

## Northern Ireland Air Passenger Flow

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The key points are that in the 12 months to end March 2018:

- There were **8.5 million air passengers flowing** through Northern Ireland airports. This represents an **3% increase** on the previous 12 month period to March 2017 with flow increasing in Belfast International Airport (+8%), but decreasing in George Best Belfast City Airport (-3%) & City of Derry Airports (-36%);
- **Northern Ireland residents** made up an estimated **59% of the passenger flow** through Northern Ireland airports (5.1 million of the 8.5 million passenger flow);
- Northern Ireland residents made up a further estimated **0.95 million air passengers flowing** through Republic of Ireland airports;
- **In total Northern Ireland residents** made up an estimated **6.0 million air passenger flow** through Northern Ireland airports (5.1 million) and Republic of Ireland airports (0.95 million).

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## Introduction

This report provides a picture of air passenger flow from Northern Ireland airports and the airports used by Northern Ireland residents. The report informs the Assembly and Executive, policy makers, Northern Ireland airports and the public on air passenger flow data for Northern Ireland. The report includes two sections:

1. Total air passenger flow (Northern Ireland Airports)
2. Air Passenger Flow (Residency) - (April 2017 – March 2018)

## Air Passenger Flow

This relates to an estimate of passengers both IN and OUT of an airport. It does not give an estimate on the number of individuals.

