

Aviation

Monthly Aircraft Movements: Major airports – NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations, January 2019

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Monthly Aircraft Movements: Major airports – NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations, January 2019

Analysis

There were 375,992 aircraft take-offs and landings at 90 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations in January, compared with 356,097 movements at 91 airports in January 2018.

On January 3, 2019, the air traffic control tower at Toronto/Buttonville Municipal Airport, Ontario, was officially closed. The airport remains open, but the closure of the tower reduces the number of Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations from 91 to 90. Toronto/Buttonville Municipal Airport accounted for 2,247 movements in January 2018 and data for the airport during this time period are included in year-over-year comparisons in this release.

A rise 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 increase. Itinerant movements increased 3.9% to 278,639 and local movements rose 10.7% to 97,353.

Overall, air traffic increased 5.6% in January, with 52 airports reporting more movements compared to January 2018. Year-over-year variations of more than 1,000 movements were reported at nine airports. Of these, six posted increases, with growth ranging from 7,671 movements at Boundary Bay, British Columbia to 1,108 movements at Kitchener/Waterloo, Ontario. At the three airports that reported declines of over 1,000 movements, decreases ranged from 1,716 movements at Chicoutimi/St-Honoré, Quebec, to 1,051 movements at Québec/Jean Lesage International, Quebec.

Itinerant traffic increased 3.9%, as 58 airports reported more movements. The largest increases were observed at Boundary Bay (+3,013 movements), Abbotsford (+1,597) and Pitt Meadows (+1,563); all in British Columbia. The largest decline was recorded at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International, Ontario (-1,234).

In January, 47 airports recorded higher levels of local activity as compared to the same month one year ago. As a result, local traffic rose by 9,384 movements. Year-over-year variations ranged from an increase of 4,658 movements at Boundary Bay, to a decrease of 1,368 movements at Chicoutimi/St-Honoré.

Itinerant movements: domestic, transborder and international

Domestic itinerant movements (within Canada) were 222,987 in January, a 4.3% increase from the same month the previous year. The five airports showing the largest increases were all located in British Columbia, leading with Boundary Bay (+2,994 movements), Abbotsford (1,563), and Pitt Meadows (+1,558). The biggest decreases were recorded at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International (-845) and Québec/Jean Lesage International (-590).

During the month, 67 airports reported 37,794 transborder (between Canada and the United States) itinerant movements, up 1.5% from the level reported in January 2018. The largest increases were seen at Vancouver International, British Columbia (+456 movements), Calgary International, Alberta (+210) and Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International, Quebec (+169). The biggest decrease in transborder traffic was recorded at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International (-544).

In January, 39 airports reported a total of 17,858 other international itinerant movements, up 4.2% from the same period the previous year. Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International was the busiest airport with 7,680 movements, followed by Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International (3,610 movements) and Vancouver International (2,746). Together, these three airports accounted for 78.6% of all other international itinerant movements during the month.

Factors which may have influenced the data

On January 28, 2019, a snowfall warning was in effect for the entire Greater Toronto Area and most of southern Ontario. More than 200 departing flights at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International, Ontario, were cancelled.

On January 20, 2019, Swoop Airlines began twice-weekly service between Abbotsford, British Columbia and Mazatlán, Mexico.

A powerful winter storm brought heavy rain and snow to much of eastern Canada and eastern United States on the weekend of January 19, 2019. Flight cancellations were reported at airports across the affected regions.

On January 14, 2019, Swoop Airlines began seasonal service between Hamilton, Ontario and Cancun, Mexico. The flights will depart three times per week.

On January 12, 2019, Swoop Airlines began twice-weekly service between Abbotsford and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

On January 8, 2019, Swoop Airlines' inaugural flight took off from Hamilton to Puerto Vallarta. The flights will depart twice per week.

On January 3, 2019, the air traffic control tower at Toronto/Buttonville Municipal Airport, Ontario, was permanently closed. The airport will continue operating until at least 2023.

On December 20, 2018, Sunwing Airlines launched its first direct flight from Canada to Tobago; between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and the Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson International Airport in Crown Point, Tobago. On the same day, Sunwing also launched its first direct flight between Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International Airport, Ontario and Los Cabos, Mexico. The flight will depart Ottawa every Thursday until April 11, 2019.

On December 19, 2018, Sunwing Airlines launched its inaugural flight between Thunder Bay, Ontario and Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The flight departs every Wednesday until March 27, 2019.

On December 18, 2018, Sunwing Airlines began a new route between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International, Quebec and Mazatlán. The flights depart Montréal every Tuesday until April 16, 2019.

