

Airport activity, 2023

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Highlights

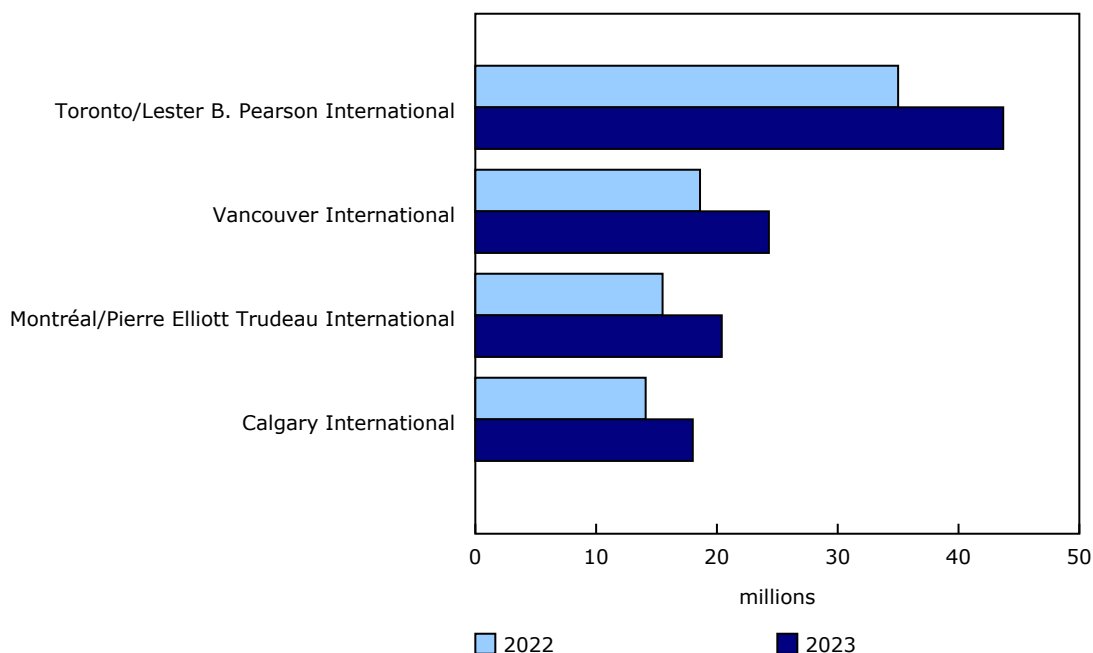
In 2023, the number of passengers enplaned and deplaned at Canadian airports increased to 150.7 million. This number was 26.8% above that recorded in 2022 and represented 92.5% of the 2019 level, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Canada's largest airports saw similar gains in passenger traffic in 2023, with Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International, Vancouver International, Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and Calgary International each reporting at least a 24% increase from 2022.

Please consult the new [Aviation Data Visualization Hub](#) to further explore airport activity statistics in an interactive format.

