

Amadeus Air Traffic Trends Monthly Update **Data up to August 2026**

VisitBritain/VisitEngland Research

October 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 only includes indirect flight bookings and therefore a low coverage in Europe and some long haul markets.
- 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.
- The dataset includes return and one-way tickets, and it is not possible to differentiate between residents and visitors from inbound markets travelling on a one-way ticket.
- Data is available from 2019 and up to 6 months ahead of the most recent reporting month.
- Data up to **August 2026** is shown in this report and the data was extracted on 29/09/26.
- Historic data 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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August 2026 | Inbound air traffic to the UK was level in August 2026 with 2025 maintaining a positive trend for the year-to-date so far

- In August 2026, inbound air traffic to the UK was **on par** with August 2025; after six months of year-on-year (YoY) growth.
- Inbound air traffic to the UK in August 2026 **exceeded 2024 and 2023 but continued to be below 2019 levels**. Forecasts predict a mixed picture for inbound air traffic over the next few months with YoY growth expected in October and December but declines in September and November. There is set to be a slow start to 2027 with the first two months of the year seeing air traffic below previous year levels. The outlook compared to 2019 is forecast to be weaker with only December 2026 seeing an uplift over the next six months.
- Inbound air traffic was level with 2025 in August 2026, while domestic air traffic dipped just below previous year levels. There are still differing trends at the inbound market level, **long haul markets** continued to see declines in August 2026 linked to the Middle East conflict, however, **short haul markets** still saw YoY growth despite a slight slowing of growth compared to July 2026.
- Amongst the top UK cities for inbound air traffic **Glasgow, Liverpool and Birmingham** saw the most YoY growth in August 2026. Amongst all UK cities, Durham, Shetland Islands and Newquay demonstrated the strongest growth in August 2026 compared to August 2019.

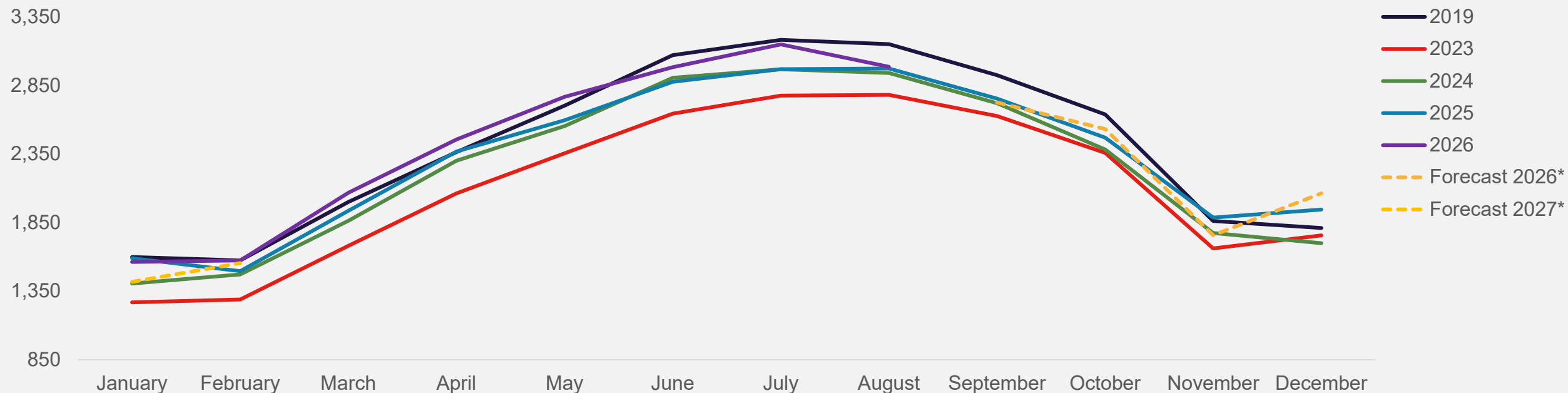
Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 29/09/26. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

