Air fares, fourth quarter 2017

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Base air fares in Canada, domestic and international combined, averaged $227.10 in the fourth quarter, up 2.9% from the same quarter of 2016.

Base fares do not include the goods and services tax, air transportation taxes or user fees, such as airport improvement fees or fuel surcharges. Average air fares are calculated for each flight stage that is, when the passenger boards the aircraft at one airport and departs the aircraft at another airport.

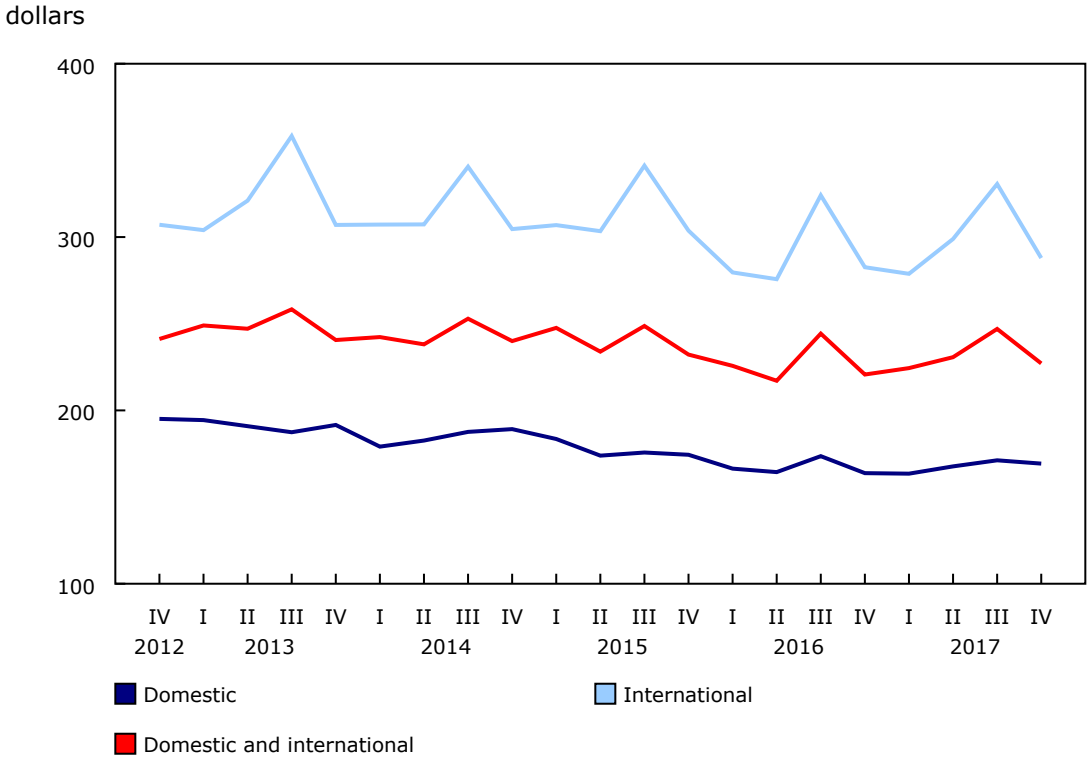
This marked the third straight quarter of growth of base air fares, following eight consecutive year-over-year quarterly declines.

The average domestic fare was up 3.4% year over year to $169.30 in the fourth quarter, while the average international fare rose 1.9% to $287.90, marking the third consecutive year-over-year quarterly gain.

Of the 10 selected cities where the passenger boarded the plane (enplanement), Ottawa (+12.6%) recorded the largest increase in average domestic air fare. Regina (-1.9%) and Winnipeg (-3.6%) were the only cities to post declines.

