

# CANSO ATM Traffic Analysis Report

10 March 2021

## Evolving traffic restrictions

- There were 1.8 million flights operated globally in February 2021, a decline of 38% from the 2.89 million that flew in February 2020.
- February 2021 saw 3.83 million flight hours operated globally, down 36% from the 5.96 million flight hours flown in February 2020.

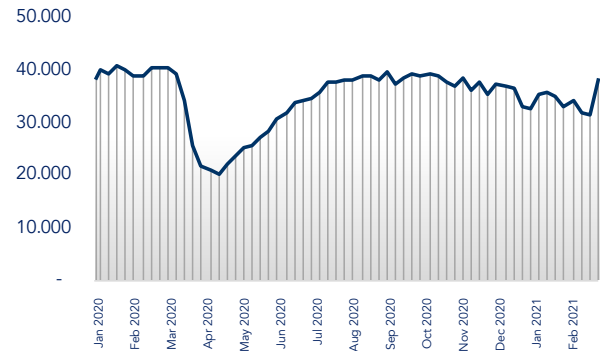
## One year on, impacts on air traffic continue to be severe

In this month's traffic report, we look back on February 2020, the month when the World Health Organization first gave COVID-19 its name. At the time, while not yet a pandemic, the "public health emergency of international concern" was troubling enough that traffic restrictions began to be enacted in order to control its spread.

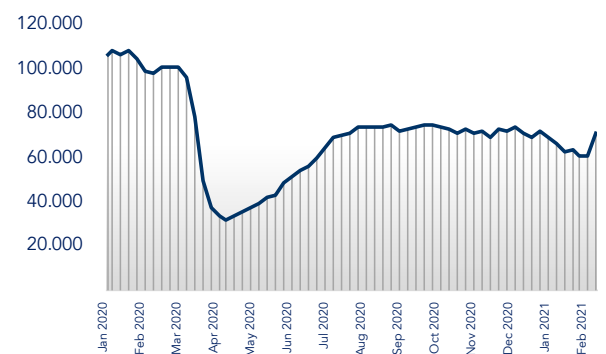
As a result, traffic levels in February 2020 started to decline, with daily average flights dropping 4% and daily average flight hours dropping approximately 10%, reflecting the disproportionate impact on long haul flights at the time.

One year later, global flight levels remain 38% lower than even the reduced level seen that month. While traffic levels have recovered significantly since air traffic's low point in April 2020, recovery has largely stalled at a low volume for the past 8 months.

