

Air transport, passengers carried

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Metadata information

Information on metadata

Document title

Metadata for Air transport, passengers carried

Document ID

META_WB_WDI_IS_AIR_PSGR

Metadata producers

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Development Economics Data Group	DECDG	World Bank

Version

1.1.1

Version notes

Updated metadata ID for consistency with indicator code.

Version date

2026-05-06

Indicator description

Title statement

Indicator code

WB_WDI_IS_AIR_PSGR

Indicator name

Air transport, passengers carried

Alternate identifiers

Type	Identifier	Database	Notes
DCS code	IS.AIR.PSGR	DCS	Identifier in DCS database

Database ID

WB_WDI

Database name

World Development Indicators (WDI)

Language

Name	Code
English	EN

Version date

2026-07-01

Description

Definition

Air carrier data per country refers to passengers carried by airlines registered in that country regardless of the origin or destination of the passengers.

Definition references

Source	URL
ICAO Frequently Asked Questions	https://dataplus.icao.int/Home/FAQ?utm_source

Development relevance

Aviation traffic data are essential for understanding the role of air transport in economic development, global connectivity, and social progress. These statistics, covering passenger volumes, freight volumes, and aircraft departures, provide a standardized measure of air transport activity across countries and regions and are closely linked to economic growth, trade integration, tourism development, and labor mobility.

Aviation traffic indicators also help assess the resilience and efficiency of transport systems, track the recovery from economic shocks or crises, and identify capacity constraints or infrastructure investment needs.

From a development perspective, aviation statistics support evidence-based policy making in areas such as transport planning, regional integration, climate and emissions management, and inclusive access to services, making them a key input for monitoring progress toward sustainable and connected economies.

Measurement unit

Number

Dimensions

Label	Description
Year	
Geographic area	Country/economy, country group, region

Periodicity

Annual

Topics

Label	Vocabulary
Infrastructure: Transportation	WDI topics

Links

Type	Description	URL
WDI API	Data in JSON	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/countries/all/indicators/is.air.psg?date=1970:2021&format=json
WDI API	Data in XML	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/countries/all/indicators/is.air.psg?date=1970:2021

WDI API	Metadata in JSON	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/sources/2/series/is.air.psggr/metadata?format=json
WDI API	Metadata in XML	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/sources/2/series/is.air.psggr/metadata

Quality

Limitations

While ICAO aviation data provide a globally standardized and comprehensive view of air transport activity, several limitations affect their accuracy and comparability. Data quality depends on the completeness and consistency of country reporting, which can vary due to differences in national statistical capacity, regulatory environments, and adherence to ICAO definitions. Some countries may not report all relevant data, leading ICAO to estimate missing values using historical submissions and published schedules, which can introduce uncertainty. Changes in airline registration, mergers, or operational practices may also affect the attribution of traffic statistics. Additionally, the aggregation of scheduled and non-scheduled services, as well as the treatment of transit and transfer passengers, may differ across countries, impacting cross-country comparability.

Concepts and methods

Statistical concept

The number of passengers carried is obtained by counting each passenger on a particular flight (with one flight number) once only and not repeatedly on each individual stage of that flight, with a single exception that a passenger flying on both the international and domestic stages of the same flight should be counted as both a domestic and an international passenger.

Concept references

Source	URL
Glossary of Terms - ICAO DATA+	https://dataplus.icao.int/content/docs/glossary.pdf

Methodology

The data is obtained from airports, airport operators, airport websites and/or civil aviation authorities. Data on passengers are reported annually by each State (for all its commercial air carriers, including scheduled and non-scheduled flights) via standardized forms sent to ICAO.

Each passenger is counted once per flight number and not repeatedly on each individual stage of that flight, with a single exception that a passenger flying on both the international and domestic stages of the same flight should be counted as both a domestic and an international passenger.

Where some carriers do not report, ICAO may use historical reports or published flight-schedules to estimate their traffic.

Methodology references

Source	URL
Presentation of 2023 Air Transport statistical results	https://www2023.icao.int/sustainability/WorldofAirTransport/Pages/presentation-of-2023-air-transport-statistical-results.aspx
ICAO Frequently Asked Questions	https://dataplus.icao.int/Home/FAQ?utm_source

Aggregation method

Sum

Geographic and time coverage

Time coverage

Start	End
1970	2023

Economies

Name	Code
Aruba	ABW
Afghanistan	AFG
Angola	AGO
Albania	ALB
Argentina	ARG
United Arab Emirates	ARE
Armenia	ARM
American Samoa	ASM
Australia	AUS
Antigua and Barbuda	ATG
Austria	AUT
Azerbaijan	AZE
Burundi	BDI
Belgium	BEL
Bangladesh	BGD
Burkina Faso	BFA
Benin	BEN
Bulgaria	BGR
Bahrain	BHR
Bahamas, The	BHS
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH
Belarus	BLR
Belize	BLZ
Brazil	BRA
Bolivia	BOL
Barbados	BRB
Brunei Darussalam	BRN
Botswana	BWA
Bhutan	BTN
Central African Republic	CAF
Switzerland	CHE

Chile	CHL
Cameroon	CMR
Côte d'Ivoire	CIV
Congo, Dem. Rep.	COD
Congo, Rep.	COG
Comoros	COM
Cabo Verde	CPV
Canada	CAN
China	CHN
Costa Rica	CRI
Cuba	CUB
Cyprus	CYP
Colombia	COL
Czechia	CZE
Germany	DEU
Djibouti	DJI
Dominican Republic	DOM
Algeria	DZA
Denmark	DNK
Ecuador	ECU
Egypt, Arab Rep.	EGY
Eritrea	ERI
Estonia	EST
Spain	ESP
Ethiopia	ETH
France	FRA
Finland	FIN
Fiji	FJI
Gabon	GAB
United Kingdom	GBR
Georgia	GEO
Gambia, The	GMB
Guinea-Bissau	GNB
Ghana	GHA
Guinea	GIN
Guam	GUM
Greece	GRC
Equatorial Guinea	GNQ
Guyana	GUY
Hong Kong SAR, China	HKG
Honduras	HND
Guatemala	GTM

