

UK Civil Aviation Authority

CAA Aviation Trends Quarter 2 2026

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Report Notes

1. Welcome to the CAA's *Aviation Trends* report. Every quarter we update key metrics which summarise "commercial" aviation activity at the United Kingdom's airports. Please note that the figures may be subject to minor changes in future due to on-going adjustment, revision and updates - historic reports will not be reissued.
2. The data in this report is compiled by the CAA with the co-operation of UK airport and airline operators. Their assistance is gratefully acknowledged. More detailed data and information regarding the source(s) are available on the CAA's website: https://www.caa.co.uk/data-and-analysis/uk-aviation-market/
3. Since the information contained in this report has been acquired from multiple sources, it is not possible for the CAA to check and verify whether it is accurate and correct nor do we undertake to do so. Consequently the CAA cannot accept any liability caused by any person's reliance on it.
4. For the purposes of this report the Channel Islands - Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney - and the Isle of Man are considered domestic aviation and their data is included, despite not formally being part of the United Kingdom.
5. Terminal Passengers
    a. Terminal passenger are travellers who board or disembark a commercial flight at a UK reporting airport. Note: domestic passengers are effectively counted twice (on boarding at one UK airport and disembarking at another) and therefore the figures displayed will not reflect the number of "onboard" passengers in the UK aviation market.
    b. Load Factor is calculated by dividing the number of passengers on a flight by the total number of seats expressed as a percentage - i.e. reflecting the seat occupancy on flights.
6. Air Transport Movements (ATMs)
    a. Similar to Terminal Passengers (above), an ATM between two UK airports - i.e. a domestic flight - will be counted twice, once on departure and on arrival at the destination airport.
    b. Data excludes Air Taxi flights: this is charter air transport movements performed by aircraft with a Maximum Take Off Weight (MTOW) of below 15 tonnes.
7. Cargo Tonnage data represents freight and mail which is transported into and out of the UK on air freighters and in the belly hold of passenger aircraft. Any cargo transiting the UK is not included in the figures.
8. Punctuality
    a. The CAA collects punctuality information from 25 UK airports - these are typically the largest airports in terms of movements/passengers. For the full list please visit the link below
    b. In the punctuality data, 'delay' is recorded as the difference between an aircraft's scheduled arrival or departure time and the actual time it reaches or departs the airport gate (pre 2018 'delay' was measured as the difference between the scheduled time and a calculated time that the aircraft reached/departed the gate by taking the time the aircraft arrived at the runway and a fixed taxi time to/from the gate (see the link below for more information).
    c. In 2018 the CAA began formally collecting flight cancellation information from airport suppliers. Before this data was supplied to the CAA on a voluntary basis. For more information on what formally constitutes a cancellation in the CAA data, please visit the link below.
    d. A flight is deemed to be "on-time" if it arrives or departs from the airport gate within 15 minutes of its scheduled time. The figures displayed in this report are an aggregation of UK arrival and departure punctuality.
    e. Since the CAA only collects information from UK airports, this report contains no information about overseas punctuality. This is pertinent particularly for flights departing the UK where time may be gained (or lost) en-route and therefore the total delay experienced by passengers may vary to that published.
    f. Average delay minutes are calculated from the total minutes of delay recorded by all flights (with early flights counted as zero minutes delay) divided by the total number of flights operated.
    g. More details regarding CAA punctuality statistics can be found here: https://www.caa.co.uk/data-and-analysis/uk-aviation-market/flight-punctuality/uk-flight-punctuality-statistics/
9. As some of the trends in this report are long term (30+ years), not all airports consistently reported to the CAA over this period - particularly regarding punctuality dataset. Therefore these figures should be used as a guide of national performance and not necessarily the precise results.

Key Performance Indicators - Q2 2026 (vs 2025)

Passengers



81.2M

+0%

Flights (ATM's)



560K

+1%

Cargo Tonnage



689K

+1%

Load Factor



83%

-0.9%pt

Flights On Time*



74%

-1%pt

Average Delay



14min

1min

The figures on the left show the number of passengers, air transport movements (ATMs) and cargo volumes for the quarter. The load factor (the percentage of seats occupied on flights) and punctuality metrics are also displayed.

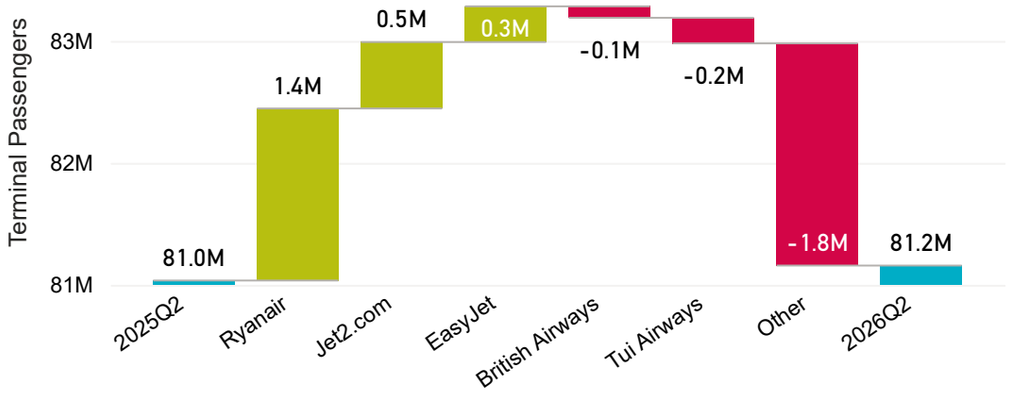
The text in green or red show growth rates relative to the same period last year.

* A flight is considered "on time" if it arrives or departs the gate within 15 minutes of the scheduled time.

Terminal passengers Q2 2026

Year-on-year comparison

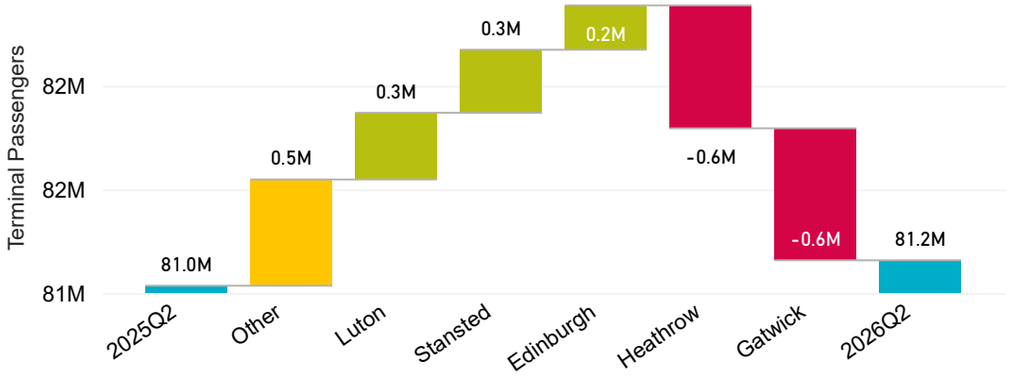
Terminal passengers by airline



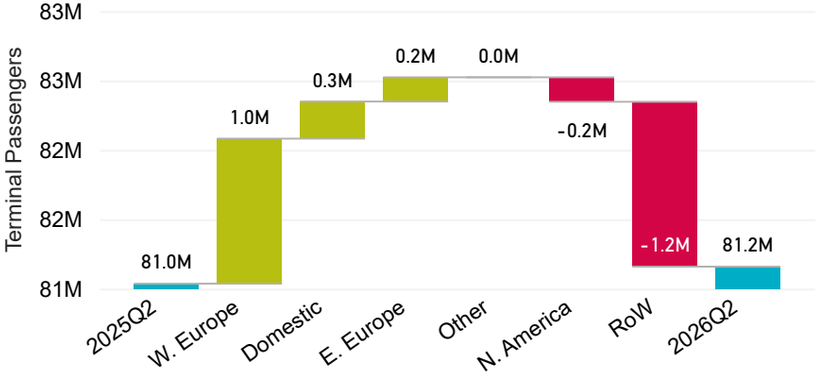
Terminal passengers by scheduled & charter services



Terminal passengers by reporting airport



Terminal passengers by market



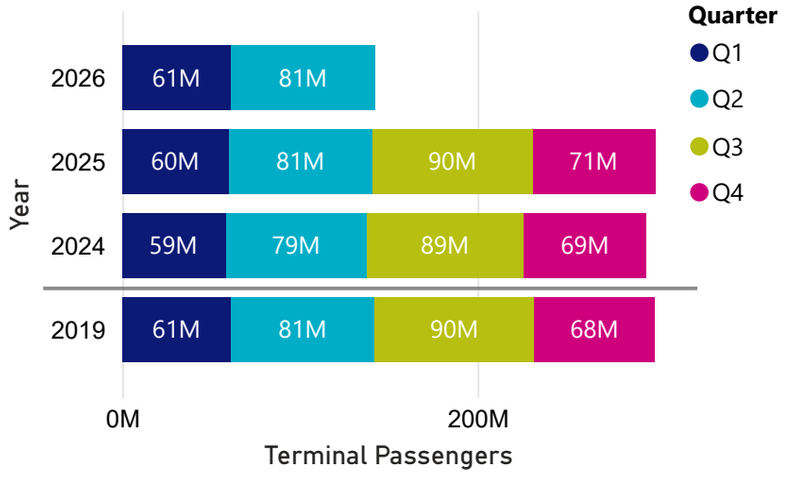
The number of terminal passengers in Q2 was 81.2M up from 81.0M in the same period last year.

The charts on this page show the distribution of passenger growth across UK airports, airlines, operation type and market. The top 5 contributors are displayed for airports and airlines with the remainder grouped as “Other”.