On December 17, 2018, Sunwing Airlines began operating a new seasonal flight between Québec/Jean Lesage International, Quebec and Puerto Vallarta. Service will conclude on April 15, 2019. On the same day, the airline also began service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Cienfuegos, Cuba, for the first time since 2013. The weekly flights leave Toronto every Monday until April 22, 2019.

On December 16, 2018, Swoop Airlines launched twice-weekly service between Hamilton and Montego Bay, Jamaica. The flights will operate until April 24, 2019.

On December 16, 2018, Sunwing launched service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Bonaire, Netherlands. The service will operate once per week until April 14, 2019.

On December 15, 2018, Air Canada launched new service between Vancouver International, British Columbia and Kauai, Hawaii. Flights will operate three times weekly until April 27, 2019. The airline also doubled the frequency of its other flights from western Canada to Hawaii (Honolulu, Maui and Kona) for the winter 2018/2019 season.

On December 15, 2018, Sunwing began direct service between Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International and Miami, Florida. Flights will depart Ottawa every Saturday until March 30, 2019.

On December 8, 2018, Sunwing began offering direct flights from Québec/Jean Lesage International and Miami. Flights will depart twice-weekly, on Saturdays and Sundays.

On December 7, 2018, WestJet launched service between Saskatoon/John G. Diefenbaker International, Saskatchewan and Orlando, Florida. The weekly service will operate until April 26, 2019.

In December 2018, Flair Airlines launched new routes to various cities in the United States: Miami, Orlando and Tampa Bay, Florida; Phoenix, Arizona; Las Vegas, Nevada and Palm Springs, California.

Air Transat announced that it was cancelling all flights to Nicaragua in winter 2018/2019. The airline had three flights per week scheduled from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International, beginning December 20, 2018 and ending at the end of March, 2019.

For winter 2018/2019, Air Transat announced that it would no longer be flying out of Saskatoon/John G. Diefenbaker International and Regina, Saskatchewan.

On November 8, 2018, Flair Airlines launched its first flight to the United States: from Edmonton International, Alberta to Las Vegas. The flight will operate four times weekly.

On November 7, 2018, a Boeing 747 skidded off the runway while landing at Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield International, Nova Scotia. The airport temporarily suspended all flights, and one of two runways at the airport remained closed for nearly two weeks following the incident. The ongoing closure of the runway caused some delays, cancellations and diversions when winds favoured the runway that was closed.

On November 5, 2018, Air Transat began round-trip flights between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Edmonton International. There will be two round-trip flights every Monday until December 19, 2018, when service will increase to four round-trip weekly flights.

On the evening of November 2, 2018, all flights coming in and out of Fredericton International Airport, New Brunswick were cancelled because an electrical fault caused all of the runway lights to go out. The lights were restored by the following evening.

On November 1, 2018, Oslo, Norway based Norwegian Air Shuttle began flights between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and Martinique, in the French West Indies.

On November 1, 2018, Air Canada discontinued its three times daily service between the Alberta cities of Red Deer and Calgary. This was the only scheduled service out of the Red Deer airport. The airline also discontinued transborder service to Syracuse and Rochester, both in New York, as well as to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. These routes were discontinued as Air Canada Express carrier Air Georgian was phasing out the Beechcraft 1900 aircraft from its fleet.

On October 29, 2018, Norwegian Air Shuttle launched flights three times per week between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and Pointe-à-Pitre, in Guadeloupe, France.

On October 28, 2018, Air Canada launched direct, seasonal service between Calgary International, Alberta and Palm Springs. The flights will be available until the end of April, 2019.

On October 28, 2018, Air Canada increased its frequency of flights to Phoenix Sky Harbour International Airport, Arizona from Vancouver International, from four days per week to seven. The airline also increased its frequency between Vancouver International and Palm Springs.

On October 28, 2018, Philippine Airlines began a non-stop flight from New York's John F. Kennedy Airport, New York to Manila, Philippines. This flight replaces what was previously a one-stop flight that went through Vancouver International.

On October 28, 2018, Air Canada Rouge launched service from Edmonton International to Las Vegas. The route will operate daily until April 30, 2019.

On October 28, 2018, WestJet reduced its national capacity, decreasing service on many of its routes from across Canada and cancelling several. Cancelled routes include: service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Fort McMurray, Alberta; Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and Québec/Jean Lesage International; Deer Lake, Newfoundland and Labrador and Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield International, as well as all flights to Mexico City, Mexico, which the airline had originally launched in March 2018. Some of the reductions in service include domestic flights between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and: Vancouver International, Edmonton International, Calgary International and Winnipeg/James Armstrong Richardson International, Manitoba, and flights between Halifax and St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador and to Sydney, Nova Scotia.

