

Current Demand For Air Travel And Airport Expansion.

The Government's ' Beyond the horizon, The future of UK aviation, Making best use of existing runways' document combined with the Aviation 2050 consultation has fuelled the expansion plans of all London Airports to rise to the challenge of meeting a so called growing demand for air travel.

Since the publishing of these documents the effects of aviation on climate change has been further researched with more emphasis given to how the industry should respond to be Carbon Neutral by 2050.

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) says that any growth should be limited to 25% though it is reported that the government plan a 49% growth. The exact detail of how this 25% would be shared among the airports of the UK has not been detailed by Government although airports are still progressing with their expansion plans.

There is also the very expensive and complicated task being undertaken to reorganise the airspace above the South of England. Realistically there are only two ways to achieve this, move aircraft into the skies over areas that has empty airspace, or set a movement capacity cap at airports.

Based on the claim of Luton Borough Council and London Luton Airport Operations Limited, that it has to expand to meet demand for flights, Stop Luton Airport Expansion (SLAE) decided to undertake an exercise that identified the number of empty seats that were flown as opposed to the number of passengers flown in a given month. Passenger (load not flown) statistics are used by airports.

To find the number of empty seats, we used the reported scheduled passenger numbers by destination from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) website for July 2019.

We then used internet data sources to compile comprehensive flight schedules for that month. Where we came across a lack of data on flights to be truly accurate, we removed them from the exercise (1). We did not include charter flights, as the information on aircraft used was not available. Where multiple airlines were on a route, or different capacity aircraft used by a single carrier, an average of seating capacity was used to provide the empty flight figure.

The figures we found were:-

Flights in the month	10,320
Seats available	1,931,632
Passengers carried	1,678,226
Empty seats	253,406 (13% of availability)
Empty flights	1,369.5 (13.3% of availability)

The data, by destination, is on the attached spreadsheet.

These figures show that in our opinion, the proposed expansion of passengers at London Luton Airport which is currently under consideration could actually be achieved by filling all the empty seats which occur over a year.

This would mean not one extra flight is required.

No additional flights added to the Air Traffic Control system. Alleviating the claim made by the airport operator that congestion and slot delays are the cause of increased night jet flying.

If the airport operator wanted to add new destinations within that passenger growth, then by cutting the current schedules where capacity is greater than demand, it would free up that capacity, so once again not one new flight would need to be added.

This principle could apply to any airport which is seeking development / expansion at this time. The focus would be on efficiency rather than expansion, with more empty seats.

This would encourage reporting of flights by empty seats, rather than passenger numbers, encouraging climate change initiatives.

- 1) *The routes excluded were Lyons-France, Palma-Majorca/Spain, Pisa- Italy, Seville-Spain, Venice-Italy.
Seasonal routes Bodrum-Turkey, Palermo- Sicily/Italy, Split- Croatia, Tallinn-Estonia.*

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July 2019 Detailed Passenger Analysis

Destination	Sch Flights in Month	Seats Available	Passengers Carried	Empty Seats	Empty Flights	Airlines on Route	Seasonal Route
Amsterdam-Netherlands	454	81,432	64,663	16,769	92.10	Easyjet/Vueling/Level	
Bucharest-Romania	326	68,912	63,699	5,213	29.10	Blue Air/Wizz Air	
Tel Aviv-Israel	292	53,736	51,185	2,551	13.00	Easyjet/EL AL/Wizz Air	
Budapest-Hungary	264	57,660	52,496	5,164	24.00	Wizz Air	
Barcelona-Spain	248	44,094	41,640	2,454	14.00	Easyjet/Ryanair	
Lisbon-Portugal	240	42,144	38,911	3,233	18.80	Easyjet/Wizz Air	
Malaga-Spain	240	42,654	41,550	1,104	6.30	Easyjet/Ryanair	
Belfast	212	34,560	30,802	3,758	22.40	Easyjet	
Dublin	212	40,068	35,674	4,394	23.20	Ryanair	
Warsaw-Poland	212	48,760	39,636	9,124	39.70	Wizz Air	
Faro-Portugal	206	36,630	34,966	1,664	9.50	Easyjet/Ryanair	
Edinburgh	196	33,744	28,191	5,553	33.10	Easyjet	
Alicante-Spain	186	33,606	33,480	126	0.70	Easyjet/Ryanair	
Paris-De Gaulle-France	178	28,392	20,193	8,199	48.80	Easyjet	
Cluj-Romania	168	30,240	25,519	4,721	26.20	Wizz Air	
Gdansk-Poland	160	31,900	25,895	6,005	29.30	Wizz Air	
Katowice-Poland	160	28,800	27,110	1,690	9.40	Wizz Air	
Krakow-Poland	160	34,136	29,747	4,389	22.70	Easyjet/Wizz Air	
Larnaca-Cyprus	160	35,324	32,324	3,000	14.40	Blue Air/Wizz Air	
Vilnius-Lithuania	152	33,074	25,487	7,587	36.30	Ryanair/Wizz Air	
Glasgow	150	25,320	19,664	5,656	33.70	Easyjet	
Sofia-Bulgaria	150	31,400	29,234	2,166	10.60	Wizz Air	
Nice-France	140	22,896	21,294	1,602	9.50	Easyjet	
Geneva-Switzerland	132	21,888	19,048	2,840	16.90	Easyjet	
Athens-Greece	124	25,978	24,311	1,667	7.90	Ryanair/Wizz Air	
Milan-Malpensa-Italy	124	21,072	14,295	6,777	40.30	Easyjet	
Riga-Latvia	124	22,320	20,531	1,789	9.90	Wizz Air	
Berlin-Schonefeld-Germany	116	19,008	15,068	3,940	23.50	Easyjet	
Reykjavik-Iceland	116	22,476	19,484	2,992	16.10	Easyjet/Wizz Air	
Zurich-Switzerland	116	20,472	17,753	2,719	15.60	Easyjet	
Kaunas-Lithuania	106	22,166	21,098	1,068	5.10	Ryanair/Wizz Air	
Iasi-Romania	106	19,476	18,511	965	5.20	Blue Air/Wizz Air	
Timisoara-	106	19,080	11,944	7,136	39.40	Wizz Air	

