

# Summary

Flying has become a routine way of travelling, according to surveys KiM has conducted in the Netherlands, Belgium, and the German regions bordering the Netherlands. Only 8% of the survey respondents stated that they had never flown, and only 5% said they never will fly. The primary reasons given for not flying were fear of flying and cost. Young people fly more frequently than older people, but the propensity to fly only decreases considerably for those aged 75 and above. Women fly as frequently as men, except when it involves business-related travel. People with the highest education levels (and incomes) are the most frequent fliers.

The vast majority of people in the Netherlands have flown from Amsterdam-Schiphol (94%), followed by Eindhoven (28%) and Rotterdam The Hague Airport (25%), and three foreign airports: Düsseldorf (17%), Brussels (16%) and Weeze (12%). These foreign airports were primarily used by residents of South and East Netherlands, which indicates that travel distance is a key factor in airport choice. Of the respondents in Belgium, 22% have used Schiphol as a departure airport. Eindhoven Airport and Maastricht Aachen Airport were used by residents of the neighbouring Belgian/Flemish provinces. Germans however rarely fly from airports situated in the Netherlands or Belgium; moreover, Germans only occasionally used Amsterdam-Schiphol. And only residents of the Aachen region use Maastricht Aachen Airport as a departure airport.

The surveys revealed that airport choice is related to price, the flights offered, and the travel distance to the airport. This corresponds with the findings in the literature; however, the KiM surveys revealed two factors that were not previously cited in the literature: the effect of borders and the effect of language differences. Both the Dutch and Belgians use airports situated in neighbouring countries, although less frequently than could be expected based solely on proximity. The border serves as the greatest deterrent to groups with the lowest education levels. In Belgium, language differences were also found to affect airport choice.