On October 28, 2018, Swoop launched service from Abbotsford and from Hamilton to Las Vegas. The flights were scheduled to begin earlier in the month but were cancelled while the company waited for regulatory approval.

On October 27, 2018, Swoop launched service from Edmonton International to Las Vegas and to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Arizona. Service was also added between Hamilton and the Florida cities of Orlando and Tampa Bay.

On October 27, 2018, Flair Airlines ended all service to and from Hamilton and moved its southern Ontario operations to Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International. The airline also added daily flights between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Winnipeg/James Armstrong Richardson International and between Calgary and Abbotsford as part of its October–April service (starting October 28, 2018), and concluded its seasonal route between Victoria International, British Columbia and Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield International.

On October 27, 2018, WestJet concluded its service to Sudbury Airport, Ontario. The airline had resumed operations to the city in February 2017 after not flying out of the airport since 2001.

On October 27, 2018, British Airways suspended its service to Calgary International for the winter season.

On October 11, 2018, the operating hours of the control tower at the Toronto/Buttonville Municipal Airport were reduced from 12 hours to nine. On July 19, 2018 the operating hours had already been reduced from 15 to 12.

On October 2, 2018, a large snowfall hit Calgary, with 40 centimetres reported in parts of the city. Dozens of flights were cancelled or delayed at Calgary International Airport.

In October 2018, United Express carrier CommutAir began operating five daily roundtrips from Newark Liberty International Airport, New Jersey and Washington Dulles International, Virginia to Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International.

As of September 30, 2018, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, Inc. had reported 1,999 fires covering 1,348,522 hectares in British Columbia. At the same time in 2017, there were 1,263 fires covering 1,211,719 hectares.

On September 30, 2018, Alkan Air ended its twice-weekly service between Whitehorse and Watson Lake, both in the Yukon. The service originally began with three flights per week, which was then scaled back to twice per week.

On September 28, 2018, Air Canada reduced its flights between North Bay, Ontario and Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International, from four flights per day to three flights per day. The number of seats available will remain the same, as a larger aircraft will be used.

On September 21, 2018, several tornadoes touched down in the Ottawa, Ontario and Gatineau, Quebec regions. Some flights at Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International were suspended due to lightning and the airport was forced to use backup power. Strong winds were also forecast that day throughout Ontario.

On September 18, 2018, Pacific Coastal Airlines and the Pacific Flying Club, located at Boundary Bay Airport, British Columbia, announced the creation of a new program meant to offset the impact of the global pilot shortage affecting regional airlines and flight training schools. The Fast Track to Success program will allow Pacific Flying Club instructors to apply to Pacific Coastal after a certain amount of time or instructional hours, and continue to work with the Pacific Flying Club while they build the hours they need to obtain an airline transport pilot licence.

On September 12, 2018, a British Airways Boeing 787 travelling from England to Calgary International was diverted to Iqaluit, Nunavut due to a technical fault. A second aircraft arrived the following day to bring passengers to their destination.

On September 7, 2018, the province wide state of emergency that had been in effect in British Columbia since August 15, 2018 due to wildfires, was ended. The decision was made to end the state of emergency because of cooler temperatures and progress in containing the hundreds of wildfires across the province.

On September 4, 2018, WestJet Encore began twice-weekly service between Calgary International and Terrace, British Columbia.

In September 2018, Central Mountain Air announced that it would no longer be offering flights between Calgary International and Lloydminster, Alberta. The company had been operating the route for the last 17 years.

In September 2018, High Level Airport, Alberta, underwent runway construction. Runway closures were in effect from September 10 until the end of the month, during which time flight operations requiring the runways were not possible.

By August 31, 2018, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. had reported 1,927 fires across British Columbia, covering 1,280,951 hectares; making it the worst fire season on record in terms of hectares burned. On August 15, 2018, the B.C. Government declared a state of emergency to support the province wide response to the ongoing wildfire situation. This is the second summer in a row that a state of emergency was declared; by the end of August 2017, there were 1,148 fires covering 1,058,488 hectares.

On August 31, 2018, Calgary-based Integra Air ceased operations. The company had offered chartered and scheduled flight services, as well as air ambulance medevac services.

On August 30, 2018, Montréal/St-Hubert Airport, Quebec inaugurated its newly upgraded primary runway. The upgrade means the airport will now be able to accommodate larger aircraft, such as the Boeing 737 and Airbus A220/320 aircraft. The airport hopes to eventually attract low-cost passenger carriers.

