

Where, how and when
do Europeans travel
on business?

Cities & Trends Report

July 2017

Departing from
Netherlands, Belgium and
Luxembourg



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Introduction

BCD Travel, a leading travel management company worldwide, analyzed flight booking data for eight major business travel markets in Europe: Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The results are published in the “BCD Travel Cities & Trends Report.”

The report provided a year-over-year look at 2016 data and shows where, when and how Europeans travel on business. The entire report can be found [here](#) and as a reminder here’s a brief overview of the key findings:

- The total number of flights departing from Europe, as measured by tickets issued, grew by 2 % in 2016 compared to the previous year.
- The most frequented European cities are London and Vienna, while New York and Shanghai are the top destinations for intercontinental travel.
- In Europe, the United Kingdom (U.K.), Germany and the Netherlands continue to hold on to the top spots for most visited European countries.
- On the intercontinental front, the United States (U.S.), China and India maintain their positions as the top destination countries.
- September is the busiest month of the year for business travel. The least busy period is December, due to the holiday season.

With this part of the 2017 “BCD Travel Cities & Trends Report” we are taking a closer look at the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.

All reports can be downloaded here:
www.bcdtravel.com/cities-trends-reports

Want to know more about the “BCD Travel Cities & Trends Report” or business travel trends in general? Follow BCD on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) for more information or contact us:

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The Netherlands' most popular destinations in 2016

Cities

London and **Munich** are the most frequently flown **European destinations** while **New York** and **Singapore** are the top **intercontinental cities** for travelers departing from the Netherlands (see Figure 1). Frankfurt's 8 % increase saw it rise to third in the European rankings while Stockholm and Berlin were replaced by Milan and Copenhagen both of which saw close to 15 % increases. Curaçao slipped down the table to fifth in the intercontinental destinations.

Figure 1: Ranking by market*, intra-European and intercontinental travel originating in the Netherlands**

	2015	2016
Intra-European	London	London ▶
	Munich	Munich ▶
	Stockholm	Frankfurt ▲
	Berlin	Milan ▲
	Frankfurt	Copenhagen ▲
Intercontinental	New York	New York ▶
	Singapore	Singapore ▶
	Curaçao	Dubai ▲
	Dubai	Shanghai ▲
	Shanghai	Curacao ▼

“An 8 % increase in business travelers flying to Frankfurt made up for a decline in travel to Berlin and kept Germany in second spot among European countries. Sweden’s economic blues in 2016 are reflected in a decrease of nearly 25 % in business travel from the Netherlands. Traffic to Dubai continues to rise. The instability in Egypt led to a 37 % year-on-year decline in flights.”

Diederik Banken
VP New Business & Client Retention EMEA

🔍 More insights about doing business in Dubai, Frankfurt and Copenhagen are available on:

[City guide: Dubai](#)

[City guide: Frankfurt](#)

[City guide: Copenhagen](#)

* Markets include multiple airports within a designated area. For example, London includes City, Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton and Stansted, airports.

** There’s no significant domestic air traffic in the Netherlands.

The Netherlands' most popular destinations in 2016

Countries – Intra-European travel

The **U.K.** is still the most popular country in **Europe**. The Brexit vote does not seem to have had an impact on business travel as it maintains its position at the top of European countries visited by Dutch business travelers (see Figure 2).

While the top six countries did not see any change in position, Sweden fell out of favor with Dutch travelers as flights fell by nearly a quarter y-o-y. Denmark and Poland both improved on their 2015 rankings with 14.7 % and 21.5 % increases respectively. Austria was the new entrant in 2016 as flights increased by nearly 30 %.

Figure 2: Ranking by country, intra-European travel originating in the Netherlands

	2015	2016	
1.	U.K.	U.K.	▶
2.	Germany	Germany	▶
3.	Spain	Spain	▶
4.	Italy	Italy	▶
5.	France	France	▶
6.	Switzerland	Switzerland	▶
7.	Sweden	Denmark	▲
8.	Denmark	Poland	▲
9.	Norway	Norway	▶
10.	Poland	Austria	▲

The Netherlands' most popular destinations in 2016

Countries – Intercontinental travel

The **U.S.** and **China** remain the most popular countries for **intercontinental business travel** originating in the Netherlands.

