



February 14, 2024  
TRANSPORT ACTIVITIES  
Air Transport Flash Statistics  
December 2023

## THE MOVEMENT OF PASSENGERS AT NATIONAL AIRPORTS IN 2023 REACHED 2019 LEVELS

In **December 2023**, 4.5 million passengers and 20.2 thousand tonnes of freight and mail were handled at national airports, corresponding to year-on-year variations of +9.3% and +10.7%, respectively. Compared with December 2019, there were increases of 13.7% and 3.6%, in the same order.

Since the beginning of 2023, there have been monthly historical highs of passengers at national airports. In December 2023, there was a daily average of 75.9 thousand passengers disembarked, a higher value than the one registered in December 2022 (69.4 thousand; +9.3%) and 14.7% above the one recorded in December 2019 (66.2 thousand).

In 2023 (preliminary data), 243.8 thousand commercial aircraft landed at national airports (+12.0% compared with 2022) and 67.5 million passengers were handled (+18.9%). The freight and mail movement was similar to the previous year, reaching 223.0 thousand tonnes. Compared with 2019, there were variations of +7.0%, +12.3% and +5.9%, in the same order.

In 2023, the ranking of the main countries of origin and destination of flights remained unchanged compared with the previous year. The United Kingdom remained as the main country of origin and destination of flights, recording increases of 16.5% in the number of disembarked passengers and 16.9% in the number of embarked passengers. France and Spain occupied the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> position. Germany, despite registering the lowest growth in both directions, maintained its 4<sup>th</sup> position. Italy ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and registered the highest growths (+31.2% and +31.0% in the number of disembarked and embarked passengers, respectively).

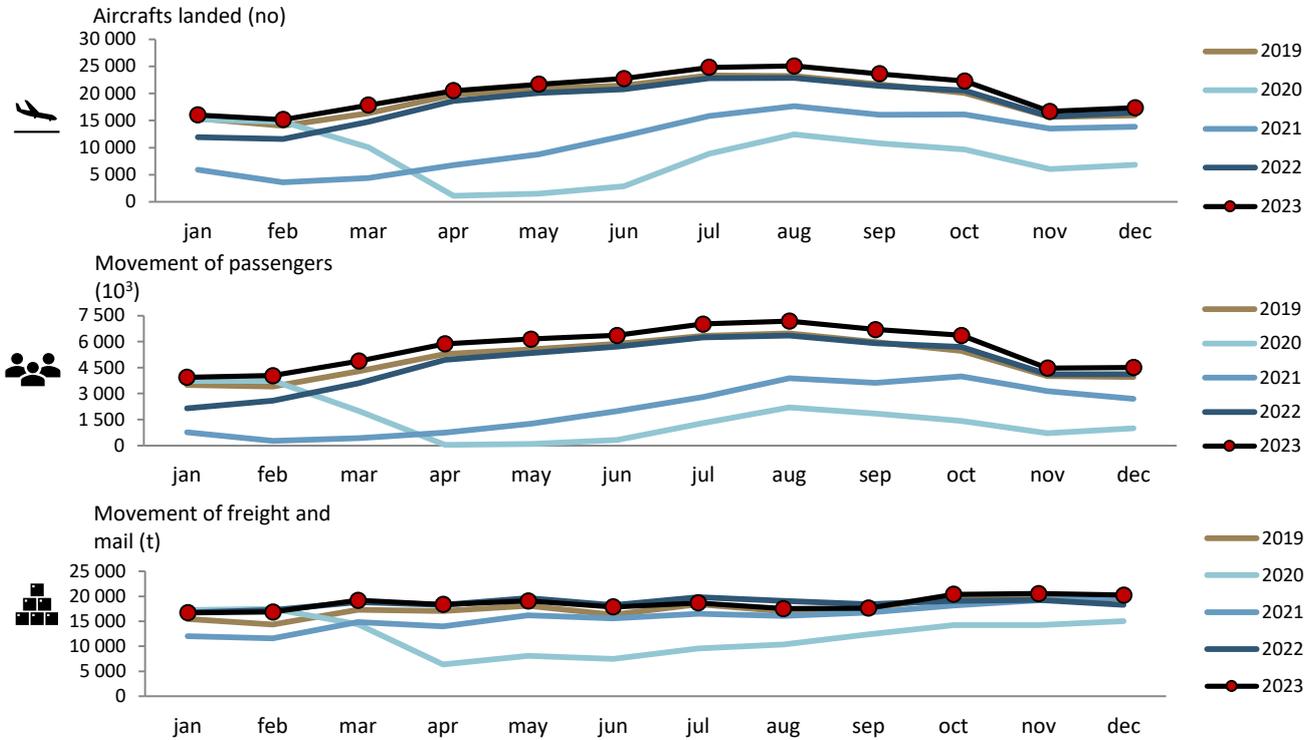
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### Monthly traffic at national airports