### For example



1 individual travelling to and from London = **2 Air Passenger Flows**

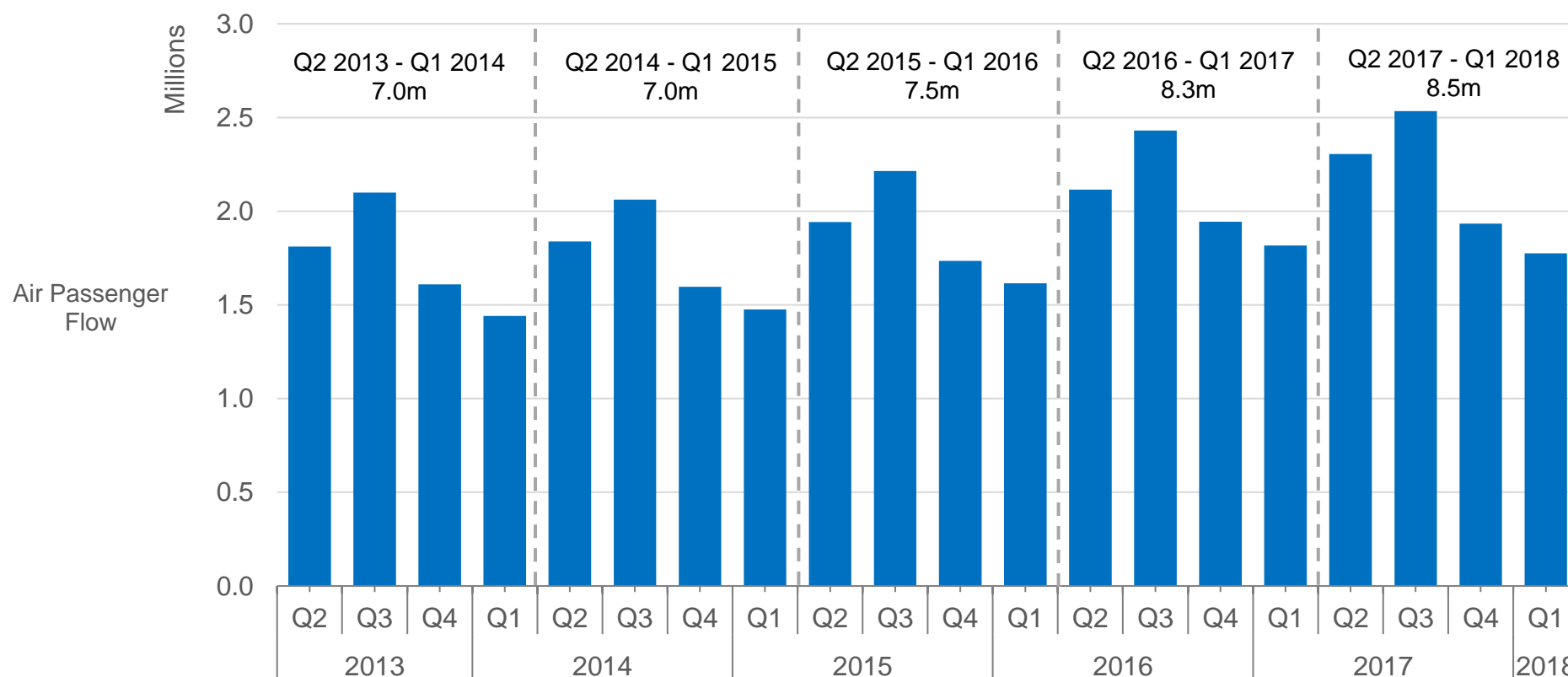


A family of **4** travelling to and from London = **8 Air Passenger Flows**

## Section 1: Total air passenger flow (Northern Ireland Airports)

- Air passenger flow across all Northern Ireland airports was 8.5 million in the 12 months to March 2018. This represents a 3% increase on the year to March 2017.
- In the year to March 2018, there were 288.7 million air passengers flowing through United Kingdom airports and 34.5 million air passengers flowing through Republic of Ireland airports.
- The top 12 destinations in terms of direct air passenger flow in 2017 from Northern Ireland Airports were to Great Britain. These routes accounted for 55% of all air passenger flow to and from Northern Ireland in 2017.

**Figure 1: Total air passenger flow through Northern Ireland airports, April 2013 to March 2018**



Source: Civil Aviation Authority

See [link](#) for data

**Figure 2: Total air passenger flow through Northern Ireland airports, April 2017 to March 2018**



**NI Airports**  
**April 2017 to March 2018**  
**8.5 million passenger flow**

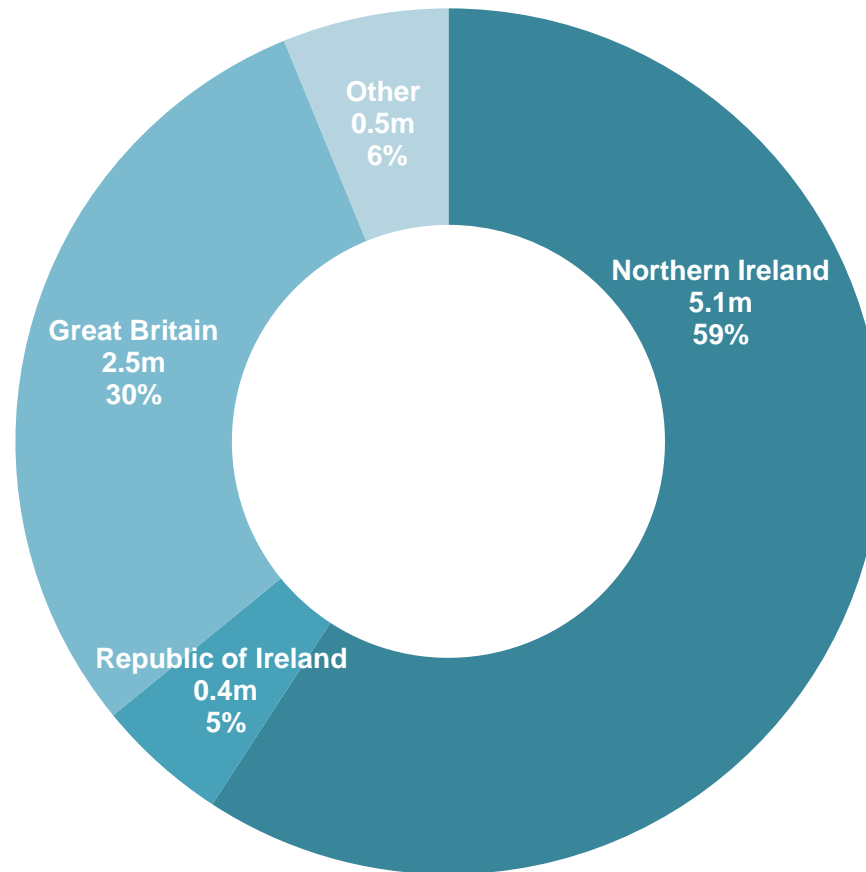
Source: Civil Aviation Authority  
(see background note 4)

