



الهيئة العامة للإحصاء
General Authority for Statistics

Metadata Report of Air Transport Publication Statistics

V-2.0

Quality Management

Last update: 05.02.2023



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1. Contact

1.1. Contact organization	General Authority of Statistics
1.2. Contact organization unit	Department of Traffic and Transportation Statistics
1.3. Contact person function	Director of department of Traffic and Transportation Statistics
1.4. Contact mail address	P.O. Box: 3735 Riyadh, 11481 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
1.5. Contact email address	info@stats.gov.sa
1.6. Contact phone number	920020081

2. Metadata Update

2.1. Metadata last update	05/03/2023
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3. Statistical Presentation

3.1. Data description
<p>The Air Transport Publication presents the data on the movement of flights, passengers, cargo and everything related to air transport in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>The Air Transport Publication is a survey conducted to collect data on the main characteristics as following:</p>



1. Air traffic of international airports in the Kingdom.
2. Air traffic of domestic airports in the Kingdom.
3. Number of domestic and international airports in the Kingdom.
4. Air shipments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
5. Air traffic for private aviation.
6. Number of establishments, number of employees in economic activities related to air transport.
7. Create a broad base of statistics that is a reliable basis for conducting studies and research in air transport.
8. Use of these statistics for local, regional and international comparison.

3.2. Classification system

The following classifications are applied in the Air Transport Publication:

- **National Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC4)**

The statistical classification based on the International Standard of Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC4) is used to describe productive activities of an establishment.

- **National Code for Countries and Nationalities (ISO 3166 - Country Codes)**

A statistical classification based on the international standard (ISO 3166_Country codes), which is a standard issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO of the UN), and this classification gives numeric and literal codes for the world's (248) countries, based on the classification of countries. The classification is used in the Air Transport Publication to classify Saudi or non-Saudi individuals.

Detailed data are collected through the interview to allow output to be produced in accordance with all relevant classifications.

The classifications are available on the GASTAT's website: www.stats.gov.sa

3.3. Sector coverage

The Air Transport Publication covers the following main economic sectors:

1. Transportation and storage activities.

The Air Transport Publication covers all economic sectors.



The size classes are divided into four categories in term of the size of establishments as follow:

- Micro: It includes all establishments with (1-5) employees.
- Small: It includes all establishments with (6-49) employees.
- Medium: It includes all establishments with (50-249) employees.
- Large: It includes all establishments with (more than 249) employees.

3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

Terminologies and concepts of the Air Transport Publication Statistics:

- Airport: It is where all aircraft such as helicopters and others, or aircraft that transport passengers and goods are located.
- International airport: It is an airport equipped to serve external civil airlines. It can accommodate all types of aircraft. Due to the presence of multiple runways, it can also receive multiple aircraft at the same time and offers a variety of services.
- Domestic Airport: It is an airport equipped to serve domestic civil airlines (among cities of the same country). It often has a single runway and has limited services.
- Flight: The distance covered by an aircraft from one airport to another, as well as from one country to another.
- International flights: It refers to the movement of aircraft between airports in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the rest of the world.
- Domestic flights: It refers to the movement of aircraft among the airports of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia only.
- Aircraft movement: It refers to the total number of arriving and departing flights to and from the airport per day and across all airlines.
- (Arriving) aircraft: The number of aircraft that landed at all airports within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for different (Saudi, Arabian, and foreign) airlines.
- (Departing) aircraft: Number of aircraft that took off from all airports within Saudi Arabia.
- Ton: A ton, also known as megagram, is a unit of measurement equivalent to 1,000 kilograms. Ton is primarily used as a unit of mass, as well as a unit of volume.
- Quantity of goods transported: The weight of goods and baggage transported in tons. There are two types of goods: Unloaded goods: the goods imported from abroad. Exported goods: The goods exported abroad.
- Mail by ton: Airmail transportation is an air transport service for postal parcels. Airborne parcels are usually faster than other modes of transportation, but they are often more expensive.
- Private airport: An airport used by general aviation and private aviation, but not eligible for use by regular airlines.



- Private aviation: It is a luxury aircraft designed to provide passengers with complete comfort while travelling to their destination, as you will not be sharing the plane with dozens or hundreds of other passengers.
- Private flight: A "private" flight is when an aircraft owner (or one of his friends or family) uses the aircraft for private use.
- Air connectivity: Air connectivity is widely defined as the ability and ease with which passengers and cargo can reach destinations by air.