In **December 2023**, 17.4 thousand commercial aircrafts landed at national airports, corresponding to 4.5 million passengers (embarked, disembarked and direct transits) and 20.2 thousand tonnes of freight and mail were handled (+5.5%, +9.3% and +10.7%, respectively, compared with December 2022). Compared with December 2019, there were increases of 8.7%, 13.7% and 3.6%, in the same order.



Figure 1. Aircrafts landed, passengers and freight/mail movement at national airports



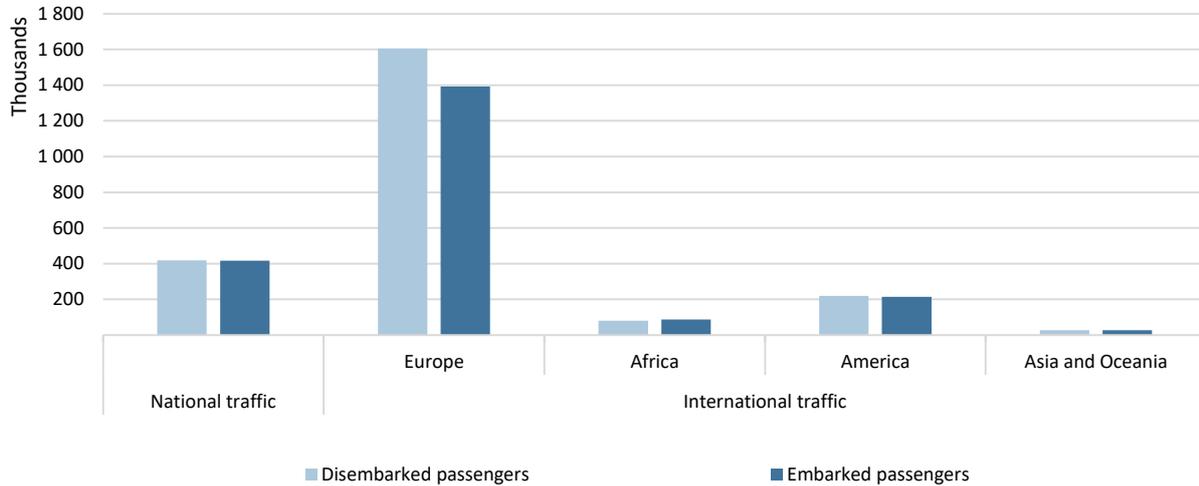
Source: Survey to airports and aerodromes (ANA/ANAC/Statistics Portugal)

In December 2023, 82.2% of passengers disembarked at national airports corresponded to international traffic, reaching 1.9 million passengers (+10.2%), mostly from the European continent (68.3% of the total), corresponding to an increase of 8.9% compared with December 2022. The American continent was the second main origin, concentrating 9.4% of the total passengers disembarked (+21.2%).

Regarding embarked passengers, 80.5% corresponded to international traffic, totalling 1.7 million passengers (+10.9%), having as main destination airports in the European continent (65.1% of the total), recording an increase of 9.7% compared with December 2022. Airports in the American continent were the second main destination of embarked passengers (10.0% of the total; +18.8%).



Figure 2. Passengers disembarked and embarked at national airports by nature of traffic and Continent of origin/destination – December 2023

