All-Causes Delay to Air Transport in Europe

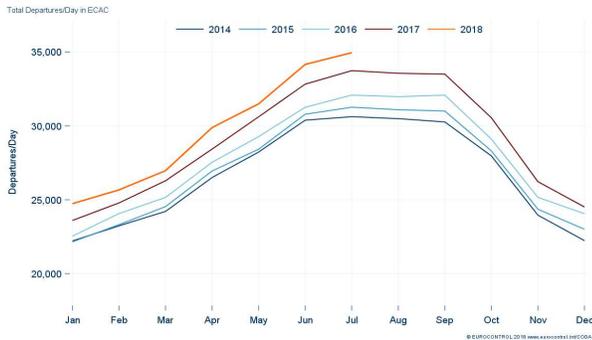July 2018 – based on preliminary airline data*

Summary & Significant Events

The average delay per flight in July 2018 increased by 5 minutes to 21 minutes per flight. Airline-reported ATFM delays increased by 1.7 minutes to 4.9 minutes per flight with ATFM en-route delays driving this increase mainly because of weather regulations (convective activity, thunderstorms). Apart from ATFM delays airline delays also increased, this by 0.9 minutes per flight, with other primary delay groupings remaining stable or decreasing. Reactionary delays increased to 9.7 minutes per flights, an increase of 2.5 minutes per flight compared to July 2017.

Thunderstorms affected large areas of North West Europe with intense local convective activity in Karlsruhe, Marseille ACCs, Barcelona and Frankfurt airports. Frequency problems in Bordeaux ACC during several days, a network connectivity issue in Brest ACC on 09 July, ATFM protective measures in Marseille TMA due to locally reported power failure at Lyon/Saint Exupery airport (13-16 July), an aircraft incident at London/Gatwick airport (06 July), the evacuation of the ATC tower facility at London/Heathrow airport due to fire alarm (18 July) and the terminal evacuation at Munich airport due to security issues on 28 July generated ATFM delays throughout the month. NM estimates there were 149 fewer flights to / from Belgian airports due to a FDPS failure in Brussels ACC on 19 July.
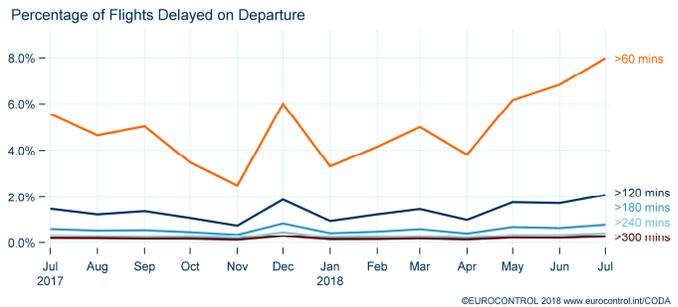
The average delay per delayed flight on departure (ADD) was 34 minutes per flight. In July 2017, it was 30 minutes per flight. The percentage of delayed flights (PDF) (>=5 minutes) on departure was 59%. This represents an increase of 5 percentage points when compared with July 2017. The percentage of delayed flights on arrival increased to 51%, compared with July 2017 when 45% of flights were delayed on arrival.
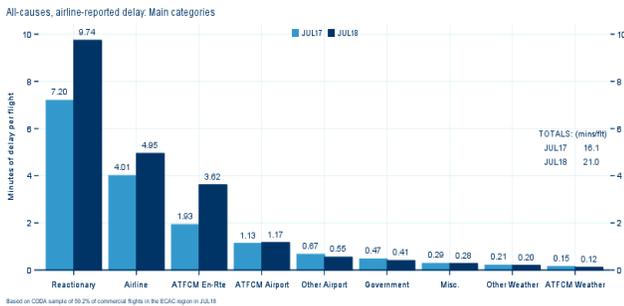
Traffic

In July 2018, ECAC saw an increase of 4.1% in the number of flights per day compared to July 2017.