On August 23 and 24, 2018, WestJet cancelled all of its regular flights between Vancouver International and Hawaii due to Hurricane Lane.

On August 23, 2018, Michigan-based Kalitta Air began arriving at Moncton/Greater Moncton International Airport, New Brunswick. The Boeing 747 began making stopovers with shipments of lobster and other seafood destined for China, and is expected to continue going forward.

On August 22, 2018, it was reported that air traffic was down to a minimum at Pitt Meadows Airport, British Columbia, due to the haze and smoke from the B.C. wildfires. Only aircraft with the required instruments were allowed to take off and land.

On August 20 and 21, 2018, British Columbia-based Harbour Air cancelled a number of flights within B.C. due to low visibility caused by wildfire smoke. Any flights to Comox, Nanaimo, Richmond or Vancouver were cancelled. On August 20 alone, 70 flights were cancelled.

On August 19, 2018, several British Columbia airports, including Kelowna, Penticton, Kamloops and Castlegar, reported cancelled flights due to wildfire smoke. In Kelowna, there was less than one kilometre of visibility, which would have prevented smaller aircraft from landing safely.

On August 18, 2018, North Star Air officially opened its new hangar and warehouse at Thompson Airport, Manitoba. The facility will support the airline's ongoing fleet and route expansion. It is the airline's first base outside of Ontario and will help with long-distance shipping to northern Manitoba and Nunavut.

On August 16, 2018, Swoop began new service between Abbotsford and Winnipeg/James Armstrong Richardson International. Flights will operate once daily, and will double the airline's number of weekly flights to Winnipeg.

On August 16, 2018, Swoop increased the frequency of its flights from Hamilton to: Abbotsford (from 6 to 12 weekly), Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield International (from 6 to 7 weekly) and Winnipeg/James Armstrong Richardson International (from 6 to 7 weekly).

On August 14, 2018, Swoop increased service between Hamilton and Edmonton International from 7 to 13 flights weekly.

On August 9, 2018, firefighters succeeded in containing Parry Sound 33, the largest forest fire in central Ontario and one they had been battling with water bombers and bucketing support for the previous three weeks. The status of the fire was changed from "not under control" to "being held" and was approximately 11,362 hectares in size. Firefighters from across Canada, from the U.S. and Mexico were helping battle one of the worst fire seasons on record in Ontario.

On August 7, 2018, air quality warnings were issued for much of the province of Alberta, including Calgary and Edmonton, due to wildfire smoke coming in from British Columbia. The combination of heat and smoke was limiting operations at some flight training schools, as visibility was limited.

Operation Nanook, formerly an annual Arctic military exercise of the Canadian Armed Forces which ran for two weeks throughout the month of August, was restructured in 2018. It will now occur year-round, with periodic exercises throughout the year. Last year, the Canadian Armed Forces deployed land, maritime and air components in two locations in the North between August 12 and 27: Rankin Inlet and northern Labrador.

For the month of August 2018, British Columbia-based Central Mountain Air temporarily suspended its non-stop service between Calgary International and Lloydminster, as well as Edmonton International and Fort St. John, British Columbia, while the company reviewed operations on these routes.

Between July and August 2018, Mag Aerospace trained 12 Air Cadets at Sudbury Airport, as part of an intense flight training program, where the Cadets earned their private pilot licences in only seven weeks. The company was awarded the contract from the Canadian Department of National Defence.

By July 31, 2018, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. had reported 914 fires covering 215,956 hectares in Ontario. Crews fighting fires in northern Ontario received help from other provinces, the United States and Mexico as they tried to contain the blazes. In comparison, by the end of July 2017, 257 fires and 49,298 hectares had been reported.

By July 31, 2018, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. had reported 954 fires covering 64,479 hectares in British Columbia. The agency summarized that there were over 2,000 personnel supporting wildfire suppression and widespread resource shortages without the expectation of relief. In comparison, at the same time in 2017, the agency had reported 797 fires covering 380,754 hectares.

On July 28 and 29, 2018, Whitecourt Airport in Alberta hosted the Hometown Heroes Airshow. The airshow is scheduled for every two years.

On July 25, 2018, Swoop Airlines made its maiden flight from Edmonton International to Abbotsford. Service will be offered three times daily.

On July 21, 2018, the B.C. Wildfire Service incident command centre for the Central Okanagan firefighting efforts was moved from Penticton to West Kelowna. The command centre and firefighter camp are a reflection of the need to concentrate all manpower and communication resources in one location to better utilize and manage those resources.