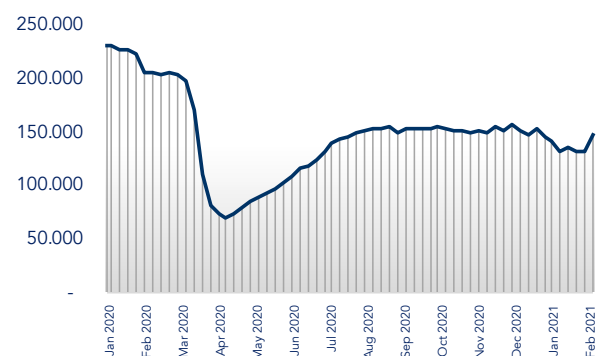
### Average unique aircraft



### Average global flights

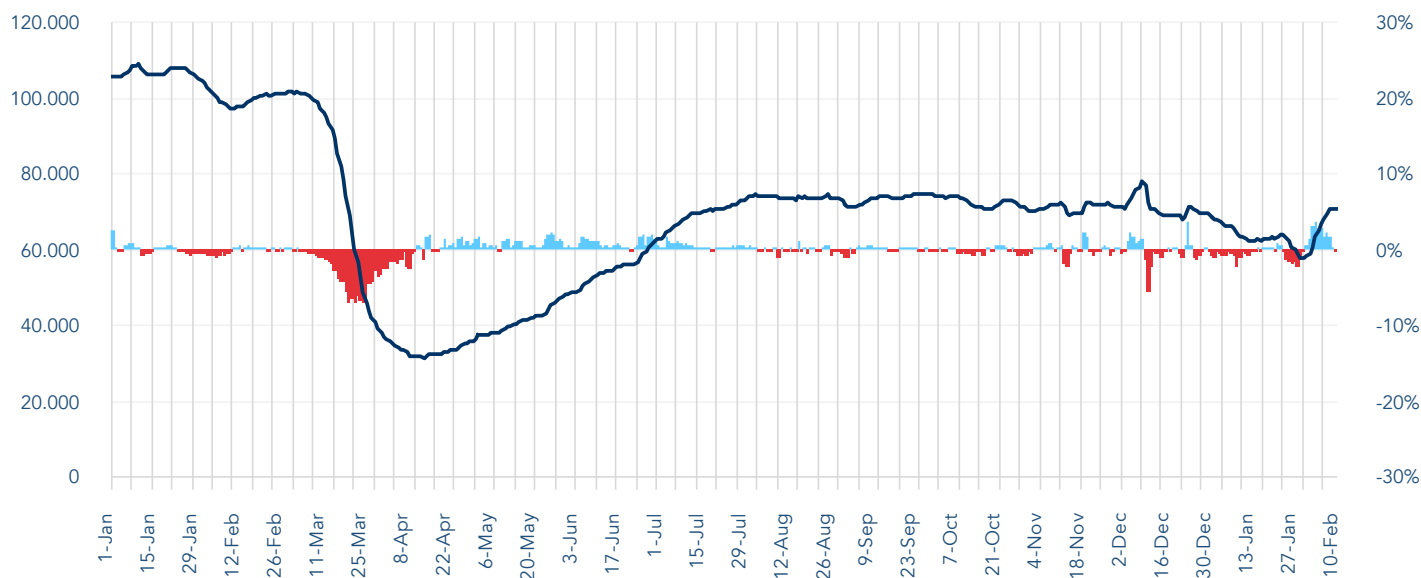


### Average global flight hours



# Global daily flights variation

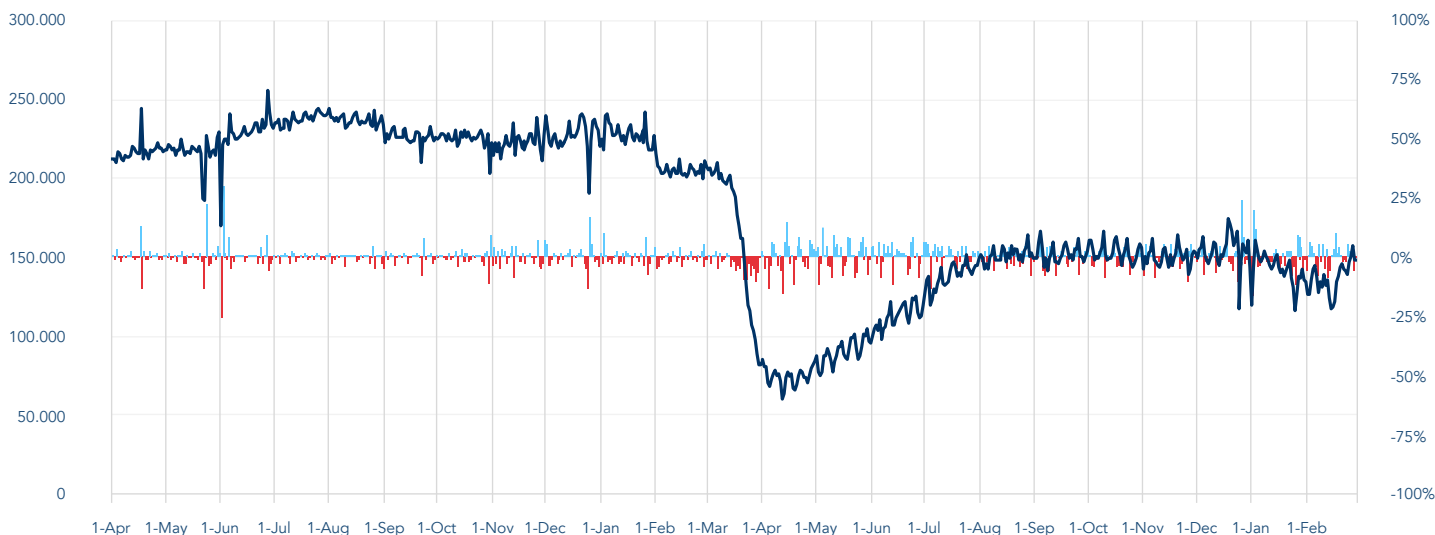
## Rolling 7-day average of daily flights



The rolling 7-day average of global daily flight volumes ticked upwards slightly in the latter half of February after falling in the first two weeks. Daily traffic ended the month at 71,000 flights per day.

