17,291	-3.7
14	Jet2.com	14,358	5.6
15	Wizz Air Malta	13,604	10.1
16	Ajet	13,250	34.4
17	Wizz Air	12,941	7.0
18	Swiss	12,171	0.4
19	SunExpress	11,727	12.3
20	Austrian Airlines AG	11,494	3.1
21	Widerøe's Flyveselskap	11,193	6.8
22	Aegean Airlines	10,835	4.3
23	ITA Airways	10,501	-10.3
24	Aer Lingus	9,622	0.7
25	LOT - Polish Airlines	9,373	7.7

Source: DLR

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

Rank	Airline	09/2025	Growth rate
1	Lufthansa German Airlines	21,434	-4.2
2	Eurowings	9,497	-0.4
3	Ryanair	4,643	-4.6
4	Condor Flugdienst	3,132	21.6
5	SunExpress	3,081	13.7
6	Air Dolomiti	2,424	14.6
7	easyJet	1,806	16.7
8	Pegasus Airlines	1,510	19.5
9	KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines	1,364	1.4
10	Austrian Airlines AG	1,355	10.5
11	Swiss	1,301	35.9
12	TUIfly	1,214	-2.7
13	Eurowings Discover	1,183	9.3
14	Lufthansa City Airlines	1,144	310.0
15	Turkish Airlines	1,133	7.0
16	British Airways	965	2.3
17	Air France	936	-2.3
18	Wizz Air	929	19.3
19	Wizz Air Malta	856	42.0
20	SAS Scandinavian Airlines	693	8.5
21	Marabu Airlines	579	24.0
22	Aegean Airlines	561	-0.4
23	Corendon	535	7.2
24	Brussels Airlines	521	67.5
25	Ajet	516	14.7

Source: DLR

Air Transport Development in September 2025

Development and Changes Globally and for Germany

Global and German air traffic trends in September 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 Departures Reach 3.2 Million in September 2025**

In September 2025, the number of scheduled passenger flights worldwide grew by around 1.7% year-on-year, reaching a total of 3.2 million departures. The regions with the highest traffic volumes were Asia, North America and Europe. Most regions worldwide recorded growth of around 2%.

Fig. 3-4: **Germany Records 4.1% Growth in September 2025**

In Germany, around 73,900 scheduled passenger departures were recorded in September 2025, representing growth of 4.1% compared with the previous year. Services to the Middle East expanded, while flights to South America declined. Approximately 65,700 of these flights were destined for European airports.

Fig. 1: **Development** of the **global air transport supply**

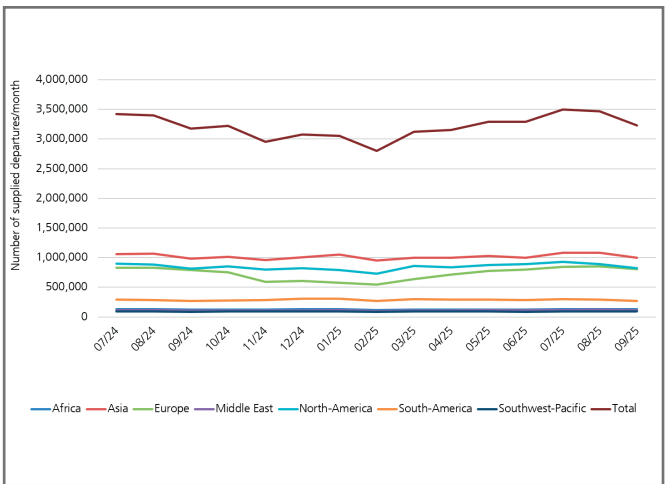


Fig. 2: **Changes** in the global air transport supply

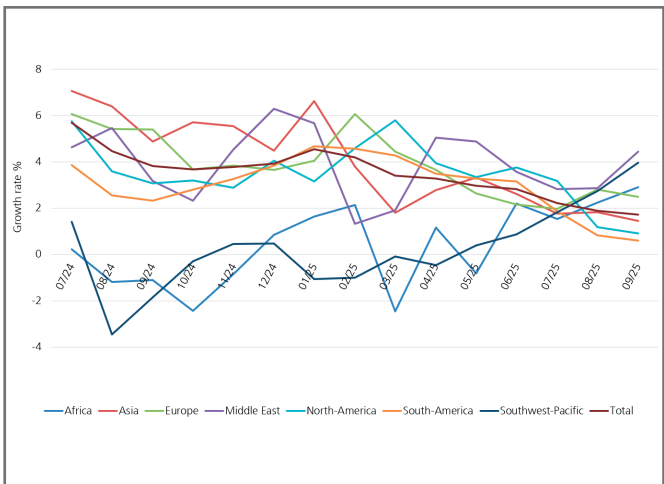


Fig. 3: **Development** of the **German air transport supply**

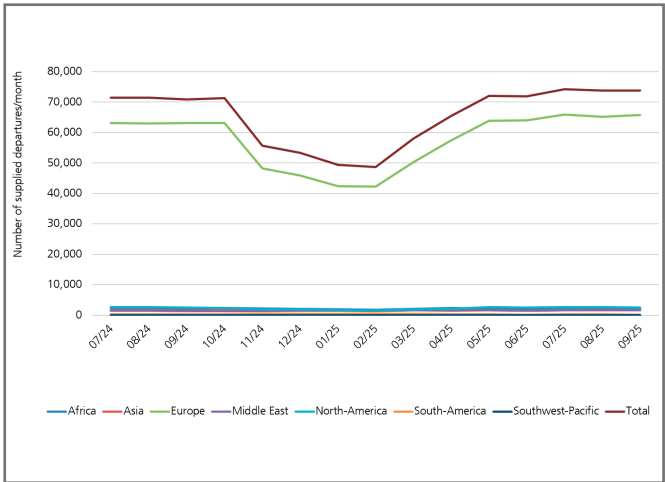
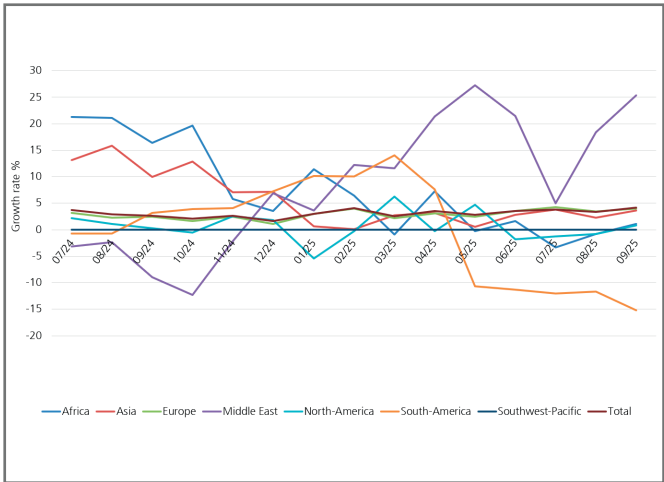


Fig. 4: **Changes** in the German air transport supply



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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