

Monthly civil aviation statistics, January 2023

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Highlights

Major Canadian airlines carried 6.1 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in January, more than double the number of passengers in the same month of 2022, but 11.3% below the January 2019 level, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

With traffic at 16.5 billion passenger-kilometres and capacity at 19.7 billion available seat-kilometres, the passenger load factor was 83.7% in January.

Operating revenue earned in January exceeded the pre-pandemic level.

Winter conditions continue to impact flights, but less than in December

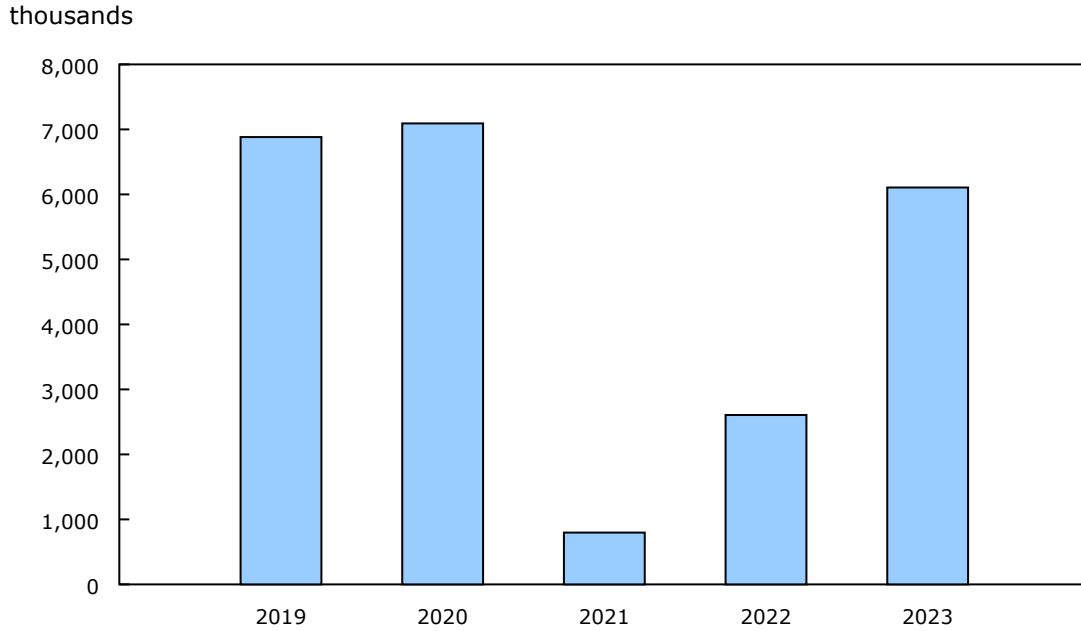
After a holiday season marked by flight delays and cancellations stemming from bad weather coupled with resource constraints, January was a calmer month, and passenger volumes were relatively unchanged from December, as is typical.

Recovery resumes in January

Canadian Level I air carriers flew 6.1 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in January, which was 11.3% below the pre-pandemic level reported in January 2019. This was an improvement from December 2022 (-14.9% from December 2019), but was still below the peak recovery reached in October (-9.4%) and November 2022 (-9.9%) from the equivalent months in 2019.



Chart 1
Passengers carried by Canadian Level I air carriers, January, 2019 to 2023



Source(s): Table [23-10-0079-01](#).

With traffic at 16.5 billion passenger-kilometres and capacity at 19.7 billion available seat-kilometres, the passenger load factor (the ratio of passenger-kilometres to available seat-kilometres) was 83.7% in January 2023, exceeding the 81.6% recorded in January 2019, before the pandemic.