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Inbound air traffic trends (volume) | Air traffic on par with 2025 in August

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



- In August 2026, inbound air traffic to the UK was level with 2025 but remained above 2024 and 2023. For a third consecutive month, inbound air traffic was below 2019 levels.
- All years demonstrate a consistent seasonal pattern, with air traffic currently in the peak of the summer months.
- The forecast for the end of 2026 is mixed, inbound air traffic is expected to see YoY declines in September and November but growth in October and December. There is set to be a dip in air traffic at the beginning of 2027 compared to 2026. Air traffic to the UK will remain below 2019 levels for most of the next six months with December 2026 the only month set to see growth vs 2019.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 29/09/26. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA. *Forecast data is subject to change in future releases.

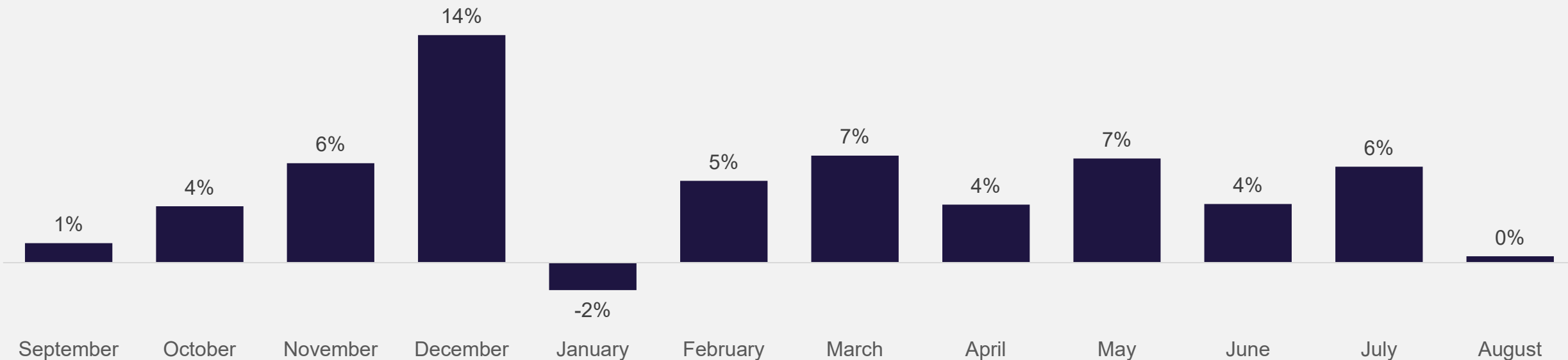
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Inbound air traffic vs. previous year | Air traffic to the UK level with August 2025

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

Year-to-date:
+4%



- August 2026 remained on par with August 2025, ending a run of six consecutive months of YoY growth.
- The year-to-date so far in 2026 continues to be positive for air traffic to the UK with YoY growth of 4% from January to August 2026.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 29/09/26. % growth vs. previous year shown. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