Romania							
Inverness	104	17,280	13,693	3,587	21.40	Easyjet	
Ibiza-Spain	90	15,666	14,058	1,608	9.20	Easyjet/Tui	Yes
Varna-Bulgaria	90	16,200	12,701	3,499	19.40	Wizz Air	
Burgas-Bulgaria	88	20,240	18,313	1,927	8.40	Wizz Air	
Chisinau-Moldova	88	15,840	15,342	498	2.80	Wizz Air	
Debrecen-Hungary	88	15,840	14,265	1,575	8.70	Wizz Air	
Mahon-Spain	88	14,496	12,842	1,654	9.90	Easyjet	Yes
Wroclaw-Poland	88	15,840	14,283	1,557	8.60	Wizz Air	
Craiova-Romania	80	14,400	14,239	161	0.90	Wizz Air	
Lublin-Poland	80	17,100	15,580	1,520	7.40	Wizz Air	
Madrid-Spain	80	13,776	10,203	3,573	21.20	Easyjet	
Naples-Italy	80	13,776	12,811	965	5.70	Easyjet	
Sibiu-Romania	80	14,400	10,907	3,493	19.40	Wizz Air	Yes
Suceava-Romania	80	18,400	14,026	4,374	19.00	Wizz Air	
Knock-Ireland	78	14,742	13,805	937	5.00	Ryanair	
Bordeaux-France	70	12,600	10,958	1,642	9.10	Easyjet	
Malta	70	13,230	12,590	640	3.40	Ryanair	
Munich-Germany	70	11,352	7,294	4,058	24.20	Easyjet	
Basle-Switzerland	62	10,152	9,211	941	5.60	Easyjet	
Bologna-Italy	62	11,718	11,067	651	3.40	Ryanair	
Bratislava-Slovakia	62	14,260	13,030	1,230	5.30	Wizz Air	
Cork-Ireland	62	11,718	10,704	1,014	5.30	Ryanair	
Dortmund-Germany	62	10,104	7,302	2,802	16.70	Easyjet	
Jersey	62	10,056	8,543	1,513	9.00	Easyjet	Yes
Kerry-Ireland	62	11,718	10,928	790	4.20	Ryanair	
Kosice-Slovakia	62	14,260	13,902	358	1.50	Wizz Air	
Murcia-Spain	62	11,718	10,321	1,397	7.40	Ryanair	Yes
Poznan-Poland	62	14,260	13,298	962	4.20	Wizz Air	
Prague-Czech Republic	62	12,060	10,464	1,596	7.80	Wizz Air	
Tenerife-Canary Islands	62	11,852	7,683	4,169	21.10	Easyjet/Ryanair/Tui	
Thessaloniki-Greece	62	12,960	9,952	3,008	14.70	Easyjet/Wizz Air	Yes
Tirana-Albania	62	11,160	11,110	50	0.30	Wizz Air	
Corfu-Greece	60	11,348	9,024	2,324	11.60	Easyjet/Tui	Yes
Porto-Portugal	60	11,860	10,274	1,586	8.40	Easyjet/Wizz Air	
Rome-Italy	56	8,976	7,763	1,213	7.20	Easyjet	
Aberdeen	54	8,424	5,692	2,732	17.50	Easyjet	
Arrecife-Canary Islands	52	10,510	6,397	4,113	20.30	Easyjet/Ryanair/Tui	
Bacau-Romania	52	9,828	9,194	634	3.40	Blue Air	
Copenhagen-Denmark	52	9,828	9,238	590	3.10	Ryanair	
Paphos-Cyprus	52	9,800	8,003	1,797	8.70	Easyjet/Tui	

