



GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA Y COOPERACIÓN



GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO DE TRANSPORTES Y MOVILIDAD SOSTENIBLE

SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE TRANSPORTES AÉREO Y MARÍTIMO

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE AVIACIÓN CIVIL

AIDE-MÉMOIRE

Spain's Commitment to International Civil Aviation



ICAO

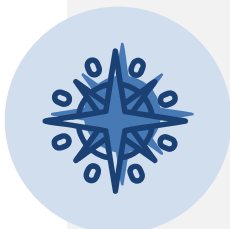
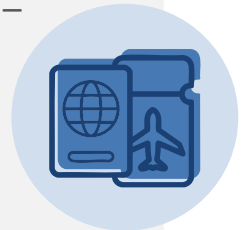
Spain's Commitment to International Civil Aviation

The aviation sector is of **huge strategic importance for Spain** due to its crucial contribution to our country's mobility and economic and social development.



Spain's aviation system is a cornerstone of the global system and makes a highly significant contribution to the development and functioning of international civil aviation thanks to its safe, modern and sustainable airport and air navigation infrastructure and to leading international companies, both in the public sector (Aena and ENAIRE) and the private (Airbus, Indra and Amadeus).

During this time, Spain has worked—together with all the other Member States—to promote the safe, orderly and efficient development of international civil aviation, and has actively participated in the different committees, expert panels and working groups created over the years. Especially noteworthy is the contribution of Spanish professionals on the **Air Navigation Commission since 1952**, having chaired it for a total of 11 years, in two different terms.



As one of the 54 States that participated in the 1944 Chicago Conference, Spain had the honour of being a **founding member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** and has been on its **Council every year since 1951**.

Spain's commitment to **multilateralism** is a core component of our foreign policy, especially in the current, complex international context, in which we must address the **global challenges** facing international civil aviation and in which ICAO has a key role to play.



For all of these reasons...

Spain wishes to present its candidacy to the ICAO Council in the elections to be held at the 2025 Assembly in Part II.



We are fully confident that we have the necessary capacity and experience to offer solutions and achieve consensus in the face of current and future challenges. We reassert our firm commitment to continue contributing actively, with ICAO and with its other 192 Member States, to facilitating the development of safer, more efficient, more sustainable and more innovative international civil aviation, and to strengthening technical collaboration so that **no country is left behind.**

2023

Spain's Civil Aviation in figures



Spain ranked **1st** by number of passengers in **Europe** and **5th** in the world.



Management of **283 million passengers** at Spanish airports.



512 million passengers travelled through international airports in which Spanish companies hold interests.



2.2 million flights managed in Spanish airspace.



Spain ranked **4th** worldwide for connectivity.



98 air service agreements with non-EU States.



323 international destinations via approximately **1,750 routes**.



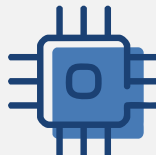
169 air companies operating in Spain, **36** of which are based in our country.



Spanish air companies operated a **third of connections** between **Europe** and **Latin America**.



Spain is one of the **4 member countries** of Airbus. The **5** factories located in Spain participate in defence and commercial airplane programmes, as well as in helicopter programmes.



Spanish technology, through INDRA, is used at the air traffic management centres of **160 countries**.



Spain ranked **2nd** worldwide for international tourist arrivals: **85 million**, more than **80%** by plane.

1 Spain's contribution to ICAO in 2022-2025

Since ICAO's beginnings, Spain has actively contributed towards furthering the Organization's goals, working towards their achievement **through the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation and through our Permanent Representation in Montreal**, providing staff to the ICAO Secretariat and collaborating actively in the Organization's main panels and working groups.

Moreover, the air navigation service provider ENAIRE is responsible for SATMA, the ICAO Regional Monitoring Agency (RMA) that monitors the air corridor between Europe and South America (EUR/SAM).

2 International cooperation and cooperation with ICAO

Spain continues working to ensure that the safety, sustainability and economic and social development of air transport in all areas of the world are priority goals at a global level. Proof of this is the **Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration with ICAO**, signed on 28 August 2024 during the Fourteenth Air Navigation Conference. This Memorandum seeks to formalize and increase the cooperation activities and technical assistance that Spain has been carrying out with the Organization for years, and to offer a stable framework to support its modernization.

In the context of ICAO's **No Country Left Behind (NCLB)** initiative, Spain maintains a special relationship of support and technical cooperation with a number of countries, including in **Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia**. In particular:

- Spain participates actively in **training technical staff** under the auspices of ICAO. For the past four years, Spain has taken part in the **Co-operative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programme (COSCAP)–South Asia**. This programme offers capacity building to staff of civil aviation authorities from countries in South Asia.
- As a result of the **agreement signed with ICAO** by the Spanish company SENASA and with the participation of a number of other entities, including the INDRA group, an ambitious project is being carried out to modernize the **air traffic control system of Angola**.
- Within the framework of the EU air safety system supported by the **European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)**, Spain has been selected to perform a number of framework contracts, with the aim of strengthening relations between non-EU States and EU institutions in the sphere of civil aviation. In this context, Spain collaborates on the **capacity building of technical staff at civil aviation authorities**, lending its cooperation to improve their **regulations and procedures**.

