

Aviation

Civil Aviation, Monthly Key Operating Statistics, Major Canadian Air Carriers

January to December 2008



Highlights

- For the 12-month period, January to December 2008, for the scheduled and charter services, the major Canadian air carriers reported a 5.4% increase in passengers and a 3.5% advance in passenger-kilometres compared with the same period in 2007. WestJet reported that total passenger-kilometres flown grew 17.0% during the period, while the operations of Air Canada edged up 0.1%.
- Air Canada reported an improvement in its scheduled passenger load factor (a measure of the fullness of their aircraft), while WestJet reported a slight deterioration. For the 12-month period, January to December 2008, Air Canada's passenger load factor reached 82.3% and WestJet's passenger load factor stood at 79.2%.
- For the 12-month period, January to December 2008, domestic growth led the increases in scheduled passenger operations. The domestic sector grew by 7.2% during the period, while the international sector posted a rise of 2.2%. The major Canadian air carriers reported that scheduled passenger-kilometre operations increased by 4.7% in the domestic sector and 3.2% in the international sector. WestJet reported that domestic and international passenger-kilometres flown climbed 9.4% and 70.6%, respectively compared with the same period in 2007, while the scheduled operations of Air Canada advanced at a much slower pace in the domestic sector (+1.4%) and declined in the international sector (-0.4%).
- Air Canada carried almost the same proportion of scheduled passengers in the domestic sector (49.7%) as in the international sector (50.3%), while the proportion of domestic sector passenger activity for WestJet outpaced the proportion of international sector passenger activity (85.7% compared to 14.3%). In terms of passenger-kilometres flown, Air Canada recorded 71.5% of its scheduled operations in the international sector and WestJet, 77.0% in the domestic sector (see Table 1).
- For the 12-month period, January to December 2008, WestJet continued to gain market share, in terms of passenger traffic, in both domestic and international scheduled services. During the period, WestJet transported 50.8% of domestic passengers and 14.5% of international passengers. Comparable figures for the 2007 period were respectively 47.3% and 10.5%. However, Air Canada still dominated the domestic sector in terms of passenger-kilometres with 57.0% of the market (see Table 2). (Note: market share is measured here with respect to these two carriers' operations only.)

Table 1

Scheduled passengers and passenger-kilometres broken down by sector, Air Canada and WestJet, January to December 2007 and 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	percent			
Passengers				
Domestic	49.1	49.7	88.0	85.7
International	50.9	50.3	12.0	14.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Passenger-kilometres				
Domestic	28.2	28.5	83.9	77.0
International	71.8	71.5	16.1	23.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2

Scheduled passengers and passenger-kilometres, market shares by sector, Air Canada and WestJet, January to December 2007 and 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	percent			
Passengers				
Domestic	52.7	49.2	47.3	50.8
International	89.5	85.5	10.5	14.5
Passenger-kilometres				
Domestic	58.9	57.0	41.1	43.0
International	95.0	91.7	5.0	8.3

Statistical Tables

Table 3

Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, January 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	January 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	January 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	1,896	2.4	1,086	22.1
Total scheduled services	1,891	2.4	1,039	24.1
Domestic	855	1.7	836	22.9
International	1,036	3.0	203	29.5
Total charter services	5	5.3	46	-11.0
Total passenger-kilometres	5,986,277	3.5	1,664,630	16.2
Total scheduled services	5,976,367	3.5	1,524,270	24.1
Domestic	1,540,683	4.0	1,028,434	13.5
International	4,435,684	3.3	495,836	53.9
Total charter services	9,910	-1.8	140,360	-31.1
Total available seat-kilometres	7,602,251	3.3	2,183,234	15.7
Total scheduled services	7,589,266	3.3	2,042,875	21.3
Domestic	1,936,976	3.1	1,419,528	13.7
International	5,652,290	3.4	623,346	43.0
Total charter services	12,986	5.1	140,360	-31.1
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	78.7	...	74.6	...
Domestic	79.5	...	72.4	...
International	78.5	...	79.5	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	16,181	-9.8	477	-13.0
Total scheduled services	16,181	-9.8	477	-13.0
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	87,748	-5.5	782	-11.5
Total scheduled services	87,748	-5.5	782	-11.5
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	69	5.0	26	13.3

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceeding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

