

# Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics, March 2024

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Tuesday, May 28, 2024

## Highlights

In March, Canada's major and select small airports recorded a total of 444,180 aircraft movements, virtually unchanged (-0.3%) from March 2023. Local movements declined 1.4% year over year to 144,524, partially offset by a 0.3% increase in itinerant movements, which rose to 299,656.

At the same time, major Canadian airlines flew 7.6 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in March 2024, with the passenger load factor at 86.1%.

Consult the new [Aviation Data Visualization Hub](#) to explore aircraft movement statistics and monthly civil aviation statistics in an interactive format.

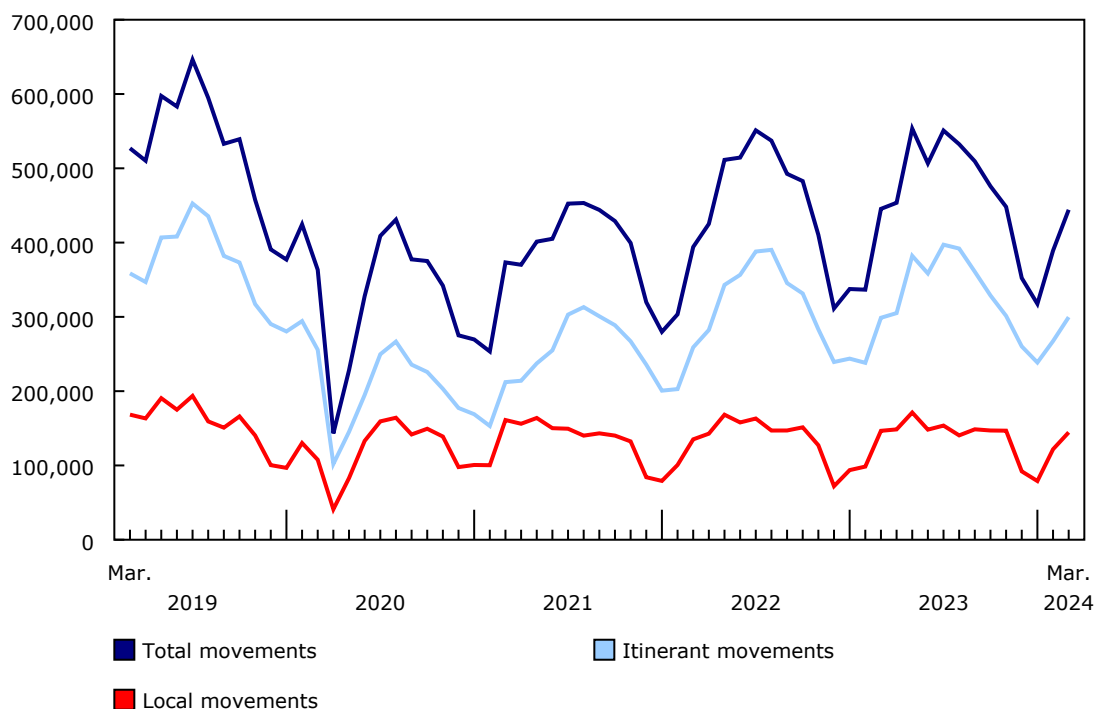
## Local and domestic movements lag

Local aircraft movements decreased 1.4% in March, compared with the same month in 2023. Declines were reported in 6 of the 13 provinces and territories, with the largest drop in Alberta (-3,409 movements).

### Chart 1

Total aircraft movements at major and select small airports, by class of operation

number of movements



Source(s): Table 23-10-0296-01.

Itinerant domestic movements declined 1.2% to 244,838 in March 2024, compared with March 2023. The decline was experienced across all types of operations. As reported in the latest release of "[Screened passenger traffic at Canadian airports](#)," the number of passengers screened for domestic flights was down in March 2024.

By contrast, other international traffic (outside the United States) in March was up 14.6% year over year, reaching 19,413 movements. Over the same period, transborder movements to and from the United States increased 4.3% to 35,405. There was a notable gain at Victoria International (+79.4%), which reported more movements to and from Seattle, Washington.

