

Amadeus Air Traffic Trends Monthly Update Data up to February 2026

VisitBritain/VisitEngland Research

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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 **February 2026** is shown in this report and the data was extracted on 26/03/26.
- Data for the 6 months prior to the latest month may be adjusted at source in future releases.
- 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.

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February 2026 | February year-on-year growth in inbound traffic the highest seen in the last 12 months

- In February, inbound air traffic to the UK was **8% higher** than what was seen in the same month in 2025, a percentage point higher than the 7% growth seen in January 2025 compared to previous year levels.
- Inbound air traffic to the UK in February 2026 also **exceeded 2024, 2023 and 2019 levels**. Forecasts predict that inbound air traffic will remain above 2025 levels up to August, before falling below 2019 levels in the early summer months.
- Inbound air traffic saw higher year-on-year growth than domestic air traffic in the UK in February 2026, with **short haul markets** and **long haul markets** seeing identical growth at 8%.
- Amongst the top UK cities for inbound air traffic **Birmingham, Edinburgh** and **London** saw the most year-on-year growth. Amongst all UK cities, Shetland Islands, Durham and Bournemouth demonstrated the strongest growth within February 2026 compared to February 2019.

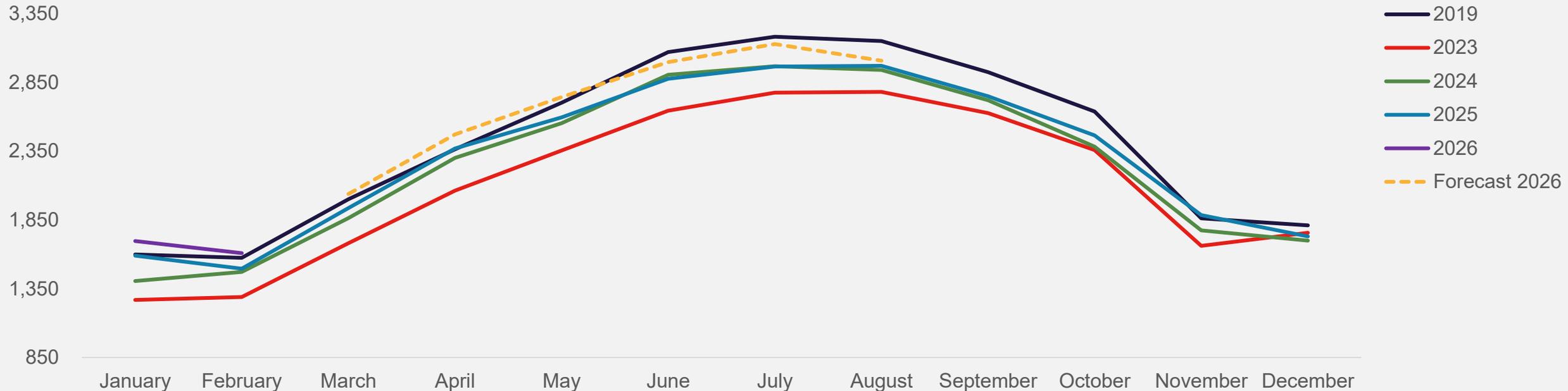
Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 26/03/26. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

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Inbound air traffic trends (volume) | February 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 February 2026, inbound air traffic to the UK continued the strong start to the year by 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 (March 2026 – August 2026) predict that inbound air traffic will continue to exhibit year-on-year growth but will fall behind 2019 levels at the beginning of the summer months.

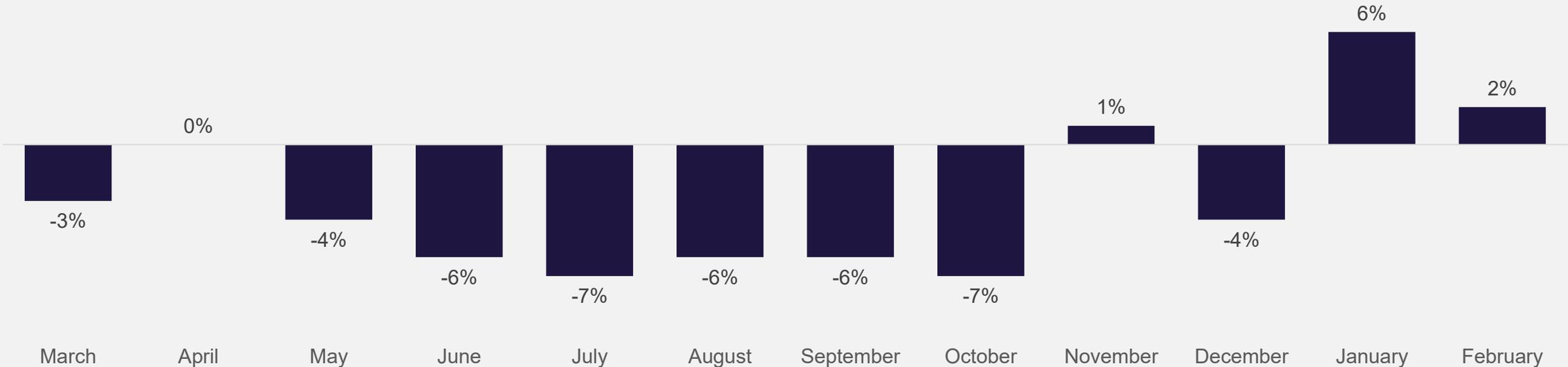
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Inbound air traffic vs. pre-COVID | Air traffic to the UK in February 2026 surpassed 2019 levels

