

Catalogue no. 51-004-X
ISSN 1480-7483

Aviation

Airport Activity: Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports, 2018

Release date: July 25, 2019



Statistics
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Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

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Airport Activity: Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports, 2018

Highlights

The number of passengers enplaned and deplaned at Canadian airports reached 159 million in 2018, an increase of 5.4% compared to the previous year. This marked the ninth consecutive annual increase in air passenger traffic following the economic slowdown of 2009.

The largest airports contributed significantly to the strong growth in passenger traffic, with Lester B. Pearson in Toronto up 5.2%, Vancouver International up 6.9%, Pierre Elliott Trudeau in Montréal up 6.8% and Calgary International up 6.6%.

All sectors experienced growth in 2018, as the domestic sector expanded 4.2% (+3.7 million passengers), other international traffic was up 7.9% (+2.6 million) and transborder traffic (between Canada and the United States) increased 6.4% (+1.9 million).

For the fifth consecutive year, growth in other international passenger traffic outpaced the other two sectors. This was driven by strong gains at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson (+7.5%), Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau (+9.3%) and Vancouver International (+10.5%). These three airports accounted for 89% of the 35.6 million passengers who enplaned and deplaned on and off international flights in Canada.

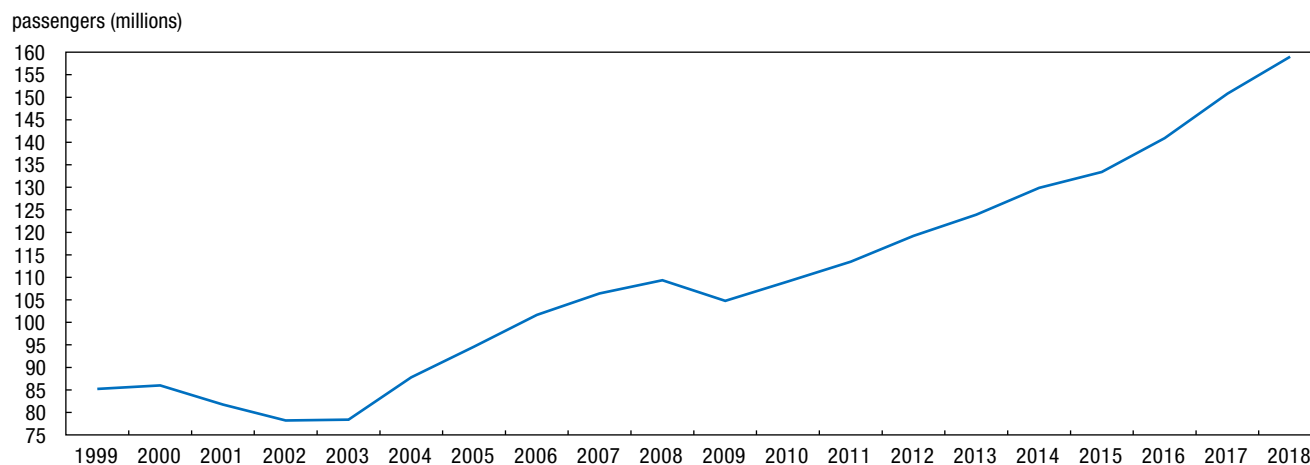
The weight of cargo loaded and unloaded at Canadian airports increased 8.9% in 2018 to just over 1.4 million tonnes. Domestic cargo increased 3.9% to 600,000 tonnes. Other international tonnages increased 17.2% to 591,000 tonnes while transborder cargo was up 3.4% to 243,000 tonnes.

Table 1
Passenger and cargo data

| | 2017 | 2018 | Change 2017 to 2018 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | number | | percent |
| Enplaned and Deplaned Passengers | | | |
| Domestic Segments | 88,284,134 | 91,967,316 | 4.2 |
| Transborder Segments | 29,519,218 | 31,414,516 | 6.4 |
| Other International Segments | 33,005,099 | 35,627,219 | 7.9 |
| Total | 150,808,451 | 159,009,051 | 5.4 |
| Loaded/Unloaded Cargo (tonnes) | 1,316,627 | 1,434,068 | 8.9 |

Source: Tables 23-10-0253-01 and 23-10-0254-01

Chart 1
Total enplaned/deplaned passengers



Source: Table 23-10-0253-01; publication 51-203-X.