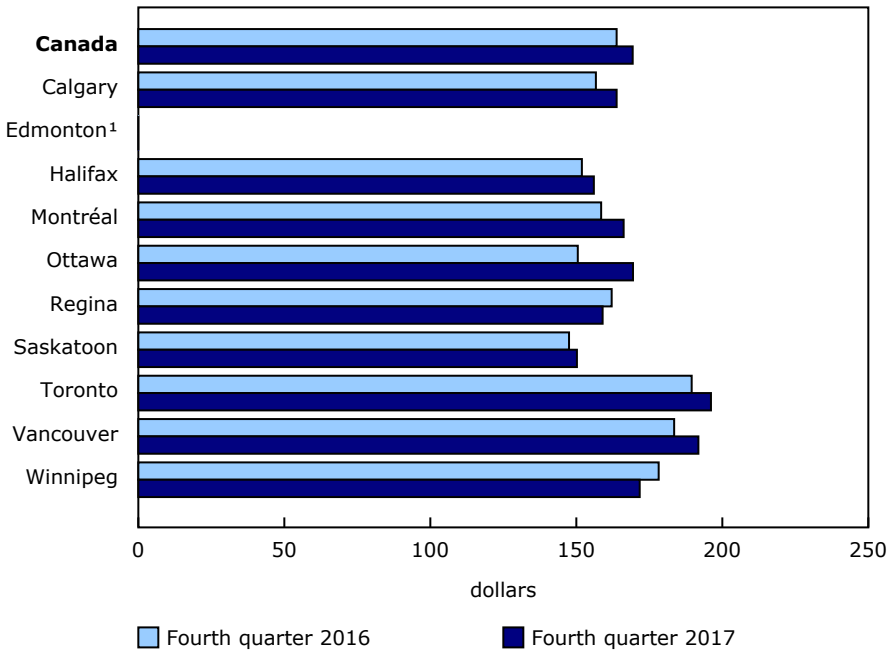
Toronto ($196.10) edged out Vancouver ($191.80) as the city with the highest average domestic air fare, followed by Winnipeg ($171.70) and Ottawa ($169.40). These four cities recorded average domestic fares above the national average. Saskatoon ($150.20) posted the lowest average domestic air fare, edging out Montréal ($166.20), which had reported the lowest fare the previous quarter.

Chart 1
Average domestic and international air fares



Source(s): Table 23-10-0036-01.

Chart 2
Average domestic air fares for 10 major Canadian cities



1. Suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*.
Source(s): Table 23-10-0237-01.

Note to readers

*Average air fares are **base fares** and do not include the goods and services tax, air transportation taxes or user fees, such as airport improvement fees or fuel surcharges. All fares in this release are base fares.*

Average air fares are calculated for each flight stage. When the passenger boards the aircraft at one airport and departs the aircraft at another airport, this is considered a flight stage.

The Fare Basis Survey covers Air Canada (including Air Canada rouge, Jazz, Air Canada's Canadian regional code-share partners), Air Transat and WestJet.

The data in this quarterly release are not seasonally adjusted.

The Fare Basis Survey is being redesigned.

Table 1
Average domestic air fares for 10 major Canadian cities

	Fourth quarter 2016	Fourth quarter 2017	Fourth quarter 2016 to fourth quarter 2017
	dollars		% change
Canada	**163.80**	**169.30**	**3.4**
Calgary	156.70	163.80	4.5
Edmonton	x	x	x
Halifax	151.90	156.00	2.7
Montréal	158.50	166.20	4.9
Ottawa	150.50	169.40	12.6
Regina	162.10	159.00	-1.9
Saskatoon	147.50	150.20	1.8
Toronto	189.50	196.10	3.5
Vancouver	183.50	191.80	4.5
Winnipeg	178.20	171.70	-3.6

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

Note(s):

The air carriers included are the Canadian Level I carriers operating scheduled services (Air Canada (including Air Canada rouge, Jazz, Air Canada's Canadian regional code-share partners), Air Transat and WestJet).

All estimates shown above have a coefficient of variation of less than 10% and can be considered reliable from a sampling point of view.

Source(s): Table **23-10-0237-01**.

Available tables: 23-10-0036-01, 23-10-0037-01 and 23-10-0237-01.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2708.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca**) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; **STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca**).

For more information on the current definitions, data sources and methods of the Fare Basis Survey, click on the *Related information* tab of this release. Readers who wish to know more, or to consult with Statistics Canada about the redesign of this survey can contact (**statcan.transportationstats-statistiquesdutransport.statcan@canada.ca**).