



GLOBAL AVIATION MONITOR

April 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.

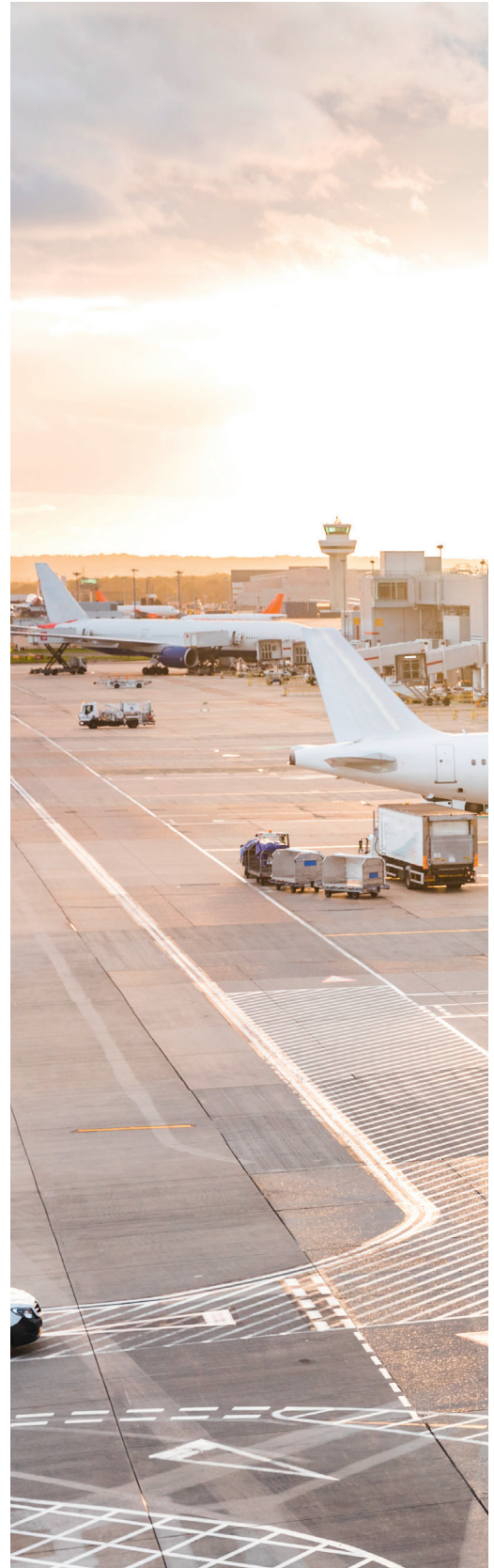
This report fills a gap that is of interest to both airports and airlines in assessing their position on a global scale. It is of interest to policy-makers, administrators, industry stakeholders, and tourism offices to gauge the performance of their region. In the event of significant changes, it is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

Ranking by Airports Globally, for Europe & Germany

Global leads in scheduled departures

At 21 of the world's 25 largest airports, the number of departures increased in April 2025 compared to 2024. The five busiest airports are located in North America, with Chicago leading at approximately 33,100 departures. In 6th and 8th positions are the Asian airports of Guangzhou and Shanghai Pudong, while the European airports Istanbul and London Heathrow occupy 9th and 10th place respectively. Frankfurt ranks 15th globally.

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

Major European airports by flight volume

The largest European airports with the highest number of scheduled passenger flights in April 2025 are Istanbul, London Heathrow, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Paris, and Madrid. Each recorded more than 16,000 departures, all showing 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	04/2025	Growth rate
1	Chicago O'Hare International	33,072	8.8
2	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Intl	32,410	1.3
3	Dallas/Fort Worth Intl	29,454	3.2
4	Denver Intl	27,118	-0.3
5	Charlotte	22,320	-1.7
6	Guangzhou	21,502	6.6
7	Los Angeles International	21,214	2.0
8	Shanghai Pudong International	21,127	5.6
9	Istanbul	20,765	4.2
10	London Heathrow	20,198	2.0
11	Tokyo Haneda	19,771	-1.7
12	Phoenix Sky Harbor Intl	19,744	8.2
13	Amsterdam	19,588	1.8
14	Delhi	19,392	5.9
15	Frankfurt	18,217	4.2
16	Paris Charles de Gaulle	18,149	3.6
17	Dubai	18,056	2.4
18	Las Vegas McCarran International	18,034	2.9
19	Beijing Capital	18,019	3.8
20	New York J F Kennedy International	17,915	0.1
21	Houston George Bush Intercontinental	17,301	1.4
22	Shenzhen	16,982	2.0
23	Orlando International	16,843	1.5
24	Jakarta Soekarno-Hatta	16,359	-7.0
25	Seattle/Tacoma International	16,331	0.2