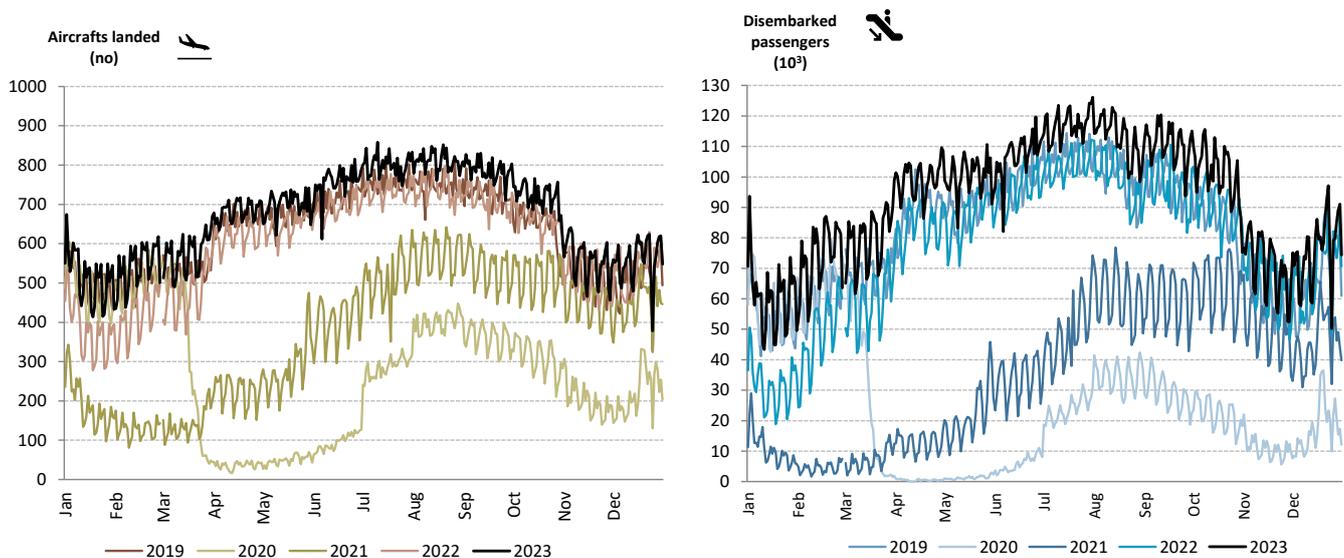


Source: Survey to airports and aerodromes (ANA/ANAC/Statistics Portugal)

The daily movement of aircrafts and passengers is typically influenced by seasonal and weekly cycle fluctuations and was significantly affected by the impact of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, showing a recovery over 2022.

Since the beginning of 2023, there have been monthly historical highs of passengers at national airports. In December 2023, there was a daily average of 75.9 thousand passengers disembarked, a higher value than the one registered in December 2022 (69.4 thousand; +9.3%) and 14.7% above the one recorded in December 2019 (66.2 thousand).

Figure 3. Aircrafts landed and disembarked passengers at national airports – daily



Source: Survey to airports and aerodromes (ANA/ANAC/Statistics Portugal)

