

Airport activity approaches pre-pandemic cruising altitude in 2024

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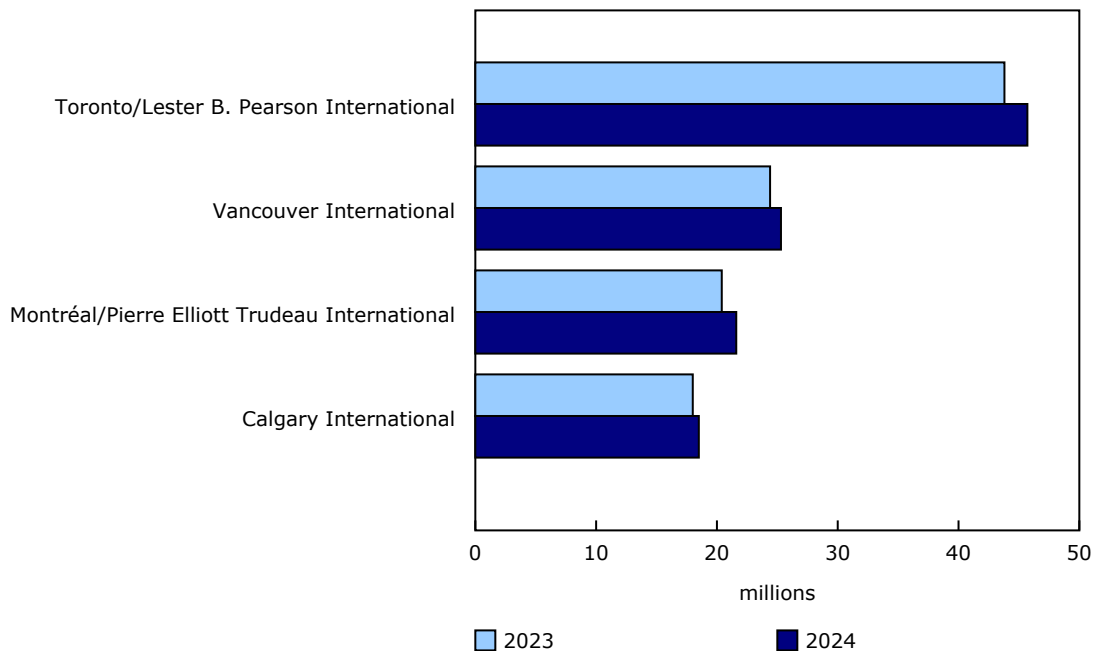
Highlights

In 2024, the number of passengers enplaned and deplaned at Canadian airports increased 4.0% from 2023 to 156.7 million. This was just under the 2019 level (96.2%), prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Passenger traffic at Canada's four largest airports was up in 2024—Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International (+4.3%), Vancouver International (+3.8%), Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International (+5.7%), and Calgary International (+2.5%). Nevertheless, this was a marked slowdown from the double-digit increases at these airports in 2023.