Long Departure Delays All-Causes

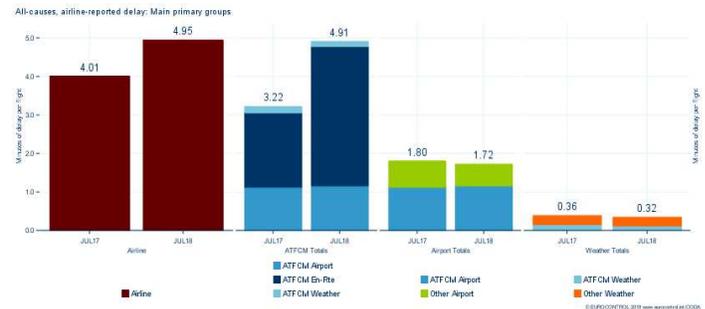Percentage of Flights Delayed on Departure

The percentage of delayed flights greater than 60 minutes from all-causes increased from 5.5% to 8% when compared to July 2017.

Average Delay per Flight by Delay Cause

The average delay per flight in July 2018 increased by 5 minutes to 21 minutes per flight. ATFM en-route delay almost doubled to 3.6 minutes per flight. The higher shares of en-route delay observed drove reactionary delay for airlines, this increasing to 9.7 minutes per flight in comparison to 7 minutes in July 2017.
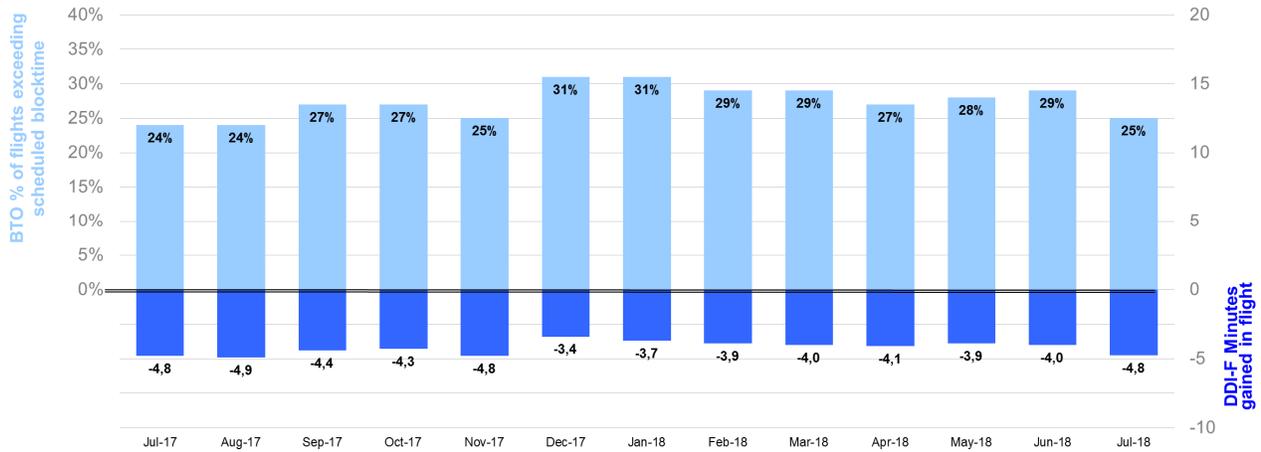
Primary Delay Groupings

Airline delays increased to 5 minutes per flight in July 2018. Grouped ATFM delay as reported by airlines increased by 1.7 minutes to 4.9 minutes per flight. The main contribution to this change came from ATFM en-route delay, this increasing to 3.6 minutes per flight.

