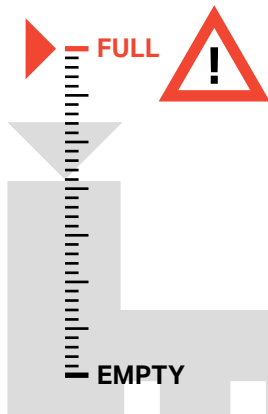
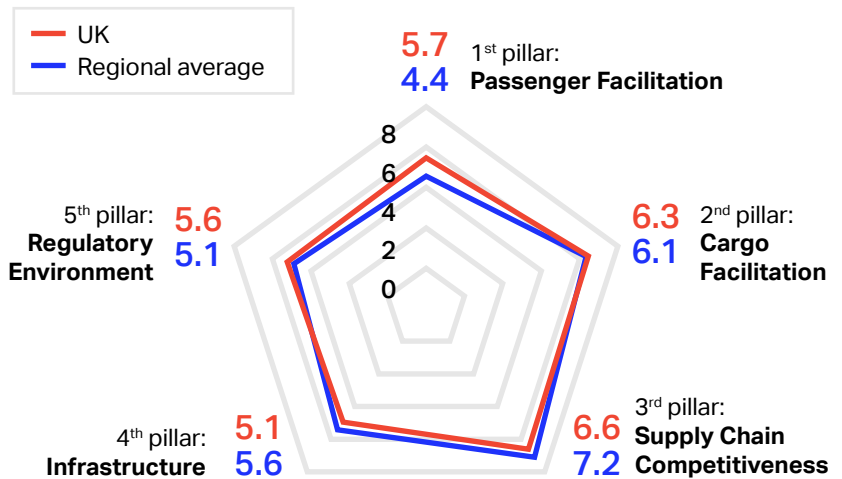


How Competitive is Air Transport in the UK?

Aviation supports 1.6 million jobs and GBP 97 billion in economic activity in the UK

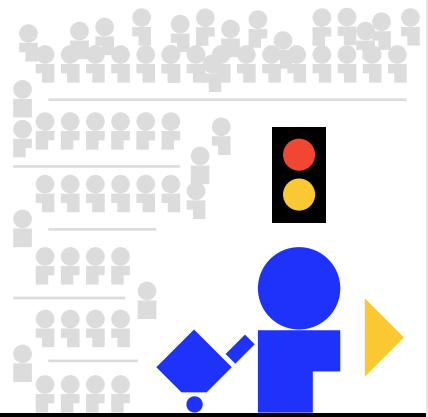
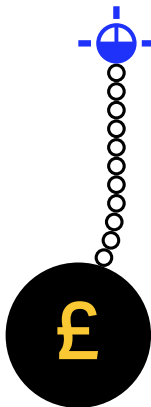
Increasing that contribution depends upon a **competitive air transport industry**.

This chart shows **the UK broadly matches** the European average for the competitiveness of its regulations, infrastructure, supply chain, and passenger facilitation. But options to improve competitiveness exist.



The UK has low runway infrastructure capacity. Heathrow operates above 99% declared capacity. **Cost effective expansion is a priority** if the UK is to remain a competitive aviation hub.

The UK has the **highest passenger taxes and charges in the world**. A PWC study estimates eliminating air passenger duty would create 61,000 jobs.



The visa application process is costly and complex. Border entry times are too slow. **The entry experience deters people from travelling to the UK.**

Recommendations

1. Expedite the cost effective development of additional airport capacity
2. Abolish or reduce APD - the world's highest air passenger tax
3. Improve the visa and border experience for passengers arriving in the UK

If these improvements are made, air transport could deliver even greater benefits to the UK by 2037.

Forecast for departing passenger traffic, GDP and job growth

