

CANSO ATM Traffic Analysis Report

9 February 2021

A worrying trend to start 2021

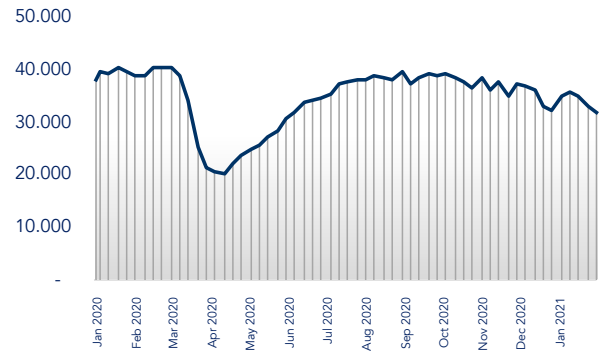
- There were 2.06 million flights operated globally in January 2021, a decline of 38% from the 3.32 million that flew in January 2020.
- January 2021 saw 4.4 million flight hours operated globally, down 38% from the 7.07 million flight hours flown in January 2020.

Declining numbers seen across all metrics

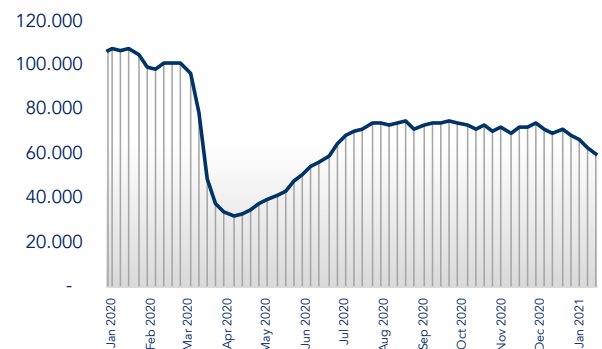
The impact of new flight restrictions as a result of a worsening infection rate and the emergence of new COVID-19 variants resulted in weaker global traffic with a deteriorating situation evident over the course of the month.

Daily metrics for average unique aircraft, flights, and flight hours all declined from the beginning of January to the end of the month. By the final week in January there was an average of 62,500 daily flights globally, a 40% reduction from average figures in late January 2020 of 104,500 flights daily. Daily flight hours in the final week of January averaged 132,000 hours, 41% lower than in late January 2020 when 223,500 flight hours were operated daily.

