

# Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports, December 2019

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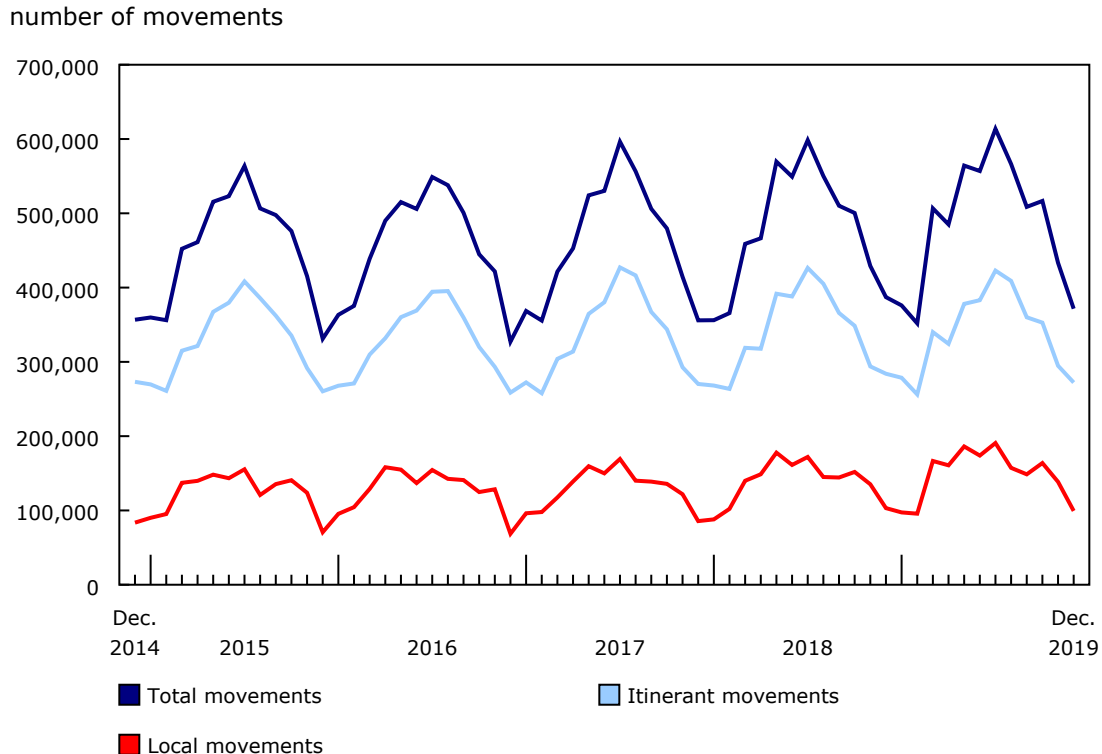
Aircraft take-offs and landings at Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations decreased 4.0% in December. Combined, 90 airports reported 371,561 movements, compared with 91 airports totalling 387,152 movements in December 2018.

A decline in both itinerant movements (flights from one airport to another) and local movements (flights that remain in the vicinity of the airport) contributed to the year-over-year decrease. Itinerant movements were down 4.2% to 272,184 and local movements fell 3.6% to 99,377. Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International, Ontario, recorded the largest drop in itinerant movements, down 1,517 movements (-4.1%), while Kingston, Ontario had the largest impact on local traffic, down 902 movements (-67.0%).

Domestic itinerant movements (within Canada) and transborder movements (between Canada and the United States) each decreased 4.5%, falling to 218,039 and 37,670 respectively. This was the eighth consecutive year-over-year decline in transborder traffic. In contrast, other international traffic rose slightly, up 0.9% to 16,475 movements.