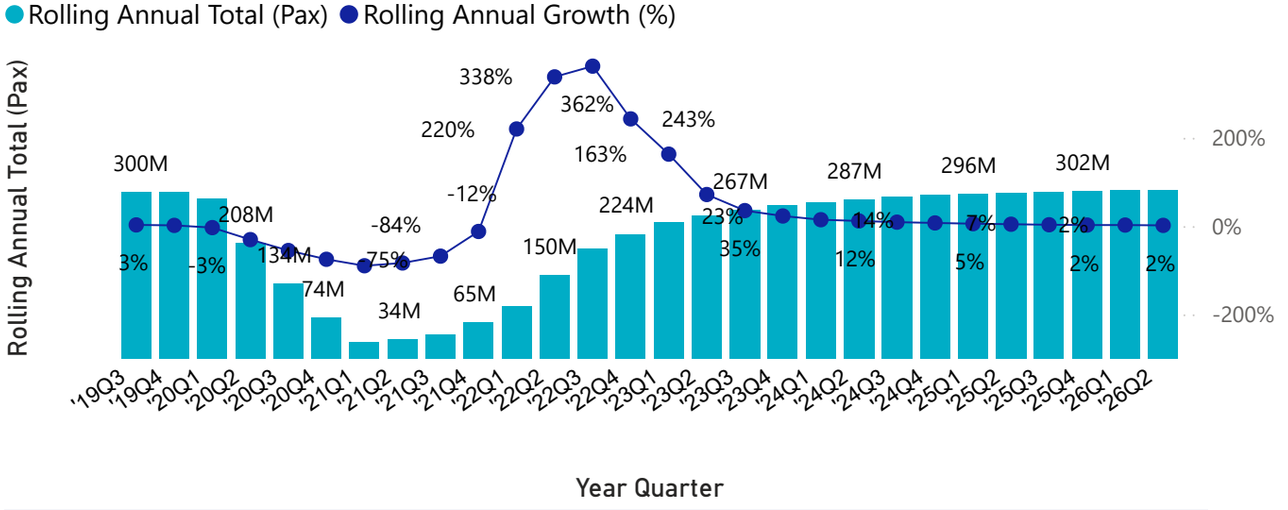
Terminal passengers

5 Year Trend

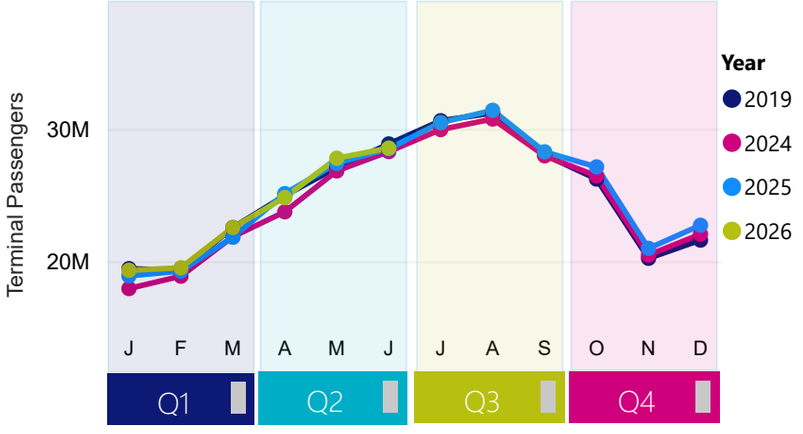
Quarterly



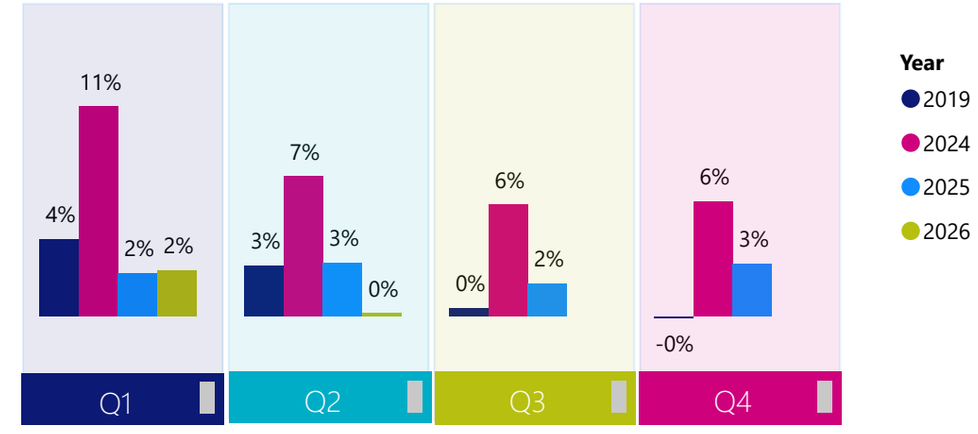
Rolling 12-month total



Monthly



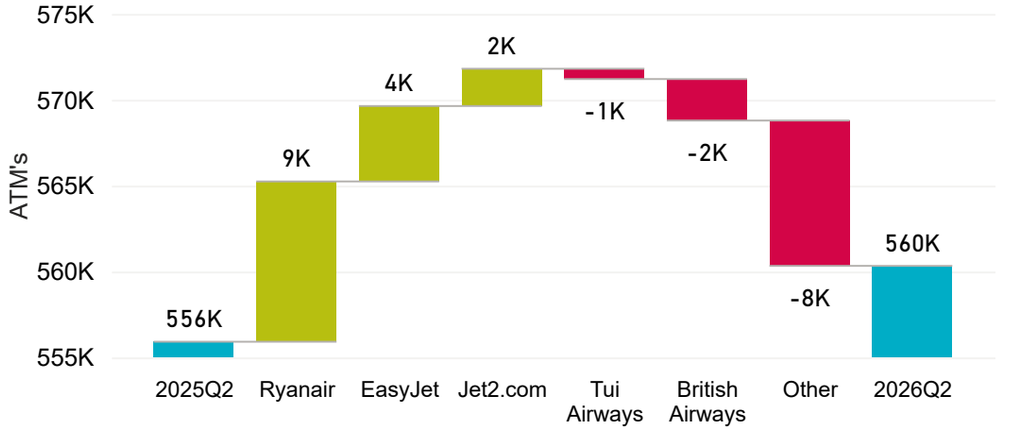
Year-on-year % Variance



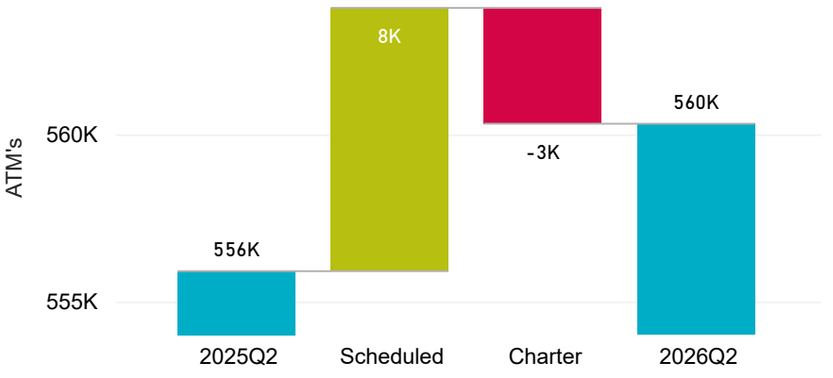
Air Transport Movements (ATM's) - Q2 2026

Year-on-year comparison

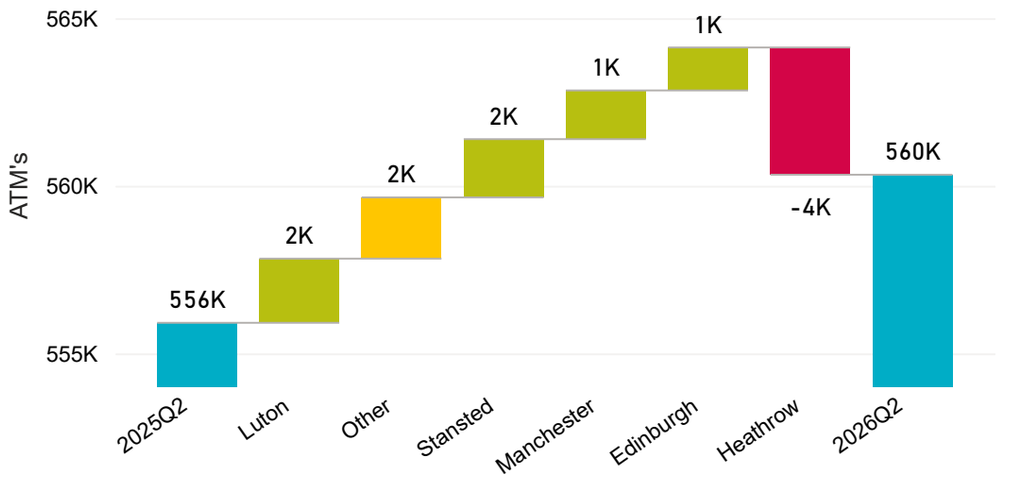
ATM's by airline



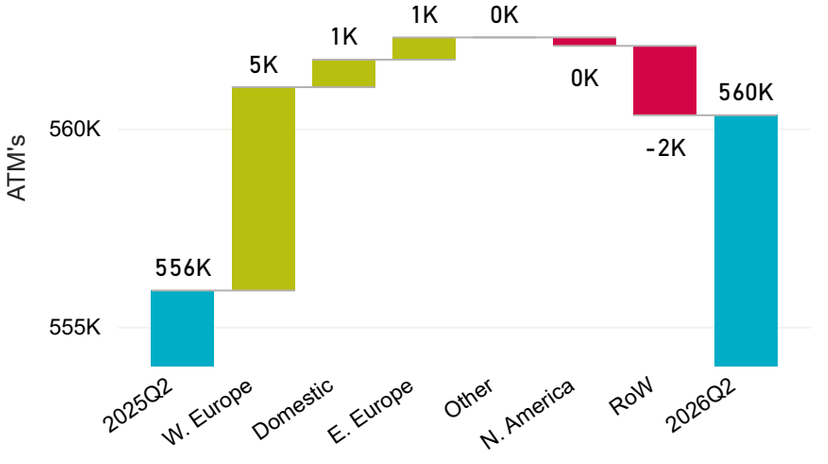
ATM's by scheduled & charter operation



ATM's by reporting airport



ATM's by market



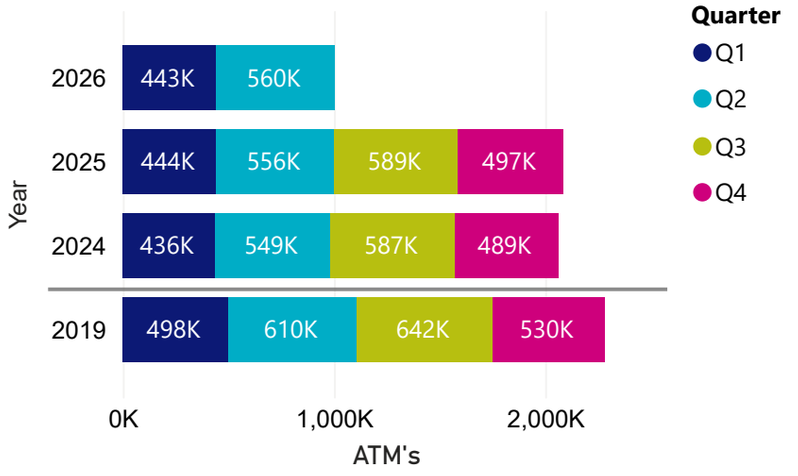
The number of ATMs in Q2 was 560K, slightly up on the same period last year.

The charts on this page show how ATM growth is distributed across UK airports, airlines, operation type and market. The top 5 contributors are displayed for airports and airlines with the remainder grouped as "Other".