Table 4
Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, February 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	February 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	February 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	1,827	3.7	1,113	23.9
Total scheduled services	1,822	3.7	1,057	27.0
Domestic	839	2.7	835	23.4
International	983	4.6	222	42.6
Total charter services	5	14.3	56	-14.9
Total passenger-kilometres	5,573,585	5.6	1,702,393	19.0
Total scheduled services	5,563,055	5.6	1,536,327	28.9
Domestic	1,479,444	5.6	1,001,739	14.5
International	4,083,611	5.6	534,588	68.9
Total charter services	10,530	11.7	166,065	-30.5
Total available seat-kilometres	7,008,595	6.2	2,055,593	18.2
Total scheduled services	6,996,005	6.2	1,889,528	26.0
Domestic	1,792,508	7.0	1,281,535	16.2
International	5,203,497	6.0	607,993	53.0
Total charter services	12,590	4.6	166,065	-30.5
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	79.5	...	81.3	...
Domestic	82.5	...	78.2	...
International	78.5	...	87.9	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	16,425	-8.1	478	-19.8
Total scheduled services	16,425	-8.1	478	-19.8
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	89,979	-3.0	777	-18.0
Total scheduled services	89,979	-3.0	777	-18.0
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	65	8.1	25	16.0

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceeding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

Table 5
Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, March 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	March 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	March 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	2,081	2.2	1,271	24.8
Total scheduled services	2,076	2.2	1,199	26.3
Domestic	910	0.1	932	21.7
International	1,166	3.9	268	45.2
Total charter services	5	5.9	72	4.8
Total passenger-kilometres	6,574,038	3.7	1,993,402	21.6
Total scheduled services	6,562,364	3.6	1,782,279	29.3
Domestic	1,643,697	1.6	1,145,393	14.0
International	4,918,667	4.3	636,887	70.1
Total charter services	11,674	14.5	211,123	-18.8
Total available seat-kilometres	7,863,662	3.9	2,303,143	19.7
Total scheduled services	7,848,946	3.9	2,092,020	25.7
Domestic	1,980,895	3.3	1,376,878	12.8
International	5,868,051	4.0	715,141	61.3
Total charter services	14,716	15.7	211,123	-18.8
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	83.6	...	85.2	...
Domestic	83.0	...	83.2	...
International	83.8	...	89.1	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	19,077	-10.4	518	-13.0
Total scheduled services	19,077	-10.4	518	-13.0
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	137,505	23.7	865	-9.8
Total scheduled services	137,505	23.7	865	-9.8
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	71	5.5	27	17.3

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceeding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

Table 6
Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, April 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	April 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	April 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	1,891	1.2	1,195	21.0
Total scheduled services	1,888	1.3	1,167	21.8
Domestic	932	2.6	928	18.6
International	956	0.0	239	36.5
Total charter services	3	-20.8	28	-6.6
Total passenger-kilometres	5,862,726	1.0	1,816,703	20.5
Total scheduled services	5,857,241	1.1	1,736,279	24.1
Domestic	1,647,947	1.7	1,163,862	11.6
International	4,209,294	0.8	572,417	60.9
Total charter services	5,485	-31.2	80,424	-25.7
Total available seat-kilometres	7,015,956	0.6	2,200,971	21.0
Total scheduled services	7,009,348	0.7	2,120,547	23.9
Domestic	1,932,621	1.0	1,451,028	13.9
International	5,076,727	0.6	669,519	53.3
Total charter services	6,608	-40.3	80,424	-25.7
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	83.6	...	81.9	...
Domestic	85.3	...	80.2	...
International	82.9	...	85.5	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	18,131	-1.2	508	-0.3
Total scheduled services	18,131	-1.2	508	-0.3
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	96,692	-0.4	822	5.8
Total scheduled services	96,692	-0.4	822	5.8
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	61	0.2	26	19.4

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceeding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

Table 7
Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, May 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	May 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	May 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	2,002	3.6	1,196	17.0
Total scheduled services	2,000	3.6	1,161	15.9
Domestic	1,050	5.4	1,041	13.1
International	950	1.6	120	47.1
Total charter services	2	-5.0	35	72.5
Total passenger-kilometres	6,353,713	5.5	1,816,789	19.4
Total scheduled services	6,349,721	5.5	1,712,251	18.3
Domestic	1,929,291	8.0	1,422,588	10.3
International	4,420,430	4.4	289,663	82.6
Total charter services	3,991	-2.9	104,538	41.4
Total available seat-kilometres	7,530,866	4.8	2,284,220	20.1
Total scheduled services	7,526,533	4.8	2,179,682	19.2
Domestic	2,352,681	7.7	1,836,088	13.8
International	5,173,853	3.5	343,594	60.4
Total charter services	4,332	-11.8	104,538	41.4
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	84.4	...	78.6	...
Domestic	82.0	...	77.5	...
International	85.4	...	84.3	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	18,094	-1.2	585	-1.1
Total scheduled services	18,094	-1.2	585	-1.1
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	104,031	5.8	946	7.4
Total scheduled services	104,031	5.8	946	7.4
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	65	4.0	27	17.7

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceeding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

