

# *Nearly 200 European airports face bankruptcy due to pandemic*



**Health workers wait for passengers to be tested for COVID-19 on arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris. (Photo: Reuters)**

Paris, October 28 (RHC)-- Nearly 200 airports in Europe will face insolvency in the coming months if passenger traffic does not start recovering by the end of the year, airports body ACI Europe has announced.

An estimated 193 European hubs are considered “at-risk airports,” ACI said, adding that they contribute to economic activity that creates 277,000 jobs and \$14.66 billion of European GDP.

Airports at risk are mainly smaller regional ones with fewer than five million travelers each year, where coronavirus-related closure would have an outsized impact on local jobs, an ACI spokeswoman told Reuters.

Larger European airports are also burning through cash at an unsustainable rate, with the top 20 European airports having added \$18.91 billion of debt — equivalent to nearly 60% of their revenues in a normal year, ACI said.

“The figures published today paint a dramatically bleak picture. Eight months into the crisis, all of Europe’s airports are burning through cash to remain open, with revenues far from covering the costs of operations, let alone capital costs,” ACI EUROPE director-general Olivier Jankovec said in a statement.

Data from ACI showed passenger traffic at European airports decreased 73% year-on-year in September, with 172.5 million passengers lost. The total volume of lost passengers since January 2020 is now 1.29 billion.

“As of mid-October, passenger traffic stood at 75% down from the same period last year, reaching an 80% decrease for airports in the EU/EEA/Switzerland/UK footprint — a clear downward trajectory,” Jankovec’s statement said.

ACI Europe represents over 500 airports out of a total of 740 airports in Europe which have paying passengers.

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