- During the twelve months to March 2018, over two thirds of the air passengers flowing through Northern Ireland airports were in Belfast International Airport (68%). Air passenger flow increased in Belfast International Airport (+8%) but decreased in across George Best Belfast City (-3%) City of Derry Airport (-36%) from the previous twelve month period.

## Section 2: Air Passenger Flow (Residency) - (April 2017 – March 2018)

- In the year up to March 2018, Northern Ireland residents made up 59% of the passenger flow through the Northern Ireland airports (5.1 million of the 8.5 million passenger flow). Great Britain residents made up 30% (2.5 million), Republic of Ireland residents made up 5% (0.4 million) and residents of countries outside UK and Ireland made up 6% (0.5 million).

**Figure 3: Residency of passenger flow through Northern Ireland airports, April 2017 to March 2018**



NI Airports  
April 2017 to March 2018  
8.5 million passenger flow

- Over this period Northern Ireland residents accounted for a further 0.95 million air passenger flow through Republic of Ireland airports.
- In total, in the twelve months to March 2018, Northern Ireland residents accounted for 6.0 million air passenger flow - 84% of this flow (5.1 million) was through Northern Ireland airports. Dublin Airport accounted for 16% of the total Northern Ireland resident air passenger flow (0.95m).
- Belfast International Airport is the most used airport for residents across all Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland. However, proximity is an important factor. As would be expected the detailed statistics indicate that compared to the Northern Ireland picture residents of Derry City & Strabane LGD are more likely to use City of Derry Airport while residents of Newry, Mourne and Down LGD are more likely to use Dublin Airport. The survey also shows that George Best Belfast City Airport is important for business travellers.

## Background Notes

1. This report presents a summary of Air Passenger Flow to and from Northern Ireland and the Air Passenger Flow of Northern Ireland residents. More detailed statistics are available on our website at this [link](#).
2. Data and estimates presented in this publication are derived from a variety of sources (Civil Aviation Authority, Airports Pairing Information (CSO), Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NISRA), Continuous Household Survey (NISRA), the Country of Residence Survey (CSO)). Data on air passenger flow information provided by the Civil Aviation Authority and the Airports Pairing Information (CSO) is based on a count of passengers. Estimates of the residency of these passengers are derived from the sample surveys (Northern Ireland Passenger Survey, Continuous Household Survey, Country of Residence Survey) and applied to the passenger flow figures. The Civil Aviation Authority and the Airports Pairing Information is updated on a monthly basis with the latest information available being for July 2018. Information on the data quality and revisions can be accessed at this [link](#).
3. Estimates of residency in this bulletin are derived from sample surveys and are therefore subject to sampling errors. Sampling errors are determined both by the sample design and by the sample size. Generally speaking, the larger the sample supporting a particular estimate, the smaller the associated sampling error. A full quality report on the NISRA surveys within this publication can be found at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/tourism-statistics-data-quality>
4. The estimates may be subject to revision due to improvements to the survey/analysis methodology or the inclusion of data returned after the publication date. More recent Civil Aviation Authority data (up to July 2018) is available on their website (see [link](#))
5. The production of tourism statistics is conducted in line with the UK Statistics Authority [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).
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We welcome feedback from users on the content, format and relevance of this release. Feedback can be sent by [email](#).

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