On July 9, 2018, French airline Air Saint-Pierre added regular service from Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, France, to Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec. The route will be served Mondays and Fridays until August 24, 2018. The route was also served in August, 2017, with two round-trip flights.

On July 2, 2018, Air Canada began new domestic regional, daily, non-stop flights between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and London, Ontario, and between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and Windsor, Ontario.

On July 2, 2018, Air Canada began new regional routes in western Canada, including seasonal service between Calgary International and Comox; service between Edmonton International and Kelowna and seasonal service between Edmonton International and Victoria International.

In June 2018, Air Canada increased its flights between Vancouver International and London Heathrow, England, to twice per day. The airline also added new non-stop service from Vancouver to both Paris, France and Zurich, Switzerland. Flights to Paris will run four times weekly until October 15, 2018, while the Vancouver-Zurich flights will run three times weekly until October 14, 2018.

As of June 30, 2018, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, Inc. reported 558 fires covering 46,569 hectares across British Columbia. At the end of June 2017, the agency had reported 247 fires covering 1,642 hectares. By June 20, the B.C. Wildfire Service was responding to 72 new wildfires in the Prince George and Northwest Fire Centres, many believed to have been started by lightning strikes.

On June 29, 2018, WestJet added non-stop flights between Whitehorse and Calgary International Airport. The summer service runs four times per week until September 2, 2018. Since 2012, the airline had operated these seasonal flights from Vancouver International.

On June 26, 2018, Island Express Air had its license reinstated by Transport Canada after having it suspended on February 28. The airline provides scheduled flights to cities in British Columbia, including Abbotsford, Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo and also provides charter services to destinations in Canada and the United States.

On June 22, 2018, Air Canada Rouge began non-stop service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Nanaimo. Flights will go four times per week until October 8, 2018.

On June 21, 2018, WestJet Link, a new regional air service in Western Canada, took flight. The service will operate under a capacity purchase agreement with British Columbia-based Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd. WestJet Link will connect the Alberta communities of Lethbridge, Lloydminster and Medicine Hat and the B.C. communities of Cranbrook and Prince George to WestJet's network hub at Calgary International Airport.

On June 21, 2018, Air Canada Rouge began direct flights from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Kamloops. Flights will operate three times per week until October 9, 2018, at which time it will be reviewed to determine whether it will continue.

On June 20, 2018, WestJet's discount airline, Swoop, departed on its maiden flight from Hamilton to Abbotsford. The airline will initially fly out of Hamilton, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Halifax and Abbotsford, with additional destinations eventually being added.

On June 15, 2018, FlyGTA began seasonal service from Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City, Ontario to Muskoka Airport, Ontario. Flights will take place three times per week and will continue until October, 2018.

On June 15, 2018, Alaska Seaplanes commenced international service from Juneau, Alaska, to Whitehorse. Service will operate three times per week on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

On June 15, 2018, Air Canada Rouge inaugurated new summer seasonal service from Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International to Lisbon, Portugal. Flights will occur three times per week until October 27, 2018.

On June 15, 2018, Flair Airlines expanded its route network to begin flying from Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield Airport; Saskatoon/John G. Diefenbaker International; Calgary International; Prince George and Victoria International. This brings its operation from 90 flights per week to 208 flights per week.

Starting June 8, 2018, Air Canada expanded its seasonal, non-stop Vancouver to Delhi, India flights to year-round. The seasonal flights initially launched in 2016.

On June 8, 2018, Air Canada Rouge launched service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Porto, Portugal. Service will run four times weekly until October 26, 2018.

On June 7, 2018, Air Canada Rouge launched service between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and Bucharest, Hungary. Service will operate twice-weekly until October 4, 2018.

On June 7, 2018, American Airlines began new daily service from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, Illinois, to Calgary International.

On June 6, 2018, Ukraine International Airlines began non-stop service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Kiev, Ukraine. Flights will depart Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

On June 3, 2018, Air Canada Rouge launched service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Bucharest. Service will run twice-weekly until October 7, 2018.

On June 2, 2018, Air Canada Rouge launched service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Zagreb, Croatia. Service will run four times weekly until October 6, 2018.

On June 1, 2018, Air Canada launched a new route between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Tokyo, Japan. Flights will operate year-round; daily during the summer and three times per week during the winter.

On June 1 and 2, 2018, Air Canada began new non-stop flights from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Shannon, Ireland, and from Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International to Dublin, Ireland, respectively. The flights will be operated using Air Canada's newest single-aisle aircraft, the Boeing 737 MAX 8.