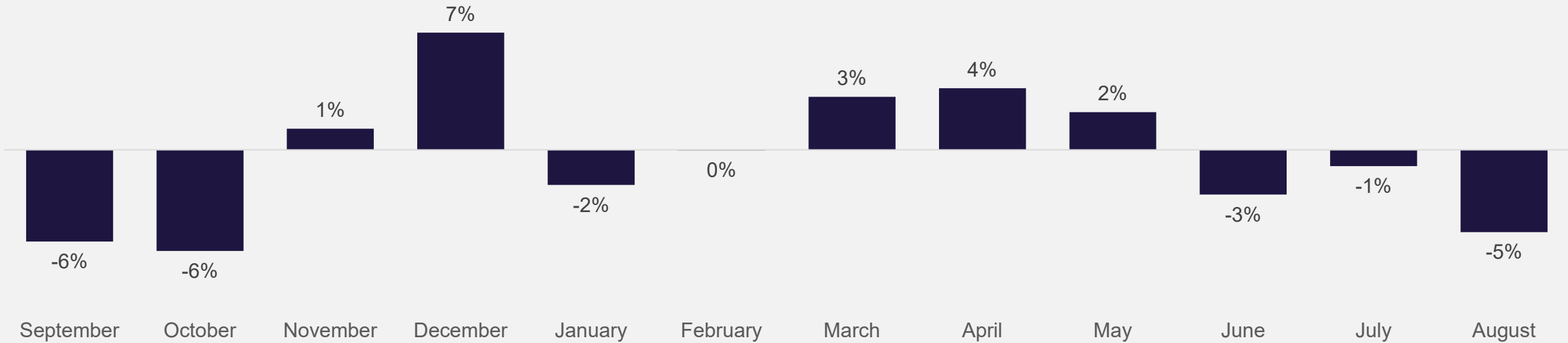
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Inbound air traffic vs. pre-COVID | Air traffic in August 2026 under 2019 levels

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

Year-to-date:
0%



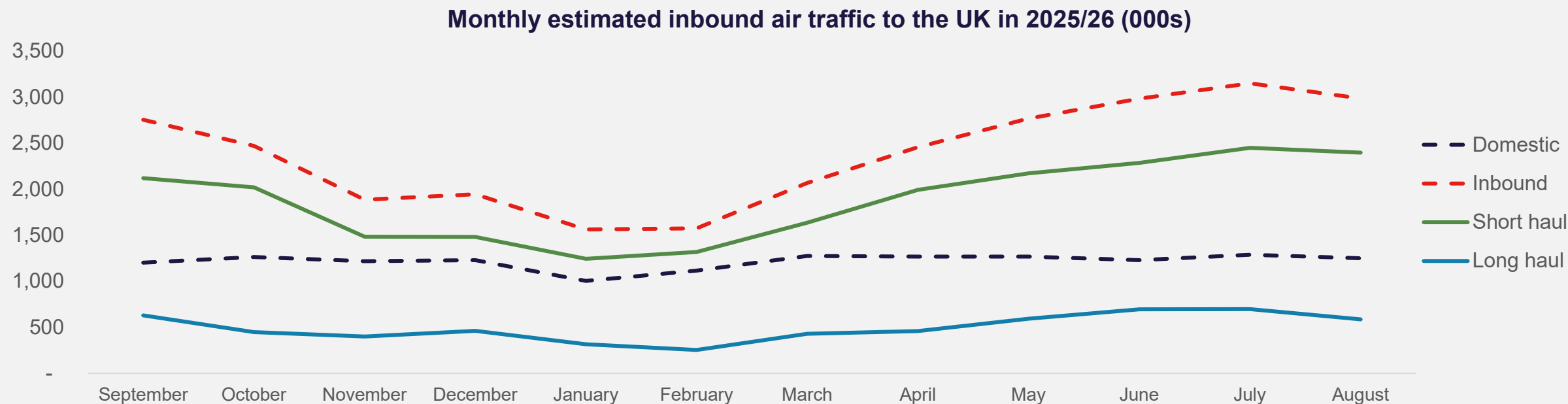
- Inbound air traffic to the UK in August 2026 remained below 2019 levels with a decline of 5%. The decline in August was the largest of 2026 so far, following a more moderate 1% dip in July and 3% fall in June.
- The mixed trends throughout 2026 have led to air traffic being level for the year-to-date (January-August) vs 2019.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 29/09/26. % 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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Origin market trends (volume) | Inbound air traffic currently in the summer peak



- Inbound air traffic has consistently demonstrated higher volumes vs. domestic, with inbound air traffic in the peak of the summer months conforming with seasonal trends, whereas domestic air traffic remains flat.
- In August 2026, short haul air traffic was similar to the peak seen in July, however, long haul air traffic began to dip slightly.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 29/09/26. 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.