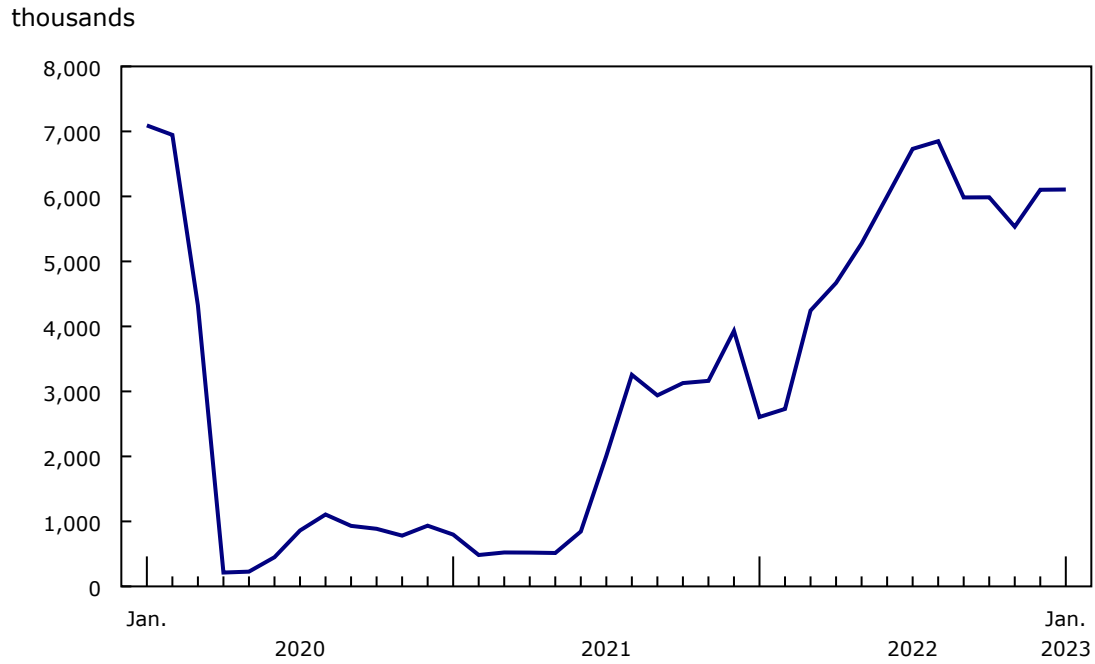
Since the start of the pandemic, the domestic sector had initially led the recovery in air travel, particularly during the period when international air travellers faced greater restrictions. However, the opposite was observed in January, as operating statistics for the international sector were closer to 2019 levels than for the domestic sector.

Each passenger travelled an average of 2,701 kilometres in January, up 1.6% from the pre-pandemic level.

At 164,000, the number of flying hours in January was 18.0% below the pre-pandemic level.

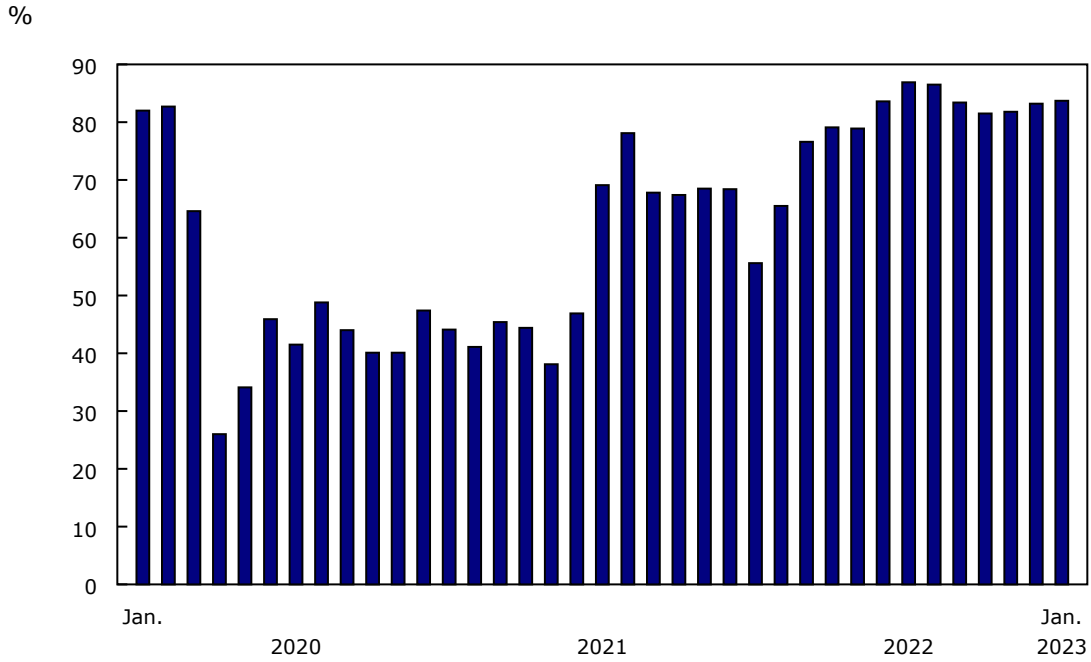
Operating revenue earned by Level I air carriers totalled \$2.1 billion in January, up 7.5% from January 2019.