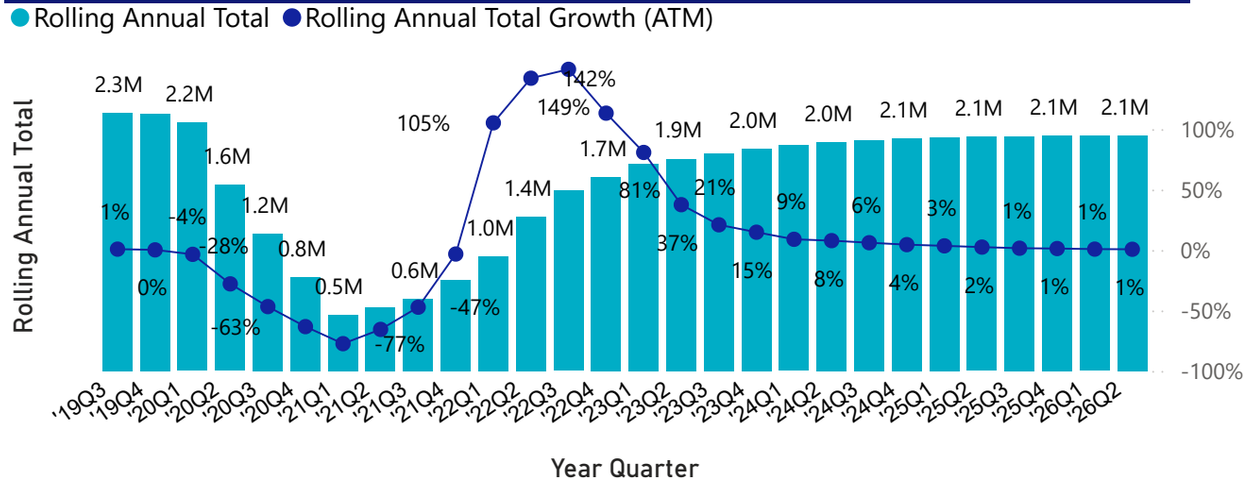
Air Transport Movements (ATM's)

5 Year Trend

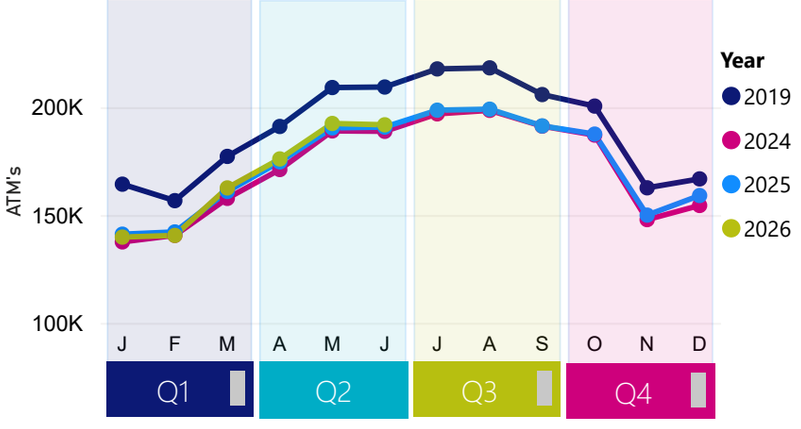
Quarterly



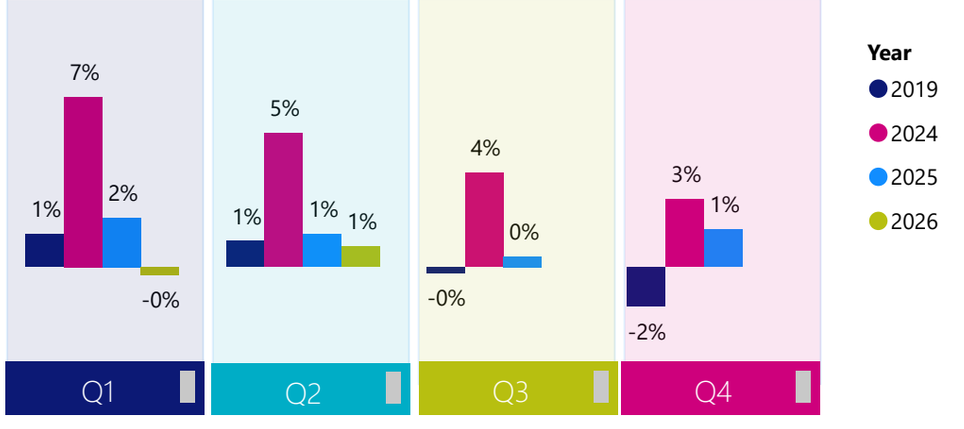
Rolling 12-month total



Monthly



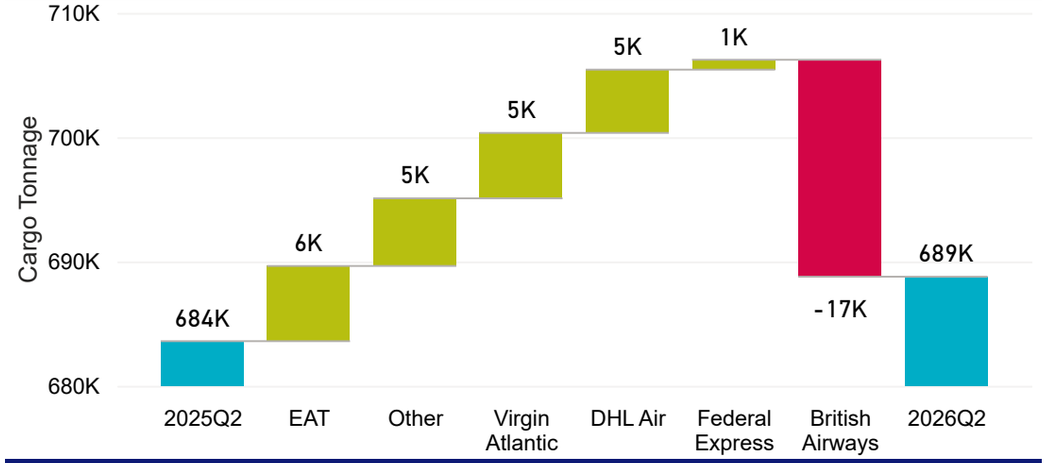
Year-on-year % Variance



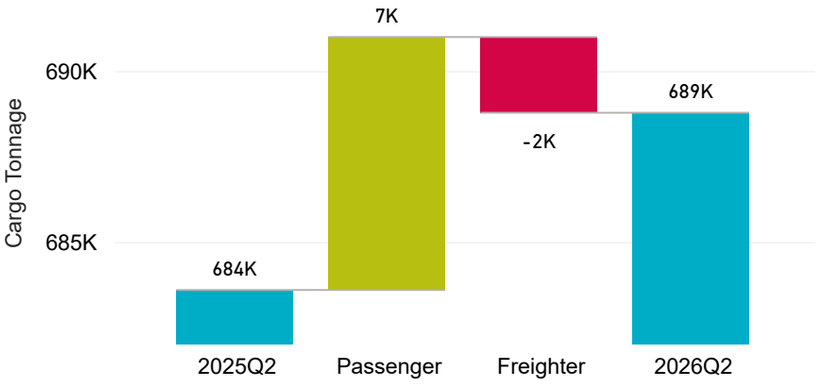
Cargo Tonnage - Q2 2026

Year-on-year comparison

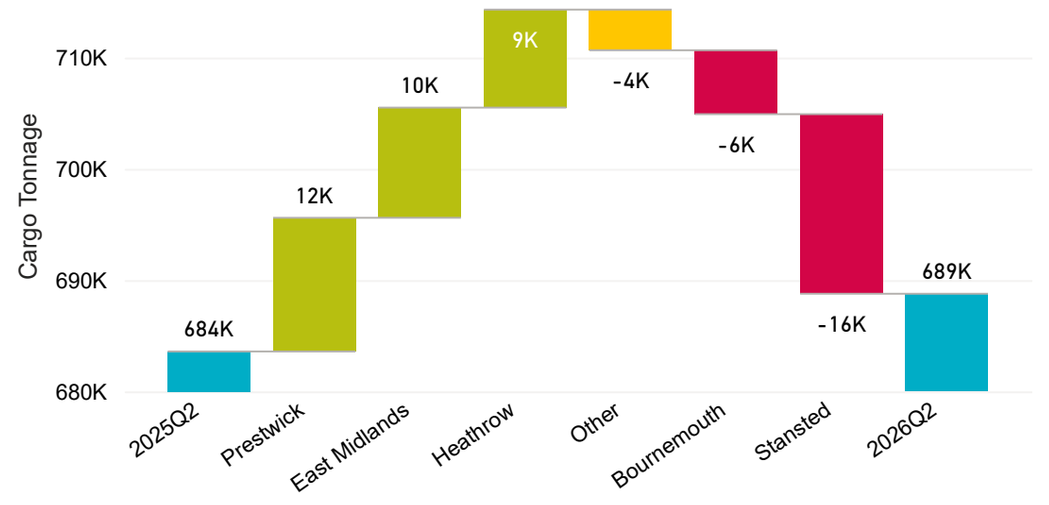
Cargo tonnage by airline



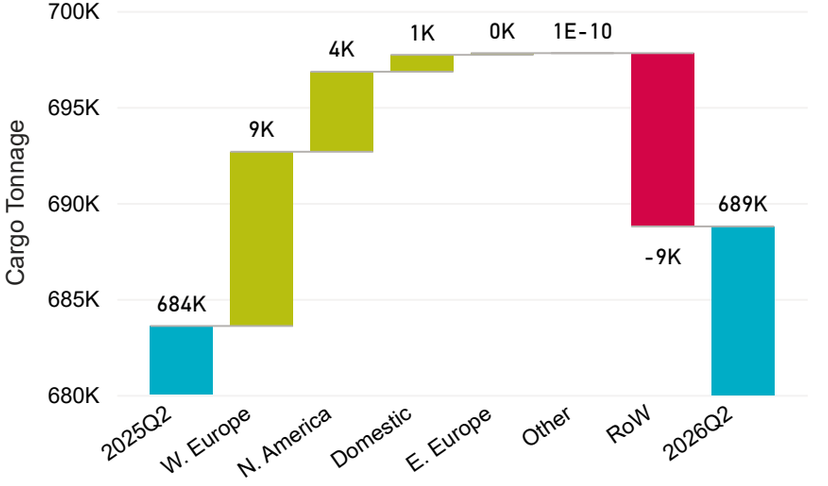
Cargo tonnage by passenger & freighter services



Cargo tonnage by reporting airport



Cargo tonnage by market



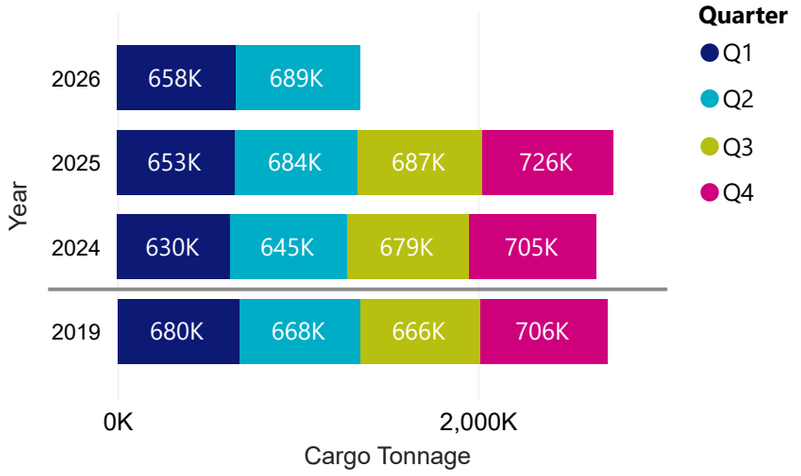
Cargo Tonnage in Q2 was 689K up from 684K in the same period last year.

