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Transport: the cabin suitcase, the new goose that lays the golden eggs for airlines

This article is based upon a report issued by IdeaWorksCompany.

Cabin suitcases, still free a few years ago, are now more and more often paid for. Last year, they brought in nearly 20 billion euros for airlines.

All types combined, luggage brought in nearly 20 billion euros to airlines in 2021.

A team from France Television travels to Barcelona (Spain) with a low-cost company. For a small suitcase, you have to pay 48 euros: the luggage, and the penalty for not having reserved in advance. The flight therefore goes from 60 to 108 euros, an increase of 80%. Why did these suitcases, still free two years ago, become chargeable? No company concerned wished to speak.

Very significant gains for companies

At the time of booking, the cabin suitcase costs at least 7.99 euros. Small bags can pay off big. Ten euros worth of luggage paid for by 80 medium-haul passengers, in a plane that makes five rotations a day, is an additional 4,000 euros per day and per aircraft. On the scale of a year and a company, the recipe would amount to 600 million euros.

Among our sources:

Report by US consultancy firm IdeaWorksCompany

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