

# CANSO ATM Traffic Analysis Report

13 January 2021

## Air traffic ends the year 33 per cent down in December

- There were 2.24 million flights operated globally in December 2020, a decline of 33% from the 3.37 million that flew in December 2019. Average daily flight levels peaked mid-month with an average of 73,700 daily flights the week of December 13.
- December 2020 saw 4.78 million flight hours operated globally, down 32% from the 7.06 million flight hours flown in December 2019. Average daily flight hours in mid-December marked the highest daily flight hours operated since March 2020.

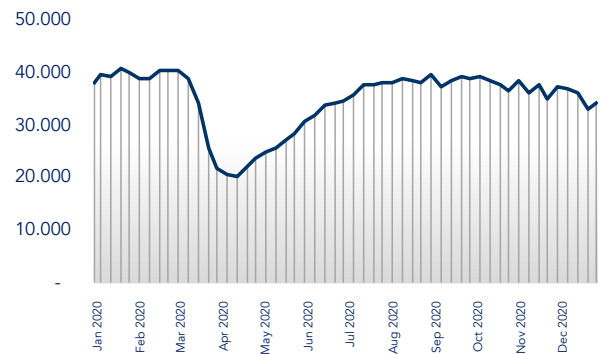
## Five months of relatively flat traffic volumes globally

The reintroduction of traffic restrictions in several jurisdictions stifled normal December holiday traffic peaks.

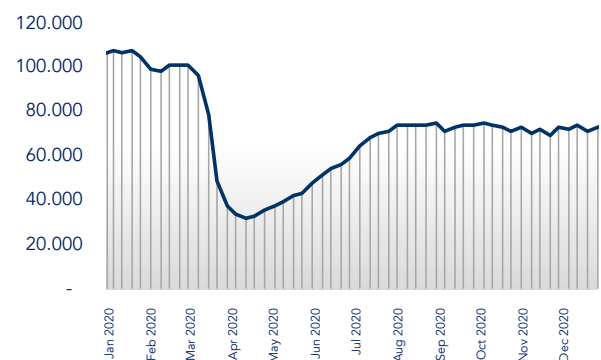
With traffic recovery in the last few months of 2020 continuing in some regions and eroding in others, global volumes appeared flat. Air traffic ended the year with an average of 33,000 unique aircraft operating 71,000 daily flights and flying 154,000 daily flight hours.

Relatively strong initial recovery saw global traffic climb from -70% of 2019 volumes in mid-April to -35% in mid-July. Since mid-July, average traffic volumes have largely kept between a narrow range of 69,000 to 75,000 flights daily, with flight hours remaining largely between 150,000 and 154,000 daily during the same period.