Chart 2
Passengers carried, Canadian air carriers, Level I



Source(s): Table [23-10-0079-01](#).

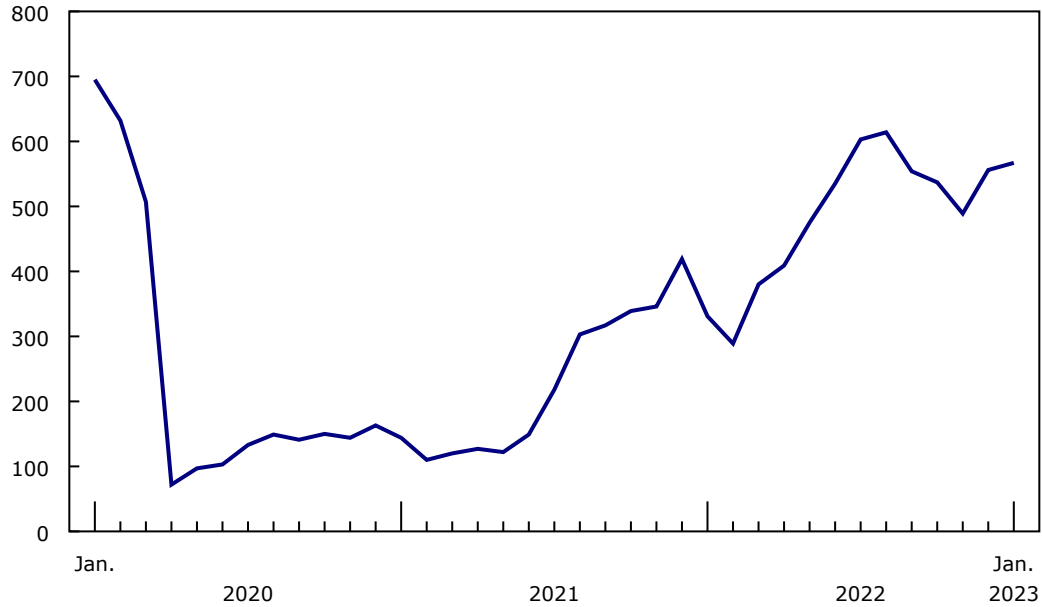
Chart 3
Passenger load factor, Canadian air carriers, Level I



Source(s): Table [23-10-0079-01](#).

Chart 4 Turbo fuel consumed, Canadian air carriers, Level I

millions of litres



Source(s): Table [23-10-0079-01](#).

Note to readers

The Monthly Civil Aviation Survey covers all Canadian Level I air carriers: Air Canada (including Air Canada Rouge), Air Transat, Jazz, Porter, Sunwing and WestJet (including Swoop, WestJet Encore and WestJet Link).

The average passenger trip length is calculated by dividing the number of passenger-kilometres by the number of passengers. Trips across Canada and around the world are included in this calculation.

The data in this monthly release are not seasonally adjusted.

Available tables: table [23-10-0079-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5026](#).

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; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).