The charts on this page show how cargo tonnage growth is distributed across UK airports, airlines, operation type and market. The top 5 contributors are displayed for airports and airlines with the remainder grouped as “Other”.

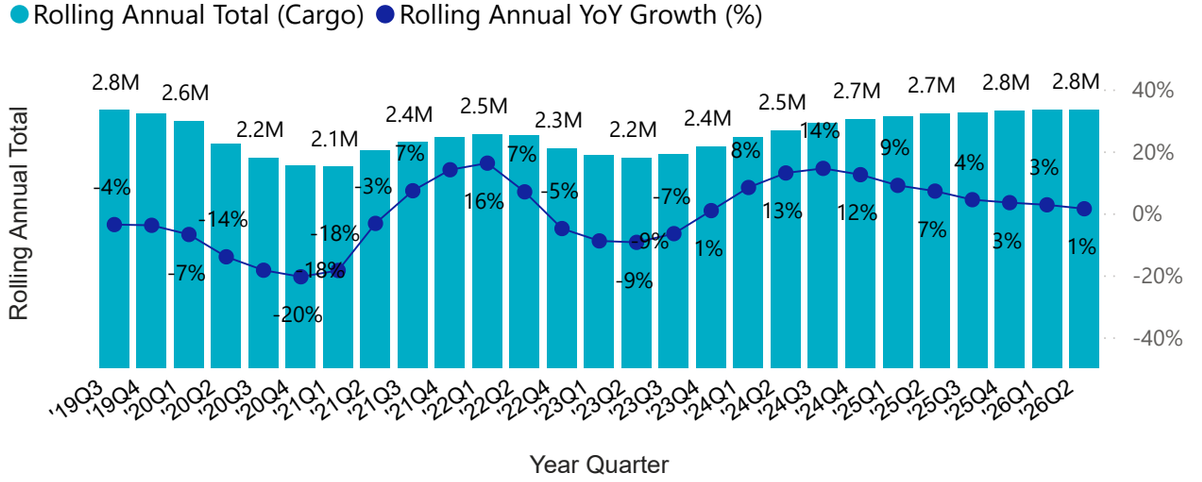
Cargo Tonnage

5 Year Trend

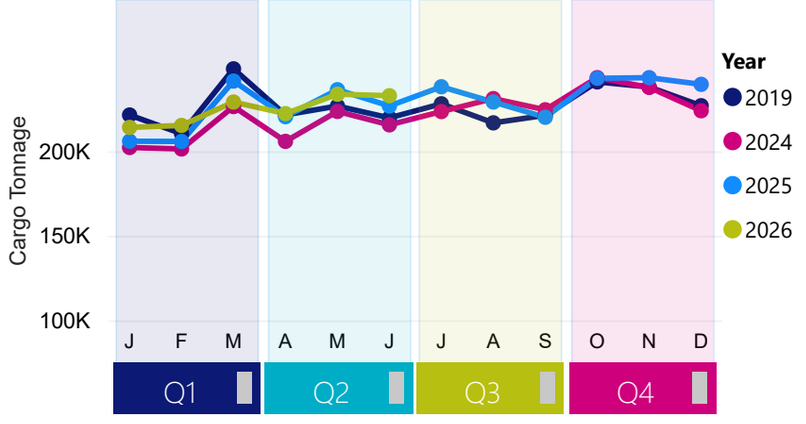
Quarterly



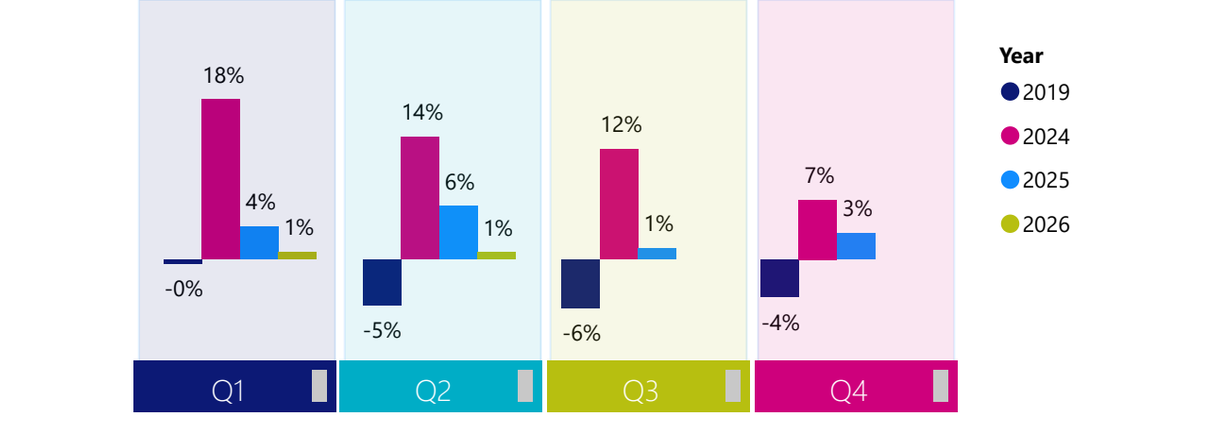
Rolling 12-month total



Monthly



Year-on-year % Variance



Punctuality Trends - Q2 2026

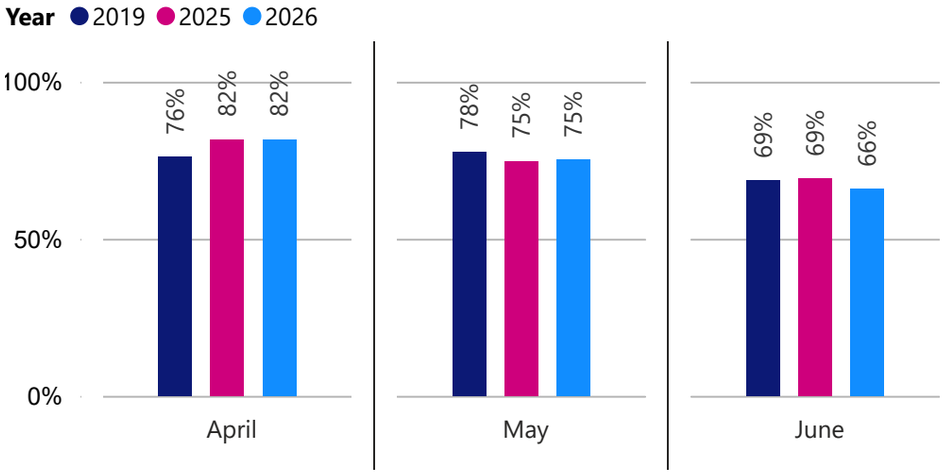
vs Last Year & 2019

NB: Delays can occur for multiple reasons - many of which are out of the control of industry operators

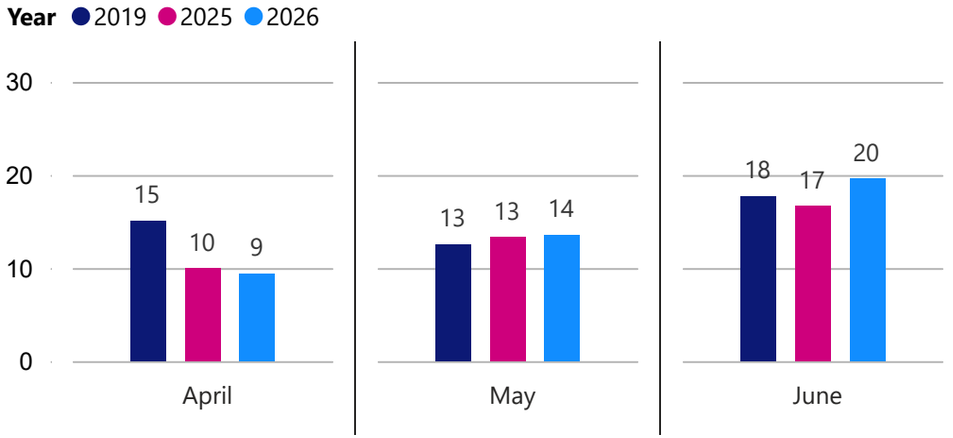
Quarterly Results

Quarterly % On-Time Flights	Average Delay per Flight:	Quarterly % Flights Cancelled
74%	**14min**	**0.91%**
Last Year: 75% ▼	Last Year: 13mins ▲	Last Year: 0.70% ▲
2019: 74% ▼	2019: 15mins ▼	2019: 0.67% ▲

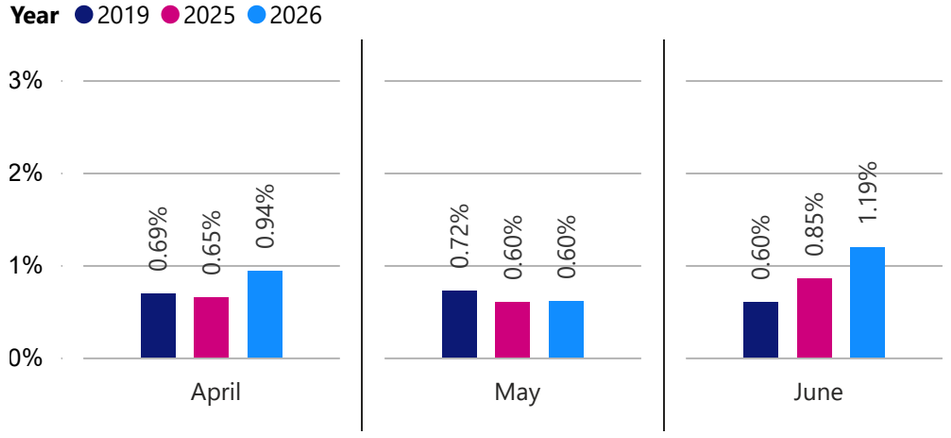
% On-Time Flights (within 15mins of schedule)



Average Delay per Flight (mins)



