



Domestic flights faring best among the generalised drop in air traffic due to COVID-19

The number of flights managed by ENAIRE through Q3 fell by almost 60% due to the effects of COVID-19

- Widespread traffic reduction throughout Europe
- ENAIRE has managed 681,971 flights so far this year
- The distribution by type of flight is 52% international, 26% domestic and 22% overflights
- The Madrid Control Centre manages the most flights, at 380,069

7 October 2020

ENAIRe managed 681,971 flights through the third quarter, from January to September, 58.9% less than in the same period last year. This drop in air traffic, which is affecting not only Spain but Europe as a whole, was caused by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Domestic flights, totalling 176,644, are faring the best for the year as a whole, with a decrease of 46.4%. International flights fell by 63.2% to 358,094, and overflights (those that do not depart from or land at a Spanish airport) fell by 58.7% to 147,233.

The distribution by type of flight is 52% international, 26% domestic and 22% overflights.

The effects of the pandemic have had an impact on the traffic managed by ENAIRE, as detailed in the table below:

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Month of 2020	Flights managed by ENAIRE	%
March *	92,895	-40.7
April	9,627	-94.7
May	11,992	-93.8
June **	21,142	-89.7
July	81,339	-63.1
August	106,945	-51.1
September	78,070	-61.6

*14 March: State of Emergency declared.

**21 June: State of Emergency lifted.

The Madrid Control Centre managed the most flights through September: 380,069. The Barcelona Control Centre, which in July and August managed the most flights in Spain, reported a figure of 293,781 flights managed in the first nine months.

All ENAIRE control centres reported drops in traffic for the first three quarters as a whole, with the Canary Islands, Seville and Madrid centres reporting the lowest decreases.

Traffic comparison January - September 2020/2019								
	TOTAL	%	International	%	Domestic	%	Overflights	%
ENAIRE network	681,971	-58.9	358,094	-63.2	176,644	-46.4	147,233	-58.7
Madrid CC	380,069	-58.0	185,972	-60.4	76,780	-50.6	117,317	-58.0
Barcelona CC	293,781	-62.0	189,463	-65.6	72,797	-48.0	31,521	-61.7
Seville CC	145,206	-55.4	64,960	-59.2	48,697	-43.8	31,549	-60.3
Canary Islands CC	132,907	-50.1	54,954	-55.7	64,899	-42.4	13,054	-55.9
Palma CC	101,531	-63.0	56,776	-70.1	44,470	-47.1	285	-38.0

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.

September figures

With regard to the last month, ENAIRE managed 78,070 flights in September, 61.6% less than in the same month last year. There were 36,586 (-70.2%) international flights, 24,287 (-36.7%) domestic flights, and 17,197 (-59.4%) overflights.

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The breakdown by ENAIRe control centre is as follows:

Traffic comparison September 2020/2019								
	TOTAL	%	International	%	Domestic	%	Overflights	%
ENAIRe network	78,070	-61.6	36,586	-70.2	24,287	-36.7	17,197	-59.4
Madrid CC	41,258	-61.0	16,565	-69.4	9,934	-45.1	14,759	-55.9
Barcelona CC	34,525	-65.4	21,664	-70.7	10,254	-37.3	2,607	-72.9
Seville CC	19,270	-57.7	6,985	-63.9	6,591	-33.8	2,694	-70.6
Canary Islands CC	13,837	-51.0	3,573	-70.2	9,207	-28.5	1,057	-68.8
Palma CC	15,145	-62.1	8,291	-71.8	6,797	-34.8	57	32.6

Recovery plan for air navigation services

ENAIRe is executing a plan to recover air navigation services based on traffic recovery forecasts received from the Manager of the European Network, and in full cooperation with said European agency, in order to standardise operational criteria with a view to returning to pre-pandemic flight levels and that also considers health promotion and service continuity criteria.

This Plan provides for a recovery of air traffic control operations in stages based on the expected demand and scheduling criteria in order to efficiently use the available resources.

Delayed collection of route charges from airlines

Mindful of the historically exceptional nature of the situation we are experiencing, ENAIRe is exercising responsibility and solidarity by deferring the collection of the route fees it charges airlines until November.

About ENAIRe

ENAIRe is the company of the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda that manages air navigation in Spain. It renders aerodrome control services at 21 airports, including the busiest in terms of air traffic, plus en-route and approach control, from five control centres: Barcelona, Madrid, Gran Canaria, Palma and Seville. In addition, ENAIRe provides communications, navigation and surveillance services to 45 air control towers.

In 2019, ENAIRe handled 2.1 million flights to and from four continents (Europe, America, Asia and Africa), transporting 320 million passengers.

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ENAIRe is the fourth most important European air navigation service provider, and, in a clear commitment to the Single Sky initiative, belongs to international partnerships such as SESAR (Single European Sky ATM Research) Joint Undertaking, SESAR Deployment Manager, A6, iTEC, CANSO (Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation) and ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization).

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