

# Pandemic Special

- *Grasp and Understand* -

## Air traffic



Source: [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)

*During the first Lockdown of the pandemic, there were only few contrails, blue sky and bright sunshine. Spring 2020 brought lots of good weather - but also curfews and travel bans. Instead of spending Easter at the beach or visiting grandma and grandpa, staycation was the order of the day. But how many planes were actually in the air in April, compared to the usual traffic?*

### Infobox

The measures to contain Covid-19 and the travel restriction inevitably led to a significant decline in air traffic. Initially, flight schedules were only thinned out, but at the end of March 2020 many destinations were completely cancelled. From spring onwards, return trips home, e.g. to Germany, became more and more difficult, and in April 2020 from some countries they were only possible via the return flights of the Foreign Office.

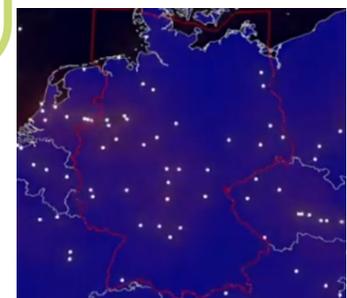
Europe's largest airports looked like ghost towns with almost no air traffic. Numerous airlines left almost their entire fleets on the ground<sup>1</sup>.

On the right you see two snapshots of air traffic over central Europe, one from April 2019, the other from April 2020.

- 1) How many fewer flights were recorded over central Europe in April 2020 compared to the previous year at this captured moment?
- 2) How can you determine this as precisely as possible? Give your result in percent.
- 3) What other option would you have for indicating the decline in air traffic?
- 4) Based on your snapshot calculations, consider how many planes were flying over central Europe during **one day** in April 2019. How many were there in April 2020 in comparison?
- 5) Find an according picture for your country and make the same considerations for your country.
- 6) Find out how many planes took off from the airport closest to you every day in April 2020. How many planes took off there per day before Corona? Compare this result with you calculations in 5).



April 2019



April 2020

Source: [https://www.instagram.com/p/B\\_2e552Khbo/](https://www.instagram.com/p/B_2e552Khbo/)

### Brainstorm-Box

The decline in air traffic had a positive impact on the environment: Less air traffic also means less air pollution. But are there also negative effects? For example, what does weather forecasting have to do with aircraft?