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



- Inbound air traffic to the UK was above 2019 levels in February 2026 for a second consecutive month, however, growth was slightly weaker than the previous month at +2%. The positive start to 2026 is a contrast to the consistent declines seen throughout 2025 (with April and November being exceptions).

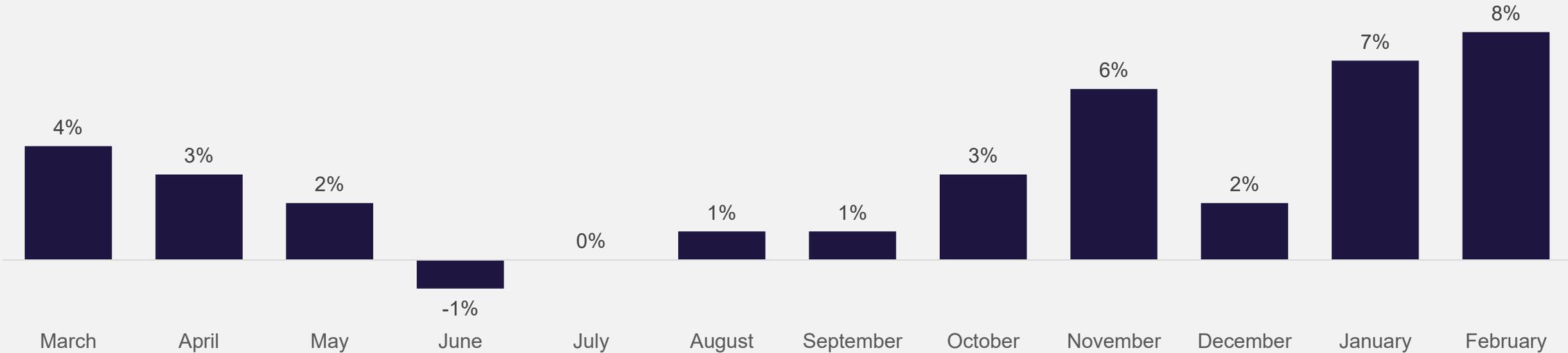
Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 26/03/26. % growth vs. 2019 shown. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

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

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



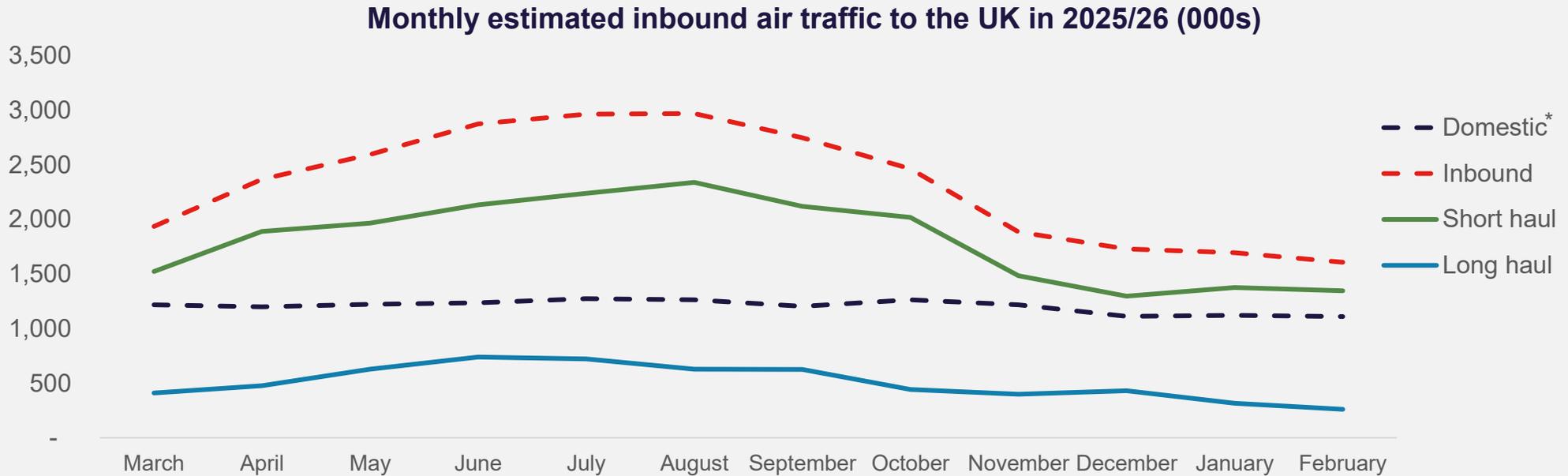
- February 2026 saw the highest year-on-year growth in the last 12 months at 8%, surpassing the 7% growth seen in January. As of February, growth has been maintained since August 2025, with June 2025 the only month to see a decline in the last year.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 26/03/26. % growth vs. previous year shown. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