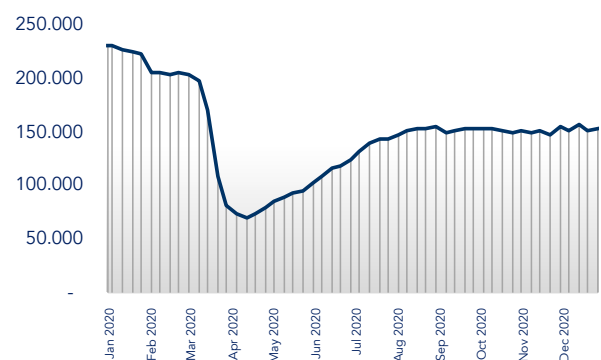
### Average unique aircraft



### Average global flights

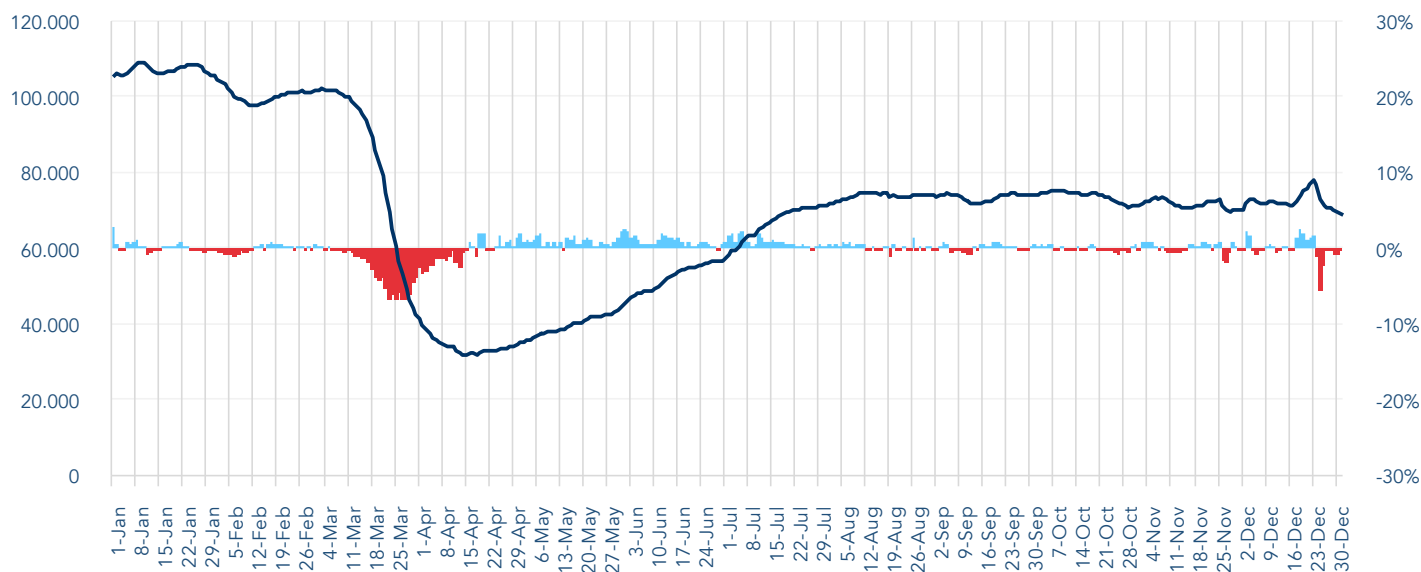


### Average global flight hours



# Global daily flights variation

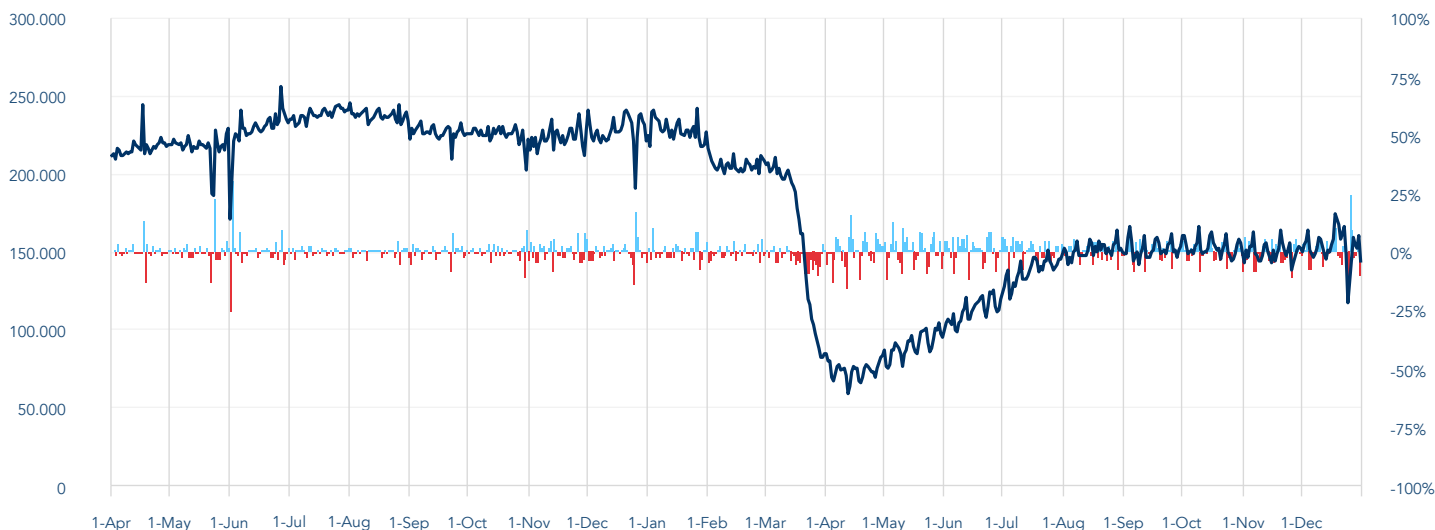
## Rolling 7-day average of daily flights



The rolling 7-day average of global daily flight volumes reached 77,000 for the first time in 9 months in late December, driven by holiday travel in regions where it was permitted.