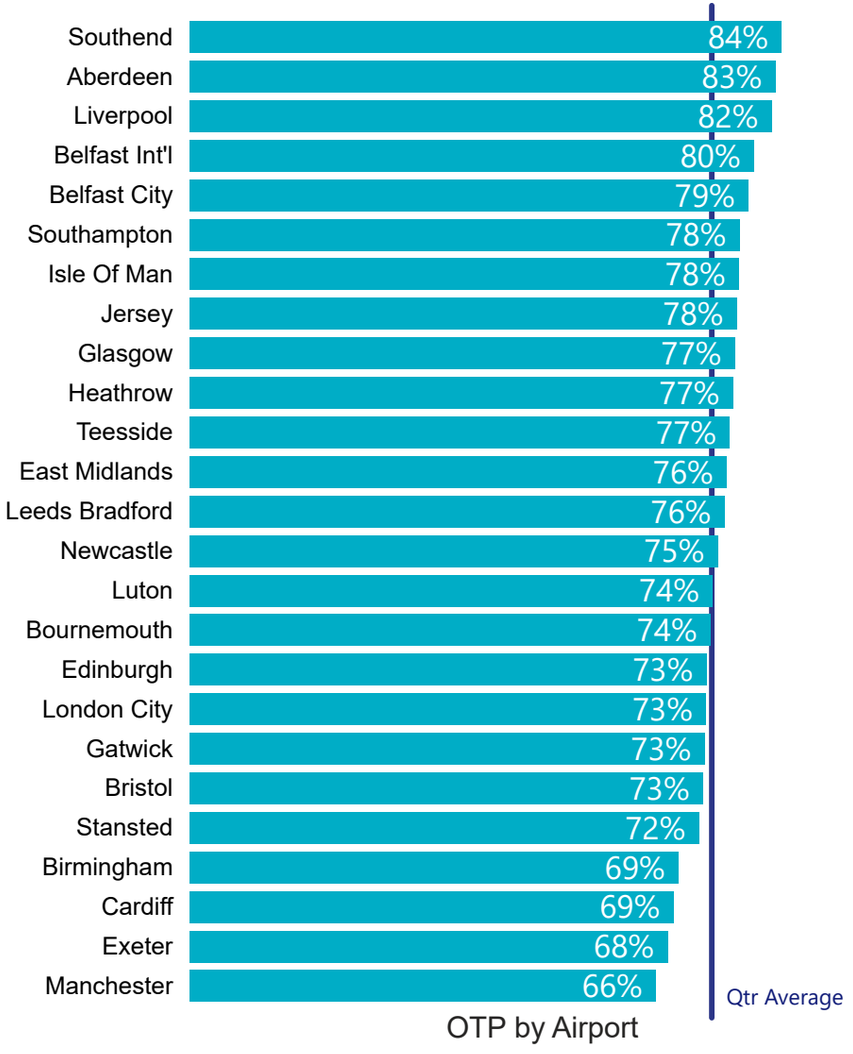
% Flights Cancelled (inside 24hr before departure)



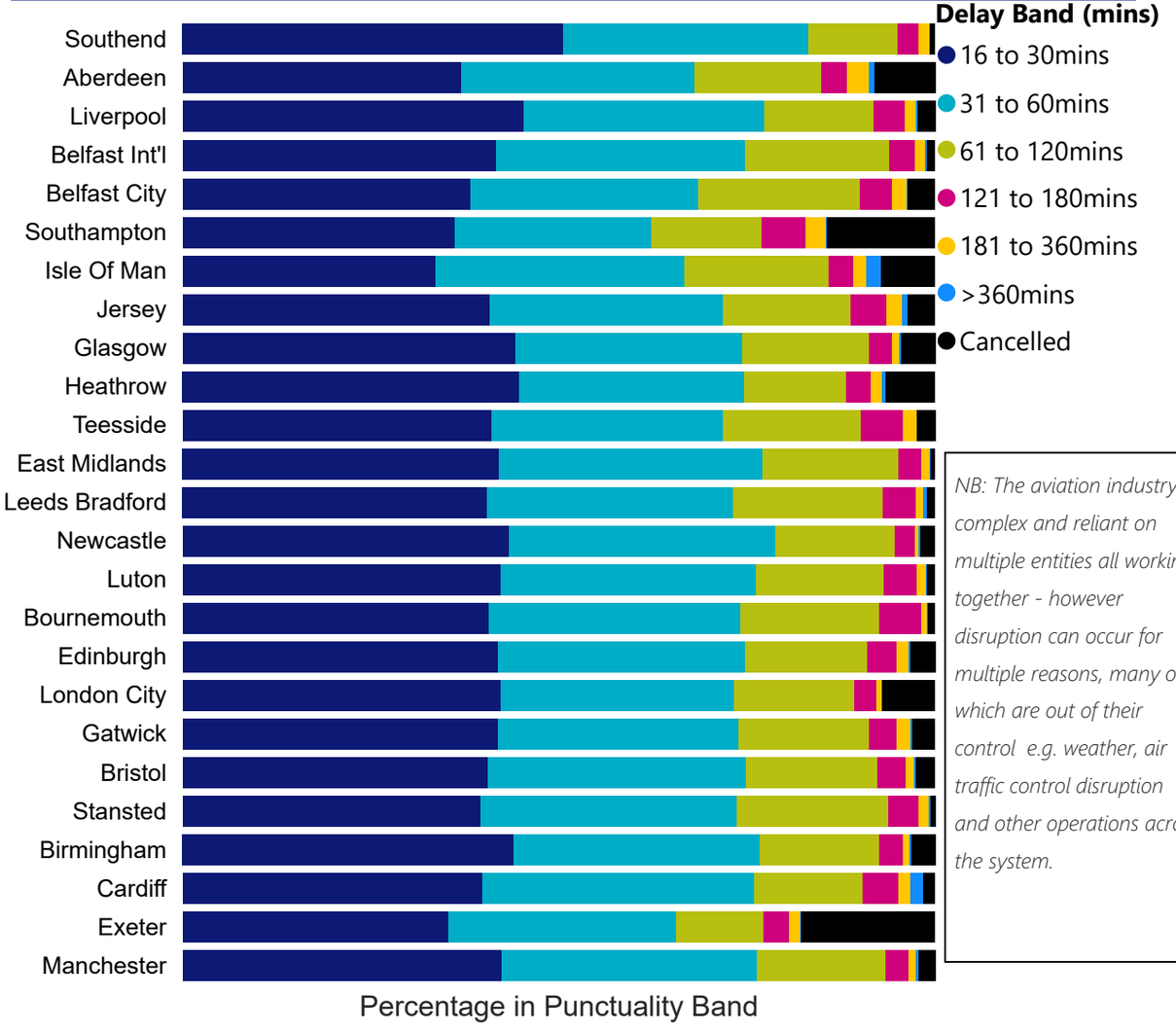
Flight Punctuality - Q2 2026 (UK Arrivals & Departures)

CAA (UK) reporting airports

Percentage of flights on time (<15mins)