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Origin market trends (volume) | The clear seasonal pattern in inbound traffic continued in February 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 February 2026, long haul air traffic continued to see a slight downturn from the previous month, while short haul air traffic shows a seasonal pattern similar to the general inbound trend but short haul air traffic volumes have flattened over the winter months.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 26/03/26. 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 continued to see the most growth in air traffic to the UK in February 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
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%	12%	-4%	-1%	-19%	-8%	-5%	-1%	-32%	100%	14%
October	-7%	-7%	-10%	10%	-22%	2%	-21%	-6%	-3%	-1%	-33%	150%	10%
November	-4%	1%	-2%	17%	-8%	8%	-12%	6%	4%	-1%	-25%	266%	9%
December	-1%	-4%	-5%	-1%	-24%	-2%	-5%	-1%	3%	-1%	-32%	106%	-1%
January	-5%	6%	3%	23%	35%	10%	-24%	19%	22%	6%	-35%	187%	12%
February	-6%	2%	1%	13%	12%	5%	-24%	15%	14%	4%	-29%	142%	8%

- In February 2026, the volume of inbound air traffic saw growth vs 2019 compared to a decline seen for domestic air traffic (+2% vs. -6%).
- Among international origin markets, long haul air traffic showed stronger growth at 13% in February vs 1% for air traffic from short haul markets compared to 2019. All international markets apart from Germany (-24%) and the Netherlands (-29%) demonstrated growth in February. Saudi Arabia demonstrated the highest year-on-year growth in air traffic at 142%.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 26/03/26. % 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

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Origin market trends vs. previous year | Both domestic and inbound traffic saw year-on-year growth in February 2026, with Canada leading growth

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
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%	-1%	-1%	3%	11%	-3%	2%	10%	8%	25%	-4%
September	4%	1%	2%	-1%	-5%	5%	10%	-2%	4%	10%	-3%	10%	-3%
October	7%	3%	4%	0%	-16%	7%	9%	1%	5%	10%	1%	19%	-1%
November	10%	6%	8%	2%	-16%	6%	8%	6%	7%	13%	6%	14%	1%
December	6%	2%	4%	-5%	-12%	0%	10%	-2%	3%	15%	5%	-8%	-4%
January	7%	7%	7%	5%	12%	6%	3%	8%	13%	14%	-12%	25%	0%
February	2%	8%	8%	8%	9%	14%	10%	9%	6%	9%	0%	9%	6%

- February 2026 saw both domestic and inbound air traffic exceed February 2025 levels. Within inbound air traffic, short haul markets and long haul markets surpassed previous year levels by 8%.
- Among long haul markets, Canada (+14%) led with double digit growth, while Australia (+9%), Saudi Arabia (+9%) and USA (+6%) saw more moderate growth. Among short haul markets, Germany saw the largest growth of 10%, while the Netherlands was the only market not to see growth as it remained level with February 2025.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 26/03/26. % 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

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Destination city trends vs. previous year | Birmingham and Edinburgh seeing strong growth in February

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

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

Top growing cities in February 2026 vs. February 2019

City	% change
Shetland Islands	194%
Durham	85%
Bournemouth	66%
Kirkwall	44%
Derry	41%
Edinburgh	31%
Bristol	29%
Liverpool	13%
Glasgow	12%
Birmingham	7%

- In February 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 February 2026 Birmingham saw the most growth at 13%, followed by Edinburgh (+12%) and London (+8%). Leeds was the only top city to see less air traffic in February 2026 than in February 2025 at -5%.
- Looking at cities which have seen the most growth in inbound air traffic in February 2026 vs. February 2019, the Shetland Islands ranks first, followed by Durham and Bournemouth.

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