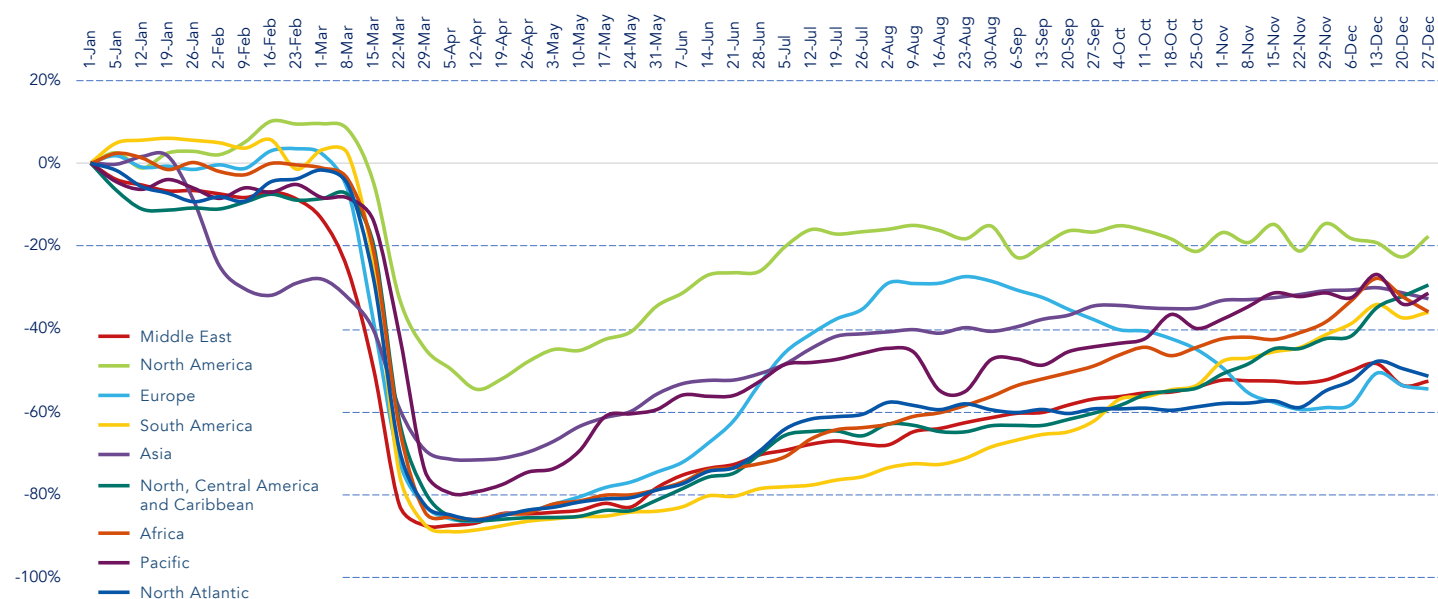
## Daily flight hours

### Flight hours since April 2019 with percentage of day-to-day variability



Daily flight hours, an important metric of ATM workload, exceeded 174,500 hours globally on 18 December, 2020 marking the highest daily flight hours since 18 March, 39 weeks ago.

## Percent change in movements by region



While North, Central America and the Caribbean continued to recover traffic volumes throughout December, many other regions saw a small mid-month peak. Europe, the North Atlantic and the Middle East ended the year the most off traffic volumes at the beginning of 2020 with traffic at less than 50% for the three regions. South America, Africa, the Pacific, and Asia ended the year at -36%, -36%, -31%, and -30% respectively. North America, which saw the smallest decline in traffic volumes due to measures to maintain flight operations in the United States ended 2020 down 18% from volumes at the beginning of the year.

An examination of average flight volumes and flight hours by region shows some instances where there is a discrepancy between the drop off in flight numbers and flight hours. One such example is Africa where daily flight hours are only 7% off volumes at the beginning of 2020 while the number of daily flights remains down >30%, suggesting that longer haul flights to and within Africa are recovering better than short haul flights in the region.

## Average daily flight hours and average daily movements by region

	Dates	Average daily flight hours	Percent change	Average daily movements	Percent change
<b>Middle East</b>	01 Jan 2020 27 Dec 2020	7,400 4,600	38%	6,100 2,900	52%
<b>North America</b>	01 Jan 2020 27 Dec 2020	67,400 56,200	17%	38,000 31,400	17%
<b>Europe</b>	01 Jan 2020 27 Dec 2020	44,700 21,800	51%	24,900 11,400	54%
<b>South America</b>	01 Jan 2020 27 Dec 2020	10,700 6,400	40%	5,800 3,700	36%
<b>Asia</b>	01 Jan 2020 27 Dec 2020	74,900 49,900	33%	35,000 23,600	33%
<b>Caribbean</b>	01 Jan 2020 27 Dec 2020	9,100 6,200	32%	6,400 4,500	30%
<b>Africa</b>	01 Jan 2020 27 Dec 2020	4,200 3,900	7%	1,800 1,200	33%
<b>North Atlantic</b>	01 Jan 2020 27 Dec 2020	6,800 3,100	54%	2,300 1,100	52%

## About the ATM report

The ATM Report is issued bi-weekly by CANSO as an analysis of metrics directly relevant to the ATM industry. The report uses high fidelity global space-based ADS-B air traffic data provided via a partnership with Aireon. The data includes surveillance of all 1090Mhz ADS-B Equipped aircraft. While some non-ADS-B equipped aircraft may not be included, the data is appropriate for the monitoring of global trends in traffic levels.

## About CANSO



The Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) is the global voice of air traffic management. CANSO Members support almost 90 percent of world air traffic and represent leading providers of technology and services to the industry. Members share information and develop new policies, with the ultimate aim of improving air navigation services. For more, visit [canso.org](https://canso.org).

## About Aireon



Aireon is harnessing next-generation aviation surveillance technologies that were formerly ground-based and, for the first time ever, is extending their reach globally through the use of satellite technology to significantly improve efficiency, enhance safety, reduce emissions and provide cost savings benefits to all stakeholders. For more information, please visit [aireon.com](https://aireon.com).

