



Towards a new record year in air traffic

ENAIRe oversaw the most flights in Spain's aviation history this summer, with almost 7,200 daily operations

- A total of 220,835 flights were handled in August, 6.9% more than one year ago and 1% more than in August 2019
- The 22nd of July and the 12th of August were the days featuring the most recorded flights of the summer, with 7,449 and 7,440 flights respectively, figures that represent 2 new air traffic records in the history of Spanish air navigation
- The accumulated data for July and August and the trend in the number of flights recorded thus far suggest that 2023 will be our country's best year ever for aviation
- In spite of the increased air traffic, efficiency has increased with regard to environmental sustainability, with a reduction of 118,000 nautical miles flown, equivalent to 218,000 km, which translates into 4,000 tonnes of CO₂ avoided into the atmosphere and 1,300 tonnes of fuel saved.
- In terms of service quality, delays due to causes attributable to ENAIRe have been reduced by 34% in the first 8 months of the year, versus the delay data for 2019.

Madrid, 11 September 2023

If July was the best month in Spain's aviation history, August's records confirm that we are witnessing a record summer in terms of the number of flights operated.

This information can be used, in whole or in part, without citing the source.

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PRESS RELEASE



ENAIRe, an agency of the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and the Urban Agenda (Mitma) that is tasked with managing air navigation in Spain, managed a cumulative total of 443,942 operations in July and August, equivalent to a daily average of 7,160 flights per day.

This figure confirms the recovery of the sector in Spain following the outbreak of the COVID pandemic in 2020, as well as ENAIRe's leadership among European air navigation service providers in recent years.

The record of 2019 has been surpassed twice in the summer of 2023: On Saturday 22 July, ENAIRe managed 7,449 flights, a record, thus exceeding the previous record reached in July 2019, when 7,425 flights were managed in one day. A total of 7,440 flights were handled on 12 August, also surpassing the 2019 record.

The data is highly relevant because it confirms a trend that gives us confidence that the aviation sector's recovery is firm and sustained. Given the number of flights operated in Spain compared to those operated in Europe, this is a recovery that ratifies our country as a catalyst for a key sector for the economy and employment.

Considering the quality of service, delays have been reduced by 17% compared to 2019 and when counting only the causes of delays attributable to ENAIRe, the reduction reaches 34% in the first 8 months of the year, compared to the delay data for 2019, highlighting the value of the measures implemented by ENAIRe in its Strategic Plan (Flight Plan 2025) and in its Summer Plan for the 2023 season.

With regard to environmental sustainability, ENAIRe's environmental commitment through airspace restructuring measures, flexible airspace management and more direct routes has led to a reduction of 118,000 nautical miles flown, equivalent to 218,000 kilometres, which translates into 4,000 tonnes of CO₂ avoided into the atmosphere and 1,300 tonnes of fuel saved.

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Data from January to August: 11.8% more flights

The cumulative figures for the year are highly positive. In the first eight months of the year, ENAIRE has handled more than 1.4 million flights (1,457,670), 11.8% more than in the same period of 2022.

International flights (823,808) were up by 10%, national flights (296,126), rose 7.9%, and overflights (337,736) —flights that do not depart from or arrive at a Spanish airport— increased 20.0%.

In these first eight months, all ENAIRE’s air traffic control centres saw increases in the number of flights managed. Notable among the cumulative figures are Seville with 327,566 flights managed, a 15.8% increase; Barcelona, with 694,607, 12.2% more, and Madrid, with 789,515, 11.8% more.

In the aviation sector, 2019 is usually taken as the reference year, prior to the stoppage caused by the COVID crisis. Therefore, the comparison of January to August 2023 with the same period of the record year of 2019 also shows a slightly positive balance for Spain (0.02%), while Europe as a whole remains in air traffic recovery numbers below 2019 at -9.4%.

