

# AIRPORT TRAFFIC FORECAST

## 2023 Scenarios & 2023-2027 Outlook

December 2022



# → FORECAST SNAPSHOT

## **-9%** Full Year 2023 passenger traffic (vs. 2019)

- ✦ **Marginal change** compared to previous forecast (May 2022): -10%
- ✦ Strong consensus around the core forecast (base) scenario, although:
  - **Increased performance variations** across European airport network
  - **Downside traffic risks** remain high

## **220 million** less passengers in 2023 (vs. 2019)

- ✦ **Cumulative passenger traffic loss** since the start of the pandemic through the end of 2023: **3.9 billion passengers**
- ✦ **2023 passenger traffic back to 2017 volumes**

## **2025** for recovery to 2019 annual levels (downgraded)

- ✦ **FY 2024 at -2%** (vs. 2019), compared to full recovery of 2019 levels under the previous forecast (May 2022)
- ✦ **Slower growth from 2025 to 2027** (CAGR +3.4% vs. 2019) compared to pre-Covid growth trends and previous forecast (May 2022: +6.7%)

# → KEY PARAMETERS & ISSUES

Core (base) forecast now sees **traffic recovery levelling off & longer time-frame** before full recovery of 2019 passenger volumes - reflecting a **mix of negative & positive determinants**

**Negatives:** *i) continued geopolitical tensions ii) deteriorating macro-economics & inflationary pressures iii) increased air fares iv) tight capacity management (network carriers) v) higher regulatory costs (ie. EU Fit for 55)*

**Positives:** *i) resilience of experiential (travel) consumption ii) end of EU slot waivers (S23)*

**Wider performance gaps between airports & more traffic volatility vs. pre-pandemic trends** due to:

- *diverse exposure to geopolitical risks & recession fallout*
- *uncertain recovery of passenger traffic to/from Asia (China)*
- *reliance on leisure/VFR vs. business/corporate demand*
- *increased airport competition*

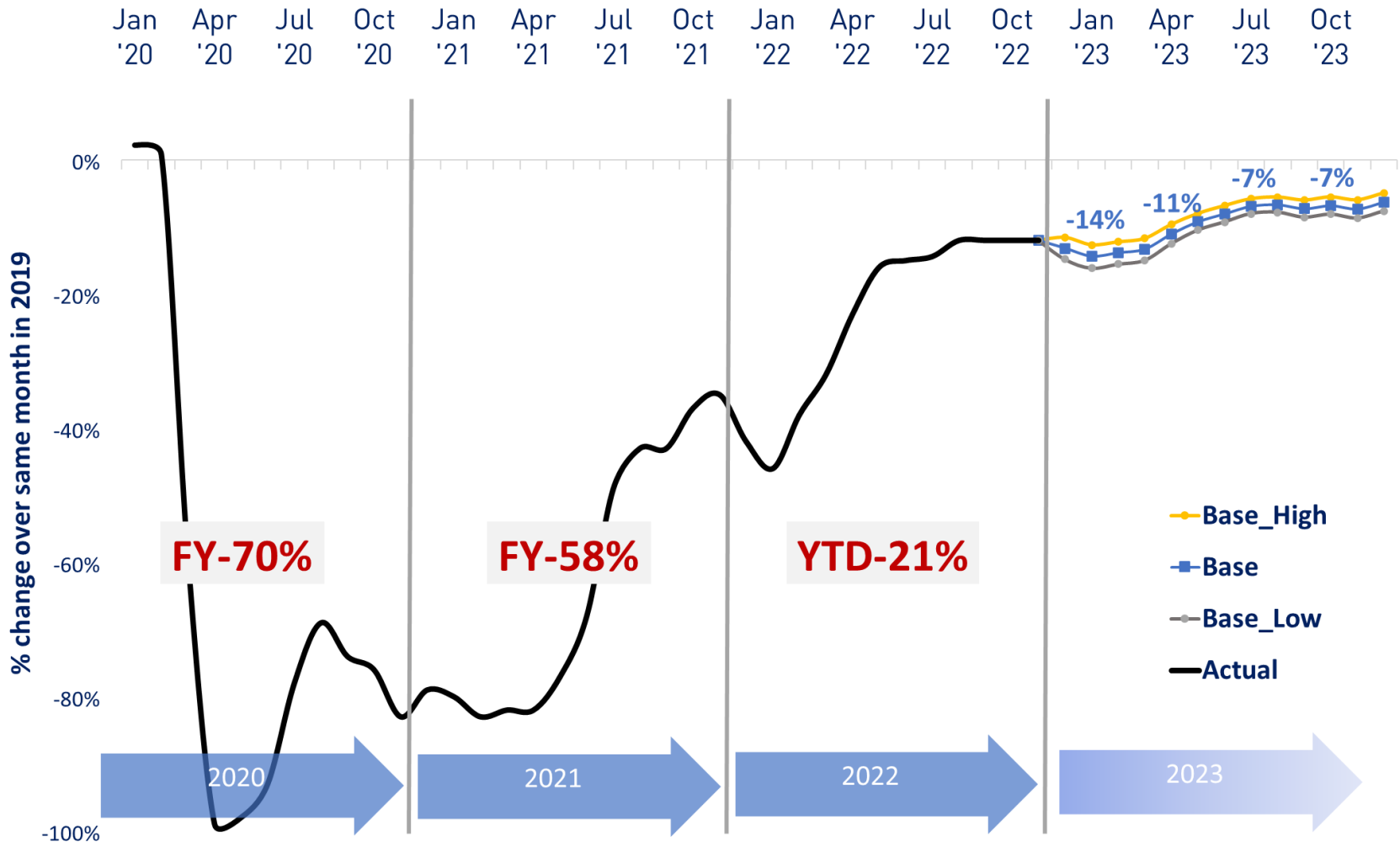
**Downside traffic risks** as:

- No further degradation to Russia-Ukraine conflict is assumed
- No further COVID-19 wave is assumed



# → 3-YEARS OVERVIEW

## THE WORST IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAVE PASSED BUT THE RECOVERY IS LEVELLING OFF

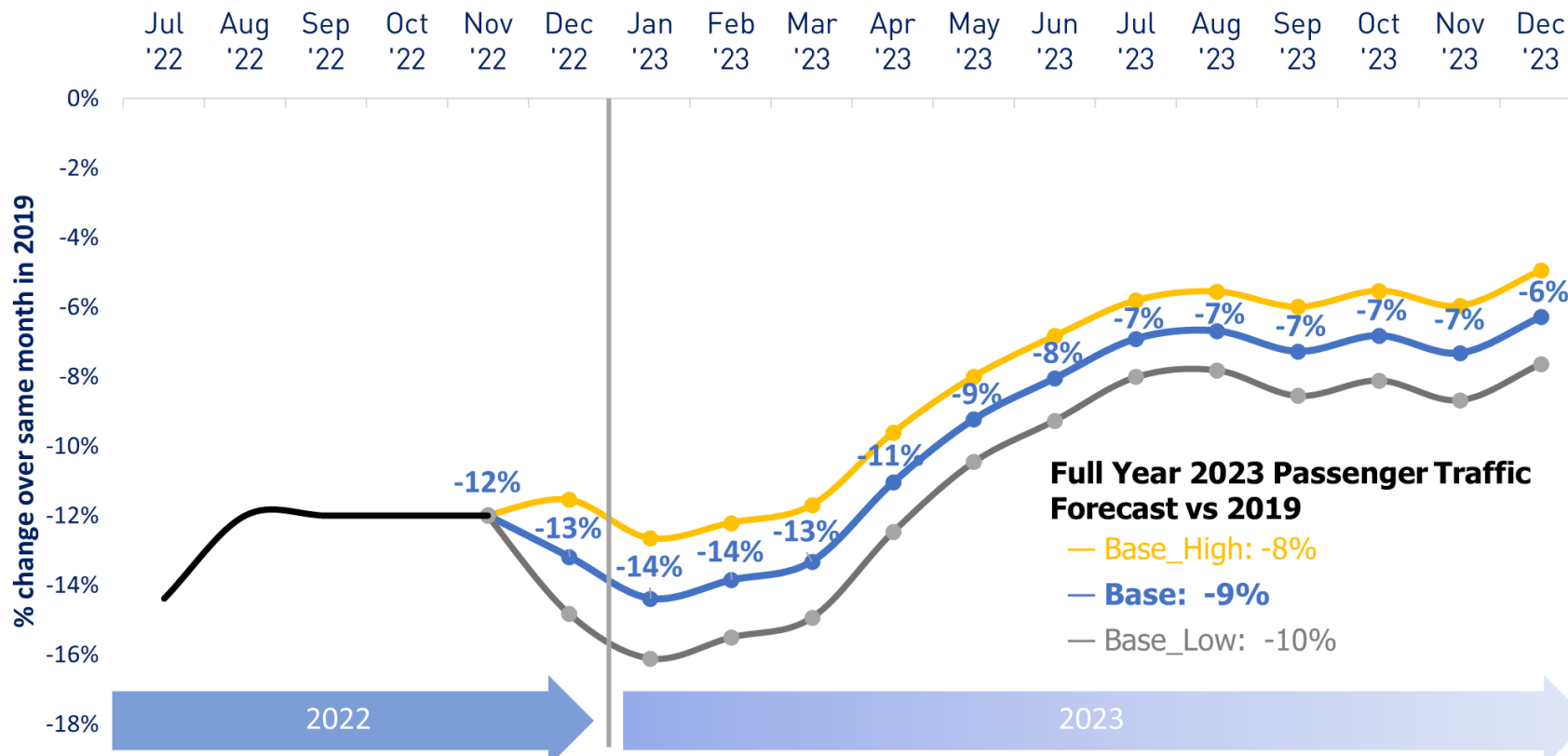




# FY 2023: -9% vs. 2019

## Monthly European Airport Passenger Traffic Forecast

% change vs 2019



