

# Amadeus Air Traffic Trends Monthly Update Data up to January 2026

VisitBritain/VisitEngland Research

February 2026



# About this data

These slides show data from Amadeus Air Traffic showing an estimation of the total number of air passengers travelling to the UK from key source markets. Data shown is for passengers to/within the UK.

## *Some notes on this data:*

- The data model for Air Traffic integrates bookings, schedules, public statistics, and airport official statistics. Amadeus monitors the accuracy of their data to ensure that it remains above 90% for each market. This modelling provides a useful complement to the ForwardKeys bookings data, which has low coverage in Europe due to its exclusion of low-cost airlines.
- Inbound within the report refers to a sum of 9 key source markets; Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA. There is also data referring to the UK/domestic market. Our analysis excludes UK travellers returning to the UK from other destinations.
- Data is available from 2019 and up to 6 months ahead of the most recent reporting month.
- Data up to **January 2026** is shown in this report and the data was extracted on 25/02/26.
- Please do not re-publish data from this report on any public platform, including combining the data with that from other sources, before contacting VisitBritain/VisitEngland for approval.

Disclaimer: All rights reserved; content based on data provided by Amadeus. The content is provided “as is” without any warranty as to accuracy, completeness, satisfactory quality or fitness for any particular purpose. It is strictly forbidden to extract, reproduce, republish or publicly display any content included in this document without the prior written authorisation of VisitBritain.

# January 2026 | Inbound air traffic to the UK displaying strong year-on-year growth at the start of 2026

- In January, inbound air traffic to the UK was **7% higher** than what was seen in the same month in 2025, up on the 2% growth seen in December 2025 compared to previous year levels. This was the strongest month for year-on-year growth since January 2025.
- Inbound air traffic to the UK in January 2026 also **exceeded 2024, 2023 and 2019 levels**. Forecasts predict that inbound air traffic will remain above 2025 levels for the first half of 2026 before flattening in July.
- Inbound air traffic saw higher year-on-year growth than domestic air traffic in the UK in January 2026, with **short haul markets** seeing slightly stronger growth compared to long haul markets.
- Amongst the top UK cities for inbound air traffic **Newcastle upon Tyne, Edinburgh and London** saw the most year-on-year growth. Amongst all UK cities, Stornoway, Derry and Durham demonstrated the strongest growth within January 2026 compared to January 2019.

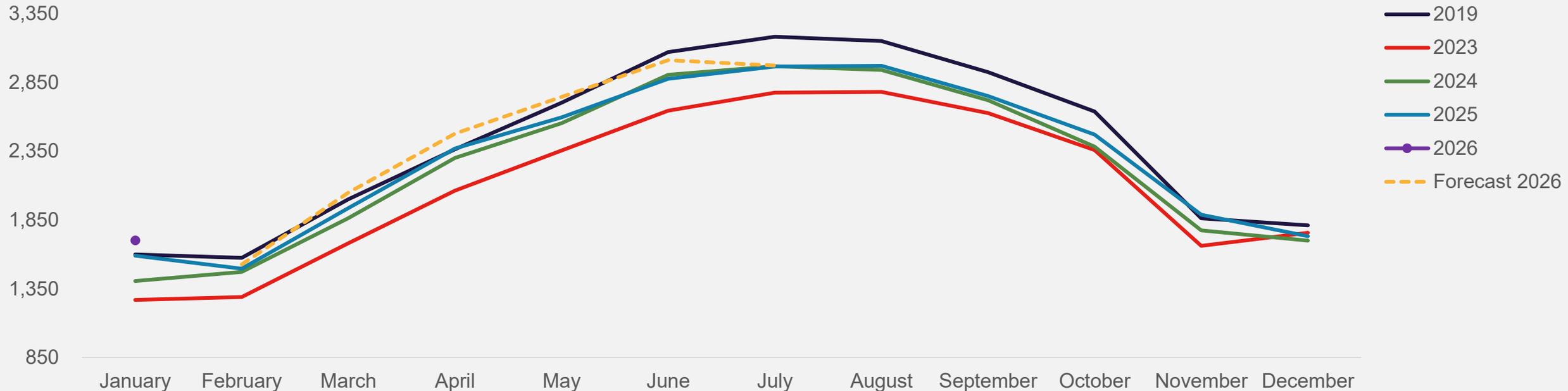
Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 25/02/26. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

amadeus



# Inbound air traffic trends (volume) | January 2026 exceeded 2025 levels as well as 2024, 2023 and 2019 levels

Monthly estimated inbound air traffic to the UK from key markets (000s)



