



Domestic traffic reaches nearly 100%

ENAIRe recovered 94.8% of flights in July compared to the record levels of 2019

- ENAIRe managed nearly 210,000 flights in the seventh month of the year
- The recovery of air traffic in Spain exceeds the European average by 7.8 percentage points
- The flights managed in Seville rose by 7.6%
- Fifth consecutive month of traffic growth in the Balearic Islands
- The Canary Islands already exceeds 2019 levels
- Barcelona is the control centre that managed the most flights
- Compared to the number of flights in July 2021, the increase is 39.8% throughout Spain

Madrid, 5 August 2022

The trend in air traffic puts the number of flights managed by ENAIRe throughout Spain at levels very close to those prior to the pandemic. ENAIRe managed nearly 210,000 flights (209,258) in July, which is just 5.2% below the average for the entire network for the same month in 2019, a record year for traffic before the effects of COVID took hold in 2020.

This figure means that ENAIRe, the national air navigation service provider, recovered 94.8% of flights in July compared to 2019 levels.

This recovery in the number of flights in Spain in July is 7.8 percentage points higher than the average recorded throughout Europe, which saw a decrease in July of 13.0% with respect to 2019.

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In July 2022, domestic traffic (41,050 flights) recovered to nearly 100% (99.4%) compared to the same month in 2019. International flights recovered to 91.8% (122,375), and overflights (those that do not depart from or land at a Spanish airport) to 99.5% (45,833).

There was a notable increase in the number of flights managed by the Seville control centre in July, 44,688 (7.6% more than in the same month in 2019), marking the fourth consecutive monthly increase.

In Palma, the number of monthly increases now stands at five, with 48,534 flights managed in July, 3.7% more than in the same month in 2019.

The Canary Islands is already exceeding 2019 levels, with 30,090 flights in July, an increase of 0.4%.

Barcelona, with 108,472 flights, was the ENAIRE control centre with the most flights managed, 1.8% fewer, although domestic flights (19,054) rose by 6.5%. The Madrid Control Centre recorded 104,619 flights, 6.8% fewer.

A comparison between the flights managed by ENAIRE in July 2022 and those in the same period in 2021 reveals an increase of 39.8%.

Air traffic comparison July 2022/2019								
	TOTAL	%	International	%	Domestic	%	Overflights	%
ENAIRe network	209,258	-5.2%	122,375	-8.2%	41,050	-0.6%	45,833	-0.5%
Madrid CC	104,619	-6.8%	51,147	-10.8%	18,283	-4.5%	35,189	-1.6%
Barcelona CC	108,472	-1.8%	77,340	-5.1%	19,054	6.5%	12,078	9.7%
Canary Islands CC	30,090	0.4%	12,914	2.2%	14,011	1.6%	3,165	-10.6%
Seville CC	44,688	7.6%	20,326	-2.0%	11,337	7.7%	13,025	26.8%
Palma CC	48,534	3.7%	35,554	2.8%	12,943	6.3%	37	-40.3%

Note. The total number of flights operated by ENAIRE's network does not necessarily match the total number of flights managed by each Control Centre (CC). This is due to the fact that a flight is registered according to the airspace and route it crosses. For example: a flight departing from Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport bound for Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat will be registered at the Control Centres in Madrid and Barcelona.

Cumulative data for 2022

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In the first seven months of the year, ENAIRE managed nearly 1.1 million flights, 11.4% fewer than in the same period in 2019, of which 628,221 were international (-12.6%), 234,125, domestic (-7.1%) and 235,432 overflights (-12.2%).

A comparison of the flights managed by ENAIRE from January to July with those for the same period in 2021 shows an increase of 123.8%.

Cumulative air traffic comparison January-July 2022/2019								
	TOTAL	%	International	%	Domestic	%	Overflights	%
ENAIRE network	1,097,778	-11.4%	628,221	-12.6%	234,125	-7.1%	235,432	-12.2%
Madrid CC	602,689	-12.5%	311,459	-13.3%	104,203	-13.1%	187,027	-10.8%
Barcelona CC	512,072	-9.1%	352,926	-10.7%	102,487	-3.4%	56,659	-8.0%
Canary Islands CC	194,994	-6.2%	94,587	-4.7%	81,848	-4.6%	18,559	-18.6%
Seville CC	239,442	-2.4%	113,160	-5.2%	67,472	1.6%	58,810	-1.4%
Palma CC	191,394	2.5%	129,044	3.1%	62,100	1.4%	250	-31.9%

2022 Summer Plan

During the summer months, from June to September, the number of flights is expected to exceed 93% of the numbers reported in the same period in 2019, surpassing 790,000 flights. In the control centres of the Southern Region and Balearic Islands, this percentage is considerably higher, exceeding the record figures for 2019.

As part of its 2022 Summer Plan, ENAIRE is developing and implementing a series of technical and operational initiatives and measures across its entire Network and specific in each of the Regions, so that it can deal with the high season under the best conditions to manage traffic peaks that are already exceeding those of 2019, while maintaining the highest levels of safety at all times.

"The forecasts for this year point to a 93% recovery in the number of flights compared to pre-COVID levels". So says ENAIRE's Operations Manager, Xavier Benavent, who details that, by type of flight, the forecast is for a recovery of 97% in domestic flights, 94% in overflights (those that do not take off from or land at a Spanish airport) and 91% in international flights.

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In addition to the technical and operational measures, the Summer Plan includes increasing the number of controllers.

Increase in controller staffing

ENAIRe has reinforced the number of air traffic controllers in response of a summer season that is rivalling the record number of flights in 2019.

By region, the staffing and the increase in controller numbers (those that are qualified and available for duty) are as follows: South, 248 controllers (+8.77%); Canary Islands, 258 (+6.61%); East, 510 (+7.82%), Balearic Islands, 197 (+5.91%) and Central-North, 628 (+1.45%).

The staffing in each region strictly reflects the air traffic management needs assigned to each region.

In all, the number of active controllers across the network has increased by 5.32% since 2019.

ENAIRe's strategy of increasing the number of air traffic controllers to meet traffic forecasts has been in place since 2016 and will continue. In fact, ENAIRe had a total of 1,968 air traffic controllers in 2016 (including active controllers and those in management and support roles). The total number of controllers currently stands at 2,117 (7.6% more).

Along these lines, ENAIRe's Personnel Manager, José Luis Meler, explains that: "The implementation of the planning laid out in the successive strategic plans, from 2016 to 2021, required a great effort from ENAIRe, which managed five calls for air traffic controller positions, at the rate of one call per year (except in 2020 as a result of the pandemic). This has all resulted in a total of 528 new air traffic controller positions throughout this period, with ENAIRe managing their training and qualification processes at its corresponding control centres and towers. This year, we will begin the process of filling the 137 new vacancies recently announced by the Minister of Transport, Mobility and the Urban Agenda, which will see a total of 665 new controllers hired between 2016 and 2022".

As a result of this strategy, ENAIRe, which is the fourth largest provider in Europe in terms of air traffic volume, has the third highest number of controllers.



World leader in safety

ENAIRe and CRIDA, its research, development and innovation subsidiary, received the 2021 CANSO Global Air Safety Award at the 2022 World ATM Congress.

"With this award, ENAIRe reinforces its position as a global leader and benchmark in air safety management". So says Ángel Luis Arias, the CEO of ENAIRe.

This award acknowledges the work done by ENAIRe and CRIDA to develop a tool to automatically monitor for loss of separation between aircraft (Automatic Safety Monitoring Tool - ASMT).

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