CODA Scheduling Indicators

The **Block Time Overshoot (BTO)** or the percentage of flights with an actual block time which exceeds the scheduled block time increased slightly in July 2018 with 25% of flights exceeding their block times compared to a year ago.
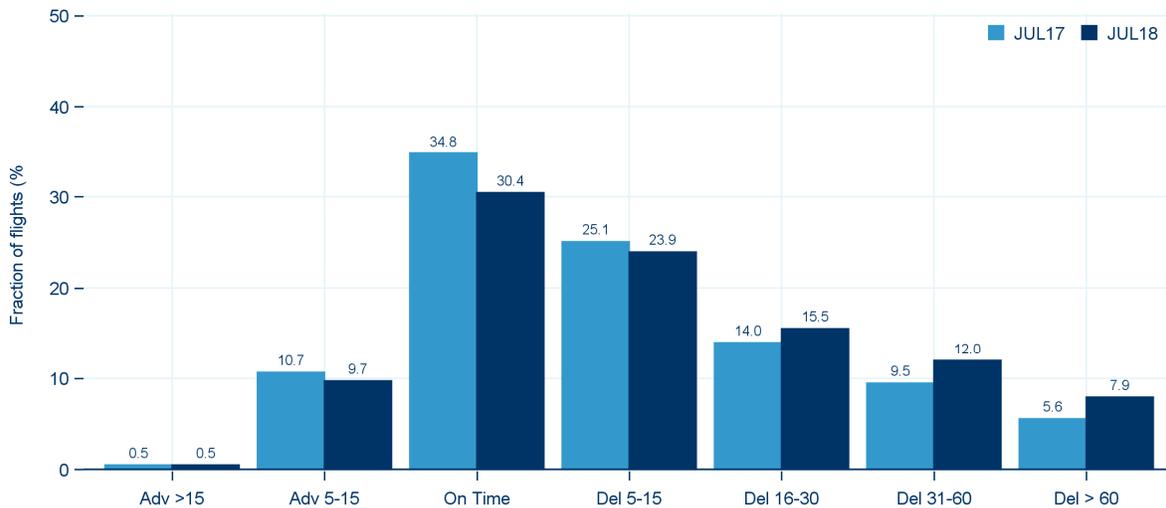
The **Delay Difference Indicator - Flight (DDI-F)** or the difference between departure and arrival punctuality expressed in minutes. This can be indicated as a positive or negative figure, for example a flight departing with 20 minutes delay and arriving with 30 minutes arrival delay will have a DDI-F of +10 minutes. The European DDI-F in July 2018 was -4.8 minutes thus remaining stable when compared to last year.

Distribution of All Flights by Length of Delay (Departure Punctuality)

In July 2018, 30.4% of flights departed within the 5 minute threshold before or after the scheduled departure time (STD), a decrease of 4 percentage points in comparison to July 2017. Flights delayed >30 minutes from all-causes increased from 15% to 20% when compared to July 2017.

All-Causes Departure punctuality

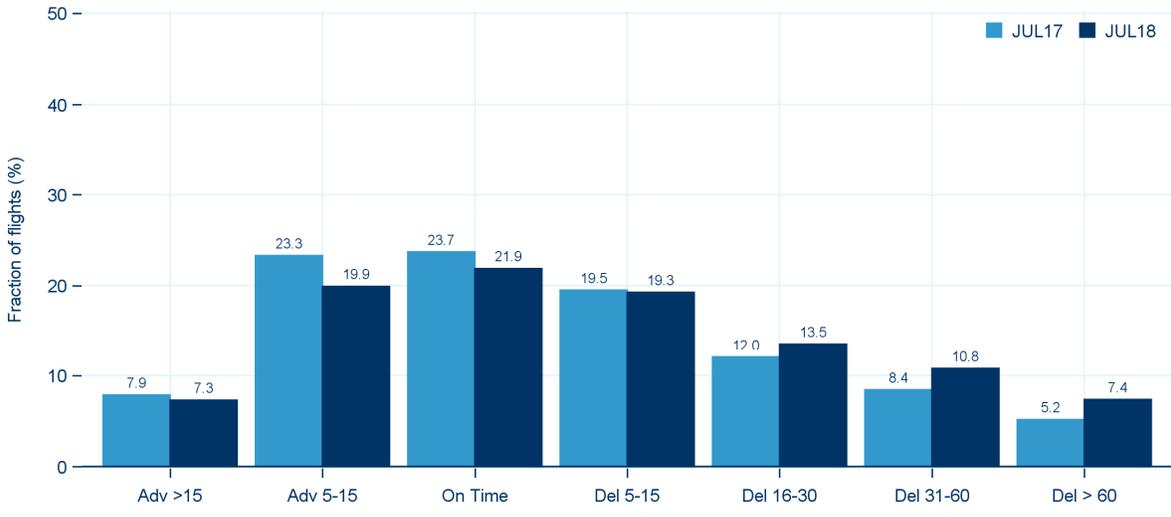Based on CODA sample of 59.2% of commercial flights in the ECAC region in JUL18