PRESS RELEASE

Cumulative traffic comparison 2023/2022								
	TOTAL	%	International	%	Domestic	%	Overflights	%
ENAIRE network	1,457,670	11.8%	823,808	10.0%	296,126	7.9%	337,736	20.0%
Madrid CC	789,515	11.8%	400,833	10.8%	133,774	9.6%	254,908	14.7%
Barcelona CC	694,607	12.2%	473,528	10.3%	127,235	5.0%	93,844	36.5%
Canary Islands CC	246,256	9.3%	115,303	7.2%	105,156	9.4%	25,797	19.0%
Seville CC	327,566	15.8%	150,399	13.1%	86,664	10.4%	90,503	26.6%
Palma CC	246,977	3.2%	167,528	2.1%	79,218	5.7%	231	-19.2%

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.

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Data from August

As for August alone, ENAIRE handled 220,835 flights. This record is 6.9% up on the same month in 2022. Of those, 129,027 were international, 7.1% up, 41,156 were domestic, 2.4% up, and 50,652 were overflights, a 10.3% increase. It should be noted that the number of flights managed also increased in August at the five domestic air traffic control centres.

ENAIRE managed 1.0% more flights in August 2023 than in the same month in 2019, while the average in Europe was 6.6% lower than the average for the continent in the same month of that year, which is typically used as a reference in the sector

Air traffic comparison August 2023/2022								
	TOTAL	%	International	%	Domestic	%	Overflights	%
ENAIRE network	220,835	6.9%	129,027	7.1%	41,156	2.4%	50,652	10.3%
Madrid CC	110,608	6.8%	54,672	8.4%	18,087	1.2%	37,849	7.5%
Barcelona CC	115,292	7.6%	81,644	6.9%	18,673	0.0%	14,975	23.8%
Canary Islands CC	31,386	3.7%	13,235	2.4%	14,854	4.3%	3,297	5.9%
Seville CC	47,916	10.1%	22,375	12.8%	11,972	8.6%	13,569	7.1%
Palma CC	48,320	0.7%	35,629	1.5%	12,649	-1.6%	42	16.7%

Service quality, ENAIRE's commitment

The measures and projects undertaken by ENAIRE through its strategic initiative 2025 Flight Plan have led to a noticeable improvement in service quality indices when compared to the pre-pandemic traffic record year of 2019, measured in terms of delay reduction, which means a clear benefit for airlines and, as a result, for society as a whole.

The cumulative delay due to Spanish regulations as of August (including all causes) has been cut by 16.6% compared to 2019, while traffic was above the record benchmarks for 2019 and with an 11.8% increase in cumulative traffic in 2022.

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When taking into account only the causes of delay attributable to ENAIRe and, despite the increase in traffic, the reduction in delays compared to the 2019 reference is even greater, down 33.9% in the cumulative period January-August 2023, confirming the effectiveness of the measures laid out by ENAIRe in its 2023 Summer Plan.

About ENAIRe

ENAIRe is the air navigation service provider in Spain.

As a company of the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and the Urban Agenda, it provides en route control services for all flights and overflights from five control centres in Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Gran Canaria and Palma, as well as approach services to every airport in the country.

In addition, 46 airports receive ENAIRe's communication, navigation and surveillance services, and 21 airports, including the country's busiest, rely on its aerodrome control services.

ENAIRe is Europe's fourth largest air traffic manager and participates in the A6 Alliance, a coalition of air navigation providers responsible for over 80% of European air traffic, and which is seeking to modernise the air traffic management system. It is also a member of other international alliances promoting the Single European sky, such as SESAR Joint Undertaking, SESAR Deployment Manager, iTEC, CANSO and ICAO.

ENAIRe, as the agency appointed by the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda to implement the U-space system in Spain, will be the provider of the Common Information Services (CIS), which are essential for administering U-space services to drones and Urban Air Mobility, in interaction with local air traffic control services, so that all types of aircraft can fly safely in the same airspace.

ENAIRe has received the highest score in Europe on the aviation safety key performance indicator. It has also been awarded the EFQM 500 Seal for its safe, efficient, innovative and sustainable management of air navigation services.

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