Croatia	HRV
India	IND
Ireland	IRL
Indonesia	IDN
Israel	ISR
Haiti	HTI
Iran, Islamic Rep.	IRN
Iraq	IRQ
Iceland	ISL
Kazakhstan	KAZ
Jamaica	JAM
Hungary	HUN
Japan	JPN
Jordan	JOR
Cambodia	KHM
Kenya	KEN
Kuwait	KWT
Kiribati	KIR
Kyrgyz Republic	KGZ
Lebanon	LBN
Korea, Rep.	KOR
Italy	ITA
Libya	LBY
Liberia	LBR
Lesotho	LSO
Sri Lanka	LKA
Luxembourg	LUX
Lao PDR	LAO
Macao SAR, China	MAC
Latvia	LVA
Lithuania	LTU
Madagascar	MDG
Morocco	MAR
Monaco	MCO
Moldova	MDA
Marshall Islands	MHL
Malta	MLT
Maldives	MDV
Myanmar	MMR
Mexico	MEX
North Macedonia	MKD
Mongolia	MNG

Mozambique	MOZ
Montenegro	MNE
Mauritania	MRT
Namibia	NAM
Malawi	MWI
Mauritius	MUS
Malaysia	MYS
Netherlands	NLD
Mali	MLI
Niger	NER
Norway	NOR
Nigeria	NGA
New Zealand	NZL
Nicaragua	NIC
Nauru	NRU
Oman	OMN
Nepal	NPL
Peru	PER
Philippines	PHL
Pakistan	PAK
Panama	PAN
Korea, Dem. People's Rep.	PRK
Portugal	PRT
Paraguay	PRY
Poland	POL
Papua New Guinea	PNG
Romania	ROU
Russian Federation	RUS
Qatar	QAT
Saudi Arabia	SAU
Rwanda	RWA
El Salvador	SLV
Senegal	SEN
Somalia, Federal Republic of	SOM
Sudan	SDN
Singapore	SGP
Solomon Islands	SLB
Sierra Leone	SLE
São Tomé and Príncipe	STP
Serbia	SRB
Suriname	SUR
Syrian Arab Republic	SYR

Slovak Republic	SVK
Chad	TCD
Sweden	SWE
Thailand	THA
Slovenia	SVN
Seychelles	SYC
Eswatini	SWZ
Togo	TGO
Trinidad and Tobago	TTO
Turkmenistan	TKM
Tonga	TON
Uganda	UGA
Tunisia	TUN
Tanzania	TZA
Türkiye	TUR
Tajikistan	TJK
Venezuela, RB	VEN
Uzbekistan	UZB
Vietnam	VNM
Uruguay	URY
Vanuatu	VUT
Yemen, Rep.	YEM
South Africa	ZAF
Samoa	WSM
Zambia	ZMB
Zimbabwe	ZWE
Ukraine	UKR
United States	USA

Geographic areas

Name	Code
Africa Eastern and Southern	AFE
Africa Western and Central	AFW
Arab World	ARB
Central Europe and the Baltics	CEB
Caribbean small states	CSS
East Asia & Pacific	EAS
Europe & Central Asia (excluding high income)	ECA
Europe & Central Asia	ECS
Euro area	EMU
East Asia & Pacific (excluding high income)	EAP
European Union	EUU

Early-demographic dividend	EAR
Fragile and conflict affected situations	FCS
High income	HIC
IDA total	IDA
Heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC)	HPC
IBRD only	IBD
IDA & IBRD total	IBT
IDA blend	IDB
IDA only	IDX
Latin America & Caribbean (excluding high income)	LAC
Low income	LIC
Lower middle income	LMC
Latin America & Caribbean	LCN
Least developed countries: UN classification	LDC
Low & middle income	LMY
Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan	MEA
Late-demographic dividend	LTE
Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan (excluding high income)	MNA
Middle income	MIC
North America	NAC
OECD members	OED
Other small states	OSS
Pre-demographic dividend	PRE
Pacific island small states	PSS
Post-demographic dividend	PST
South Asia	SAS
Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding high income)	SSA
Sub-Saharan Africa	SSF
Small states	SST
Europe & Central Asia (IDA & IBRD)	TEC
Latin America & Caribbean (IDA & IBRD)	TLA
South Asia (IDA & IBRD)	TSA
Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan (IDA & IBRD)	TMN
Sub-Saharan Africa (IDA & IBRD)	TSS
Upper middle income	UMC
East Asia & Pacific (IDA & IBRD)	TEA
World	WLD

Access and use

License

Name	URL
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Confidentiality status

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API documentation

Description	URL
Developer Information webpage (detailed documentation of the WDI API)	https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/topics/125589-developer-information

Sources and citation

Authoring entity

Name	Affiliation	Abbreviation	Email
International Civil Aviation Organization	UN	ICAO	cads@icao.int

Sources of data

Sources of data

Title

Civil Aviation Statistics of the World

Author (Organization)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Electronic location or identifier

<https://data.icao.int/newdataplus/#:~:text=ICAO%20data%20is%20comprised%20of,information%20about%20commercial%20air%20carriers>

Sources of data

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ICAO Staff estimates

Author (Organization)

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