Note to Readers

Cargo data

It is important to note that the air cargo data presented does not represent the total cargo loaded and unloaded in Canada. Comprehensive cargo data are not collected for the following reasons:

- i. the regional and local scheduled carriers do not file cargo data on the airport activity survey and,
- ii. the major charter survey does not collect data on domestic courier cargo or domestic entity cargo flights.

Passenger flights which carry cargo on them are classified as passenger flights. The cargo carried on these passenger flights is defined as belly-hold cargo. The belly-hold cargo data are included with the pure cargo data in the cargo table, Table 23-10-0254-01.

Services offered by carriers

Scheduled Services

ABX Air Inc.
 Aer Lingus
 Aeromexico
 Air Algerie
 Air Canada
 Air China
 Air Creebec Inc.
 Air France
 Air Georgian Limited
 Air Inuit Ltd.
 Air New Zealand
 Air North Charter Training Ltd.
 Air St Pierre
 Air Tindi Ltd.
 Air Transat A.T. Inc.
 Air Wisconsin
 Aklak Air
 Alaska Airlines
 Alitalia
 All Nippon Airways
 American Airlines
 Amik Aviation Ltd.
 Atlas Air Inc.
 Austrian Airlines
 Avianca Costa Rica
 Bearskin Airlines
 Beijing Capital Airlines
 Bradley Air Services Limited
 British Airways
 Brussels Airlines
 Buffalo Airways Ltd.
 Calm Air International Ltd.
 Canadian North Inc.
 Cargojet Airways Ltd.

Cargolux Airlines International
Caribbean Airlines
Carson Air Ltd.
Castle Aviation
Cathay Pacific Airways
Central Mountain Air Ltd.
China Airlines
China Eastern Airlines
China Southern Airlines
CommutAir
Compass Airlines (North America)
Condor Flugdienst
COPA
Corilair Charters Limited
Corse Air Intl.
Cubana Airlines
Delta Air Lines
Edelweiss Air
EgyptAir
El Al Israel Airlines
Emirates Airlines
Endeavor Air
Envoy Air Inc.
Ethiopian Airlines
Etihad Airways
EVA Airways Corporation
Exploits Valley Air Services Ltd.
ExpressJet
FedEx
Flair Airlines Ltd.
Fly Jamaica Airways
FlyGTA Airlines
GoJet Airlines LLC
Griffing Flying Service
Gulf Island Seaplanes
Hainan Airlines
Harbour Air Ltd.

Helijet International Inc.
 Hong Kong Airlines
 Horizon Air Industries Inc.
 Icelandair
 Integra Air Inc.
 Island Express Air Inc.
 JAL-Japan Airlines International Co. Ltd.
 Jazz Air Inc.
 JDR Pacific Ventures Ltd.
 Jet Airways India
 Jet Linx Aviation
 K D Air Corporation
 Kenmore Air Harbor Inc.
 Kenn Borek Air Ltd.
 KF Aerospace
 KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
 Korean Air
 LOT-Polish Airlines
 Lufthansa German Airlines
 McMurray Aviation
 Mesa Airlines
 Midwest Airlines Inc.
 Montmagny Air Service Inc.
 Morningstar Air Express Inc.
 North Star Air
 Northern Air Charter (P.R.) Inc.
 Northway Aviation Ltd.
 Northwestern Air Lease
 Northwright Air
 Norwegian Air International
 Omni Air Express
 Orca Airways Ltd.
 Pacific Coastal Airlines Limited
 Pakistan International
 Partner Jet Inc.
 Pascan Aviation Inc.
 Perimeter Aviation Ltd.

Philippine Airlines Inc.
Piedmont Airlines
Porter Airlines Inc.
Priester Aviation
Provincial Airlines
PSA Airlines
Qantas Airways
Qatar Airways
Royal Air Maroc
Royal Jordanian
SATA Internacional
Saudia
Shuttle America Corp.
Sichuan Airlines Co. Ltd.
Sky Regional Airlines Inc.
Sky West Airlines
Skylink Express Inc.
Sunwest Aviation Ltd.
Sunwing Airlines Inc.
Swiss International Air Lines Ltd.
Swoop
TAP Air Portugal
Thunder Airlines Limited
Tofino Air
Trans States Airlines
Transwest Air
Tunisair
Turkish Airlines
Ukraine International Airlines
United Airlines
United Parcel Service
Vancouver Island Air Ltd.
Wasaya Airways Limited Partnership
West Wind Aviation Limited Partnership
WestJet
WestJet Encore

Wilderness Seaplanes

WOW air

Xiamen Airlines

Major Charter Services

ACM Air Charter

ACM Aviation

Acropolis Aviation

Aero Jet Services

Aeromexico

Air Alsie

Air Canada

Air Foyle

Air Hamburg

Air Rutter International

Air St Pierre

Air Transat A.T. Inc.