By May 31, 2018, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, Inc. reported 258 fires covering 37,426 hectares across British Columbia. In 2017, the agency recorded 128 fires covering 146 hectares by the end of May. By May 29, 2018, wildfires in the Tommy Lakes area, north of Fort St. John, had grown to over 19,000 hectares. Water bombers and bucketing helicopters aided in the fire suppression efforts. On May 30, 2018, the B.C. Wildfire Service reported the Allie Lake fire, northwest of Kamloops, to be 100 percent contained. Firefighters and air support worked around the clock to bring the fire, which covered more than 2,700 hectares, under control.

On May 31, 2018, WestJet began daily, direct flights from Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield Airport to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris.

On May 25, 2018, Hainan Airlines began twice-weekly service between Vancouver International Airport and Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport, via Tianjin Binhai International Airport, both in China.

On May 18, 2018, a privately owned Boeing 747 Special Performance aircraft - the second largest plane to ever land at Kelowna Airport - touched down. The plane arrived for maintenance at the airport.

On May 17, 2018, Air Canada launched year-round, daily, non-stop flights between Vancouver International and Sacramento International Airport, California. The airline also launched seasonal service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Providence, Rhode Island.

On May 17, 2018, Air Canada began daily flights between Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International and both Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Baltimore, Maryland.

On May 13, 2018, a forest fire began at Caddy Lake, Manitoba. The province dispatched five water bombers from Gimli, Manitoba assisted by two more from Kenora, Ontario.

On May 12, 2018, an emergency alert was issued for Mackenzie County, Alberta, where nine wildfires were burning in the High Level forest area. The wildfires temporarily closed highways and had some residents on standby for a possible evacuation. By May 13, the fires were under control and the state of emergency was cancelled.

On May 10, 2018, Harbour Air began service between Vancouver Harbour and Tofino, both in British Columbia. The flights operate once per day from Thursday to Monday.

On May 8, 2018, Transport Canada issued a release stating that Saskatchewan-based West Wind Aviation was cleared to fly again, after having its operator's certificate suspended in December 2017.

From May 7 until May 31, 2018, Medicine Hat Airport, Alberta, was closed for the rehabilitation of the main runway and taxiway pavement surfaces. The airport reopened on May 31.

Starting May 7, 2018, Integra Air suspended their daily flights in Alberta, between Lethbridge and Edmonton.

On May 4, 2018, American Airlines increased its frequency between Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from two to three flights daily.

On May 4, 2018, American Airlines added daily service from Vancouver International to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

On May 4, 2018, severe thunderstorms hit southern Ontario, with winds exceeding 100km/h. All airplanes were grounded for the afternoon at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International.

On May 3, 2018, Air Canada launched its first non-stop flights between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and Buenos Aires, Argentina. The route will be flown three times per week.

On May 1, 2018, Air Canada, operated by Air Georgian, began flights from Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International to Eppley Airfield, in Omaha, Nebraska. This was the first international carrier to touch down at the airfield. On the same day, the airline also commenced daily flights between Edmonton International and San Francisco, California.

Starting May 1, 2018, Air Transat resumed year-round service from Québec/Jean Lesage International, and Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris. The flight will operate four times weekly throughout the summer. The route had been temporarily suspended in May, 2017.

In May, 2018, several forest fires burned in northwestern Ontario, including Kenora, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout, and Thunder Bay. By May 24, the forest fire risk remained high across most of the region, with an extreme hazard in the Red Lake district.

In April, 2018, an out of control forest fire burned near the community of Badger, Manitoba. By the end of April, the fire had burned more than 1,500 hectares, and the province battled the fire with five ground crews, two helicopters, heavy equipment and a tanker package that included two water bombers and air traffic control. Additional water bombers from Kenora and Dryden were provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

On April 30, 2018, Orca Airways, based out of Vancouver International, permanently ceased operations. Passengers travelling between Vancouver International and Tofino were rebooked on Pacific Coastal Airline's regularly scheduled flights.

On April 29, 2018, WestJet began daily, direct, seasonal service between Halifax/Robert L. Stanfield Airport and London's Gatwick Airport, England.

On April 28, 2018, WestJet ended its service between St. John's International, Newfoundland and Labrador and London's Gatwick Airport. The service had been first announced in September 2015.

On April 27, 2018, it was announced that Toronto/Buttonville Municipal Airport would continue operating until at least 2023.

On April 26, 2018, British Columbia-based Harbour Air and Washington State-based Kenmore Air began a new seaplane service between Vancouver Harbour Flight Centre and Seattle Washington's Lake Union. The new service brings together two of the largest seaplane operations in the world. Kenmore Air is currently operating daily seaplane service between Seattle and Victoria.