Source: DLR

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

Rank	Airport	04/2025	Growth rate
1	Istanbul	20,765	4.2
2	London Heathrow	20,198	2.0
3	Amsterdam	19,588	1.8
4	Frankfurt	18,217	4.2
5	Paris Charles de Gaulle	18,149	3.6
6	Madrid Barajas	16,103	1.1
7	Barcelona	14,564	4.0
8	Rome Fiumicino	14,481	6.3
9	Munich	13,662	3.5
10	London Gatwick	10,815	0.4
11	Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen	10,578	8.8
12	Athens Intl Eleftherios Venizelos	10,509	12.4
13	Dublin	10,353	6.2
14	Zurich	10,321	2.8
15	Copenhagen	10,257	4.4
16	Vienna	10,130	3.9
17	Palma Mallorca	10,059	7.4
18	Paris Orly	9,662	0.7
19	Lisbon	9,492	2.6
20	Moscow Sheremetyevo International	9,049	10.1
21	Oslo	8,626	-2.6
22	Milan Malpensa	8,238	9.9
23	Manchester International	7,972	4.9
24	Stockholm Arlanda	7,897	0.0
25	London Stansted	7,574	0.9

Source: DLR

Number of Monthly Departures in April 2025

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

Rank	Airport	04/2025	Growth rate
1	Frankfurt	18,217	4.2
2	Munich	13,662	3.5
3	Berlin	7,507	-0.8
4	Dusseldorf	6,369	4.1
5	Hamburg	4,621	-2.6
6	Stuttgart	3,048	6.8
7	Cologne/Bonn	2,796	1.3
8	Hanover	1,813	14.6
9	Nuremberg	1,375	15.1
10	Memmingen	932	16.2
11	Bremen	723	5.2
12	Dortmund	672	-13.1
13	Karlsruhe/Baden Baden	597	31.2
14	Leipzig/Halle	576	4.3
15	Weeze	576	11.0
16	Hahn	562	26.9
17	Munster	411	-15.1
18	Dresden	384	3.5
19	Paderborn	224	-19.1
20	Westerland	103	-6.4
21	Saarbrücken	97	-17.8
22	Erfurt	88	175.0
23	Luebeck	38	3700.0
24	Friedrichshafen	33	135.7
25	Braunschweig	8	166.7

Source: DLR

Passenger flight growth at German airports

With the exception of Berlin and Hamburg, most major German airports reported positive growth rates in April 2025. Airports primarily served by low-cost carriers, such as Karlsruhe, Hahn, and Memmingen, recorded particularly high increases. In contrast, smaller airports like Munster and Paderborn experienced a decline in departures. Other smaller airports like Luebeck and Friedrichshafen show high growth, mainly due to low figures last year. In 2025, Ryanair is flying from Luebeck again, while EasyJet and Wizz Air operate from Friedrichshafen.

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

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

Rank	Airline	04/2025	Growth rate
1	American Airlines	189,063	5.7
2	Delta Air Lines	149,148	5.8
3	United Airlines	140,244	8.0
4	Southwest Airlines	120,327	-2.5
5	Ryanair	100,906	5.3
6	China Eastern Airlines	72,595	3.9
7	IndiGo Air	67,568	12.8
8	China Southern Airlines	66,530	-2.0
9	easyJet	51,059	2.9
10	Air China	51,004	1.0
11	LATAM Airlines	45,959	3.7
12	Alaska Airlines	36,551	3.9
13	Lufthansa German Airlines	34,340	-7.4
14	Turkish Airlines	34,125	1.9
15	Air Canada	30,778	-0.3
16	All Nippon Airways	29,267	-7.2
17	JetBlue Airways Corporation	26,815	-1.6
18	Azul	25,851	-5.9
19	British Airways	25,807	1.3
20	Japan Airlines International	25,636	0.2
21	Air France	23,821	2.2
22	Hainan Airlines	23,425	6.1
23	Aeroflot Russian Airlines	23,096	10.4
24	Qantas Airways	22,556	-2.5
25	KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines	22,277	2.0

Source: DLR

Ranking by Airlines Globally, for Europe & Germany

Global airlines: Scheduled flights and trends

Most major global airlines increased scheduled passenger flights in April 2025, though some low-cost carriers like Southwest and JetBlue saw declines. American Airlines led with around 189,100 departures, while Lufthansa ranked 13th with about 34,300 and a downward trend. Factors such as holidays or public vacations should be considered when comparing year-on-year figures, as they can affect flight volumes.