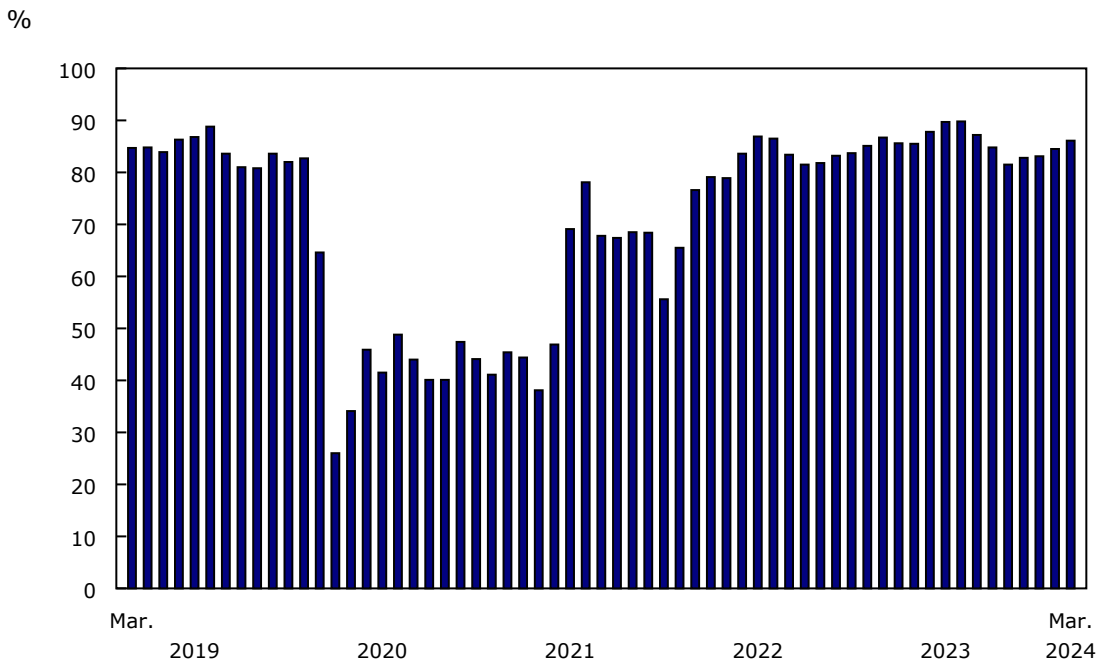
In March, the volume of aircraft movements was highest for airports in British Columbia (126,444 movements), overtaking those in Ontario (114,233), which had held the top spot for four consecutive months. Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International remained the busiest airport in Canada, with 32,872 movements, a year-over-year increase of 6.1%, on the strength of international movements.

### Major airlines' operating and financial statistics

The seven Canadian Level I air carriers flew 7.6 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in March, 12.2% more than in March 2023, when there were six Level I carriers. One Level II air carrier was reclassified to Level I in 2024.

The number of passenger-kilometres in March was 20.5 billion and capacity was 23.8 billion available seat-kilometres. As a result, the passenger load factor (the ratio of passenger-kilometres to available seat-kilometres) was 86.1%, down slightly from 86.7% recorded in the same month a year earlier.

**Chart 2**  
**Passenger load factor, Canadian air carriers, Level I**



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

Each passenger travelled an average of 2,707 kilometres in March, up 2.9% from March 2023.

Level I carriers flew 193,000 hours in March 2024 and generated \$2.7 billion in total operating revenue.

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### Note to readers

As of reference month January 2024, Statistics Canada publishes a new consolidated monthly release called "Aircraft movement and civil aviation statistics." The new release covers the following survey programs:

- Aircraft movement statistics (survey number [2715](#), tables 23-10-0296-01 to 23-10-0304-01)
- Monthly civil aviation statistics (survey number [5026](#), table 23-10-0079-01).

The tables associated with the above survey programs remain unchanged and will be updated as usual. Definitions, data sources and methods for each survey program remain available by accessing each survey's respective number.

Consult the new [Aviation Data Visualization Hub](#) to explore data from Aircraft movement statistics and Monthly civil aviation statistics in an interactive format.

The aviation statistics program uses respondent (Monthly civil aviation statistics) and administrative (Aircraft movement statistics) data.

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

An itinerant movement is the initial take-off or the final landing of an aircraft.

A local movement is an aircraft conducting the following airport activities: touch-and-go, stop-and-go, simulated approach without landing, low approach, pull up while on final approach or missed approach. Local movements are often carried out during training flights (touch-and-go), equipment tests, etc.

The Monthly Civil Aviation Survey covers all Canadian Level I air carriers: Air Canada (including Air Canada Rouge), Air Transat, Flair, Jazz, Porter, Sunwing and WestJet (including WestJet Encore and WestJet Link). The number of air carriers increased from six in 2023 to seven in 2024, because one Level II air carrier was reclassified to Level I.

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.

Data are subject to revisions.

**Available tables:** [23-10-0079-01](#) and [23-10-0296-01](#) to [23-10-0304-01](#) .

**Definitions, data sources and methods:** survey numbers [2715](#) and [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](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or Media Relations ([statcan.mediahotline-lineinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:statcan.mediahotline-lineinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca)).