On April 14 and 15, 2018, southern and central Ontario were hit with freezing rain, ice pellets and strong winds. Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport cancelled all departing flights and received only one arrival on April 15, while more than 600 flights were cancelled at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International. Dozens of flights were also cancelled or delayed at Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International. By April 16, over 100,000 residents were without power across southern Ontario.

On April 14, 2018, Porter Airlines increased its service to Stephenville, Newfoundland and Labrador; offering a total of 50 round-trip flights between Stephenville and Halifax between April and January 5, 2019. The flights will also connect with Ottawa/Macdonald-Cartier International and Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City on the same aircraft.

On March 30, 2018, a snowfall warning was issued for southern Alberta, with unseasonably cold temperatures, gusting winds and snowfall expected.

Starting March 24, 2018, Icelandair resumed flights, four times per week, from Edmonton to Reykjavik, Iceland. Previously, for most of 2017, the flights were six times per week.

On March 21, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a snowfall warning for much of the province of Alberta. A total of 10-15 centimetres was expected in Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Hanna, and Leduc.

From March 18 to March 24, 2018, Hay River and Fort Smith, both in the Northwest Territories, hosted the 2018 Arctic Winter Games. Nearly 2000 athletes from Alaska, Greenland, northern Alberta, the Northwest Territories, Nunavik, Nunavut, Russia, Scandinavia and the Yukon participated in 19 different sports. Alaska Airlines provided several charter flights between Anchorage, Alaska and Yellowknife, Northwest Territories to transport Team Alaska.

During the weeks of March 17 and March 25, 2018, Celebrity Cruises offered seven-day, all-inclusive flight and cruise packages (with partner First Air) from Moncton/Greater Moncton International to either Miami or West Palm Beach, both in Florida.

On March 15, 2018, Orca Airways, based out of Vancouver International, had its operator certificate suspended, prohibiting the company from providing commercial air services. Calgary-based Integra Air took over the operation of Orca Airways flights.

On March 15, 2018, WestJet began service between Vancouver International Airport and Mexico City. Flights will go three times weekly until April 29, when it will move to daily service.

On March 14, 2018, WestJet marked its inaugural flight from Calgary International Airport to Mexico City. Service will run four times weekly until April 29, 2018, when it will move to daily service.

On March 14, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a winter storm warning for southern Alberta. Air Canada and WestJet issued travel warnings for Calgary International Airport.

Between March 10 and March 16, 2018, Medicine Hat-based Super T Aviation was offering free 15 minute flights to females in honour of women in aviation week.

On March 8, 2018, WestJet became the first Canadian airline to fly non-stop to Denver International Airport, Colorado from Calgary. The new service will operate daily.

Starting March 7, 2018, Air Transat will be offering flights from Fredericton International to Puerto Plata and Punta Cana, both in the Dominican Republic.

Starting March 2, 2018, Air Transat added a new flight from Windsor to Cancun, departing on Fridays. The service will run until the end of April.

On March 1, 2018, the province of Alberta issued a province wide travel advisory due to heavy snowfall or winter storm warnings. Accumulations of 15-25 centimetres were expected in some regions.

Starting in March 2018, WestJet began service expansions on a number of domestic routes. From Calgary, some of these frequency increases include: Abbotsford, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie and Halifax. From Edmonton, some of the expansions include: Fort McMurray and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. From Vancouver: Fort St. John, Kelowna and Victoria, and from Toronto, Ontario: Saskatoon and Victoria.

On February 23, 2018, an Island Express Air aircraft carrying 10 people slid off the runway at Abbotsford. On February 28, 2018 the company's air operator certificate was suspended.

Effective February 22, 2018, Central Mountain Air discontinued its daily flights between Comox and Vancouver International. The airline had been connecting the two cities for the last 20 years.

On February 22, 2018, Air Canada Rouge began service between Phoenix Sky Harbour International Airport, and Montréal/Pierre Elliott Trudeau International. Flights will go three times per week until May 28, 2018.

On February 20, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a rainfall warning for the Ottawa area, with up to 40 millimetres of rain expected to fall over two days.

On February 20, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a rainfall warning and fog advisory for London.

On February 19, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a special weather statement for Toronto, predicting significant rainfall for the following day.

On February 15, 2018, American Airlines increased service between Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International and New York LaGuardia, New York, from four flights daily to five.

On February 14, 2018, a small plane crash-landed on the main runway at Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, which closed the runway for approximately two hours.

Beginning February 14, 2018, Porter Airlines resumed its seasonal service from Toronto/Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Flights will operate twice-weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays, with added frequency during March break. The service concludes on May 19, 2018.