3.5. Statistical unit

The statistical unit in the Air Transport Publication is passengers - flights - shipment

3.6. Statistical population

The statistical populations of the Air Transport Publication are all airports in Saudi Arabia.

3.7. Reference area

All airports in Saudi Arabia.

3.8. Time coverage

Data are available from 2015 to 2022.

3.9. Base period

The year 2022 is the base year used for calculating the publication indicators.

4. Unit of measure



Most results are measured in numbers (number of trips - number of passengers - number of establishments - number of employees) (in thousands - millions).
Some indicators are reported as rates (tons)
Some results are reported as a percentage (EX. Change rate between 2021 and 2022 for flights, passengers or cargo volumes).

5. Reference period

References period to the variables or dataset as following:

- The data from administrative records is based on the last day of the year in each calendar year.

6. Confidentiality

6.1. Confidentiality - policy

According to the Royal Decree No. 23 dated 07-12-1397, data must always be kept confidential, and must be used by GASTAT only for statistical purposes. Therefore, the data are protected in the data servers of the Authority.

6.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

Data were displayed in appropriate tables to facilitate its summarization, comprehension, and results extraction. Also, to compare data with other data and extract statistical meanings for the study community. It is also easier to check tables without the need to see the original questionnaire, which usually include data like names and addresses of individuals, names of data providers, which violates data confidentiality of statistical data.

“Anonymity of data” is one of the most important procedures. To keep data confidential, GASTAT removed information on individual persons, households, or business entities such a way that the respondent cannot be identified either directly (by name, address, contact number, identity number etc.) or indirectly (by combining different - especially rare - characteristics of respondents: age, occupation, education etc.).



7. Release policy

7.1. Release calendar

The Air Transport Publication results are bound by a release calendar.

7.2. Release calendar access

Available on the: <https://www.stats.gov.sa/ar/future-releases>

7.3. User access

One of GASTAT's objectives is to meet better its clients' needs, so it immediately provides them with the bulletin's results once the Air Transport Publication Bulletin is published. It also receives questions and inquiries of the clients about the Bulletin and its results through various communication channels, such as:

- GASTAT's official website www.stats.gov.sa
- GASTAT's official e-mail address info@stats.gov.sa
- Client Support's e-mail address cs@stats.gov.sa
- Official visits to GASTAT's official head office in Riyadh or one of its branches in Saudi Arabia.
- Official letters.
- Statistical telephone (92002008).

8. Frequency of dissemination

Annual



9. Accessibility and clarity

9.1. News release

The announcements for each publication are available on release calendar as mentioned in 8.2. Release calendar access. The news release can be viewed on the website of GASTAT in the link <https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/news>.

9.2. Publications

GASTAT issues Air Transport Publication's publications and reports on a regular basis within a pre-prepared publishing plan and installed on the GASTAT's website. GASTAT is keen to publish its publications in a manner that serves all users of different types, including publications in different formats that contain (publication tables, data graphs, indicators, metadata, methodology, and used questionnaires) in both English and Arabic.

The Air Transport Publication's publications are available on the [Air Transport Publication Link](#).

9.3. On-line database

Not applicable.

9.4. Micro-data access

Not applicable.

9.5. Other

Not available.



9.6. Documentation on methodology

The Air Transport Publication Framework: Concepts, Definitions, Issues and Classifications are based on the international standards of the Reference Manual on the ICAO Statistics Programmed, which is developed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It contributes to a better understanding of the definitions and key terms used in air transport statistics; For example, the statistical parameters for commercial air carriers which ICAO requests States to collect were established with very specific intentions in mind; all the data requested must correspond to those of the operating air carrier. The purpose of this is so that all data reported for the same entity are homogeneous and can be used to carry out cross-analytical processes comparing, for example, traffic and capacity data, and these with the corresponding revenues and cost figures. Also, it ensures homogeneity of data between the reports for different air carriers thus allowing benchmarking analysis to be carried out.

9.7. Quality documentation

Quality documentation covers documentation on methods and standards for assessing, measuring, and monitoring the quality of statistical process and output. It is based on standard quality criteria such as relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability, and coherence.

10. Quality management

10.1. Quality assurance

GASTAT declares that it considers the following principles: impartiality, user orientated, quality of processes and output, effectiveness of statistical processes, reducing the workload for respondents.