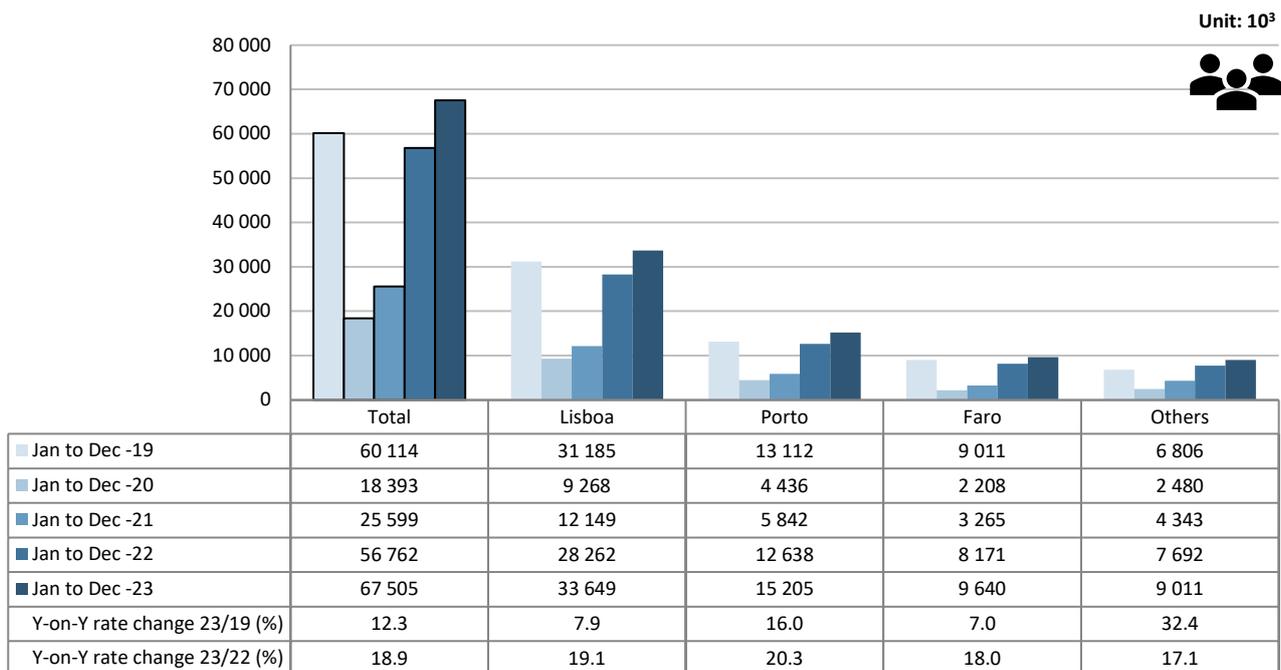


## Accumulated traffic at national airports

In 2023 (preliminary data), 243.8 thousand commercial aircraft landed at national airports (+12.0% compared with 2022) and 67.5 million passengers were handled (+18.9%). The freight and mail movement was similar to the previous year, reaching 223.0 thousand tonnes. Compared with 2019, there were variations of +7.0%, +12.3% and +5.9%, in the same order.

In 2023, the movement of passengers in Lisboa airport corresponded to 49.8% of total handled passengers (33.6 million), +19.1% compared with 2022 (+7.9% compared with 2019). Considering the three airports with the highest annual passenger traffic, Porto airport recorded the highest growth compared with 2022 (+20.3%) and 2019 (+16.0%).

Figure 4. Movement of passengers at national airports



Source: Survey to airports and aerodromes (ANA/ANAC/Statistics Portugal)

Considering the volume of passengers disembarked and embarked on international flights in 2023, the ranking of the main countries of origin and destination of flights remained unchanged compared with the previous year. The United Kingdom remained as the main country of origin and destination of flights, recording increases of 16.5% in the number of disembarked passengers and 16.9% in the number of embarked passengers. France and Spain occupied the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> position. Germany, despite registering the lowest growth in both directions, maintained its 4<sup>th</sup> position. Italy ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and registered the highest growths (+31.2% and +31.0% in the number of disembarked and embarked passengers, respectively).



Table 1. Main countries of origin and destination of flights with passengers at national airports

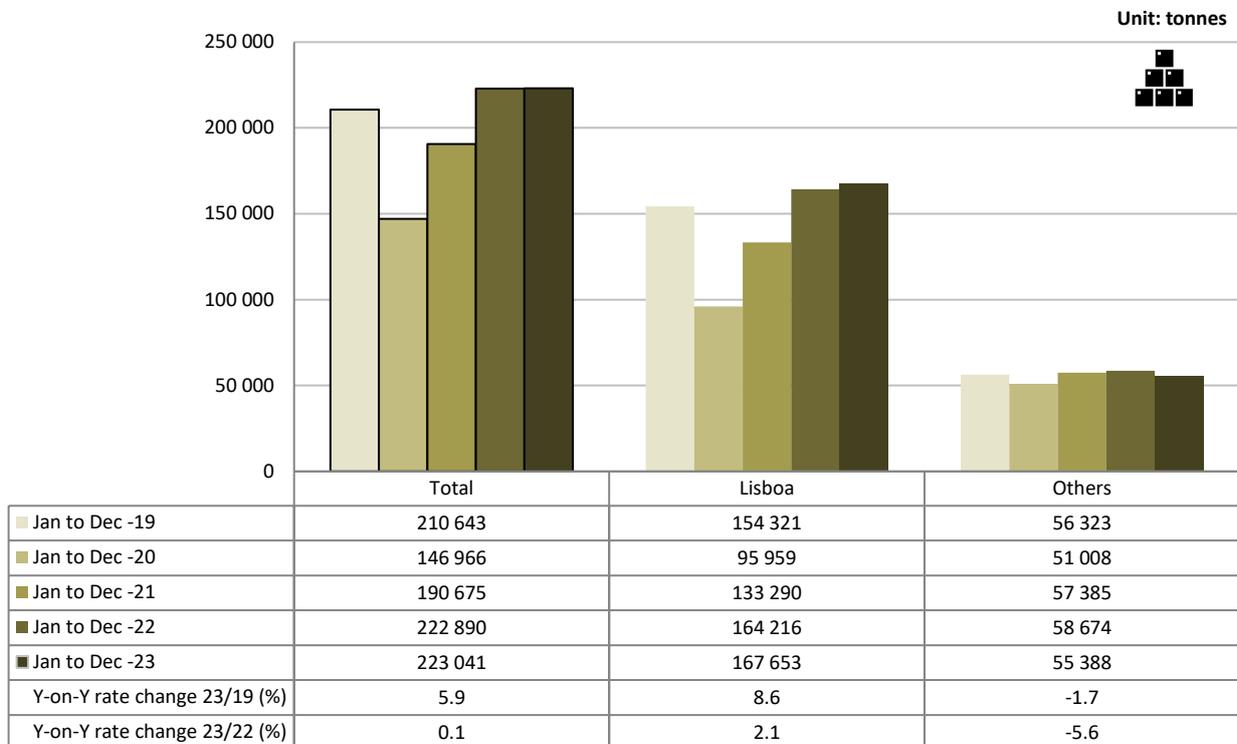
Ranking	Country of origin (of the flight)	Jan to Dec 2023		Ranking	Country of destination (of the flight)	Jan to Dec 2023	
		Passengers disembarked (10 <sup>3</sup> )	Y-on-Y growth rate (%)			Passengers embarked (10 <sup>3</sup> )	Y-on-Y growth rate (%)
1	United Kingdom	4 746.7	16.5	1	United Kingdom	4 730.9	16.9
2	France	4 382.4	16.7	2	France	4 373.8	16.8
3	Spain	3 528.7	29.9	3	Spain	3 453.9	29.6
4	Germany	2 432.2	9.3	4	Germany	2 439.3	9.6
5	Italy	1 588.3	31.2	5	Italy	1 563.1	31.0