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

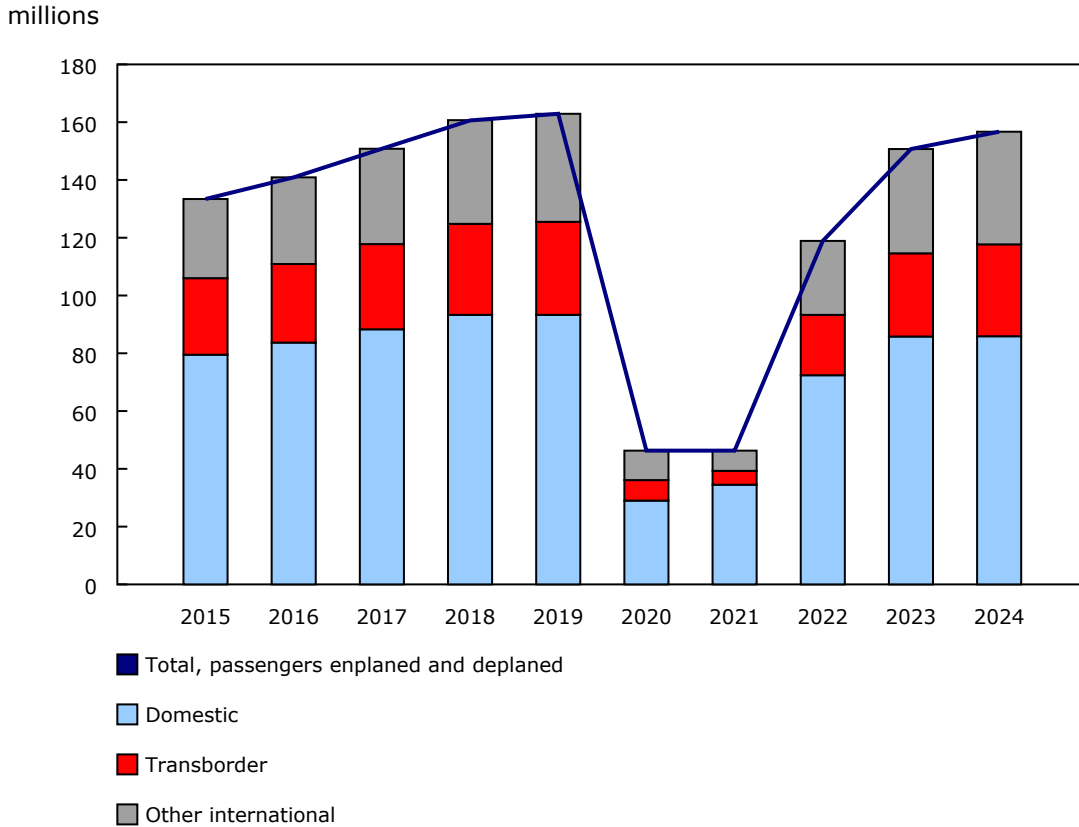


Source(s): Table 23-10-0253-01.

International and transborder traffic soars

The airline industry saw continued growth in travel demand in 2024, despite some ongoing challenges including inflationary pressure, pilot shortages, aircraft delivery delays, geopolitical tensions and wildfires across Canada.

Chart 2
Air passenger traffic, by sector



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

As part of this increasing demand for air travel over the year, airports saw much faster growth in transborder (Canada-United States) and other international passenger numbers than for domestic air travel.

New or re-started routes, in addition to increased carrier capacity, helped drive transborder (+10.4%) and other international (+8.1%) passenger growth in 2024. Domestic passenger volumes were essentially unchanged year over year in 2024 (+0.1%).

Cargo makes a soft landing

Following the pandemic surge in package delivery, air cargo traffic in Canada saw continued growth in 2024, with the total amount of cargo loaded and unloaded at Canadian airports rising by 5.1% from 2023. Factors contributing to growth in air cargo traffic in Canada were an increase in [e-commerce activity](#) and route expansions by Canadian carriers.

In 2024, domestic cargo increased 5.9% from 2023 to 802 000 tonnes. International cargo grew 8.2% to 534 000 tonnes, while transborder cargo fell 3.5% to 243 000 tonnes.

Looking ahead

In 2024, over 31.8 million passengers enplaned and deplaned at Canadian airports on flights to and from the United States, up 10.4% from 2023 but 1.2% below 2019. However, data from 2025 on [monthly screened passengers at the eight largest Canadian airports](#) indicate that transborder screened passenger volumes have fallen every month, on a year-over-year basis, since February.

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

	2023	2024	2023 to 2024
	number		% change
Canada	150,701,926	156,722,185	4.0
Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International	43,830,389	45,714,326	4.3
Vancouver International	24,371,059	25,294,940	3.8
Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International	20,384,014	21,550,764	5.7
Calgary International	18,034,090	18,488,330	2.5

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.

With this release, air cargo data is now included for:

1. *regional and local scheduled carriers, and*
2. *domestic charter dedicated cargo flights (domestic courier cargo and domestic entity cargo flights).*

These new sources of air cargo data are also included in the revised 2023 reference year data.

Passenger flights which carry cargo on them are classified as passenger flights. The cargo carried on these passenger flights is defined as belly-hold cargo. The belly-hold cargo data are included with the pure cargo data in table [23-10-0254-01](#).

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, 2024](#)," 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).