Toulouse-France	52	8,496	4,437	4,059	24.20	Easyjet	
Antalya-Greece	46	8,370	5,549	2,821	15.40	Easyjet/Sun Express	Yes
Constanta-Romania	44	10,120	8,428	1,692	7.40	Wizz Air	
Skopje-North Macedonia	44	7,920	5,305	2,615	14.50	Wizz Air	
Alghero-Sardinia/Italy	36	6,096	2,647	3,449	20.50	Easyjet	
Bari-Italy	36	8,280	7,782	498	2.20	Wizz Air	Yes
Bergen-Norway	36	8,280	6,723	1,557	6.80	Wizz Air	
Catania-Sicily/Italy	36	6,480	6,368	112	0.60	Easyjet	
Isle of Man	36	5,856	2,490	3,366	20.00	Easyjet	Yes
Kiev-Ukraine	36	6,480	5,751	729	4.00	Wizz Air	
Ljubljana-Slovenia	36	6,480	6,322	158	0.90	Wizz Air	Yes
Marakesh-Morocco	36	6,804	6,247	557	2.90	Ryanair	
Marseille-France	36	6,288	5,267	1,021	6.10	Easyjet	
Nantes-France	36	6,288	4,933	1,355	8.10	Easyjet	
Palanga-Lithuania	36	6,480	6,110	370	2.10	Wizz Air	
Pristina-Kosovo	36	6,480	5,936	544	3.00	Wizz Air	
Rhodes-Greece	36	7,470	6,581	889	4.30	Easyjet/Tui	Yes
Satu Mare-Romania	36	6,480	6,371	109	0.60	Wizz Air	
Belgrade-Serbia	34	7,420	6,127	1,293	6.30	Wizz Air	
Vienna-Austria	34	5,928	5,625	303	1.80	Easyjet	
Beziers-France	28	5,292	4,691	601	3.20	Ryanair	
Girona-Spain	28	5,292	4,890	402	2.10	Ryanair	Yes
Heraklion-Crete/Greece	28	5,040	4,916	124	0.70	Easyjet	Yes
Las Palmas-Gran Canaria	28	5,752	5,353	399	1.90	Ryanair/Tui	Yes
Bydgoszcz-Poland	26	4,914	4,174	740	3.90	Ryanair	
Dalaman-Turkey	26	4,836	3,214	1,622	8.70	Easyjet	Yes
Dubrovnik-Croatia	26	4,680	3,668	1,012	5.60	Easyjet	Yes
Genoa-Italy	26	4,680	3,715	965	5.40	Easyjet	Yes
Lviv-Ukraine	26	4,680	4,352	328	1.80	Wizz Air	
Montpellier-France	26	4,680	4,670	10	0.00	Easyjet	Yes
Nimes-France	26	4,914	4,380	534	2.80	Ryanair	Yes
Olbia-Sardinia/Italy	26	4,056	4,028	28	0.00	Easyjet	Yes
Olsztyn-Poland	26	5,980	5,402	578	2.50	Wizz Air	
Poprad-Slovakia	26	5,980	4,711	1,269	5.50	Wizz Air	
Rzeszow-Poland	26	4,914	4,314	600	3.20	Ryanair	
Targu Mures-Romania	26	4,680	4,198	482	2.70	Wizz Air	
Turku-Finland	26	4,680	4,196	484	2.70	Wizz Air	Yes
Valencia-Spain	26	4,056	4,055	1	0.00	Easyjet	
Izmir-Turkey	20	3,780	2,568	1,212	6.40	Sun Express	Yes
Biarritz-France	18	2,808	2,120	688	4.40	Easyjet	Yes

Florence-Italy	18	2,592	2,294	298	2.10	Vueling	Yes
Fuerteventura- Canary Islands	18	3,402	3,250	152	0.80	Ryanair	Yes
Mykonos-Greece	18	3,240	3,228	12	0.00	Easyjet	Yes
Ohrid-North Macedonia	18	3,240	2,678	562	3.10	Wizz Air	
Reus-Spain	18	3,048	2,877	171	1.00	Easyjet	Yes
Stockholm- Sweden	18	2,808	2,701	107	0.70	Easyjet	
Zadar-Croatia	18	3,240	2,946	294	1.60	Easyjet	Yes
Kutaisi-Georgia	16	2,880	2,527	353	1.90	Wizz Air	
Gazientep-Turkey	10	1,890	1,095	795	4.20	Sun Express	Yes
Ankara-Turkey	8	1,512	1,179	333	1.80	Sun Express	Yes