

THE FUTURE OF AIR TRANSPORT

KEY FACTS – Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland has three main airports: Belfast City, Belfast International and City of Derry. Belfast City and Belfast International are both in private ownership. City of Derry Airport is owned by the local authority.

- Of the 190 million passengers passing through UK airports in 2002, nearly 5.7 million used the main Northern Ireland airports.
- Average number of return trips per head of population in Northern Ireland was estimated at 1.4 in 2000. This was high in comparison to other regions of the UK.
- It is estimated that between 5% and 15% (net) of people in Northern Ireland choose to travel from airports in the Republic of Ireland.
- Belfast International is ranked 5th in terms of passenger traffic at the UK's regional airports (9th when the South East's airports are included), with Belfast City 11th (15th) and City of Derry 22nd (27th).
- Overall growth in air passengers for Northern Ireland since 1991 has been around 6.8% pa, which is below the UK regional average (around 8% pa).
- The number of passengers using domestic services has grown substantially in recent years, and this sector continues to dominate despite growth in the volume of international traffic.
- Belfast City and Belfast International have seen similar increases in passenger numbers since 1991, but Belfast City and City of Derry have grown faster than Belfast International in percentage terms.
- Belfast International has the only significant airfreight operation, handling nearly 42,000 tonnes of cargo and mail in 2002.
- The population of Northern Ireland is around 1.7 million, of whom around 4,000 are employed directly in the aviation industry.
- According to recent estimates, aviation directly contributes £0.2 billion to the Northern Irish economy each year and accounts for 1.4% of Northern Ireland's GDP.

Northern Ireland Airports

	PAX 1991 (mppa)	PAX 2002 (mppa)	Average Growth pa	Range of Commercial Services	Freight (Tonnes)	Total ATMs	Total Catchment
Belfast City	0.537	1.916	12.3%	Full Scheduled – domestic & Cork	1,156	38,578	1.3m
Belfast Int'l	2.168	3.547	4.6%	Full Scheduled – domestic; 'No frills' – domestic & Amsterdam; Charter – Europe, Tunisia, Toronto & Florida; Air Freight/Mail	41,989	40,414	1.3m
City of Derry	0.037	0.199	16.5%	Full Scheduled to Dublin, Glasgow & Manchester; 'No frills' to Stansted; Charter – Majorca, Lanzarote & Reus	168	4,374	0.4m
TOTALS	2.742	5.662	11.1%		43,313	83,366	

	Existing Demand 2002		Existing Infrastructure Capacities (end 2001)			
	PAX (mppa)	ATMs (000s)	Runway Length (m)	Current Hourly Capacity (ATMs)	Apron Stands	Terminal Capacity (mppa)
Belfast City	1.916	38	1,829	14	15	2.3
Belfast Int'l	3.547	40	2,777	26 [†]	30	**3.6
City of Derry	0.199	4	1,852	n/k	3	0.4

*planning constraint caps traffic at estimated 2.2mppa

**Belfast International Airport have received planning permission for new terminal with capacity of 6.5mppa

[†]limited by apron capacity, rather than that of the runway