On February 14, 2018, Sunwing began service between Fredericton International Airport and Punta Cana.

On February 13, 2018, Imperial Oil notified Transport Canada about possible quality-control issues with aviation fuel that had been produced at its Strathcona refinery near Edmonton since December 28, 2017. The fuel was mainly sold in western Canada and is used for small piston-based planes and some helicopters. As a result, recreational flyers, medevac flights and flying schools may have been affected.

On February 13, 2018, Sunwing began flights from Fredericton International to Cayo Coco and Cayo Santa Maria, both in Cuba.

On February 12, 2018, Sunwing began flights from Fredericton International to Cancun.

On February 11, 2018, a freezing rain warning was issued for Ottawa, with several hours of freezing rain expected in the afternoon.

On February 10, 2018, Sunwing began Saturday flight service from Saint John, New Brunswick to Varadero, Cuba. The service will operate until May 5, 2018. The previous year, Sunwing had operated flights from Saint John to both Cayo Coco and Punta Cana during the same time period.

On February 10, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a freezing rain warning for Toronto and the GTA. Snow began to fall on February 9 with between 5 and 10 centimetres accumulation, and it was expected that freezing rain would begin in the morning of February 11 and last into the evening.

On February 9, 2018, Calgary-based Integra Air ended passenger service to Medicine Hat. The airline had been operating weekday direct flights to Edmonton International since August, 2016.

On February 8, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a winter storm warning in Ontario for Windsor, Essex County and Chatham-Kent, warning that between 15-20 centimetres of snow could fall by the evening of February 9.

On February 6, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued multiple winter storm warnings and watches for western, central and southern Alberta. Widespread snowfall with total amounts of 25-40 centimetres was to begin February 7 and last until February 9.

In early February, 2018, Cargojet began operating scheduled international freighter service between Canada and South America and added a second frequency between Canada and Europe. The scheduled flights are as follows: Hamilton to/from Bogota, Columbia and Lima, Peru (via Atlanta, Georgia), operating Fridays and Sundays; Hamilton to/from Cologne, Germany, operating on Saturdays.

On January 28, 2018, a heavy rain warning was issued for the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. According to Environment and Climate Change Canada, 40 to 50 millimeters of rain were expected to fall at Pitt Meadows Airport by the end of the day.

On January 14, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a fog advisory for Metro Vancouver, warning of near zero visibility. The advisory covered all of Metro Vancouver, extending to west and north Vancouver, southwest and east to Richmond, Delta, Surrey and Langley, and northeast to Coquitlam and Maple Ridge.

On January 13, 2018, a major winter storm with rain, wind and snow affected eastern Canada from southern Ontario to Atlantic Canada.

On January 12, 2018, snowy winter weather and freezing temperatures resulted in the cancellation of more than 200 departures (20%) and 159 arrivals (18%) at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International Airport.

On January 11, 2018, hazardous winter conditions were expected in the Fraser Valley in British Columbia as Environment and Climate Change Canada extended a winter storm warning. The storm occurred less than two weeks after ice and snow caused major power outages throughout the valley. At one point more than 50,000 customers were without power in the region.

On January 10, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a freezing rain warning for eastern Ontario. In response, Air Canada warned passengers of possible delays due to the expectation of up to 4 millimeters of freezing rain.

On January 4, 2018, a powerful winter storm, or “bomb cyclone” hit the northeastern United States and Atlantic Canada, causing thousands of flight cancellations at various airports. Snowfall accumulation in parts of New Brunswick peaked at 60 cm. By the morning of January 4, flights in and out of U.S. cities impacted by the storm had caused approximately 15% of all flights to be cancelled at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International. All flights were suspended at New York’s John F. Kennedy and LaGuardia Airports. Flights from most airports resumed on January 5, however there were still numerous delays and cancellations. By January 7, many airports were still struggling to cope with a backlog of flights.

On January 2, 2018, as the deep freeze continued, Air Canada extended the alert to January 4, 2018.

On January 1, 2018, Air Canada issued a travel alert for passengers using airports in Toronto, Montréal, Calgary and Ottawa due to a deep freeze that brought extreme cold, snow, and icy conditions. Nearly 500 flights at Toronto/Lester B. Pearson International were either delayed or cancelled.

In early January, 2018, Air New Zealand increased capacity on its Vancouver International route, moving from seven to eight weekly flights.

Starting in January 2018, Icelandair suspended flights between Edmonton and Reykjavik until late March 2018. Prior to a reduction of flights which began in November 2017, the airline had flights 6 times per week.