

## Big Data Analysis | Aviation

# 50% Decline in International Departures from Pakistan Because of Iran War

*International Departures from  
Pakistan Feb vs March 2026*

**1,127**

1-10 February  
2026



**572**

1-10 March  
2026



Source: Gallup & Gilani Pakistan  
([www.gallup-international.com](http://www.gallup-international.com);  
[www.gallup.com.pk](http://www.gallup.com.pk) [www.gilanifoundation.com](http://www.gilanifoundation.com))



(Also emailed\*/faxed separately)



## PRESS RELEASE

### Big Data Analysis Aviation

#### 50% Decline in International Departures from Pakistan Because of Iran War

*(Islamabad), 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2026*

Pakistan's international aviation activity shows a sharp and unusual contraction in early March.

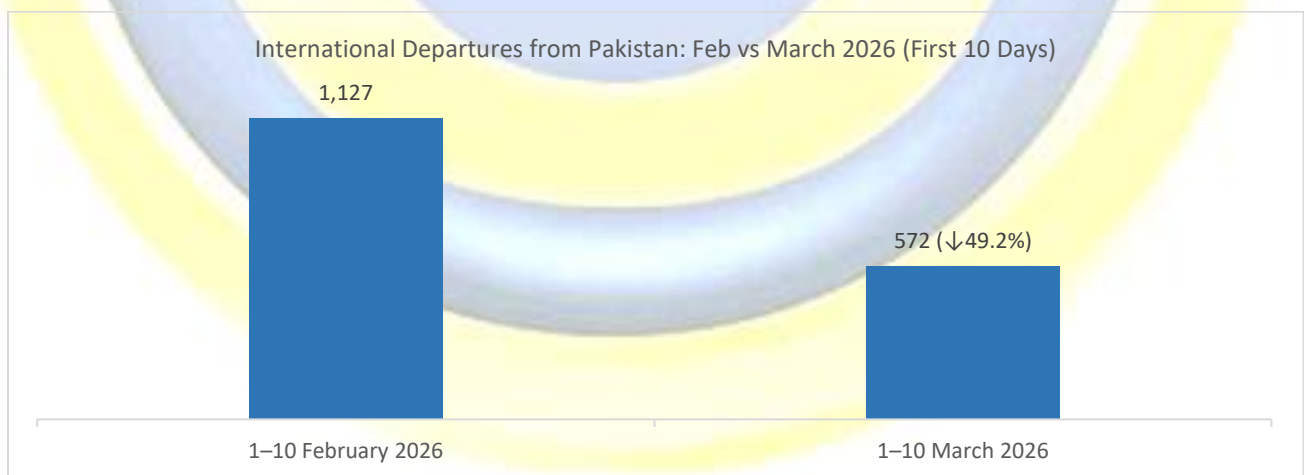
Using data from the Gallup Pakistan Digital Analytics Aviation Dashboard, international departures declined from 1,127 flights (1–10 February) to 572 flights (1–10 March) — a drop of nearly 50% within just a few weeks.

Such a sudden fall is not typical under normal aviation conditions. The timing closely aligns with regional airspace disruptions following escalation in the Iran conflict in late February 2026. Airspace restrictions and security concerns across key transit regions — including Iran and parts of the Gulf — led to flight cancellations, rerouting, and reduced frequency by major international carriers.

Given Pakistan's strong dependence on the Gulf aviation network, these disruptions quickly translated into reduced outbound flights from Pakistani airports.

The structure of routes also shifted. In early February, traffic was relatively diversified across Gulf destinations, including Dubai and Jeddah. However, by early March, there is a visible concentration toward Saudi-bound routes, particularly Jeddah and Riyadh, indicating that essential and religious travel continued while broader Gulf travel contracted.

This suggests that the decline is not only in volume but also in the composition of international travel. The data highlights how external geopolitical shocks can rapidly affect Pakistan's aviation flows, especially given its integration with Middle Eastern transit corridors.



Source: Gallup Pakistan Aviation Dashboard  
([www.gallup-international.com](http://www.gallup-international.com); [www.gallup.com.pk](http://www.gallup.com.pk), [www.gilanifoundation.com](http://www.gilanifoundation.com))

This analysis was conducted by Gallup & Gilani Pakistan Digital Analytics using international departures data from aviation monitoring systems. It compares outbound flight activity for 1–10 February vs 1–10 March 2026, as available on the [Gallup Pakistan Aviation Dashboard](#).



**Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan**  
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GILANI RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION

**Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

*(2 Pages, English version Only)*

***Gilani Research Foundation is a not-for-profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policymakers, and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.***

*Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently, Dr. Gilani, who holds a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.*

*If you have any further questions regarding this poll, please feel free to contact us.*

*Best Regards,  
Gallup Pakistan*

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Daily Gilani Poll  
2026



of Gallup Pakistan  
(1980-2026)