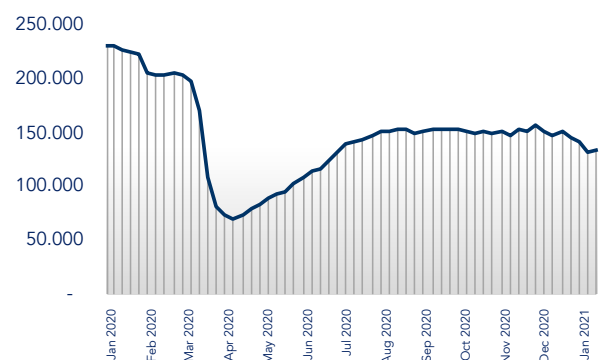
Average unique aircraft



Average global flights

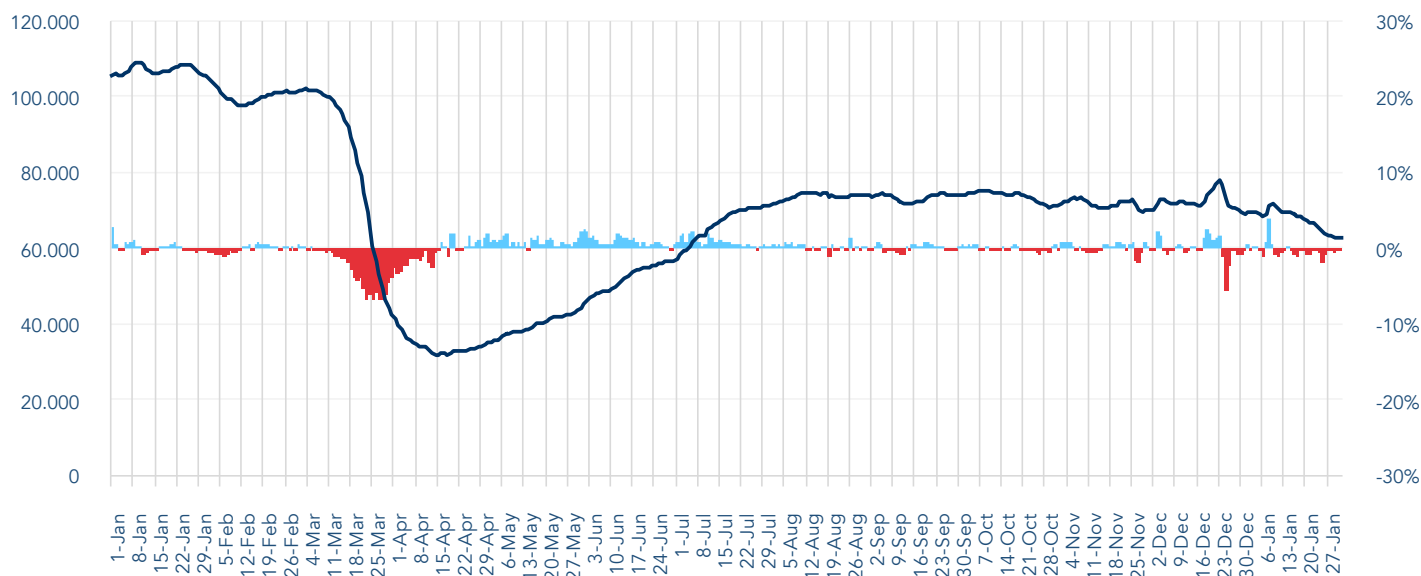


Average global flight hours



Global daily flights variation

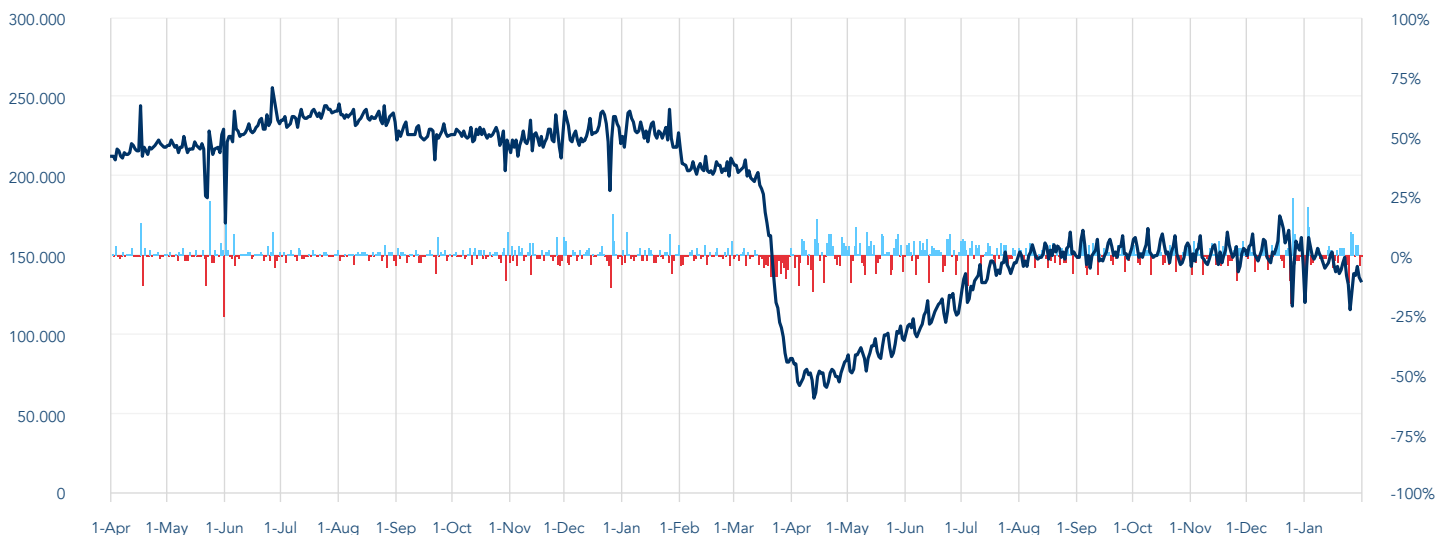
Rolling 7-day average of daily flights



The rolling 7-day average of global daily flight volumes fell from 70,000 flights per day at the beginning of January to 62,500 at the end of the month.