- In addition, as part of its commitment to collaborate on strengthening the global air safety system, **Spain has signed bilateral cooperation agreements** with other competent civil aviation authorities and international organizations, including the memorandums of understanding signed with the **Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO)**, the **Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACLAC)** and the **Central American Corporation for Air Navigation Services (COCESNA)**.
- In the **sphere of air navigation, technical-operational cooperation activities** are being carried out with the various **neighbouring air navigation service providers, namely those** of Portugal, the United Kingdom, France, Morocco, Algeria and Cabo Verde, as well as with the Agency for the Safety of Air Navigation in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA).
- Moreover, work is under way to improve the operational management of **air navigation service providers, airport operators and other providers** of related services, through the participation of staff from these organizations in conferences, **seminars and study grant programmes. Specifically:**
 - Through the **airport management company Aena and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)**, Spain facilitates the organization of several annual capacity-building seminars for all the countries of North America, Central America and the Caribbean (NACC) and South America (SAM), by awarding study grants to civil aviation professionals from these countries. Since 2016, more than 280 grants have been awarded to staff of the civil aviation administrations of the aforementioned regions **for a Master's Programme in Aeronautical Systems Management**.
 - Moreover, through the air navigation service provider **ENAIRES**, which has been a member of the **Trainair Plus programme** cooperative network since 2019, **17 study grants** have been awarded to **different civil aviation organizations in Latin America**, covering the total cost of completing ENAIRES's Master's Degree programme in Air Navigation Services Management, which is certified by ICAO.
 - **SENASA is also a member of ICAO's Trainair Plus programme**, offering operational safety courses from its catalogue.
 - Additionally, to support operations in ICAO countries, in recent years SENASA has also provided Air Traffic Control (ATC) and air safety training to air navigation service providers in countries in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa.
- As regards the environment, Spain has collaborated with ICAO's **Assistance, Capacity-building and Training on the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (ACT-CORSIA)** and **Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ACT-SAF)** programmes since their creation. Spain is currently supporting 14 Latin American countries during Phase 3 of the CORSIA Buddy Partnerships programme and has signed memorandums of understanding with ICAO to define the specific nature of its collaboration with other countries in the implementation of the ACT-SAF programme. In addition, since 2021, Spain has offered assistance to a number of different States, as well as to the Caribbean

Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASSOS) and the Central American Agency for Aviation Safety (ACSA), within the framework of the **EU-Latin America and Caribbean Aviation Partnership Project (EU-LAC APP) II**, financed by the European Union and implemented by EASA. Lastly, under the ICAO State Action Plan Buddy Programme, Spain has helped Ukraine and Bolivia to develop and update their State Action Plans on CO₂ Emissions Reduction Activities.

- Spain has also carried out staff training activities relating to air operations, flight simulation and aviation medicine, under the services contract for the implementation of the **Strengthening the Aviation Framework and European Regulations for Ukraine (SAFER-U) project**. This project, financed by the European Commission, was established to support Ukraine's State Administration for Civil Aviation in developing and optimizing its safety regulations in air operations and flight crew licencing.

3 Airport network and air navigation

According to data from 2023, Spain ranks **fifth worldwide and first in Europe by number of passengers**. Spain has **48 airports**, 41 of which are open to international civil traffic, and **2 heliports**.

The main airport management company in Spain, Aena, is the **world leader in airport operation**, directly managing **283.2 million passengers in Spain** in 2023. This represents an **increase of 16.2% on 2022, and of almost 3% on 2019**.

When added to the number of passengers using other international airports partly owned by Aena, this total rises to **417.3 million passengers**, including 16.2 million passengers at Luton airport. Aena manages **46 international airports and 2 heliports in Spain, in addition to 33 airports** in Brazil, Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

Chief among these is **Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport**, used by over **60 million passengers** a year. In 2023, Madrid-Barajas ranked 15th worldwide and 5th in Europe by number of passengers.

The second busiest airport in Spain is **Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat Airport**, used by **50 million passengers** a year. In 2023, Barcelona-El Prat ranked 30th worldwide and 7th in Europe by number of passengers.

In addition, in 2023, the airports partly owned by airport management firm **Ferrovial Airports** (among them Heathrow, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Southampton in the United Kingdom, and Dalaman in Türkiye) recorded a total of **94.8 million passengers**.

At Spanish airports, there was a total of **2.4 million aircraft movements**, and over **1.08 million tonnes of freight** were handled.

Air traffic between **Spain and the United Kingdom**, historically the busiest in the world, reached **270,000 aircraft movements** in 2023, transporting **42.9 million passengers**. This equates to a daily average of more than 117,500 passengers.

Moreover, Spain provides air navigation and air traffic control services in more than **2,247,000 km²** of airspace—5 times the entire area of Spain—making it the **2nd largest non-oceanic airspace operated from Europe**. Spain has **62 certified air traffic control towers and centres**.

Spain ranks **2nd in Europe by number of flights** (arrivals and departures), with over 4,600 daily flights in 2023, a similar number to 2019.