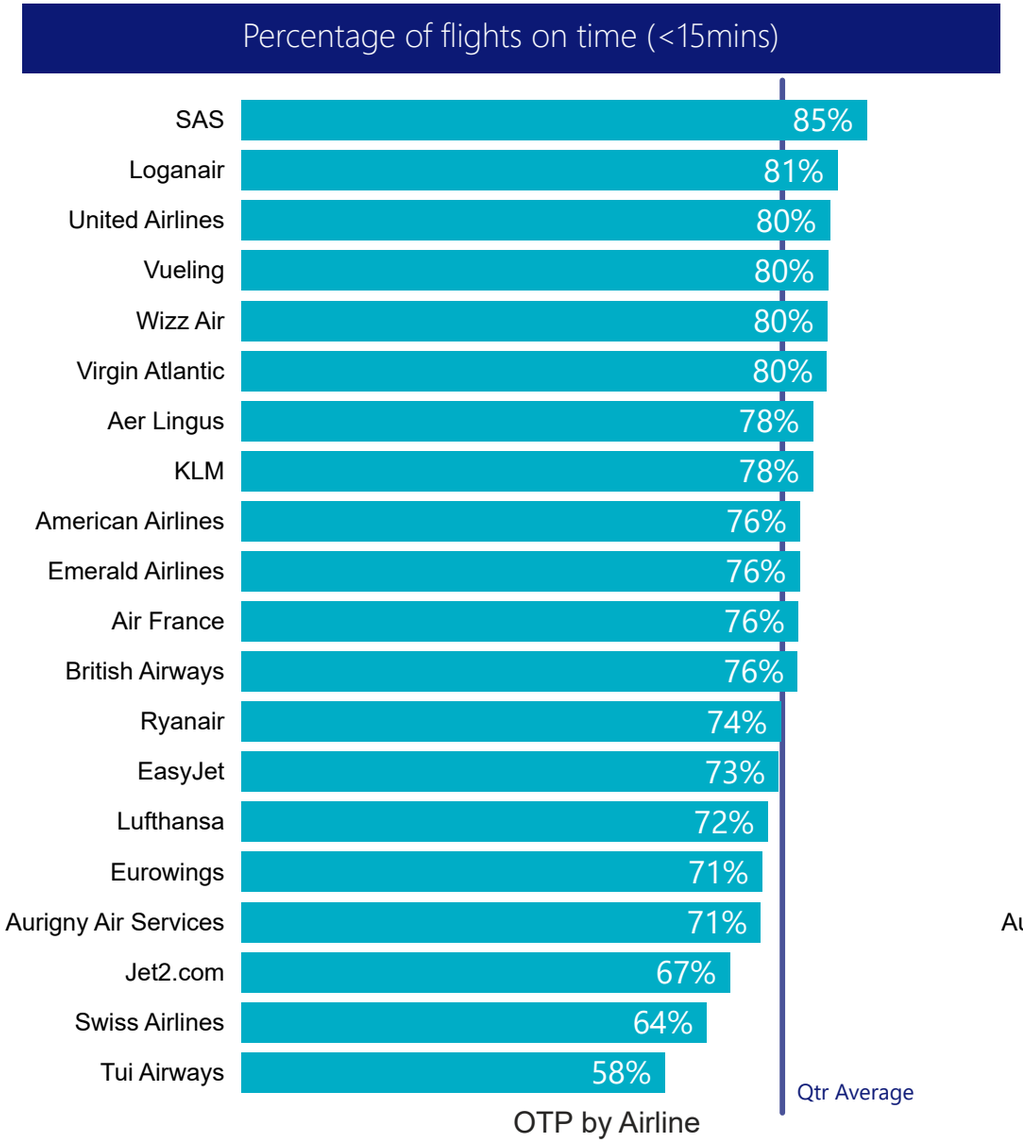
Distribution of delayed flights

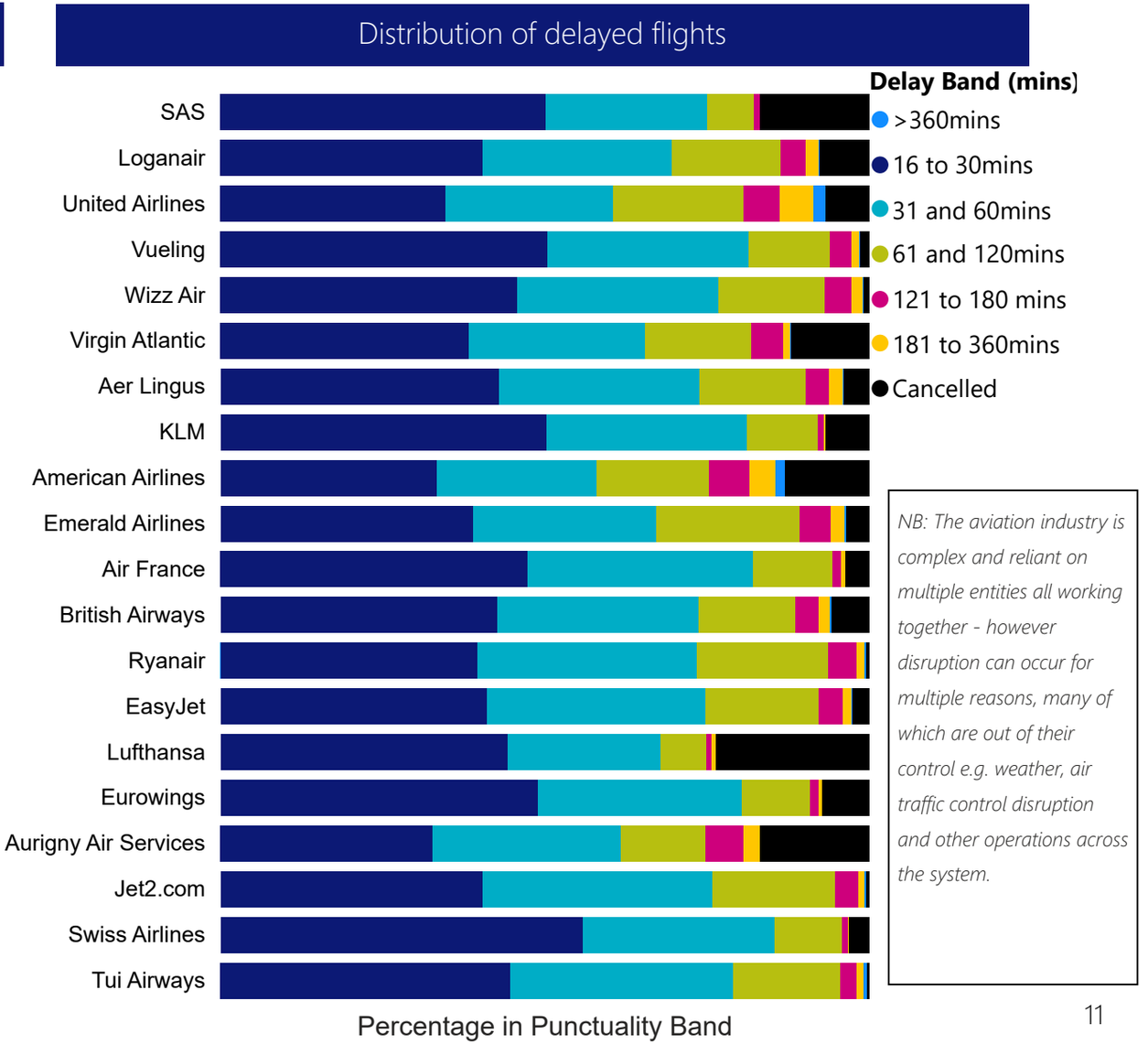


NB: The aviation industry is complex and reliant on multiple entities all working together - however disruption can occur for multiple reasons, many of which are out of their control e.g. weather, air traffic control disruption and other operations across the system.

Flight Punctuality - Q2 2026 (UK Arrivals & Departures)

Top 20 largest airlines by ATM's



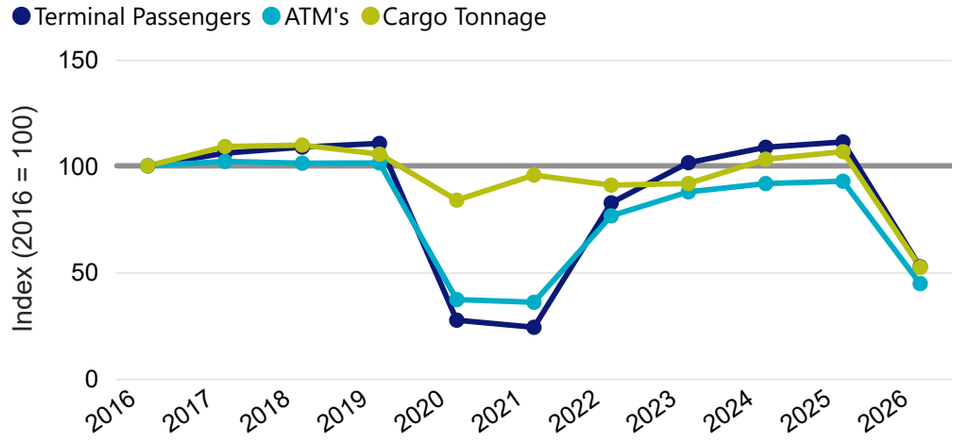


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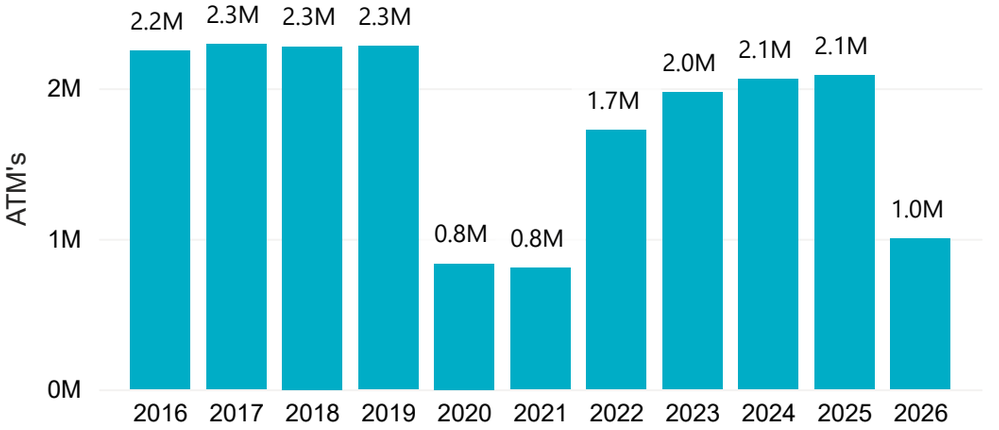
10 year trends

Terminal Passengers, Air Transport Movements (ATM) and Cargo Tonnage (NB: 2026 values are year-to-date and will update throughout the year)

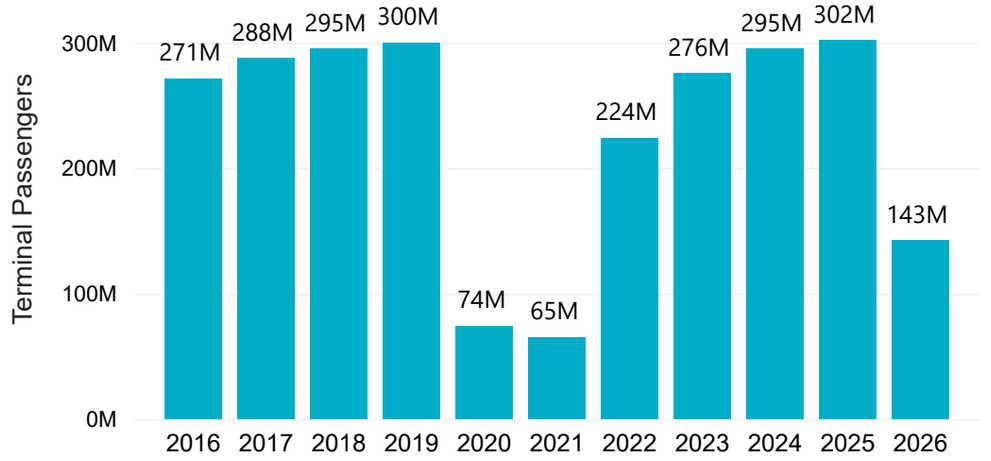
Indexed passenger, ATM and cargo growth (2016 = 100)



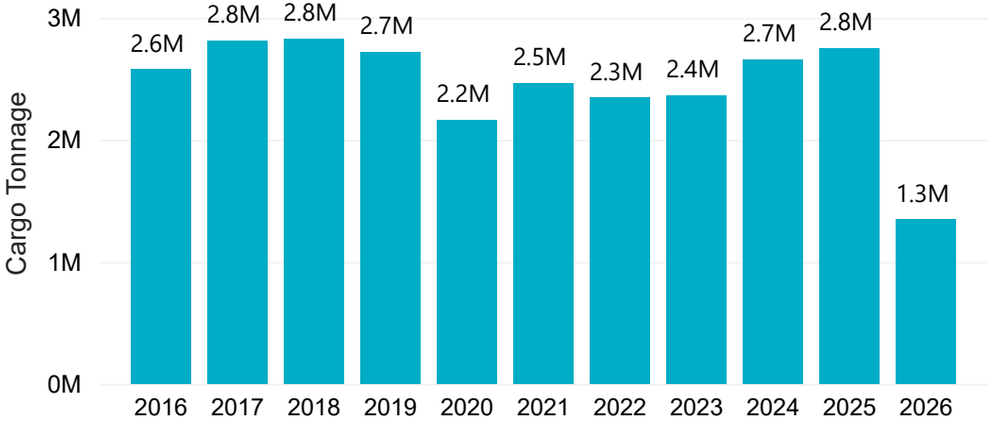
ATM's (millions)



Terminal passengers (millions)



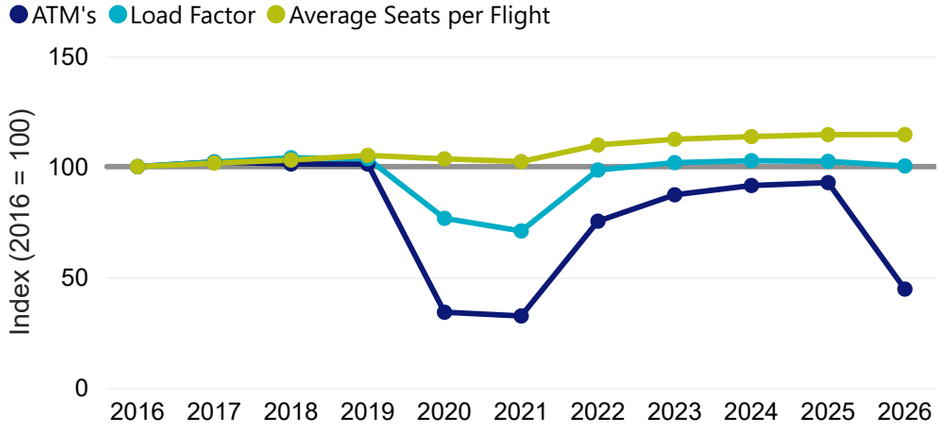
Cargo tonnage (millions)



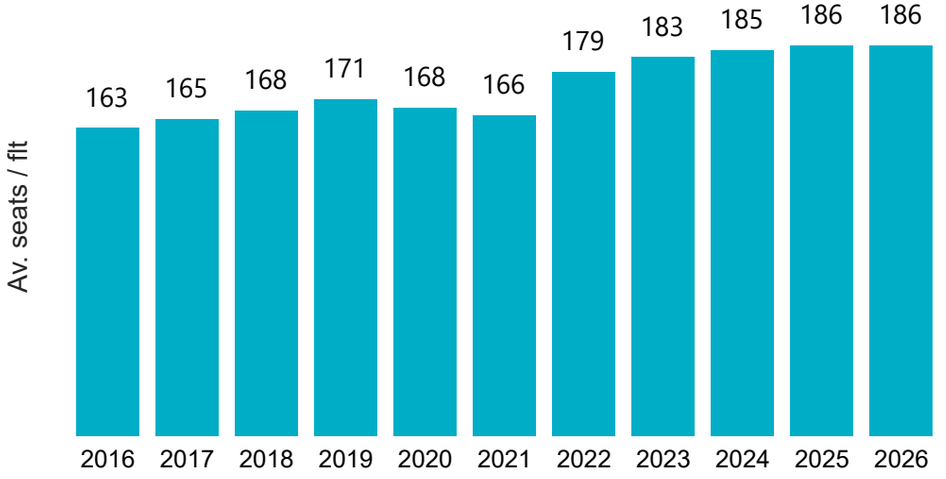
10 Year trends

Load Factor & Average Seats per Flight (NB: 2026 values are year-to-date and will update throughout the year)

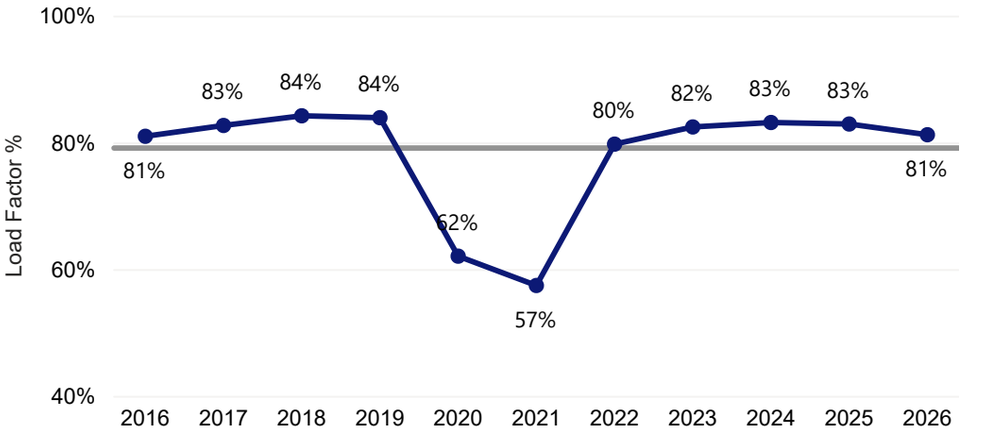
Indexed ATM, load factor and av. seats per flight (2016 = 100)



Average seats per flight



Average load factor (%)

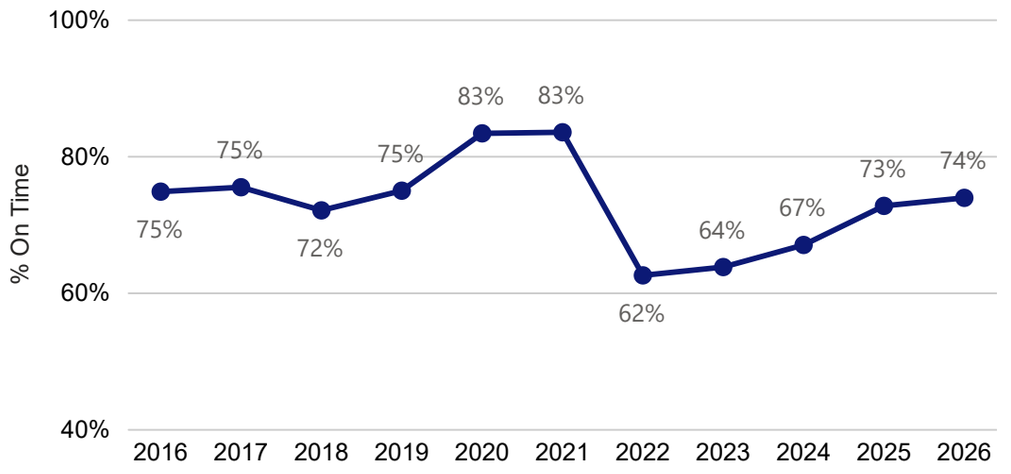


NB: Load Factor (%) represents the proportion of seats on a flight used on a flight i.e. Terminal Passengers / Total Seats.

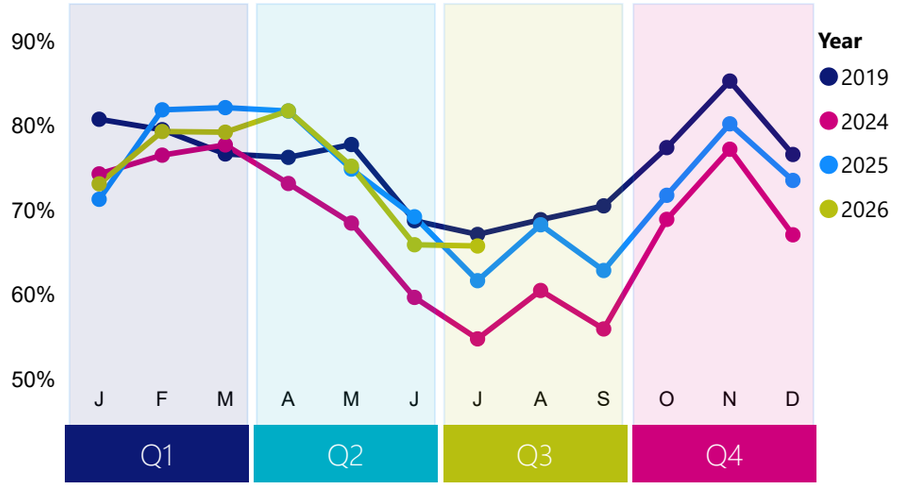
10 Year trends

Punctuality (NB: 2026 values are year-to-date and will update throughout the year)

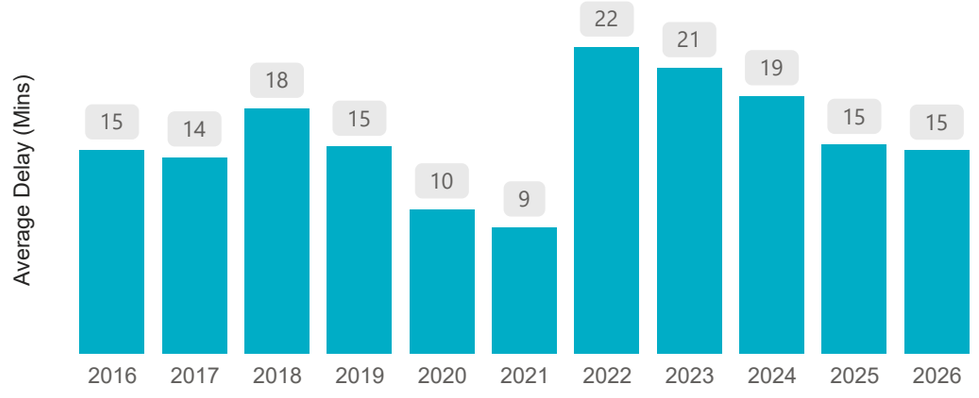
% On-time performance (OTP) <15mins



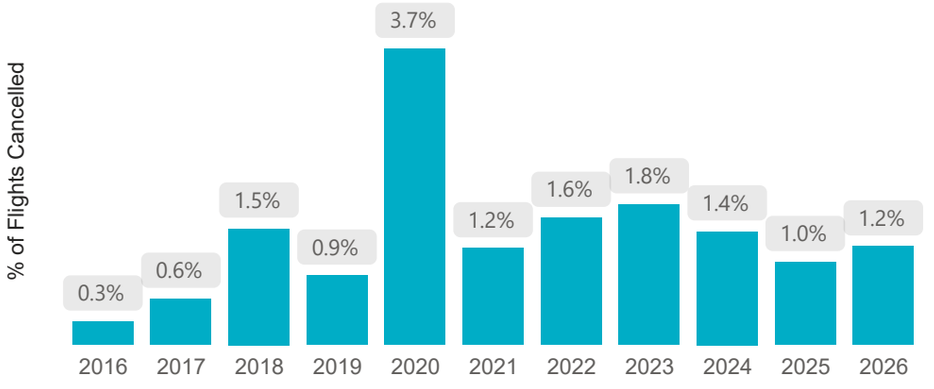
% OTP by month (last five years)



Average delay minutes per flight



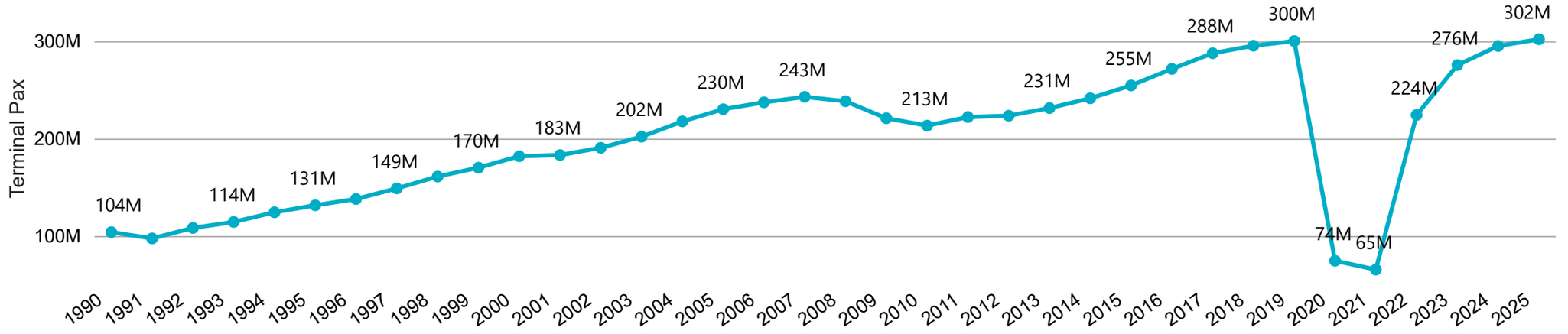
% of flights cancelled (within 24hr before departure)



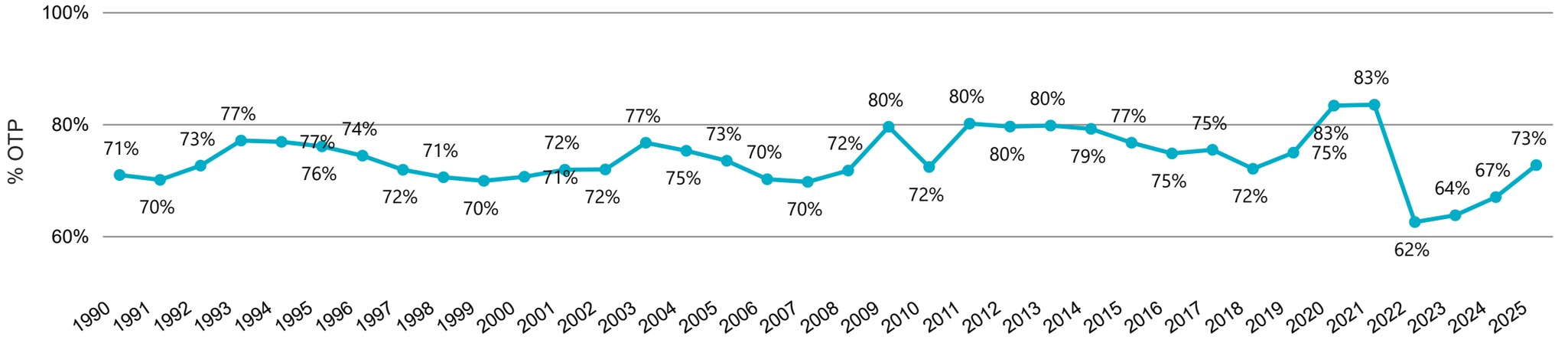
Trend since 1990 (30+ years)