- In January 2026, inbound air traffic to the UK saw a strong start to the year exceeding 2025, 2024, 2023 and 2019 levels.
- All years demonstrate a consistent seasonal pattern, with traffic peaking in the summer months.
- Forecasts for the next 6 months (February 2026 – July 2026) predict that inbound traffic will continue to exhibit year-on-year growth, before flattening in July.

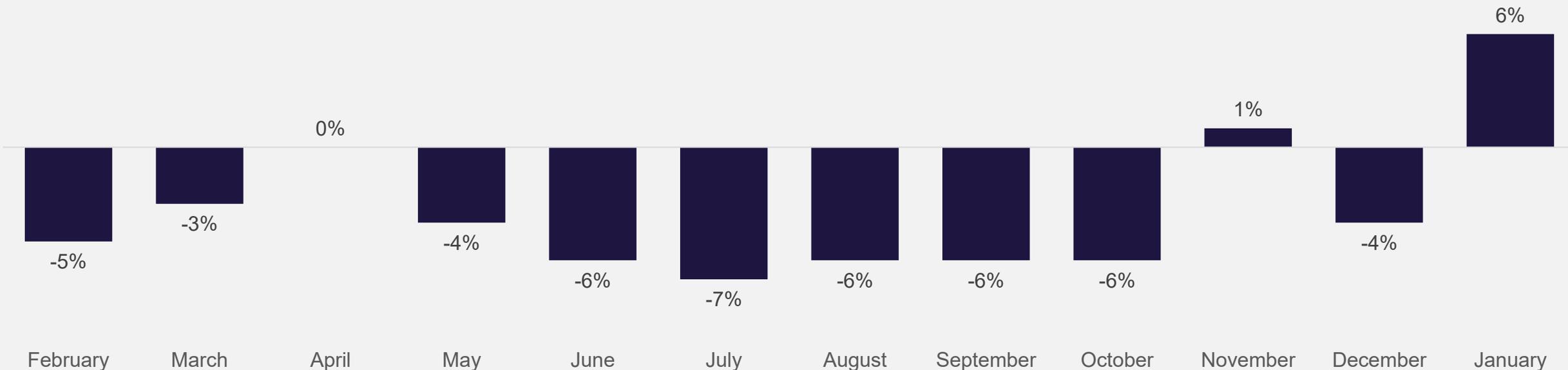
Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 25/02/26. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

amadeus



# Inbound air traffic vs. pre-COVID | Air traffic to the UK in January 2026 surpassed 2019 levels

Monthly estimated inbound air traffic from key markets in the last 12 months vs. 2019



- Inbound traffic to the UK was above 2019 levels in January 2026, recording the strongest growth seen in the past 12 months. The positive start to 2026 is a contrast to the consistent declines seen throughout 2025 (with April and November being exceptions).