Quality controls and validation of data are actions carried out throughout the process in different stages such as the data input and data collection and other final controls.

10.2. Quality assessment

GASTAT performs all statistical activities according to a national model (Generic Statistical Business Process Model - GSBPM). According to the GSBPM, the final phase of statistical activities is overall evaluation using information gathered in each phase or sub-process. This



information is used to prepare the evaluation report which outlines all the quality issues related to the specific statistical activity and serves as input for improvement actions.

11. Relevance

11.1. User needs

Internal GASTAT's users, which make use of the Air Transport Publication data, include:

- National accounts.
- Tourism statistics.
- Statistical book.

External users who make significant use of the Air Transport Publication data include, but is not limited to:

- The governmental entities.
- Regional and international organizations.
- Research institutions.
- Media.
- Individuals.

The disseminated key variables that mostly used by key users:

General Authority of Civil Aviation	Number of establishments and employees in air transport activities, air connectivity between the Kingdom and the countries of the world.
Indicators of sustainable development	Number of passengers and number of shipments.

11.2. User satisfaction

Not available.

11.3. Completeness



The data of the Air Transport Bulletin is based on the primary source of record data in the General Authority of Civil Aviation and the secondary source of data of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development in order to provide comprehensive information on air transport.

12. Accuracy and reliability

12.1. Overall accuracy

The data is checked with previous years to check the links between variables and confirm coherence between different data series.

13. Timeliness and punctuality

13.1. Timeliness

GASTAT uses the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) issued by the International Monetary Fund. According to this Standard, all statistics agencies are required to publish data on an annual basis, and with a delay of not more than one quarter (180 days) after the end of the reference period. If the data are from different source, they may be published in a different frequency.

13.2. Punctuality

Publication takes place in accordance with published release dates for the Air Transport Publication in the GASTAT webpage. The data are available at the expected time, as scheduled the release calendar, If the publication delayed the reasons would be provided.



14. Coherence and comparability

14.1. Comparability - geographical
Data are fully comparable.
14.2. Comparability - over time
The survey started in 2021 as annual record data.
14.3. Coherence- cross domain
Not applicable.
14.3.1. Coherence - sub annual and annual statistics
Not applicable.
14.3.2. Coherence- National Accounts
Not applicable.
14.4. Coherence - internal
Not applicable.

15. Resources used

Description	Total
Total staff (GASTAT's staff, researchers)	Not applicable.
Number of surveyed households/establishments	Not applicable.



Total days of data collection period (end date - start date)	Not applicable.
Average conducted interviewer per day (during data collection)	Not applicable.

16. Data revision

16.1. Data revision - policy
Not applicable, only final results will be published.
16.2. Data revision - practice
Not applicable, only final results will be published.

17. Statistical processing

17.1. Source data
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Source of the air transport statistics from administrative records:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. General Authority of Civil Aviation2. Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development
17.2. Frequency of data collection
Annual.
17.3. Data collection
Data collection from administrative records:



In coordination with GASTAT's departments related to the implementation of the survey and the data acquisition department, the Air Transport Publication record data were obtained from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development and the General Authority for Civil Aviation, which include data on the number of employees, commercial registration and economic activities.

The data were saved on GASTAT's databases, data have been audited and reviewed according to the statistical method and recognized quality standards, in case of defect quality issues or errors in the data we refer back to data source.

17.4. Data validation

Data are reviewed and matched to ensure their accuracy and precision in a way that suits their nature with the aim of giving the presented statistics quality and accuracy.

The data of the publication's current year are compared with the data of the previous year to ensure their integrity and consistency in preparation for processing data and extracting and reviewing results.

In addition to data processing and tabulation to ensure accuracy, all outputs calculated by GASTAT are recorded and uploaded to the database to be reviewed and processed by the specialists in the Department of Traffic and Transportation Statistics using advanced technologies and software designed for this purpose.

17.5. Data compilation

Data Editing

The data were processed and analyzed at this stage by the Department of Traffic and Transport Statistics, which was based on the following measures:

- Sort and arrange data in groups or different categories in a serial order.
- Summarize detailed data into main points or main data.
- Link between many parts of data and make them connected.
- Process incomplete or missing data.
- Process illogical data.
- Convert data into statistically significant data.
- Organize, display and interpret data.

17.6. Adjustment



Not applicable, only final results will be published.

18. Comment