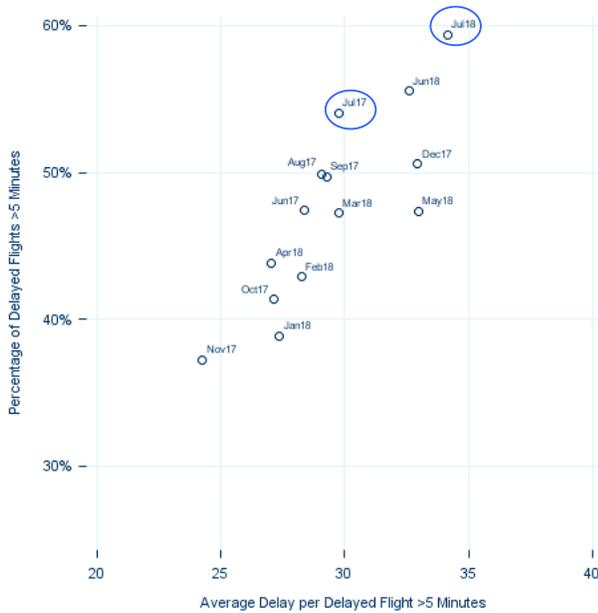© EUROCONTROL 2018 www.eurocontrol.int/CODA

Arrival punctuality also decreased with 68% of flights arriving within 15 minutes or earlier of their scheduled time of arrival time compared to 74% in July 2017. Flights delayed >30 minutes from all-causes increased from 14% to 18% when compared to July 2017.
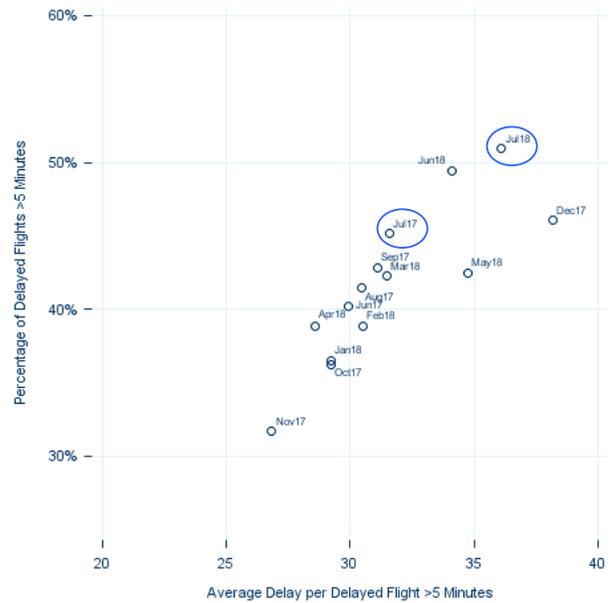
All-Causes Arrival punctuality

Based on CODA sample of 59.2% of commercial flights in the ECAC region in JUL18

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Average Delay per Delayed Flight and Percentage of Delayed Flights Comparison

Departure

Arrival

In July 2018 the average delay per delayed flight (>= 5 minutes) on departure was 34 minutes, an increase of 4.4 minutes. 59% of flights were delayed on departure, an increase of 5 percentage points when compared to July 2017.

The average delay per delayed flight (>= 5 minutes) on arrival was 36 minutes, an increase of 5 minutes. 51% of flights were delayed on arrival, an increase of 6 percentage points.

* This CODA report is based on airline data as currently available. Airline data coverage for July 2018 so far is: 59%
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