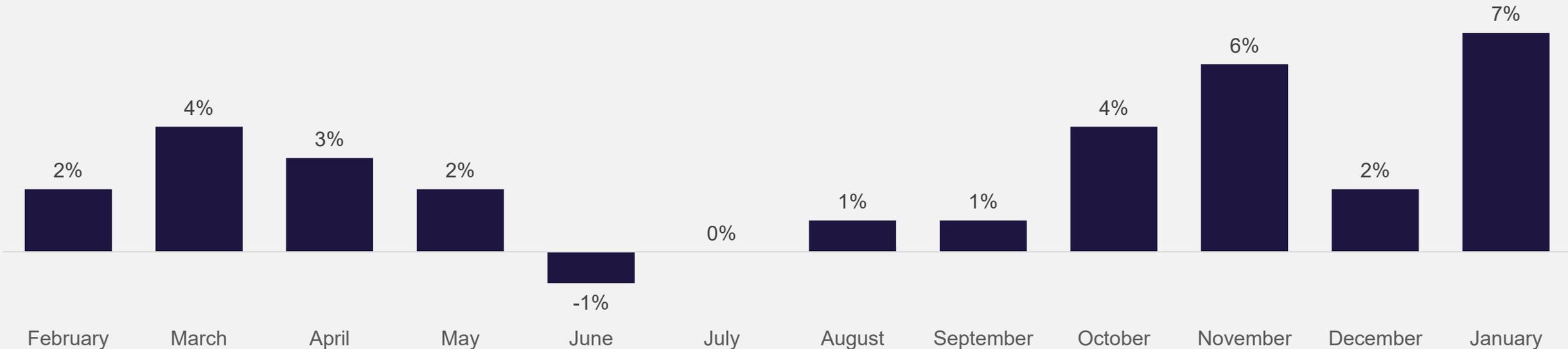
Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 25/02/26. % growth vs. 2019 shown. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

amadeus



# Inbound air traffic vs. previous year | Growth in air traffic to the UK compared to previous year levels continued into January 2026

Monthly estimated inbound air traffic from key markets in last 12 months vs. previous year levels



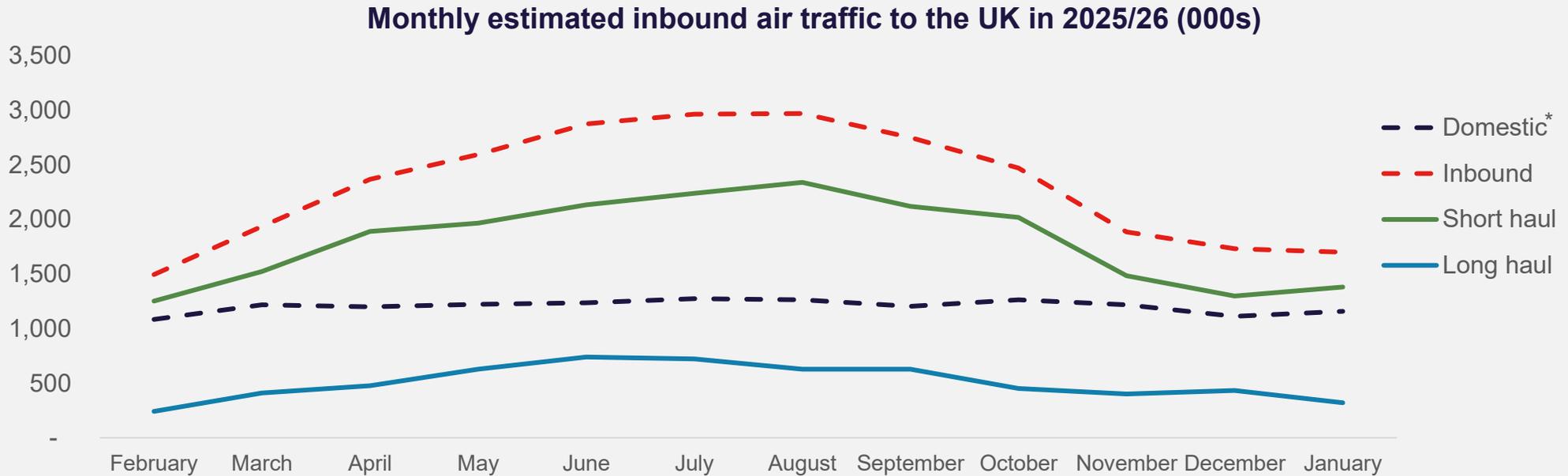
- When comparing January 2026 with January 2025, there was growth of 7%, the highest in the last 12 months. This follows on from a strong end to 2026, which saw growth from August onwards vs previous year levels.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 25/02/26. % growth vs. previous year shown. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

amadeus



# Origin market trends (volume) | The clear seasonal pattern in inbound traffic continued in January 2026, whereas domestic traffic remained flatter



- Inbound air traffic has consistently demonstrated higher volumes vs. domestic, however, inbound air traffic has decreased from August into the winter months conforming with seasonal trends, whereas domestic air traffic remained relatively level.
- In January 2026, short haul air traffic saw a slight upturn from December 2025, while long haul air traffic volume matched the inbound general trend and showed signs of a drop off compared to previous months.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 25/02/26. Inbound, short haul, and long haul are shown as averages to support the visual display of the data. The short haul total includes air traffic from France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Spain. The long haul total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, and the USA. \*Domestic air traffic includes UK residents travelling within the UK, and may include foreign visitors who travel domestically with a break in between their arrival to the UK of more than 24 hours

# Origin market trends vs. pre-COVID | Saudi Arabia saw the most growth in air traffic to the UK in January 2026 compared to 2019

## Monthly estimated inbound air traffic in 2025/26 vs. 2019

	Domestic*	Inbound	Short haul	Long haul	Australia	Canada	Germany	Spain	France	Italy	Neth.	Saudi Arabia	USA
February	-9%	-5%	-6%	5%	3%	-8%	-31%	6%	7%	-5%	-29%	122%	2%
March	-9%	-3%	-5%	7%	2%	3%	-27%	8%	-5%	-4%	-26%	59%	6%
April	-10%	0%	-3%	16%	-10%	0%	-17%	3%	-1%	2%	-20%	132%	18%
May	-13%	-4%	-6%	6%	-4%	-5%	-18%	-4%	0%	4%	-31%	184%	5%
June	-8%	-6%	-10%	5%	-7%	-9%	-18%	-9%	-2%	-1%	-31%	62%	7%
July	-8%	-7%	-11%	10%	-7%	-5%	-16%	-11%	-4%	-4%	-31%	76%	12%
August	-8%	-6%	-9%	7%	-3%	2%	-18%	-9%	1%	2%	-32%	58%	7%
September	-8%	-6%	-10%	13%	-3%	-1%	-19%	-8%	-5%	-1%	-32%	100%	14%
October	-7%	-6%	-10%	12%	-2%	2%	-21%	-6%	-3%	-1%	-33%	149%	10%
November	-4%	1%	-2%	17%	-3%	8%	-12%	6%	4%	-1%	-25%	266%	9%
December	-1%	-4%	-5%	-1%	-23%	-2%	-5%	-1%	3%	-1%	-32%	106%	0%
January	1%	21%	20%	24%	39%	1%	20%	16%	31%	29%	11%	43%	23%

- In January 2026, the volume of inbound air traffic saw higher growth vs 2019 compared to domestic air traffic (21% vs. 1%).
- Among international origin markets, long haul air traffic showed slightly stronger growth at 24% in January vs 20% for air traffic from short haul markets compared to 2019. All international markets apart from Canada (+1%) demonstrated double digit growth in January. Saudi Arabia demonstrated the highest year-on-year growth in air traffic at 43%.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 25/02/26. % growth vs. 2019 shown. The short haul total includes air traffic from France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Spain. The long haul total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, and the USA. \*Domestic air traffic includes UK residents travelling within the UK, and may include foreign visitors who travel domestically with a break in between their arrival to the UK of more than 24 hours

amadeus



# Origin market trends vs. previous year | Both domestic and inbound saw year-on-year growth in January 2026, with Saudi Arabia once again standing out

Monthly estimated inbound air traffic in 2025/26 vs. previous year

	Domestic*	Inbound	Short haul	Long haul	Australia	Canada	Germany	Spain	France	Italy	Neth.	Saudi Arabia	USA
February	7%	2%	2%	1%	-5%	-8%	2%	-1%	6%	5%	4%	-7%	4%
March	8%	4%	6%	-2%	-8%	-5%	0%	5%	5%	12%	9%	13%	-2%
April	7%	3%	3%	4%	-5%	3%	13%	-1%	2%	6%	7%	22%	4%
May	2%	2%	3%	-2%	-7%	-7%	3%	-1%	5%	15%	4%	36%	-3%
June	6%	-1%	1%	-7%	-7%	-8%	4%	-3%	7%	11%	-1%	2%	-8%
July	4%	0%	-1%	4%	-2%	3%	4%	-6%	1%	7%	0%	14%	4%
August	4%	1%	2%	-2%	-1%	3%	11%	-3%	2%	10%	8%	25%	-4%
September	4%	1%	2%	-1%	-4%	5%	10%	-2%	4%	10%	-3%	10%	-3%
October	7%	4%	4%	2%	5%	7%	9%	1%	5%	10%	1%	19%	-1%
November	10%	6%	8%	2%	-11%	7%	8%	6%	7%	13%	6%	14%	1%
December	5%	2%	4%	-4%	-11%	0%	10%	-2%	3%	15%	5%	-8%	-3%
January	10%	7%	7%	5%	11%	2%	4%	8%	11%	13%	-5%	20%	3%

- January 2026 saw both domestic and inbound air traffic exceed January 2025 levels. Within inbound air traffic, short haul markets have surpassed previous year levels by 7% in January 2026, with long haul just behind on 5%.
- Among long haul markets, Saudi Arabia saw the strongest growth in air traffic compared to January 2025 at 20%. For short haul markets, Italy saw the largest growth of 13% with France following at 11%.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 25/02/26. % growth vs. previous year shown. The short haul total includes air traffic from France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Spain. The long haul total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, and the USA. \*Domestic air traffic includes UK residents travelling within the UK, and may include foreign visitors who travel domestically with a break in between their arrival to the UK of more than 24 hours



# Destination city trends vs. previous year | London, Manchester, and Edinburgh leading cities for inbound air traffic in January 2026

Year-on-year change in air traffic for top ranked UK cities in 2025/26 vs. 2024

	London	Manchester	Edinburgh	Birmingham	Bristol	Glasgow	Newcastle upon Tyne	Liverpool	Leeds	Belfast
February	2%	-2%	9%	-4%	-4%	2%	9%	25%	9%	19%
March	5%	1%	6%	-7%	3%	-10%	20%	23%	24%	18%
April	6%	8%	3%	-8%	-9%	-6%	-1%	12%	-6%	-11%
May	4%	0%	2%	-8%	-8%	-7%	-2%	1%	-1%	1%
June	0%	-6%	3%	-5%	-1%	-12%	-4%	19%	3%	-11%
July	4%	-7%	8%	-16%	-6%	-14%	-15%	5%	-6%	-2%
August	4%	-6%	11%	-8%	1%	-12%	-13%	10%	-8%	17%
September	4%	-4%	11%	-6%	-2%	-4%	-4%	5%	-12%	-6%
October	7%	-4%	7%	-4%	3%	1%	-9%	19%	6%	15%
November	8%	3%	18%	2%	6%	-11%	-11%	-22%	25%	31%
December	4%	-3%	12%	-3%	2%	-17%	-3%	19%	8%	-2%
January	8%	6%	13%	5%	-1%	5%	20%	-3%	-5%	-6%

Top growing cities in January 2026 vs. January 2019

City	% change
Stornoway	240%
Derry	204%
Durham	133%
Bournemouth	107%
Newquay	48%
Kirkwall	43%
Newcastle upon Tyne	42%
Edinburgh	32%
Bristol	25%
Glasgow	20%

- In January 2026, the top ranked UK cities by air traffic were London, Manchester and Edinburgh. When examining the year-on-year growth in air traffic of the top ranked cities, in January 2026 Newcastle upon Tyne saw the most growth at 20%, followed by Edinburgh (13%) and London (8%). Belfast saw 6% less air traffic in January 2026 than in January 2025, with Liverpool, Leeds and Bristol also seeing declines.
- Looking at cities which have seen the most growth in inbound air traffic in January 2026 vs. January 2019, Stornoway ranks first, followed by Derry and Durham.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 25/02/26. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