Table 8
Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, June 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	June 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	June 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	2,050	0.9	1,155	16.3
Total scheduled services	2,049	0.9	1,125	15.9
Domestic	1,075	4.1	1,048	13.7
International	974	-2.3	77	57.8
Total charter services	1	-6.5	30	30.7
Total passenger-kilometres	6,802,448	2.8	1,783,436	17.9
Total scheduled services	6,799,118	2.8	1,697,860	19.1
Domestic	2,023,159	5.4	1,500,695	12.3
International	4,775,958	1.8	197,165	121.2
Total charter services	3,330	12.9	85,576	-2.3
Total available seat-kilometres	8,186,128	3.3	2,329,779	23.1
Total scheduled services	8,181,667	3.3	2,244,203	24.3
Domestic	2,520,571	5.8	1,998,003	18.4
International	5,661,096	2.2	246,200	108.7
Total charter services	4,461	-4.5	85,576	-2.3
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	83.1	...	75.7	...
Domestic	80.3	...	75.1	...
International	84.4	...	80.1	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	18,254	-1.4	869	32.6
Total scheduled services	18,254	-1.4	869	32.6
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	107,002	4.9	1,429	43.1
Total scheduled services	107,002	4.9	1,429	43.1
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	70	2.2	27	20.5

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceeding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

Table 9
Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, July 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	July 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	July 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	2,189	-1.5	1,252	17.3
Total scheduled services	2,188	-1.5	1,223	17.1
Domestic	1,112	-0.3	1,140	14.9
International	1,076	-2.7	84	57.4
Total charter services	1	-9.1	29	28.7
Total passenger-kilometres	7,476,959	0.0	1,998,515	18.3
Total scheduled services	7,473,563	0.0	1,915,089	18.9
Domestic	2,155,671	-1.6	1,699,328	12.3
International	5,317,892	0.6	215,761	120.2
Total charter services	3,396	-14.5	83,426	5.7
Total available seat-kilometres	8,894,703	-1.8	2,507,311	22.6
Total scheduled services	8,890,683	-1.8	2,423,885	23.3
Domestic	2,705,426	-0.2	2,168,491	17.3
International	6,185,256	-2.5	255,393	119.6
Total charter services	4,020	-9.9	83,426	5.7
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	84.1	...	79.0	...
Domestic	79.7	...	78.4	...
International	86.0	...	84.5	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	20,272	0.0	621	7.3
Total scheduled services	20,272	0.0	621	7.3
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	120,149	5.7	1,055	15.2
Total scheduled services	120,149	5.7	1,055	15.2
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	75	-2.0	29	20.8

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceeding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

Table 10
Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, August 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	August 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	August 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	2,280	-2.7	1,387	20.3
Total scheduled services	2,279	-2.7	1,353	19.5
Domestic	1,177	-1.8	1,260	17.3
International	1,102	-3.8	93	59.9
Total charter services	1	40.1	34	65.5
Total passenger-kilometres	7,721,024	-0.8	2,244,127	22.5
Total scheduled services	7,716,994	-0.8	2,142,931	22.1
Domestic	2,321,794	-1.8	1,905,897	15.7
International	5,395,200	-0.3	237,034	121.1
Total charter services	4,030	38.8	101,196	30.9
Total available seat-kilometres	9,029,637	-2.0	2,537,466	21.8
Total scheduled services	9,025,175	-2.0	2,436,270	21.5
Domestic	2,818,858	0.6	2,177,373	15.2
International	6,206,318	-3.2	258,897	123.2
Total charter services	4,461	25.0	101,196	30.9
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	85.5	...	88.0	...
Domestic	82.4	...	87.5	...
International	86.9	...	91.6	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	19,903	-9.8	553	5.2
Total scheduled services	19,903	-9.8	553	5.2
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	117,124	-4.2	953	14.0
Total scheduled services	117,124	-4.2	953	14.0
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	77	-1.1	29	20.5

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceeding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

Table 11
Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, September 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	September 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	September 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	1,859	-7.1	1,110	12.1
Total scheduled services	1,854	-7.3	1,090	12.8
Domestic	958	-4.1	1,005	10.0
International	896	-10.4	85	60.3
Total charter services	5	258.0	21	-15.5
Total passenger-kilometres	6,310,849	-4.8	1,720,569	11.0
Total scheduled services	6,304,460	-4.8	1,657,240	13.9
Domestic	1,772,313	-4.1	1,450,012	6.7
International	4,532,148	-5.1	207,228	116.2
Total charter services	6,389	355.3	63,328	-33.5
Total available seat-kilometres	7,792,564	-6.9	2,279,687	15.7
Total scheduled services	7,780,219	-7.0	2,216,359	18.2
Domestic	2,264,044	-4.0	1,953,810	11.1
International	5,516,175	-8.2	262,549	126.0
Total charter services	12,345	499.8	63,328	-33.5
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	81.0	...	74.8	...
Domestic	78.3	...	74.2	...
International	82.2	...	78.9	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	17,308	-17.4	626	2.2
Total scheduled services	17,308	-17.4	626	2.2
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	103,943	-12.1	971	1.2
Total scheduled services	103,943	-12.1	971	1.2
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	65	-6.3	27	15.8