Source: Survey to airports and aerodromes (ANA/ANAC/Statistics Portugal)

In 2023, freight and mail handled at national airports was similar to the previous year (+5.9% compared with 2019). The movement of freight and mail at Lisboa airport represented 75.2% of the total, corresponding to 167.7 thousand tonnes (+2.1% compared with 2022).

Considering the group of other airports, the movement of freight and mail decreased by 5.6% (-1.7% compared with 2019).

Figure 5. Freight and mail movement at national airports



Source: Survey to airports and aerodromes (ANA/ANAC/Statistics Portugal)



## METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

In this Press Release the following statistical data are used:

2023: preliminary results;

2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022: definitive results.

**Main national airports** (considered in this Press Release as national airports): Lisboa, Porto, Faro, Ponta Delgada, Madeira, Porto Santo, Beja, Horta, Flores, Santa Maria, Terceira, Pico, Graciosa, São Jorge, Corvo, Portimão, Bragança, Cascais, Vila Real and Viseu.

**SOURCES:** Survey to airports and aerodromes (ANA/ANAC/Statistics Portugal)

## MAIN CONCEPTS:

**Commercial aviation** - Air transport flight performed for the public transport of passengers, freight or mail, for remuneration and for hire.

**Commercial air traffic** - Movement of aircrafts, passengers, freight and mail in commercial aviation.

## Monthly indicators at Statistics Portugal portal:

[Aircrafts landed \(No.\) in airports by Geographic localization, Type of traffic and Nature of traffic; Monthly](#)

[Aircrafts landed \(No.\) in airports by Continent of origin; Monthly](#)

[Aircrafts take-offs \(No.\) in airports by Geographic localization, Type of traffic and Nature of traffic; Monthly](#)

[Disembarked passengers \(No.\) in airports by Geographic localization, Type of traffic and Nature of traffic; Monthly](#)

[Disembarked passengers \(No.\) in Airports by Continent of origin; Monthly](#)

[Embarked passengers \(No.\) in airports by Geographic localization, Type of traffic and Nature of traffic; Monthly](#)

[Embarked passengers \(No.\) in airports by Destination continent; Monthly](#)

[Passengers in direct transit \(No.\) in airports by Geographic localization, Type of traffic and Nature of traffic; Monthly](#)

[Disembarked load \(t\) in airports by Geographic localization, Type of traffic and Nature of traffic; Monthly](#)

[Embarked load \(t\) in airports by Geographic localization, Type of traffic and Nature of traffic; Monthly](#)

[Disembarked mail \(t\) in airports by Geographic localization, Type of traffic and Nature of traffic; Monthly](#)

[Embarked mail \(t\) in airports by Geographic localization, Type of traffic and Nature of traffic; Monthly](#)



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STATISTICS PORTUGAL

press release



#### ACRONYMS AND DESIGNATIONS

ANA	Portugal Airports, S.A.
ANAC	National Civil Aviation Authority
INE	Statistics Portugal

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**Next Press Release (monthly)** - Air Transport Flash Statistics – March 13, 2024

**Next Press Release (quarterly)** - Transport activities (Q4 2023) – March 8, 2024

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