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Origin market trends vs. previous year | Spain, Italy and Canada led YoY growth

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

Last 12 months	Domestic*	Inbound	Short haul	Long haul	Australia	Canada	France	Germany	Italy	Netherlands	Saudi Arabia	Spain	USA
September	4%	1%	2%	-1%	-5%	5%	4%	10%	10%	-3%	10%	-2%	-2%
October	7%	4%	4%	1%	-4%	7%	5%	9%	10%	1%	19%	1%	-1%
November	10%	6%	8%	2%	-13%	7%	7%	8%	13%	6%	14%	6%	1%
December	17%	14%	19%	2%	-2%	5%	23%	22%	30%	16%	3%	13%	3%
January	-5%	-2%	-3%	4%	11%	7%	3%	-3%	2%	-18%	26%	-4%	0%
February	3%	5%	5%	5%	1%	8%	4%	9%	7%	-3%	0%	5%	6%
March	5%	7%	7%	5%	11%	3%	3%	13%	6%	-2%	74%	9%	0%
April	6%	4%	5%	-3%	-7%	5%	-1%	-4%	12%	-5%	-27%	9%	-2%
May	4%	7%	10%	-5%	-13%	7%	0%	5%	11%	-3%	-5%	16%	-6%
June	-1%	4%	7%	-6%	-14%	9%	2%	-3%	7%	0%	-37%	11%	-4%
July	1%	6%	9%	-4%	-5%	5%	8%	-2%	9%	-7%	-14%	14%	-4%
August	-1%	0%	2%	-7%	-14%	3%	-1%	-8%	4%	-7%	-9%	6%	-7%
Year-to-date	2%	4%	6%	-3%	-7%	6%	2%	0%	7%	-5%	-6%	9%	-3%

- August 2026 saw inbound air traffic remain level with 2025, while domestic air traffic saw a slight decline at -1%. Within inbound air traffic, short haul markets saw growth of 2%, more moderate growth than seen in the previous six months. Long haul air traffic continues to be below previous year levels due to the Middle East conflict.
- Canada (+3%) continues to be the only long haul market to see YoY growth. Australia (-14%) and Saudi Arabia (-9%) are still seeing declines linked to the Middle East conflict, however, Saudi Arabia is showing lesser declines than at the peak of the conflict. The USA saw its largest YoY decline of 2026 in August at -7%.
- Spain (+6%) leads YoY growth of short haul markets, with Italy (+4%) the only other market to see growth. France (-1%), Netherlands (-7%) and Germany (-8%) all saw air traffic to the UK under 2025 levels.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 29/09/26. % 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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Origin market trends vs. pre-COVID | Saudi Arabia leads growth vs 2019

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

Last 12 months Domestic*		Inbound	Short haul	Long haul	Australia	Canada	France	Germany	Italy	Netherlands	Saudi Arabia	Spain	USA
September	-8%	-6%	-10%	13%	-3%	-1%	-5%	-19%	-1%	-32%	100%	-8%	15%
October	-7%	-6%	-10%	11%	-10%	2%	-3%	-21%	-1%	-33%	149%	-6%	10%
November	-4%	1%	-2%	17%	-6%	8%	4%	-12%	-1%	-25%	266%	6%	9%
December	9%	7%	8%	6%	-16%	3%	23%	6%	12%	-25%	131%	14%	5%
January	-15%	-2%	-7%	23%	34%	10%	11%	-29%	-5%	-40%	189%	6%	12%
February	-6%	0%	-2%	11%	5%	-1%	12%	-25%	2%	-31%	121%	11%	8%
March	-5%	3%	2%	12%	14%	6%	-2%	-17%	2%	-27%	178%	18%	6%
April	-5%	4%	2%	12%	-16%	5%	-1%	-20%	15%	-25%	70%	12%	15%
May	-10%	2%	3%	0%	-17%	1%	1%	-15%	15%	-33%	169%	12%	-1%
June	-9%	-3%	-3%	-1%	-20%	-1%	0%	-20%	6%	-31%	2%	1%	3%
July	-7%	-1%	-3%	6%	-12%	0%	4%	-18%	5%	-36%	52%	2%	8%
August	-9%	-5%	-6%	0%	-17%	4%	0%	-24%	6%	-37%	44%	-4%	0%
Year-to-date	-8%	0%	-2%	6%	-10%	2%	2%	-21%	6%	-32%	78%	6%	5%