Alaska Airlines

American Air Services Inc.

Ameristar Air Cargo Inc.

Anderson Air

Arkefly

ATI - Air Transport International LLC

Atlas Air Inc.

Aurora Jet Partners

Aviation Consultants Inc.

Aviation Starlink Inc.

Avjet Corporation

Bradley Air Services Limited

Calm Air International Ltd.

Canadian North Inc.

Centaero Aviation Ltd.

Chantilly Air Inc.

Chartright Air Inc.

Chrysler Aviation

Clay Lacy Aviation

Cockrell Resources Inc.

Comlux Aviation
Condor Flugdienst
Continental Airlines
Corporate Flight International
DC Aviation
Delta Air Lines
Elite Jets
Exeaire
Executive Flight Services
Executive Fliteways Inc.
Fast Air Ltd.
Flair Airlines Ltd.
Flexjet
Flight Options
Flightexec
Florida Jet Service Inc.
Gestair
Global Aviation
Great Western Air
Gulf & Caribbean Cargo Inc.
Hop-A-Jet
Image Air Charter
Independent Flight Leasing Inc.
JAL-Japan Airlines International Co Ltd.
Jazz Air Inc.
JEM Air Holdings
Jet Access Aviation
Jet Exchange
Jet Linx Aviation
JETEX LLC
Jetport Inc.
Jetstream Aviation
Kalitta Air LLC
Kenn Borek Air Ltd.
Korean Air
Landmark Aviation

London Air Services Limited
Longtail Aviation
Lufthansa German Airlines
Lynden Air Cargo LLC
Miami Air International
Mira Vista Aviation
Mountain Air Cargo
Neptune Aviation Services Inc.
Nolinor Aviation
North Cariboo Flying Service Ltd.
Oak Air Ltd.
Omni Air Express
Paradigm Air Operators Inc.
Partner Jet Inc.
Pentastar Aviation
Porter Airlines Inc.
Priester Aviation
Prime Jet
Provincial Airlines
Rectrix Aviation
SATA Internacional
Saturn Aviation
SC Aviation
Skycharter
Skyservice Business Aviation Inc.
Solairus Aviation
Southern Air
Starbase Aviation
Sun Air Jets
Sunwest Aviation Ltd.
Sunwing Airlines Inc.
TAG Aviation
Toughannock Aviation
Travel Management Company Ltd.
Tyrolean Jet Service
United Airlines

USA Jet Airlines Inc.

VIH Execujet Ltd.

VistaJet (Malta)

Volga-Dnepr Airlines LLC

Western Air Charter Inc.

WestJet

WestJet Encore

XOJET

Y2K Aviation LLC

Factors which may have influenced the data

2018

On January 1, 2018, Air Canada issued a travel alert for passengers using airports in Toronto, Montréal, Calgary and Ottawa due to a deep freeze that brought extreme cold, snow, and icy conditions. Nearly 500 flights at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International were either delayed or cancelled.

On January 4, 2018, a powerful winter storm, or “bomb cyclone” hit the northeastern United States and Atlantic Canada, causing thousands of flight cancellations at various airports. Snowfall accumulation in parts of New Brunswick peaked at 60 cm. By the morning of January 4, flights in and out of U.S. cities impacted by the storm had caused approximately 15% of all flights to be cancelled at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International. All flights were suspended at New York’s John F. Kennedy and LaGuardia Airports. Flights from most airports resumed on January 5, however there were still numerous delays and cancellations. By January 7, many airports were still struggling to cope with a backlog of flights.

In early February, 2018, Cargojet began operating scheduled international freighter service between Canada and South America and added a second frequency between Canada and Europe. The scheduled flights are as follows: Hamilton to/from Bogota, Columbia and Lima, Peru (via Atlanta, Georgia), operating Fridays and Sundays; Hamilton to/from Cologne, Germany, operating on Saturdays.