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceeding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

Table 12
Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, October 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	October 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	October 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	1,787	-6.4	1,173	13.0
Total scheduled services	1,782	-6.6	1,150	13.2
Domestic	934	-4.7	1,044	9.5
International	848	-8.5	106	68.3
Total charter services	5	153.2	23	4.9
Total passenger-kilometres	5,700,340	-4.0	1,754,641	9.5
Total scheduled services	5,694,459	-4.0	1,688,478	10.7
Domestic	1,662,362	-3.0	1,435,870	2.0
International	4,032,097	-4.4	252,608	115.7
Total charter services	5,881	159.5	66,163	-13.5
Total available seat-kilometres	7,012,873	-6.5	2,315,947	12.9
Total scheduled services	7,002,811	-6.6	2,249,784	13.9
Domestic	2,038,469	-4.7	1,953,682	6.1
International	4,964,342	-7.4	296,102	120.6
Total charter services	10,062	200.7	66,163	-13.5
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	81.3	...	75.1	...
Domestic	81.5	...	73.5	...
International	81.2	...	85.3	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	18,418	-13.7	500	-21.7
Total scheduled services	18,418	-13.7	500	-21.7
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	110,499	-5.7	748	-24.1
Total scheduled services	110,499	-5.7	748	-24.1
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	61	-6.8	27	12.7

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceeding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

Table 13
Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, November 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	November 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	November 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	1,578	-4.8	1,124	14.4
Total scheduled services	1,574	-4.8	1,106	13.5
Domestic	815	-3.1	877	9.0
International	759	-6.6	229	35.2
Total charter services	4	16.6	18	109.4
Total passenger-kilometres	4,702,769	-4.4	1,699,146	14.3
Total scheduled services	4,694,725	-4.5	1,640,841	13.2
Domestic	1,460,758	2.8	1,091,102	-1.3
International	3,233,967	-7.5	549,739	59.9
Total charter services	8,044	43.0	58,305	58.6
Total available seat-kilometres	5,988,081	-7.3	2,231,524	13.5
Total scheduled services	5,977,668	-7.4	2,168,315	12.4
Domestic	1,834,832	2.2	1,483,355	-0.4
International	4,142,836	-11.1	684,961	55.7
Total charter services	10,412	25.5	63,209	72.0
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	78.5	...	75.7	...
Domestic	79.6	...	73.6	...
International	78.1	...	80.3	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	15,840	-20.4	498	-20.8
Total scheduled services	15,840	-20.4	498	-20.8
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	92,322	-25.1	753	-20.8
Total scheduled services	92,322	-25.1	753	-20.8
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	55	-6.6	26	12.7

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

Table 14
Operational statistics for major Canadian airlines, Level IA, December 2008

	Air Canada		WestJet	
	December 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008	December 2008	Change from 2007 to 2008
	thousands	percent	thousands	percent
Total passengers	1,770	-4.6	1,221	15.5
Total scheduled services	1,765	-4.6	1,185	14.4
Domestic	864	-1.5	935	12.6
International	901	-7.5	250	22.0
Total charter services	5	6.8	37	64.6
Total passenger-kilometres	5,515,067	-6.2	1,903,488	12.8
Total scheduled services	5,506,443	-6.2	1,782,887	12.0
Domestic	1,627,163	2.0	1,174,487	1.4
International	3,879,280	-9.3	608,400	40.3
Total charter services	8,624	-7.3	120,601	26.6
Total available seat-kilometres	6,665,388	-10.1	2,353,484	10.6
Total scheduled services	6,653,635	-10.1	2,229,610	9.7
Domestic	1,972,858	0.1	1,481,712	0.4
International	4,680,777	-13.7	747,898	34.3
Total charter services	11,753	-5.6	123,873	30.0
Total load factors - scheduled (%)	82.8	...	80.0	...
Domestic	82.5	...	79.3	...
International	82.9	...	81.3	...
Total goods carried (kilograms)	14,348	-23.0	457	-22.3
Total scheduled services	14,348	-23.0	457	-22.3
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Total goods tonne-kilometres	83,015	-18.3	712	-24.2
Total scheduled services	83,015	-18.3	712	-24.2
Total charter services	0	...	0	...
Hours flown	61	-8.1	29	11.7

Note(s): Level IA. This includes every Canadian air carrier not classified in report level VI that, in the calendar year immediately preceeding the report year, transported at least ten million revenue passengers.

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Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0 ^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
P	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the <i>Statistics Act</i>
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

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