India jumped to third place in the intercontinental rankings on the back of a 8.6 % increase in traffic. **Singapore** (+4.7 %) also improved on its fifth place last year to rise to fourth in 2016. Egypt was down 37 % y-o-y and gave way to Indonesia in the top ten rankings.

Figure 3: Ranking by country, intercontinental travel originating in the Netherlands

	2015	2016	
1.	USA	USA	▶
2.	China	China	▶
3.	Netherlands Antilles	India	▲
4.	India	Singapore	▲
5.	Singapore	Netherlands Antilles	▼
6.	U. A. E.	U. A. E.	▶
7.	Canada	South Africa	▲
8.	Brazil	Canada	▼
9.	South Africa	Brazil	▼
10.	Egypt	Indonesia	▲

Belgium's most popular destinations in 2016

Cities

London, Madrid, Milan and **Geneva** are still the most frequently flown **European destinations**, while **New York, Dubai** and **Singapore** remain the top **intercontinental cities** for travelers departing from Belgium (see figure 4). The only change in the European top five from 2015 to 2016 is Vienna (+15.8 %) replacing Munich. Tokyo, with a 2.3 % increase, replaced Cairo in the intercontinental top five markets.

Figure 4: Ranking by market*, intra-European and intercontinental travel originating in Belgium**

	2015	2016
Intra-European	London	London ▶
	Madrid	Madrid ▶
	Milan	Milan ▶
	Geneva	Geneva ▶
	Munich	Vienna ▲
Intercontinental	New York	New York ▶
	Dubai	Dubai ▶
	Singapore	Singapore ▶
	Cairo	Washington ▲
	Washington	Tokyo ▲

“Austrian imports are rising, which likely contributed to Vienna replacing Munich as the fifth most popular European destination for Belgian business travelers. Portugal’s economic revival is well on course. It saw a 35 % year-on-year increase and entered the top ten. The new direct flight from Brussels helped Tokyo enter the top five for intercontinental travel.”

Jean-François De Mol

Senior Director Inside Sales and Client Retention EMEA

🔍 More insights about doing business in Lisbon and Tokyo can be found here:

[Ask a concierge: Lisbon](#)

[Ask a concierge: Tokyo](#)

* Markets include multiple airports within a designated area. For example, London includes City, Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton and Stansted, airports.

** There's no significant domestic air traffic in Belgium.

Belgium's most popular destinations in 2016

Countries – Intra-European travel

Germany remains the most popular **European country** for business travelers departing from Belgium. Italy saw close to a 13 % increase in trips and overtook the U.K. to take second place (see Figure 5). France and Switzerland switched places to claim the fifth and sixth spots as did Austria and Denmark at eighth and ninth respectively. Portugal saw a rise of nearly 35 % y-o-y to claim the tenth rank from the Czech Republic.

Figure 5: Ranking by country, intra-European travel originating in Belgium

	2015	2016	
1.	Germany	Germany	▶
2.	U. K.	Italy	▲
3.	Italy	U. K.	▼
4.	Spain	Spain	▶
5.	France	Switzerland	▲
6.	Switzerland	France	▼
7.	Poland	Poland	▶
8.	Denmark	Austria	▲
9.	Austria	Denmark	▼
10.	Czech Republic	Portugal	▲

Belgium's most popular destinations in 2016

Countries – Intercontinental travel

The **U.S.** remain in pole position in **intercontinental traffic**. The U.A.E. saw a 10 % drop and gave up its second rank to China in 2016. Morocco climbed two spots to seventh with a 22 % increase in traffic and Canada made its debut in eighth place with a nearly 17 % rise. Egypt saw a massive fall of nearly 60 % in 2016 as compared to 2015.

Figure 6: Ranking by country, intercontinental travel originating in Belgium

	2015	2016	
1.	USA	USA	▶
2.	U. A. E.	China	▲
3.	China	U. A. E.	▼
4.	India	India	▶
5.	Singapore	Singapore	▶
6.	Japan	Japan	▶
7.	Egypt	Morocco	▲
8.	Nigeria	Canada	▲
9.	Morocco	Nigeria	▼
10.	Brazil	Brazil	▶

Luxembourg's most popular destinations in 2016

Cities

Traffic from Luxembourg remained fairly predictable y-o-y with only one change in the top markets. Madrid (+5 %) replaced Amsterdam at number five (see Figure 7). **London** and **Toronto** topped the **European** and **intercontinental** destination list.