On February 23, 2018, an Island Express Air aircraft carrying 10 people slid off the runway at Abbotsford. On February 28, 2018 the company’s air operator certificate was suspended.

Starting in March 2018, WestJet began service expansions on a number of domestic routes. From Calgary, some of these frequency increases include: Abbotsford, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie and Halifax. From Edmonton, some of the expansions include: Fort McMurray and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. From Vancouver: Fort St. John, Kelowna and Victoria, and from Toronto, Ontario: Saskatoon and Victoria.

Starting March 24, 2018, Icelandair resumed flights, four times per week, from Edmonton to Reykjavik, Iceland. Previously, for most of 2017, the flights were six times per week.

On April 14, 2018, Porter Airlines increased its service to Stephenville, Newfoundland and Labrador; offering a total of 50 round-trip flights between Stephenville and Halifax between April and January 5, 2019. The flights will also connect with Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International and Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City on the same aircraft.

On April 30, 2018, Orca Airways, based out of Vancouver International, permanently ceased operations.

On May 1, 2018, Air Canada, operated by Air Georgian, began flights from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Eppley Airfield, in Omaha, Nebraska. This was the first international carrier to touch down at the airfield.

On May 8, 2018, Transport Canada issued a release stating that Saskatchewan-based West Wind Aviation was cleared to fly again, after having its operator’s certificate suspended in December 2017.

On May 25, 2018, Hainan Airlines began twice-weekly service between Vancouver International Airport and Shenzhen Bao’an International Airport, via Tianjin Binhai International Airport, both in China.

On June 6, 2018, Ukraine International Airlines began non-stop service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Kiev, Ukraine. Flights will depart Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

On June 15, 2018, Flair Airlines expanded its route network to begin flying from Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield Airport; Saskatoon/John G. Diefenbaker International; Calgary International; Prince George and Victoria International. This brings its operation from 90 flights per week to 208 flights per week.

On June 20, 2018, WestJet’s discount airline, Swoop, departed on its maiden flight from Hamilton to Abbotsford. The airline will initially fly out of Hamilton, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Halifax and Abbotsford, with additional destinations eventually being added.

On June 21, 2018, WestJet Link, a new regional air service in Western Canada, took flight. The service will operate under a capacity purchase agreement with British Columbia-based Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd. WestJet Link will connect the Alberta communities of Lethbridge, Lloydminster and Medicine Hat and the B.C. communities of Cranbrook and Prince George to WestJet’s network hub at Calgary International Airport.

On June 26, 2018, Island Express Air had its license reinstated by Transport Canada after having it suspended on February 28.

On June 26, 2018, Air North launched new service between Whitehorse and Mayo, Yukon. The airline will offer up to five flights per week, driven by demand from the region's mining sector.

On August 19, 2018, several British Columbia airports, including Kelowna, Penticton, Kamloops and Castlegar, reported cancelled flights due to wildfire smoke. In Kelowna, there was less than one kilometre of visibility, which would have prevented smaller aircraft from landing safely.

On August 30, 2018, Montréal/St-Hubert Airport, Quebec inaugurated its newly upgraded primary runway. The upgrade means the airport will now be able to accommodate larger aircraft, such as the Boeing 737 and Airbus A220/320 aircraft. The airport hopes to eventually attract low-cost passenger carriers.

On August 31, 2018, Calgary-based Integra Air ceased operations.

On October 27, 2018, WestJet concluded its service to Sudbury Airport, Ontario. The airline had resumed operations to the city in February 2017 after not flying out of the airport since 2001.

On October 27, 2018, Flair Airlines ended all service to and from Hamilton and moved its southern Ontario operations to Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International.

On October 28, 2018, WestJet reduced its national capacity, decreasing service on many of its routes from across Canada and cancelling several.

On November 1, 2018, Oslo, Norway based Norwegian Air Shuttle began flights between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and Martinique, in the French West Indies.

2017

Starting February 5, 2017, Air Canada began daily year-round non-stop flights between Dallas-Fort Worth Airport and Vancouver International.

On February 16, 2017, Air Canada launched daily year-round flights from Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International to Shanghai, China.

On March 15, 2017, WestJet launched twice daily service between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield International Airport.