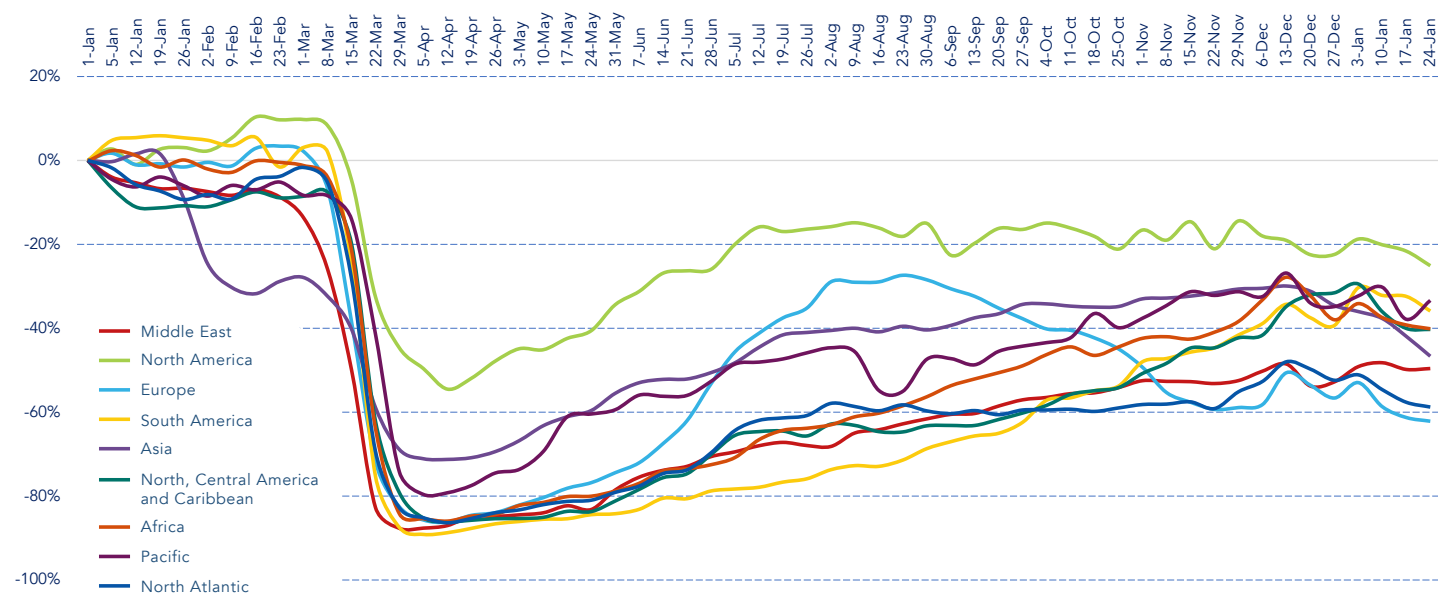
Daily flight hours

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



Global flight hours are an important metric of ATM workload. 18 December 2020 continues to mark the high point of the traffic recovery with 174,500 hours globally. Daily global flight hours in January 2021 ranged from 161,000 to 116,000 flight hours.

Percent change in movements by region



The traffic situation deteriorated across most regions in January, with several regions seeing drops in excess of 10%. Average daily flight numbers in Europe declined by 2,000 flights over the course of January. Europe and the North Atlantic remain the most severely off normal January traffic volumes. North America, which has consistently seen the smallest overall decline, shed 2,900 daily flights while Asia averaged 4,900 flights lower in late January, falling back to -47%

Tracking the recovery: Flights and flight hours by region

	Dates	Average daily flight hours	Percent change	Average daily movements	Percent change
Middle East	01 Jan 2020 24 Jan 2021	7,400 4,900	34%	6,100 3,100	49%
North America	01 Jan 2020 24 Jan 2021	67,400 48,400	28%	38,000 28,500	25%
Europe	01 Jan 2020 24 Jan 2021	44,700 18,700	58%	24,900 9,400	62%
South America	01 Jan 2020 24 Jan 2021	10,700 6,600	38%	5,800 3,700	36%
Asia	01 Jan 2020 24 Jan 2021	74,900 41,000	45%	35,000 18,700	47%
Caribbean	01 Jan 2020 24 Jan 2021	9,100 5,400	41%	6,400 3,800	41%
Africa	01 Jan 2020 24 Jan 2021	4,200 3,200	24%	1,800 1,100	39%
North Atlantic	01 Jan 2020 24 Jan 2021	6,800 2,800	59%	2,300 900	61%

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.

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.