Chart 1

Passengers enplaned and deplaned at the top four Canadian airports

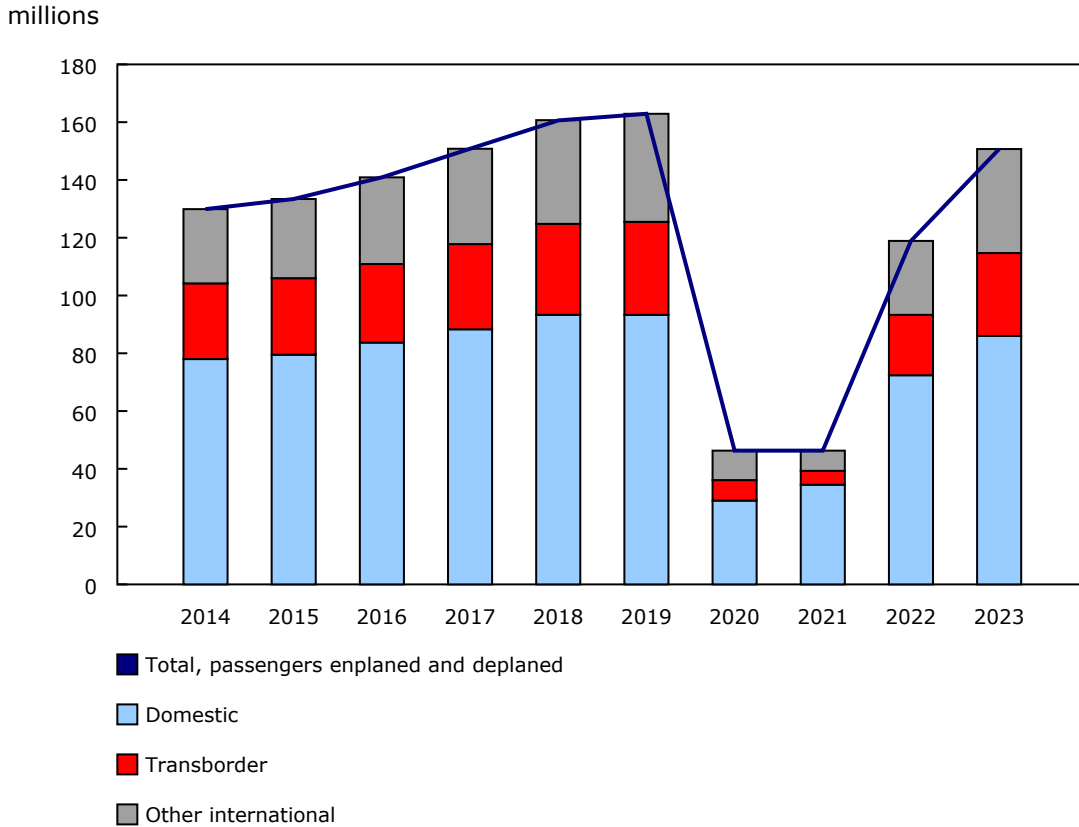


Source(s): Table 23-10-0253-01.

Passengers return to the skies

Passengers returned to the skies in 2023, the first full year since 2019 without any pandemic-related government travel restrictions in place. This reflected an easing of both pandemic-induced labour and supply challenges, allowing the passenger airline industry to meet the growing demand for travel.

Chart 2
Air passenger traffic, by sector



Source(s): Table 23-10-0253-01.

Demand increased over the year, with the number of domestic passengers increasing by 18.8% in 2023, up by 13.6 million passengers from 2022. Other international traffic (+40.7%; +10.4 million passengers) and transborder traffic (Canada-United States) (+37.4%; +7.8 million passengers) both saw significant gains from 2022.

Cargo demand softens

As reported by [Airports Council International](#), global demand for air cargo decreased from 2022 to 2023 due to a variety of factors, both economic and geopolitical. Similarly, Canadian air cargo shipments were dampened in 2023 by softening demand. However, despite this decline, the total tonnage loaded and unloaded in Canada in 2023 remained above the pre-pandemic level.

Overall, the amount of cargo loaded and unloaded at Canadian airports fell 2.6% in 2023 compared with the previous year. Domestic cargo decreased 4.0% from 2022 to 690 000 tonnes in 2023. Transborder cargo fell 1.2% to 251 000 tonnes, while other international cargo was down 1.5% to 494 000 tonnes.

The decrease in cargo volume that was transported through Canadian airports was accompanied by a 15.8% decrease in annualized [quarterly goods revenue](#) earned by the Canadian airline industry in 2023.

Looking ahead

While demand for air travel in 2023 propelled the airline industry towards recovery to 2019 passenger volumes, it stopped short of reaching a full return to pre-pandemic levels. However, early data from [screened passenger traffic](#) at Canada's eight largest airports indicates that passenger recovery continues into 2024.

Table 1
Passengers enplaned and deplaned at the top four Canadian airports

	2022	2023	2022 to 2023
	number		% change
Canada	118,882,897	150,705,583	26.8
Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International	35,028,484	43,716,866	24.8
Vancouver International	18,613,367	24,260,989	30.3
Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International	15,511,340	20,380,075	31.4
Calgary International	14,055,697	18,026,031	28.2

Source(s): Table [23-10-0253-01](#).

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Note to readers

This survey collects data on passengers enplaned and deplaned and cargo loaded and unloaded at Canadian airports.

With each release, data for the previous reference year may be revised.

Cargo data: *It is important to note that the air cargo data presented do not represent the total cargo loaded and unloaded in Canada. Comprehensive cargo data are not collected for the following reasons: (1) the regional and local scheduled carriers do not file cargo data for the Airport Activity Survey and (2) the major charter survey does not collect data on domestic courier cargo or domestic entity cargo flights.*

Available tables: [23-10-0253-01](#) and [23-10-0254-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2701](#).

Additional analytical information is now available in "[Airport Activity: Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports, 2023](#)," 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; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).