- In August 2026, inbound air traffic continued to be below 2019 levels with a drop of 5%. Domestic traffic also remained under 2019.
- Among international origin markets, long haul air traffic was level with 2019, while short haul air traffic saw a decline of 6%. There was strong growth in air traffic from Saudi Arabia (+44%) in August vs 2019, however, this is softer than the significant growth seen prior to the Middle East conflict. There was more moderate growth of 4% from Canada. Australia saw a 17% decline as air traffic remains impacted by the Middle East conflict and the disruption caused to connecting flights. Air traffic to the UK from the USA was level with 2019.
- Short haul air traffic remained below 2019 levels in August, seeing a similar decrease to previous months. Italy saw the highest growth of short haul markets compared to 2019 at 6%. Air traffic from France was similar to that seen in August 2019. Spain (-4%) saw air traffic to the UK fall below 2019 levels for the first time in 2026. The Netherlands (-37%) and Germany (-24%) continued to see significant declines vs 2019.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 29/09/26. % 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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Destination city trends vs. previous year | Glasgow, Liverpool and Birmingham led growth in August 2026

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

Last 12 months	London	Manchester	Edinburgh	Birmingham	Bristol	Glasgow	Liverpool	Leeds	Newcastle upon Tyne	Nottingham
September	4%	-4%	11%	-6%	-2%	-4%	5%	-12%	-4%	-7%
October	6%	-4%	7%	-4%	3%	0%	19%	6%	-9%	-9%
November	8%	3%	18%	2%	6%	-11%	-22%	25%	-11%	27%
December	17%	8%	24%	8%	15%	-6%	34%	20%	11%	-8%
January	0%	-4%	4%	-9%	-13%	-5%	-14%	-12%	3%	-22%
February	6%	0%	12%	7%	3%	4%	3%	-4%	4%	-13%
March	6%	4%	16%	12%	4%	4%	13%	5%	13%	3%
April	2%	2%	9%	12%	2%	6%	12%	3%	11%	2%
May	3%	8%	11%	24%	13%	18%	-4%	15%	9%	24%
June	1%	6%	6%	15%	5%	10%	9%	3%	4%	-1%
July	4%	12%	3%	15%	11%	8%	15%	1%	6%	15%
August	-2%	4%	3%	6%	1%	8%	6%	-4%	1%	-3%
Year-to-date	2%	5%	7%	11%	4%	8%	6%	2%	6%	4%

Top growing cities in August 2026 vs. August 2019

City	% change
Durham	311%
Shetland Islands	199%
Newquay	83%
Bournemouth	78%
Derry	51%
Islay	47%
Liverpool	25%
Kirkwall	22%
Edinburgh	21%

- In August 2026, the top ranked UK cities by air traffic were London, Manchester and Edinburgh. When examining the YoY growth in air traffic of the top ranked cities, in August 2026 Glasgow led growth at 8% followed by Liverpool (+6%) and Birmingham (+6%). Manchester (+4%), Edinburgh (+3%), Newcastle upon Tyne (+1%) and Bristol (+1%) saw more moderate YoY growth. London (-2%) along with Nottingham (-3%) and Leeds (-4%) were the top ranked UK cities which saw a decline in air traffic compared to August 2025.
- Looking at cities which have seen the most growth in inbound air traffic in August 2026 vs. August 2019, Durham ranks first, followed by Shetland Islands and Newquay.

Notes: Amadeus air traffic data refreshed 29/09/26. The inbound total includes air traffic from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

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For more information, please contact

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