**2023 WILL SEE 220 MILLION FEWER PASSENGERS THAN IN 2019**

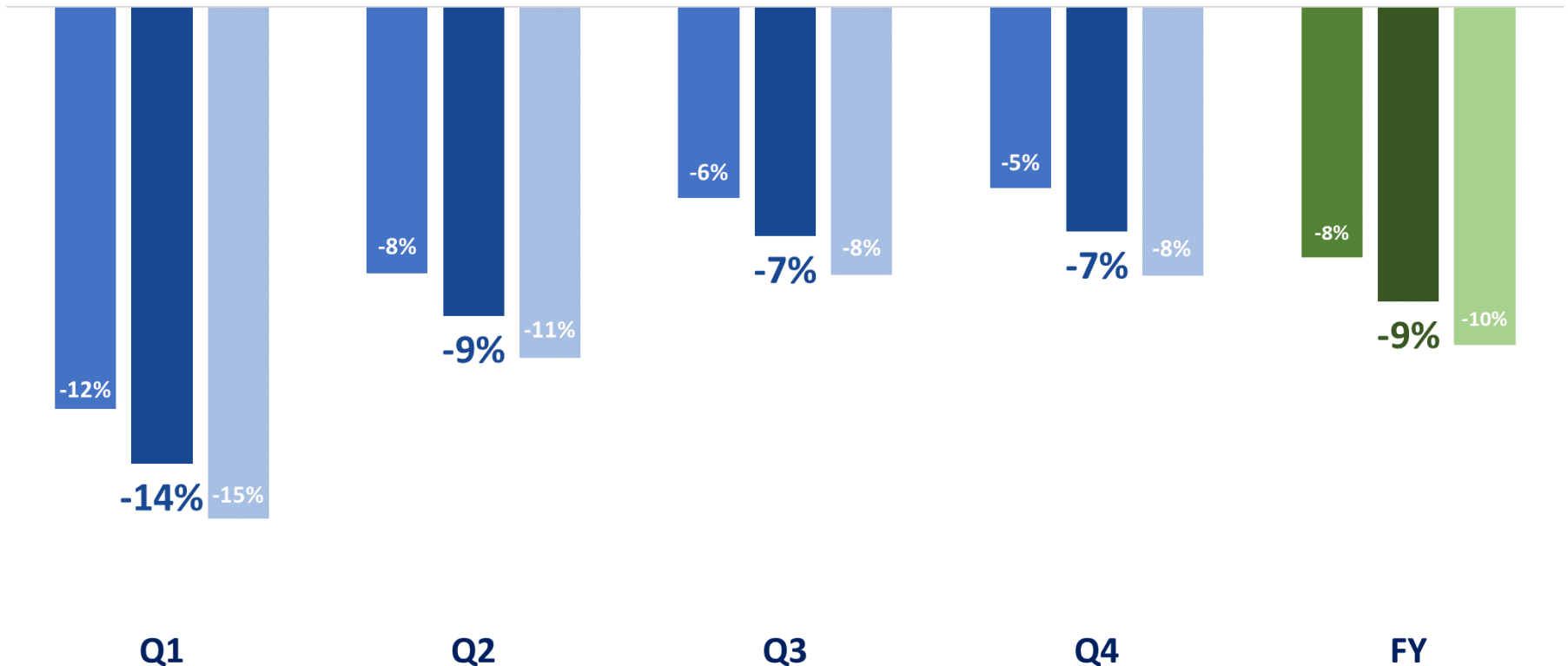


# → FY 2023 BY QUARTER

**THE SUMMER WILL AGAIN BE A PEAK FOR TRAVEL IN 2023,  
WITH POTENTIAL OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES IN THE  
AVIATION ECOSYSTEM**