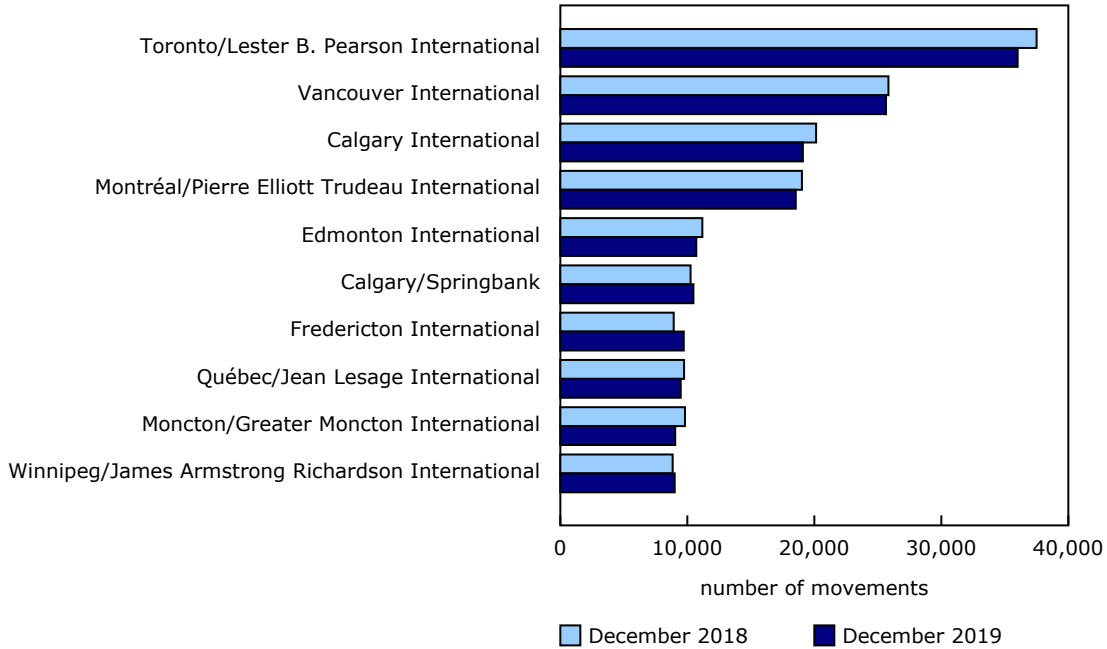
In December, 10 airports accounted for 42.4% of total activity. Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International, Canada's busiest airport, reported 36,009 movements (-4.0%). This was followed by Vancouver International, British Columbia, which reported 25,642 movements (-0.8%), Calgary International, Alberta, with 19,096 movements (-5.2%) and Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International, Quebec, with 18,539 movements (-2.5%).

**Chart 1**  
**Total aircraft movements at major airports**



Source(s): Tables [23-10-0002-01](#) and [23-10-0009-01](#).

**Chart 2**  
**Total aircraft movements at top 10 Canadian airports, December 2019**



Source(s): Table 23-10-0002-01.

**Note to readers**

*This survey collects data on itinerant and local aircraft movements at major airports in Canada.*

*Major airports include all airports with either a NAV CANADA air traffic control tower or a NAV CANADA flight service station.*

*On January 3, 2019, the air traffic control tower at Toronto/Buttonville Municipal Airport, Ontario, was officially closed, reducing the number of Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations from 91 to 90. Starting in January 2019, movements for Toronto/Buttonville Municipal Airport were excluded from major airport movements. Data for the period prior to January 2019 will continue to be available.*

*An aircraft movement is defined as a take-off, a landing or a simulated approach by an aircraft as defined by NAV CANADA.*

*Data for the same month in the previous year may have been revised.*

*The data in this monthly release are not seasonally adjusted.*

Available tables: [23-10-0002-01](#) to [23-10-0015-01](#) .

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2715](#).

Additional analytical information is now available in "[Monthly Aircraft Movements: Major airports – NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations, December 2019](#)," as part of the service bulletin *Aviation (51-004-X)*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; [STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca)).