Effective March 28, 2017, Cathay Pacific increased the capacity of its flights on two routes, Vancouver-Boston and Vancouver-Hong Kong. Flights between Vancouver International Airport and Hong Kong increased from twice daily to 17 flights per week. The airline operates the new Airbus 350-900. Earlier in the year, the airline had announced a codeshare arrangement with Air Canada which allowed Cathay Pacific customers to travel to major cities across the country on Air Canada domestic flights.

On April 30, 2017, WestJet launched a daily direct flight between Winnipeg/James Armstrong Richardson International to Abbotsford.

In May, 2017, Air Canada introduced six new transborder routes, adding new service to five U.S. cities and expanding winter-only service to Phoenix, Arizona from Vancouver International to year-round. The new routes are as follows: Toronto to San Antonio, Texas (daily); Toronto to Memphis, Tennessee (daily); Toronto to Savannah, Georgia (daily); Vancouver to Denver, Colorado (twice daily); Vancouver to Phoenix (daily); and Montréal to Dallas-Fort Worth (daily).

On May 1, 2017, Air Canada commenced daily year round service between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and Washington Dulles International Airport, D.C.

On May 1, 2017, Aeromexico Airlines increased capacity on all three of its existing Canadian routes, expanding Vancouver-Mexico City from 11 to 14 weekly flights, Montréal-Mexico City from 11 to 13 weekly flights and Toronto-Mexico City from 10 to 12 weekly flights. The increases will be maintained year round.

On May 4, 2017, WestJet started direct service between Calgary International and Nashville, Tennessee. The airline will operate two flights a week.

On June 1, 2017, Vancouver International Airport celebrated the inauguration of two new non-stop seasonal services; Air Canada's daily service to Frankfurt and Air Canada Rouge's three times a week service to Nagoya, Japan.

On June 1, 2017, Aeromexico launched non-stop service from Calgary International to Mexico City.

On June 1, 2017, Air Canada Rouge began service four times per week from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International Airport to Berlin, Germany.

On June 9, 2017, after a 14 year hiatus, Air Canada resumed flights between Taipei and Vancouver International. The daily direct service will be flown using a Boeing 787-900 Dreamliner configured to carry 298 passengers.

Starting mid-June 2017, EVA Air increased the frequency of its flights from Taipei, Taiwan to both Vancouver International and Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to meet increasing demand. Daily non-stop service to Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, Taiwan from Vancouver began June 15 and Toronto June 16.

On June 15, 2017, WestJet began point-to-point service for the first time within the province of Quebec, with four daily flights between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and Québec/Jean Lesage International.

On June 24, 2017, Air Canada Rouge began daily seasonal service between Victoria International Airport and Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International using a Boeing 767. With a capacity of 280 passengers it is the largest regularly scheduled airplane to operate out of the airport. Continuation of the service will be reviewed in the fall. The airline also operates daily direct service to Toronto using an Airbus.

On June 30, 2017, Hong Kong Airlines began daily flights between Vancouver International Airport and Hong Kong, China, with an A330 aircraft featuring 18 business class and 246 economy seats. The airline plans to introduce an A350 aircraft in August.

On July 1, 2017, Air Canada launched a new three-times weekly service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Mumbai, India. This non-stop, year round service will be operated using a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner.

On September 12, 2017, Porter Airlines began daily service from Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International Airport to Fredericton International Airport, New Brunswick.

On September 21, 2017, Porter Airlines flew its inaugural non-stop flight from Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International Airport to Saint John Airport, New Brunswick. The flight will be operated daily with a 74-seat Bombardier Q400 aircraft.

On October 15, 2017, WestJet commenced twice daily service between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and Boston Logan International Airport, Massachusetts.

In December 2017, West Wind Aviation, based in Saskatoon, Stony Rapids and La Ronge, all in Saskatchewan, voluntarily suspended all flying operations.

On December 1, 2017, Air Canada began the first ever non-stop flights between Canada and Melbourne. The seasonal service will run from Vancouver International Airport four times per week until February 4, 2018.

On December 15, 2017, Flair Air expanded its service to four new airports: Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International; Vancouver International; Kelowna, British Columbia and Edmonton International, Alberta, operating several times per week.

On December 18, 2017, Air Canada operated its inaugural flight from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International Airport to Cartagena, Columbia. Since the beginning of December, Air Canada also began operation of the following new services: Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Belize; Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International, Quebec to Lima and Vancouver International, British Columbia to both Melbourne, Australia and Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.