## Passenger Traffic Forecast by Quarter for 2023

■ Optimistic ■ Mid ■ Pessimistic

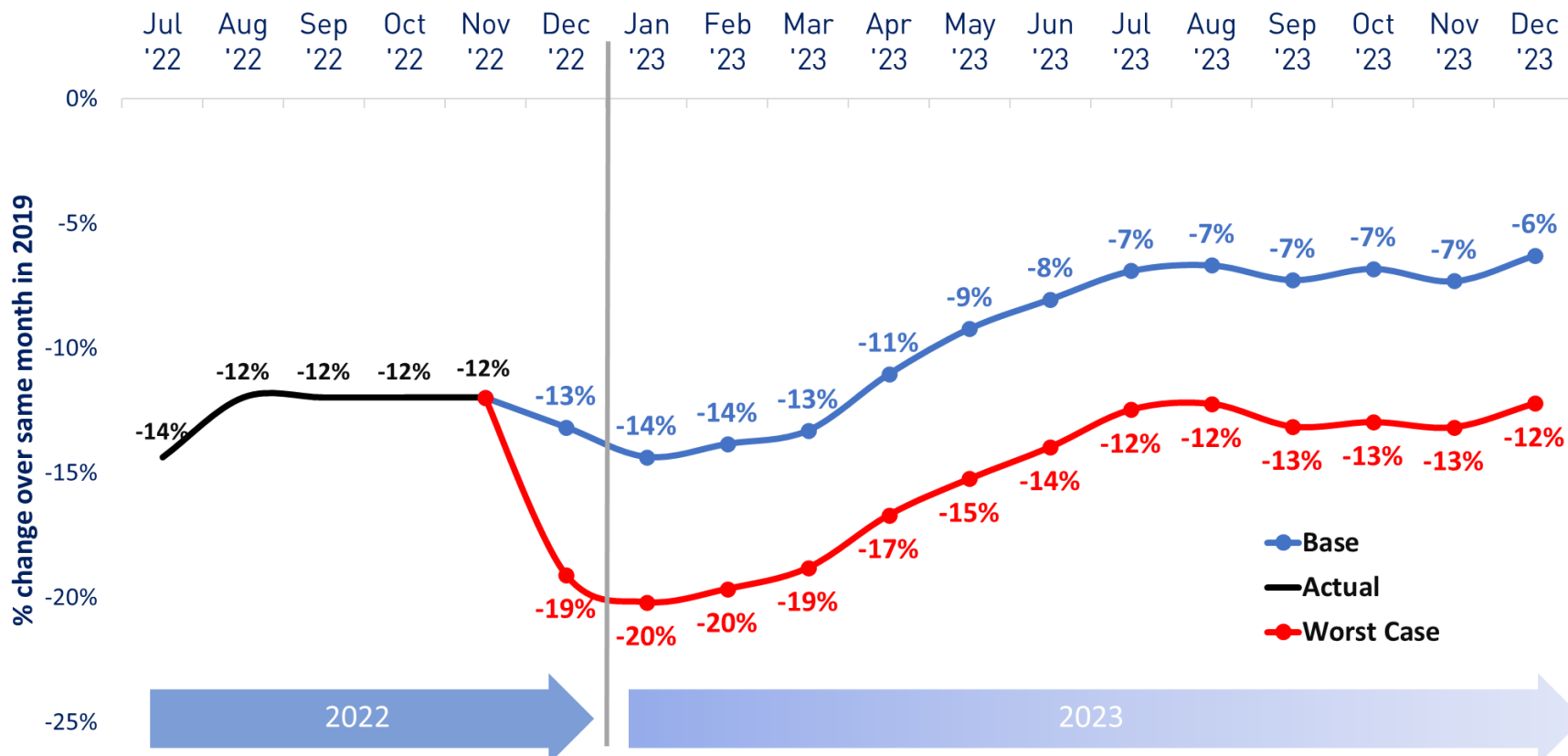




# PESSIMISTIC SCENARIO FY 2023

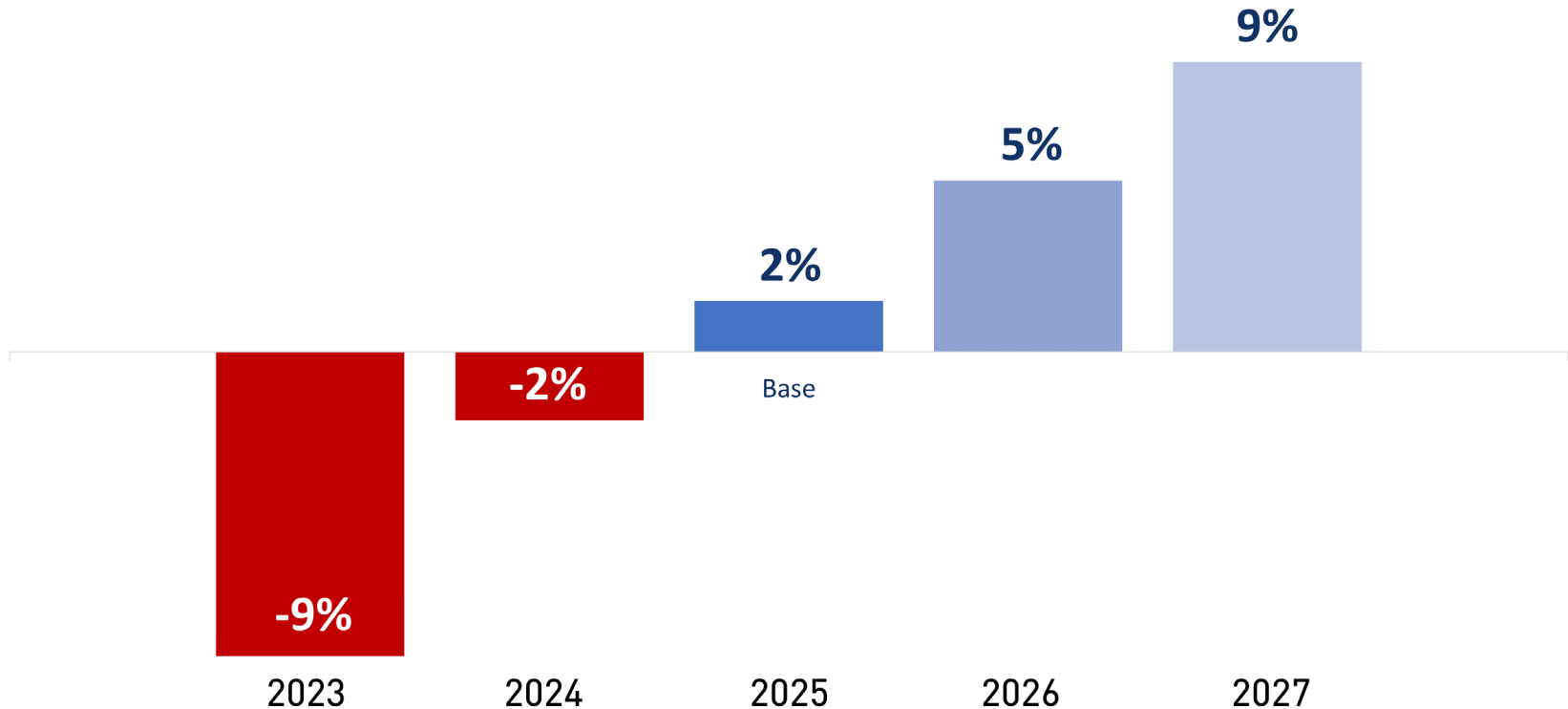
**PESSIMISTIC SCENARIO = RISKS OF A SLOWER RECOVERY RESULTING FROM *GEOPOLITICS, RECESSIONS* and/or *CONTINUED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS (CHINA)***

## European Airport Passenger Traffic Forecast vs 2019



# → FULL RECOVERY NOW IN 2025

## European Airport Passenger Traffic Forecast % change annually vs 2019



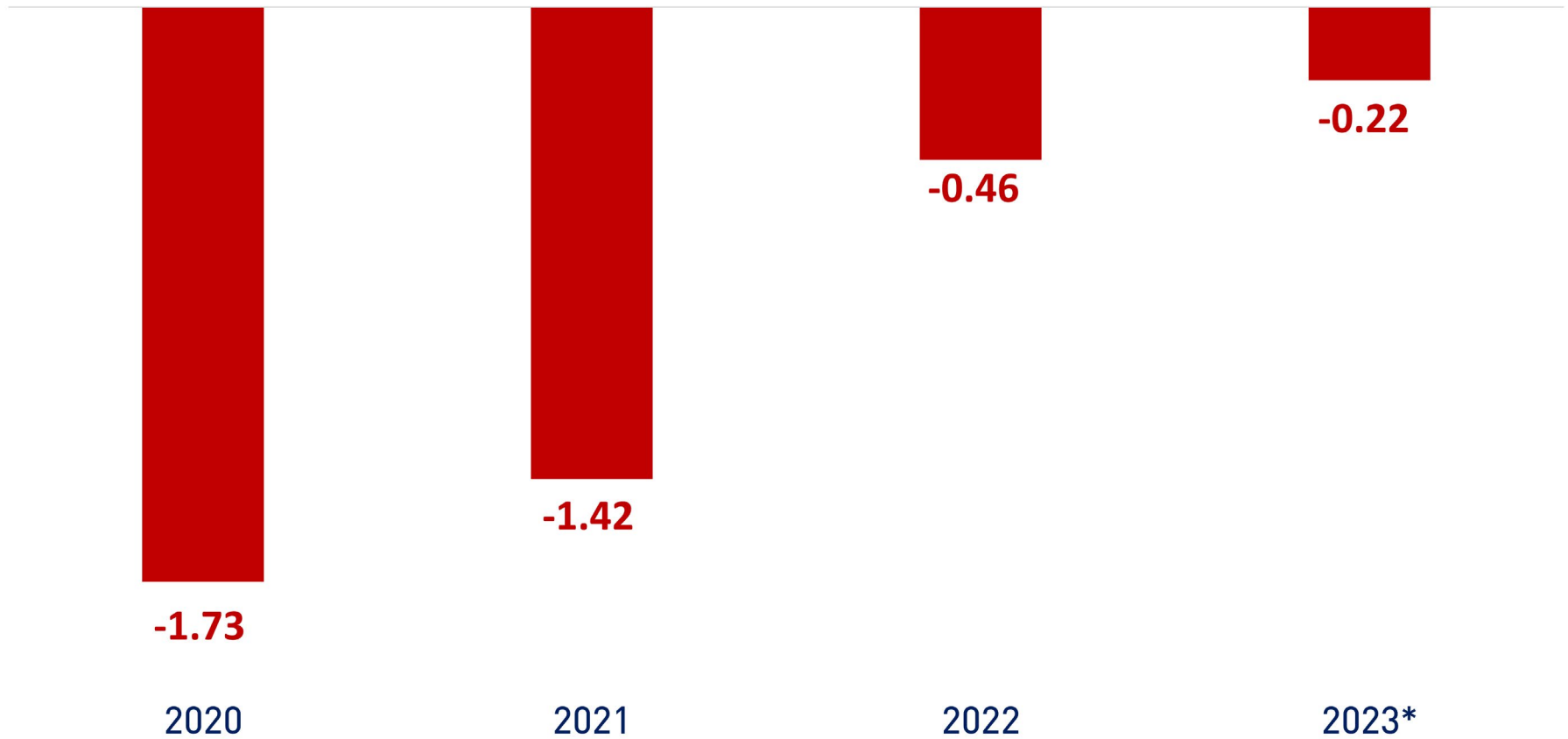
**DOWNGRADE OF THE 5-YEAR FORECAST  
REFLECTS INCREASING ECONOMIC WORRIES  
AND DEPTH AND DURATION OF RECESSION**





# → 3.9 bn PAX LOST SINCE 2019

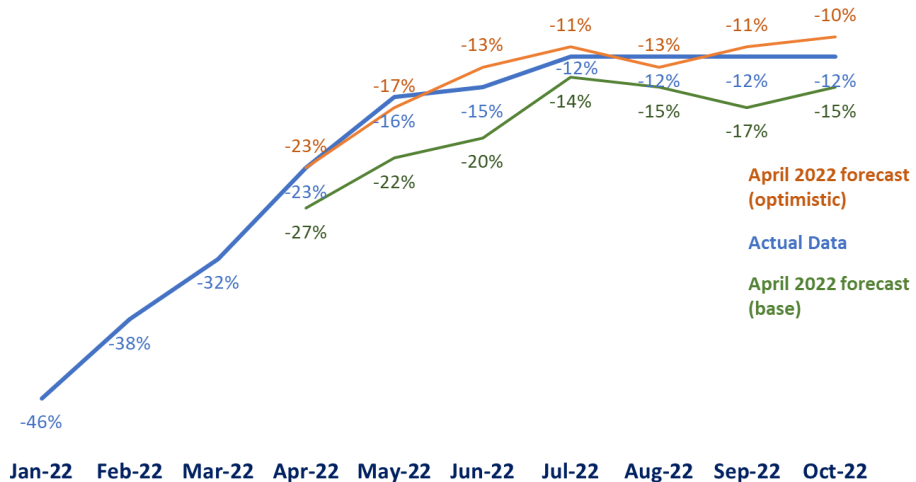
Loss: Number of fewer passengers vs 2019  
(billion)



# → ANNEX: Methodology

- ACI EUROPE’s forecast for European Passenger Traffic Development is derived from a Delphi Method with contributions from traffic forecasters at 25 of Europe’s largest airports.
- The geography considered is all countries which include airports in the ACI EUROPE membership. This is a broad and diverse region.
- Therefore the forecast is an average indicator, while individual airports will have performance that may vary widely from the forecast.
- This is especially true for large hub airports with intercontinental flights, who are the slowest to recover because of lingering travel restrictions and new overflight prohibitions.

ACI EUROPE Passenger Traffic Forecast Accuracy





# FIND OUT MORE AT

[www.aci-europe.org/economic-forecasts](http://www.aci-europe.org/economic-forecasts)