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

Number of Monthly Departures in April 2025

Ranking by Airlines Globally, for Europe & Germany

Leading European airlines by flight volume

Ryanair operated the most flights in Europe in April 2025, with nearly 98,100 departures – an increase of 4.5% compared to the previous year. EasyJet followed in second place with approximately 50,000 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	04/2025	Growth rate
1	Ryanair	98,080	4.5
2	easyJet	49,554	2.3
3	Lufthansa German Airlines	31,942	-7.6
4	Turkish Airlines	28,425	1.2
5	British Airways	22,521	1.1
6	SAS Scandinavian Airlines	21,304	10.5
7	KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines	20,512	2.1
8	Air France	20,508	2.4
9	Vueling Airlines	18,873	-1.3
10	Aeroflot Russian Airlines	17,551	11.6
11	Iberia	17,239	-2.3
12	Pegasus Airlines	17,201	16.6
13	Eurowings	14,252	-0.4
14	Swiss	12,036	1.3
15	Wizz Air Malta	11,519	8.5
16	Wizz Air	11,150	10.8
17	Ajet	10,391	-0.6
18	Austrian Airlines AG	10,371	5.9
19	Wideroe's Flyveselskap	10,152	-3.7
20	ITA Airways	10,133	-4.6
21	Finnair	9,431	6.1
22	LOT - Polish Airlines	9,006	10.9
23	Aegean Airlines	8,967	8.6
24	Jet2.com	8,901	8.5
25	TAP Air Portugal	8,769	0.8

Source: DLR

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

Rank	Airline	04/2025	Growth rate
1	Lufthansa German Airlines	20,821	-7.9
2	Eurowings	7,702	-1.8
3	Ryanair	4,494	-3.3
4	SunExpress	2,304	19.9
5	Air Dolomiti	2,303	14.2
6	Condor Flugdienst	1,917	57.6
7	easyJet	1,730	14.4
8	KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines	1,361	-0.1
9	Pegasus Airlines	1,360	23.2
10	Swiss	1,299	36.6
11	Austrian Airlines AG	1,261	7.5
12	Turkish Airlines	1,057	5.0
13	British Airways	1,000	1.7
14	Air France	921	2.7
15	TUIfly	906	1.7
16	Eurowings Discover	893	32.3
17	Lufthansa City Airlines	807	----
18	Wizz Air	805	18.6
19	Wizz Air Malta	715	26.3
20	SAS Scandinavian Airlines	600	-1.0
21	United Airlines	497	3.5
22	Aegean Airlines	480	3.2
23	LOT - Polish Airlines	465	12.0
24	Brussels Airlines	461	62.9
25	Iberia	448	-4.1

Source: DLR

Lufthansa leads Germany's flight numbers

In Germany, Lufthansa recorded the highest number of scheduled flights in April 2025, with around 20,800 departures. Eurowings followed with over 7,700, and Ryanair with approximately 4,500 – all showing a declining trend. The drop in Lufthansa flights is partly attributed to a shift of operations to its new subsidiary, Lufthansa City Airline.

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

Air Transport Development in April 2025

Development and Changes Globally and for Germany

Global and German air traffic trends in April 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 growth in passenger departures

In April 2025, the number of scheduled passenger flights worldwide increased by around 3.3% year-on-year, reaching a total of 3.2 million departures. The regions with the highest volumes were Asia, North America, and Europe. The Middle East recorded the strongest growth, at approximately 5%.

Fig. 3-4: Air traffic trends in Germany

In April 2025, approximately 65,500 scheduled passenger flights departed from German airports – a year-on-year growth of 3.5%. Around 57,500 of these flights were bound for destinations within Europe.