Figure 7: Ranking by market*, intra-European and intercontinental travel originating in Luxembourg**

	2015	2016
Intra-European	London	London ▶
	Geneva	Geneva ▶
	Milan	Milan ▶
	Vienna	Vienna ▶
	Amsterdam	Madrid ▲
Intercontinental	Toronto	Toronto ▶
	Dubai	Dubai ▶
	New York	New York ▶
	Cairo	Cairo ▶
	Washington	Washington ▶

“Business travelers from Luxembourg are flocking to Spain as its economy continues to grow faster than most other European countries. That lifted Madrid to fifth spot among European destinations. Meanwhile, traffic to Greek recovered spectacularly in 2016 with flights more than doubling over the previous year.”

Gary Coppers

Commercial & Operational Manager Luxembourg

🔗 Curious to learn more about doing business in Madrid?

[Ask a concierge: Madrid](#)

* Markets include multiple airports within a designated area. For example, London includes City, Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton and Stansted, airports.

** There's no significant domestic air traffic in Luxembourg.

Luxembourg's most popular destinations in 2016

Countries – Intra-European travel

London's top market status carries over as the **U.K.** stays at the top of the **European country** list followed by Switzerland, Italy and Germany (see Figure 8). **Greece** saw more than double the traffic in 2016 as in 2015 catapulting it into the tenth position.

Figure 8: Ranking by country, intra-European travel originating in Luxembourg

	2015	2016	
1.	U. K.	U. K.	▶
2.	Italy	Switzerland	▲
3.	Switzerland	Italy	▼
4.	Germany	Germany	▶
5.	Spain	Spain	▶
6.	Austria	Austria	▶
7.	Netherlands	Poland	▲
8.	Poland	Netherlands	▼
9.	France	France	▶
10.	Sweden	Greece	▲

Luxembourg's most popular destinations in 2016

Countries – Intercontinental travel

The **U.S.** and **Canada** are the most frequently flown **intercontinental destination countries** (see Figure 9). China follows at number three. Morocco (+96.7 %) nearly doubled its traffic and jumped from ninth to fourth position. Kenya (+71.4 %) replaced Israel in the top ten.

Figure 9: Ranking by country, intercontinental travel originating in Luxembourg

	2015	2016	
1.	USA	USA	▶
2.	Canada	Canada	▶
3.	China	China	▶
4.	U. A. E	Morocco	▲
5.	Egypt	Tunisia	▲
6.	South Africa	U. A. E	▼
7.	India	South Africa	▼
8.	Tunisia	Egypt	▼
9.	Morocco	Kenya	▲
10.	Israel	India	▲

Further Information

Watch out for our next **Cities & Trends Report in 2018**. In the meantime, use our other resources to help you stay informed on business travel topics.

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BCD Travel helps companies make the most of what they spend on travel. For travelers, this means keeping them safe and productive, and equipping them to make good choices on the road. For travel and procurement managers, it means advising them on how to grow the value of their travel program. In short, we help our clients travel smart and achieve more. We make this happen in 108 countries with almost 13,000 creative, committed and experienced people. And it's how we maintain the industry's most consistent client retention rate (95 % over the past 10 years), with 2016 sales of US\$24.6 billion. For more information, visit www.bcdtravel.com.

About BCD Group

BCD Group is a market leader in the travel industry. The privately owned company was founded in 1975 by John Fentener van Vlissingen and consists of BCD Travel (global corporate travel management), Travix (online travel: CheapTickets, Vliegwinkel, BudgetAir, Flugladen and Vayama), Park 'N Fly (off-airport parking) and joint ventures Parkmobile International (mobile parking applications) and AERTrade International (consolidating and fulfillment). BCD Group employs over 13,000 people and operates in 100+ countries with total sales of US\$ 25.4 billion, including US\$ 10 billion in partner sales. For more information, visit www.bcdgroup.com.