Terminal Passengers and % On-Time Performance

Annual UK Terminal Passengers (1990 - 2025)

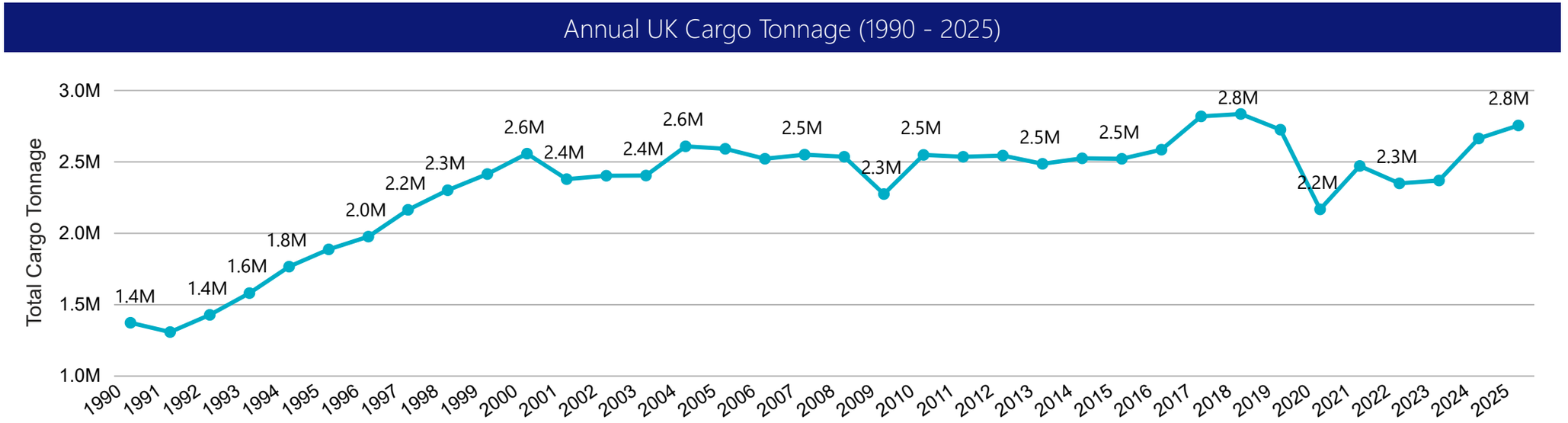


On-Time Performance (within 15mins of schedule)



Trends since 1990 (30+ years)

Cargo Tonnage



Data Tables (Latest Quarter): *Terminal Passengers - Q2 2026*

UK Civil Aviation Authority

Top 25 UK reporting airports

Reporting Airport	Term. Passengers	% YoY
Heathrow	21,069,302	-3%
Gatwick	10,930,562	-6%
Manchester	8,554,831	-0%
Stansted	8,276,595	4%
Luton	5,106,134	7%
Edinburgh	4,826,264	5%
Birmingham	3,750,049	1%
Bristol	3,071,008	2%
Glasgow	2,344,745	3%
Belfast Int'l	1,836,118	2%
Newcastle	1,650,155	8%
Liverpool	1,602,975	1%
Leeds Bradford	1,388,555	6%
East Midlands	1,292,555	3%
London City	916,795	-7%
Belfast City	646,330	8%
Aberdeen	597,369	-1%
Bournemouth	430,561	2%
Jersey	402,964	2%
Cardiff	316,175	16%
Inverness	264,400	8%
Southend	247,124	2%
Southampton	244,963	1%
Prestwick	217,721	4%
Guernsey	189,406	1%
Total	80,173,656	0%

Top 25 Airlines

Airline (groups)	Term. Passengers	% YoY
Ryanair	17,071,909	9%
EasyJet	16,423,111	2%
British Airways	13,459,804	-1%
Jet2.com	6,726,635	9%
Tui Airways	3,231,971	-6%
Wizz Air	2,922,527	-1%
Virgin Atlantic	1,513,849	-2%
KLM	1,231,242	2%
Aer Lingus	1,157,757	-6%
American Airlines	941,076	-7%
Vueling	847,479	-14%
Lufthansa	789,611	-16%
Loganair	773,169	8%
Emirates	736,277	-46%
United Airlines	714,191	6%
Turkish Airlines	547,704	-5%
Air Canada	498,978	4%
Qatar Airways	476,279	-42%
Delta Airlines	465,163	-3%
Swiss Airlines	455,933	11%
Eurowings	427,868	9%
SAS	426,153	-4%
Air France	403,569	9%
Sunexpress	398,711	-22%
Aurigny Air Services	342,576	17%
Total	72,983,542	1%

Top 25 international destinations

OD Airport Name	Term. Passengers	% YoY
Dublin	2,706,684	5%
Palma De Mallorca	2,202,046	3%
Amsterdam	2,123,681	-2%
Alicante	2,020,689	8%
Malaga	1,926,063	4%
Faro	1,618,515	7%
Barcelona	1,496,775	11%
Tenerife (Surreina Sofia)	1,323,794	-3%
Paris (Charles De Gaulle)	1,210,369	6%
Antalya	1,037,626	-12%
Madrid	955,629	15%
New York (Jf Kennedy)	934,533	-14%
Lisbon	836,162	2%
Arrecife	815,801	-2%
Dubai	735,974	-50%
Copenhagen	735,118	2%
Istanbul	707,089	-6%
Dalaman	704,807	-18%
Malta	674,606	11%
Rome (Fiumicino)	668,458	7%
Ibiza	667,426	1%
Krakow	654,004	9%
Rhodes	650,187	9%
Geneva	630,889	1%
Zurich	625,193	11%

Data Tables (Latest Quarter): *ATM's - Q2 2026*

Top 25 UK Reporting Airports			
Reporting Airport	ATM's	% YoY	
Heathrow	118,096	-3%	▼
Gatwick	69,399	-1%	▼
Manchester	53,081	3%	▲
Stansted	51,771	3%	▲
Edinburgh	33,817	4%	▲
Luton	30,119	7%	▲
Birmingham	25,497	1%	▲
Bristol	20,609	5%	▲
Glasgow	19,137	4%	▲
Aberdeen	13,416	-6%	▼
Belfast Int'l	13,071	0%	▲
East Midlands	12,579	5%	▲
London City	11,370	-8%	▼
Newcastle	11,326	7%	▲
Liverpool	10,808	2%	▲
Leeds Bradford	9,861	5%	▲
Belfast City	7,955	12%	▲
Southampton	4,381	6%	▲
Jersey	4,163	-3%	▼
Guernsey	3,954	-9%	▼
Norwich	3,538	-7%	▼
Sumburgh	3,186	-11%	▼
Bournemouth	2,892	0%	▲
Inverness	2,827	6%	▲
Kirkwall	2,570	-2%	▼
Total	539,423	1%	▲

Top 25 international destinations			
OD Airport Name	ATM's	% YoY	
Dublin	22,343	4%	▲
Amsterdam	18,213	-4%	▼
Palma De Mallorca	13,648	3%	▲
Alicante	12,312	12%	▲
Malaga	11,595	5%	▲
Faro	10,030	7%	▲
Paris (Charles De Gaulle)	10,003	6%	▲
Barcelona	9,817	15%	▲
Tenerife (Surreina Sofia)	7,534	-4%	▼
Antalya	6,098	-11%	▼
Madrid	5,952	19%	▲
Copenhagen	5,205	4%	▲
Lisbon	5,192	4%	▲
Zurich	5,033	7%	▲
Arrecife	4,862	-4%	▼
New York (Jf Kennedy)	4,766	-6%	▼
Geneva	4,564	-0%	▼
Ibiza	4,438	3%	▲
Dalaman	4,284	-18%	▼
Rome (Fiumicino)	4,215	3%	▲
Istanbul	4,213	-4%	▼
Malta	4,096	14%	▲
Krakow	3,837	11%	▲
Rhodes	3,745	10%	▲
Dubai	2,757	-32%	▼

ATM's by operation type			
Op. Type	ATM's	% YoY	
Scheduled	532,573	2%	▲
Charter	27,744	-11%	▼

ATM's by market			
Market	ATM's	% YoY	
W. Europe	336,746	2%	▲
Domestic	110,260	1%	▲
RoW	41,101	-4%	▼
E. Europe	39,181	1%	▲
N. America	33,041	-1%	▼

Data Tables (Latest Quarter): *Cargo Tonnage - Q2 2026*

UK Civil Aviation Authority

Cargo Tonnage by UK reporting airport

Reporting Airport	Cargo Tonnage	% YoY
Heathrow	400,350	2% ▲
East Midlands	105,506	10% ▲
Stansted	64,434	-20% ▼
Gatwick	31,139	-7% ▼
Manchester	27,914	23% ▲
Prestwick	18,113	197% ▲
Birmingham	11,228	-34% ▼
Edinburgh	7,321	9% ▲
Luton	6,652	-11% ▼
Belfast Int'l	6,288	-17% ▼
Glasgow	2,785	4% ▲
Teesside	1,888	328% ▲
Bournemouth	1,503	-79% ▼
Aberdeen	1,478	1% ▲
Newcastle	726	-29% ▼
Sumburgh	280	-1% ▼
Kirkwall	274	-11% ▼
Stornoway	203	-12% ▼
Guernsey	200	-40% ▼
Benbecula	189	11% ▲
Islay	103	-5% ▼
Jersey	70	-43% ▼
Bristol	33	2885% ▲
Humberside	27	-17% ▼
Southampton	23	2% ▲
Total	688,729	1%

Top 25 international destinations

OD Airport Name	Cargo Tonnage	% YoY
Leipzig	34,179	15% ▲
New York (Jf Kennedy)	33,638	1% ▲
Dubai	27,899	-25% ▼
Doha Hamad	24,222	-26% ▼
Los Angeles International	21,320	-3% ▼
Mumbai	18,505	26% ▲
Delhi	18,096	24% ▲
Shanghai (Pu Dong)	16,718	0% ▲
Beijing	15,165	17% ▲
Chicago (O'Hare)	15,115	-3% ▼
Singapore	14,086	10% ▲
Hong Kong (Chek Lap Kok)	13,962	-1% ▼
Cologne Bonn	13,302	-6% ▼
Abu Dhabi International	13,102	24% ▲
Guangzhou Baiyun International	12,969	-7% ▼
Istanbul	12,659	-9% ▼
Brussels	11,581	14% ▲
Paris (Charles De Gaulle)	11,563	22% ▲
Cincinnati	11,119	13% ▲
Dallas/Fort Worth	11,099	33% ▲
Toronto	10,312	-3% ▼
Miami International	10,226	-9% ▼
Memphis	8,968	-3% ▼
Atlanta	8,838	16% ▲
Seoul (Incheon)	8,748	32% ▲

Cargo Tonnage by operation type

Op. Type	Cargo Tonnage	% YoY
Scheduled	659,072	2% ▲
Charter	29,703	-21% ▼

Cargo Tonnage by market

Market	Cargo Tonnage	% YoY
RoW	322,801	-3% ▼
N. America	214,862	2% ▲
W. Europe	125,677	8% ▲
Domestic	24,431	4% ▲
E. Europe	1,004	10% ▲