Fig. 1: Development of the global air transport supply

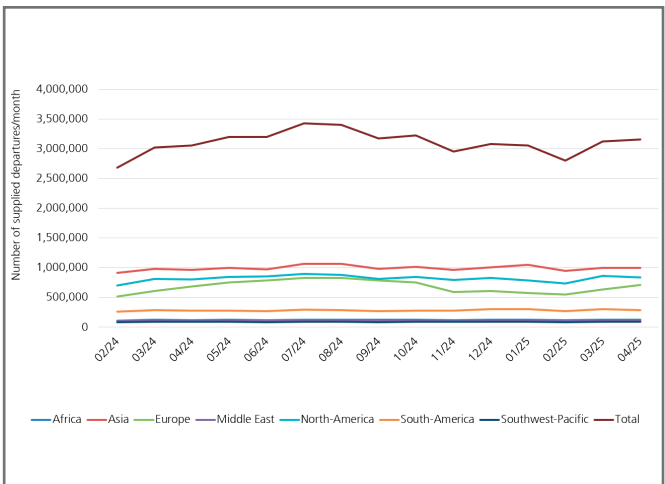


Fig. 2: Changes in the global air transport supply

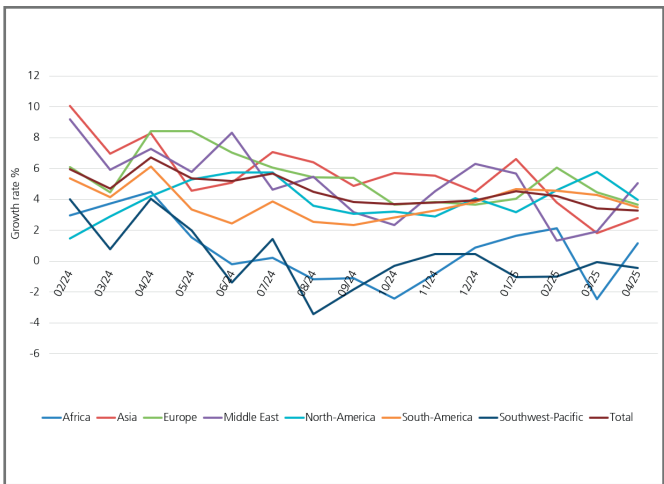


Fig. 3: Development of the German air transport supply

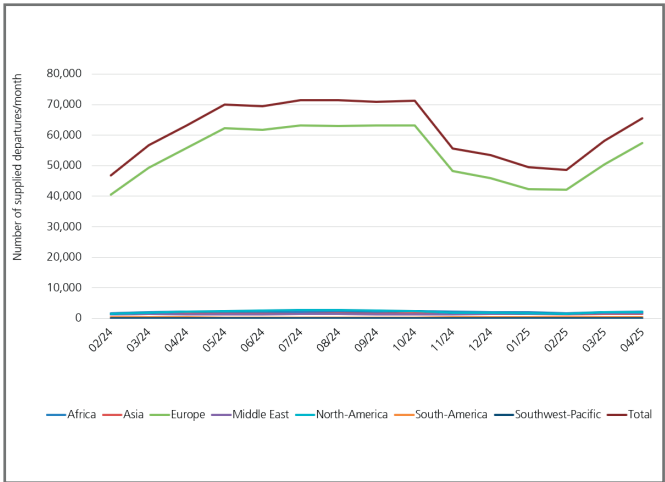
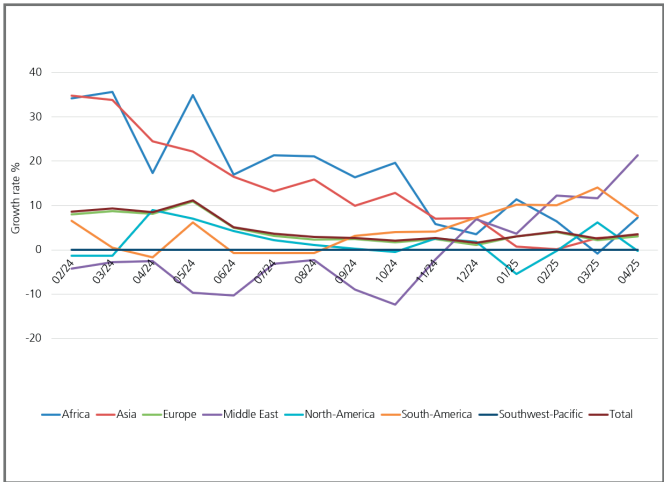


Fig. 4: Changes in the German air transport supply



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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German Aerospace Center (DLR)
Institute of Air Transport

Address:

Linder Höhe, 51147 Cologne
Phone: +49 2203 601-4554
Email: luftverkehrsprognose@dlr.de

Editorial Team:

Dr. Peter Berster (peter.berster@dlr.de)
Dr. Marc Gelhausen (marc.gelhausen@dlr.de)
Holger Pabst (holger.pabst@dlr.de)

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