The main provider of air navigation services, **ENAIRE**, controlled **2.2 million flights in Spain in 2023**, 10.6% more than in 2022. ENAIRE has retained its position as the **4th largest provider of air navigation services in Europe** by volume of movements.

4 Airlines and connectivity

In 2023, a total of **169 airlines** operated commercial flights in Spain, offering around **1,750 routes to 323 destinations in 84 countries**. Spanish airlines transported over **83.1 million passengers**.

There are **36 companies** which hold **Spanish operating licences** and **40 air operator certificates** are currently in force. In addition, more than **5,400 aircraft** are currently entered on the Spanish aircraft register.

Spain ranks **4th for connectivity in the world**. As regards access to air transport markets, Spain has **98 bilateral agreements with non-EU countries granting traffic rights**.

In 2023, Spanish airlines offered almost **27,800 flights between Spain and Latin America**, making up **33% of connections between Europe and Latin America**. One in every four seats offered by European companies to fly to Latin America was offered by a Spanish airline.

5

Aeronautical industry

Spain has over **180 companies specializing in air navigation maintenance and management, and over 4,800 certified maintenance technicians**. This industry plays a crucial role as it guarantees that aircraft meet safety and operational standards.

In October 2024, there were over **114,000 registered operators of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)** in Spain. Since the pertinent European regulation came into force, a total of **212,691 pilot certificates** have been issued. There are also **577 practical training centres** for pilots, where they can operate in Spanish national standard scenarios (STS-ES), and **130 authorized operators**.

Annual drone operations managed by ENAIRE are growing exponentially. Operations in 2023 totalled **14,700**, representing a 39% increase on the **10,546** operations managed in 2022.

The **manufacturing and design** industry is of great significance and very developed, employing highly qualified workers. Spain has **27 organizations authorized to manufacture** aircraft or aircraft components, as well as a number of design organizations authorized to develop new aircraft designs and modifications.

Spain is one of the four member States of Airbus. Factories in Seville, Getafe, Cádiz, Illescas and Albacete carry out production, assembly and maintenance tasks and participate in defence programmes (A400M, MRTT, Eurofighter, C295, FCAS, Eurodron, Sirtap), commercial aircraft programmes (A380, A350, A330 and A320), and helicopter programmes (NH90 and the Tiger MKIII). The company had a workforce of 14,200 employees in 2023 and its contribution to Spain's GDP was €6bn, equivalent to 0.94%.

Spanish firm **ITP Aero** is a world leader in flight technology and specializes in the design, development, manufacture and servicing of aerospace propulsion systems for commercial and defence aircraft, boosting innovation, efficiency and sustainability. ITP Aero is a **technological partner in half of the engine families launched in the last 20 years**. In 2023, the company reported a turnover of over €1.3bn and its workforce included over 5,000 employees.

Spanish technology is present in air traffic management centres in over 160 countries, thanks to companies such as **INDRA**, whose air traffic management systems help to ensure the safety of 85% of air passengers worldwide.

As for services provided to airlines, Spanish firm **Amadeus** is one of the largest global distribution systems in the world, assisting almost 200 airlines in transporting over 1.8 billion passengers around the globe every year.

6

Social and financial dimension

The air infrastructure and transport sector plays a crucial role in Spain, energizing international trade relations and tourism, and creating jobs and wealth. Proof of this is the fact that Spain **ranks second worldwide by number of international tourists received**, with 80% arriving by air. In 2023, Spain received 85 million international tourists.

The Spanish economy ranks 15th worldwide in terms of GDP. Tourism, especially international tourism, is one of Spain's main economic drivers and accounts for 11.6% of GDP.

Companies whose business activity is conducted around airports are directly and indirectly responsible for 835.000 jobs. If added to the effects of tourism, the total figure amounts to **2 million**.

In 2022, the Spanish aeronautical industry had a turnover of almost **€8.8bn**, an 8.5% increase on 2021, generating 37,000 direct jobs. Around **825 million euros** was invested in R&D&I. In addition, in 2022 the **space industry** had a turnover of more than **€1.06bn**, an 8.9% increase on 2021, generating 5,900 direct jobs. An estimated 187 million euros was invested in R&D&I. A total of **19 technological centres, 4 technology clusters and 19 universities in Spain** are related to this sector.

Spain is firmly committed to gender equality in the aviation sector, and it supports all actions aimed at consolidating the progress towards real and effective equality between men and women. This is why in July 2023 Spain hosted ICAO's second Global Aviation Gender Summit.

Spain accords special importance to providing assistance to victims of civil aviation accidents, and it has presented numerous initiatives at European and international level to improve assistance to victims and their families, as well as to ensure greater uniformity in the assistance provided across countries. In 2012, Spain **led the working group** that revised ICAO Circular 285 and developed the ICAO Manual on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families (Doc 9973) and the ICAO Policy on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families (Doc 9998). In 2021, Spain hosted the first ICAO Symposium on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families (AAAVF), whose 30 recommendations guide ICAO's action on this matter. Spain was the **first State to pass ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit in this area**, and it also participates in the ICAO Facilitation Panel's Working Group on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families (WG-AAAVF).

More
information:

