



## GROWING ECONOMY DRIVES TRAFFIC CONGESTION UP IN SPAIN'S CITIES

- *INRIX Traffic Scorecard Report reveals Spain remained as the 11<sup>th</sup> most congested country in Europe as the Spanish economy recovers in 2014*
- *Levels of congestion in Spain stayed the same, with drivers wasting an average of 17 hours in gridlock*
- *Barcelona saw the biggest year-on-year percentage increase in congestion, with drivers wasting 25 hours in traffic – a 66% rise from 2013*
- *A 12 mile stretch of the B-10 road in Barcelona was Spain's most congested road in 2014, costing drivers 27 hours delay*

**MADRID, Spain – 24 August 2015:** INRIX, a leading provider of real-time traffic information and connected driving services, has published its annual Traffic Scorecard Report revealing Spanish drivers wasted an average of 17 hours in congestion during 2014. Spain remained 11<sup>th</sup> in the list of Europe's most congested countries, whilst Belgium topped the list as motorists spent 51 hours in traffic in 2014 – three times more than drivers in Spain.

Barcelona topped the list of Spain's most congested cities and it also saw the biggest year-on-year percentage increase in congestion in all European cities, rising by 66%. Drivers in Barcelona experienced an additional 10 hours in traffic compared to 2013, rising from 15 hours wasted in traffic in 2013 to 25 in 2014.

This increase can be attributed to a growing economy with GDP growth figures in Spain at 1.4% in 2014 – Spain's first full year growth since 2008. Unemployment in Barcelona also dropped by 3% in 2014 to 20%<sup>1</sup>, driving up consumer spending and an increased demand for road travel, with more commuters travelling to work by car.

### **Spain's most congested metropolitan areas in 2014 (ranked by annual hours wasted):**

Rank	Spanish Metropolitan Area	Hours Wasted in 2014	Change from 2013 (in hours)
1	Barcelona	25	10
2	Madrid	22	-1
3	Seville	18	2
4	Bilbao	16	-8
5	Zaragoza	12	-4
6	Valencia	11	0

"The return to economic growth in Spain and the steady rise in employment levels in the country's largest cities have had an impact on traffic as the demand for road travel increased, causing congestion levels to rise," said Bryan Mistele, President and CEO, INRIX.

### **Spain vs Europe: how we measure up**

Of the 13 European countries analysed in the report, more than half (53%) experienced a rise in levels of congestion in 2014 compared to 2013, reflective of steady economic growth. Nations

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.idescat.cat/pub/?id=aec&n=318&lang=en>

struggling with high unemployment and low or negative economic growth typically recorded lower levels of traffic congestion compared to 2013.

**Countries in Europe with the highest levels of congestion (ranked by annual hours wasted):**

Europe country rank 2014	Europe country rank 2013	Country	Country avg. hours wasted annually: 2013	Country avg. hours wasted annually: 2014	Difference between country avg. hours wasted annually from 2014 - 2013	GDP 2014 (%) <sup>2</sup>
1	1	Belgium	58	51	-8	1.1
2	2	Netherlands	45	41	-4	0.9
3	3	Germany	35	39	4	1.6
4	5	Luxembourg	32	34	3	2.3
5	6	United Kingdom	30	30	0	2.8
6	8	Switzerland	25	29	4	2.0
7	4	France	29	29	0	0.2
8	9	Austria	31	25	-6	0.3
9	10	Ireland	21	24	4	4.8
10	7	Italy	25	20	-6	-0.4
11	11	Spain	17	17	0	1.4
12	13	Portugal	6	6	0	0.9
13	12	Hungary	10	5	-4	0.9

**Spain's most congested roads**

The INRIX Traffic Scorecard also identified the worst roads for traffic in Spain, as well as the worst times to travel. A 12 mile stretch of the B-10 in Barcelona was the busiest route on Friday afternoons, with drivers experiencing 27 hours a year in traffic. Morning rush hour traffic at the start of the week in Madrid meant drivers in the capital spent up to a whole day a year (24 hours) sat in traffic.

**Spain's most congested roads in 2014 (ranked by annual hours wasted):**

Rank	Area	Road	From	To	Distance (miles)	Worst Peak Period	Worst Day/Hour	Total Delay per Year (hours)
1	Barcelona	B-10	B-20/ Montgat/ Ronda de Dalt/ Lleida/Girona/ Terrassa	Zona Franca/Port/Fira/Pg.Zona Franca	11.75	PM	Fri 15:00	27.16
2	Madrid	M-40	M-503	M-607	13.86	AM	Mon 08:00	23.72
3	Madrid	A-2	M-50	M-30	9.67	AM	Mon 09:00	20

<sup>2</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG>

4	Barcelona	B-23	Barcelona (Av. Diagonal)	Molins de Rei Sud/Pol.el Pla/ St.Feliu/A-2/BV-2002	6.17	AM	Mon 08:00	16.6
5	Madrid	A-2	M-300	M-108	3.61	AM	Tues 08:00	8

### **The traffic situation in Europe's cities**

The INRIX Traffic Scorecard also analysed traffic in major metropolitan areas across Europe. Of the 94 European cities analysed in the report, nearly half (48%) experienced an increase in traffic compared to 2013.

London topped the list of the 25 most congested European cities, with drivers spending 96 hours in gridlock – 14 more than in 2013. The UK was the fastest growing major economy in 2014, rising by 2.8%<sup>3</sup>. Levels of unemployment fell from 7.2% to 5.7%<sup>4</sup> and the UK population reached an all-time high, increasing by 491,100<sup>5</sup>. London alone saw an increase of 122,100 inhabitants<sup>5</sup> and these factors had a big impact on rising traffic levels as demand for road travel increased and more people commuted to work by car.

With France experiencing slow economic growth in 2014, and with unemployment levels at an all-time high, traffic congestion was down in all of the 13 French metropolitan areas. These factors had a significant impact on traffic levels as demand for road travel decreased and less people commuted to work by car. Paris, in particular, dropped eight places in the list of Europe's most congested cities from 8<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> in 2014, with drivers spending 10 hours less in traffic.

### **Europe's most congested cities in 2014 (ranked by annual hours wasted):**

2014 Rank	2013 Rank	Metropolitan area	Hours wasted in traffic 2014	Difference in comparison to hours wasted in 2013
1	2	London commute zone	96	14
2	1	Brussels	74	-9
3	6	Cologne	65	9
4	3	Antwerp	64	-14
5	5	Stuttgart	64	4
6	10	Karlsruhe	63	10
7	7	Milan	57	1
8	13	Dusseldorf	53	4
9	15	Utrecht	53	5
10	9	Ghent	52	-2
11	16	Gr. Manchester	52	6
12	12	S Gravenhage	51	2
13	14	Hamburg	48	0
14	17	Munich	48	4
15	4	Rotterdam	48	-15
16	8	Paris	45	-10
17	26	Bonn	42	4

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778\\_405340.pdf](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_405340.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/february-2015/statistical-bulletin.html>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778\\_406922.pdf](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_406922.pdf)

18	22	Ruhrgebiet	42	2
19	11	Amsterdam	41	-9
20	18	Lyon	40	-4
21	37	Nuremberg	38	6
22	24	Merseyside	37	-2
23	41	Freiburg im Breisgau	37	5
24	38	Frankfurt am Main	37	5
25	43	Gr. Belfast	37	6

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### About the INRIX Traffic Scorecard

The INRIX Traffic Scorecard measures the traffic congestion problem by going beyond traditional limitations of road sensors and statistical sampling techniques by analysing an historical archive of real-time data crowd-sourced from actual vehicles travelling on major metropolitan roadways.

INRIX analyses trillions of real-time data points from over a hundred sources including crowd-sourced data from a variety of commercial vehicles, including taxis, airport shuttles, service delivery vans, long haul trucks as well as consumer vehicles and mobile devices. Each data report from these GPS-equipped vehicles and devices includes the speed, location and heading of a particular vehicle at a reported date and time, without including planning time. In creating the INRIX Traffic Scorecard, INRIX analyses information for millions of kilometres of motorways and secondary roads in Europe during every hour of the day to generate the most comprehensive and timely congestion analysis to date, covering the largest metropolitan areas in 14 countries.

The same data used to generate the Scorecard also powers INRIX Traffic, a free smartphone app that helps drivers avoid frustrating delays stuck in traffic. The INRIX Traffic app helps drivers never be late with insights from the world's largest traffic network into the fastest routes from home to work, recommended departure and travel times, traffic forecasts and personalised traffic alerts unique to driver's routes. More information about INRIX Traffic can be found at <http://inrixtraffic.com>.

More details on traffic congestion in a particular country and how countries and cities compare to each other, along with an executive summary of the report's key findings are now available at [scorecard.inrix.com](http://scorecard.inrix.com). The extensive data powering the INRIX Traffic Scorecard is immediately available under license for further analysis and review by government agencies and commercial organisations.

### About INRIX

INRIX is one of the fastest growing big data technology companies in the world. The company leverages big data analytics to reduce the individual, economic and environmental toll of traffic congestion. Through cutting-edge data intelligence and predictive traffic technologies, INRIX helps leading automakers, fleets, governments and news organizations make it easier for drivers to navigate their world.

Our vision is simple – to solve traffic, empower drivers, inform planning and enhance commerce. Whether through an in-car or smartphone navigation application, a local newscast or our INRIX Traffic app, our up-to-the-minute traffic information and other driver services help millions of drivers save time, fuel and frustration. INRIX delivers traffic and driving-related insight, as well as sophisticated analytical tools and services across six industries covering nearly five million miles (7.9 million km) of road in 42 countries. For more information visit us at [INRIX.com](http://INRIX.com) or download our INRIX XD Traffic App for iOS and Android. For more information visit us at [www.INRIX.com](http://www.INRIX.com).

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