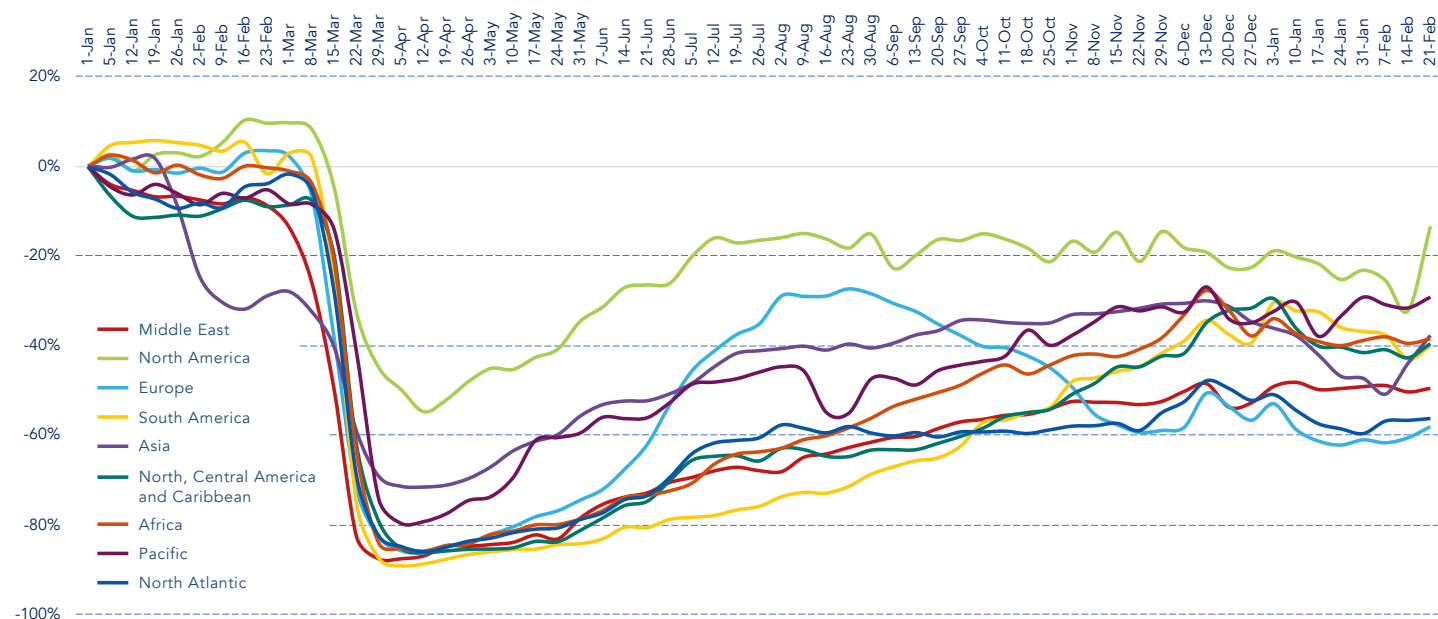
## Daily flight hours

### 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 February 2021 ranged from a low of 122,000 hours on 16 February, to a high of 157,500 on 26 February.

## Percent change in movements by region



Most regions saw a small increase in traffic by the end of February. North America and Asia saw the biggest increases with the addition of an average of over 4,000 daily flights in North America and over 3,000 daily flights in Asia over January volumes. Europe and the North Atlantic still remain the most heavily impacted as a percentage of normal traffic levels, with both regions operating at less than 50%. South America was the only region to experience a net decline in February, shedding 200 flights and 500 flight hours daily from January volumes.

## Tracking the recovery: Flights and flight hours by region

	Dates	Average daily flight hours	Percent change	Average daily movements	Percent change
<b>Middle East</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Feb 2021	7,400 4,800	35%	6,100 3,100	49%
<b>North America</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Feb 2021	67,400 55,900	17%	38,000 33,000	13%
<b>Europe</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Feb 2021	44,700 19,900	55%	24,900 10,500	58%
<b>South America</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Feb 2021	10,700 6,100	43%	5,800 3,500	40%
<b>Asia</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Feb 2021	74,900 46,700	38%	35,000 21,800	38%
<b>Caribbean</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Feb 2021	9,100 5,600	38%	6,400 3,900	39%
<b>Africa</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Feb 2021	4,200 3,200	24%	1,800 1,100	39%
<b>North Atlantic</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Feb 2021	6,800 2,900	57%	2,300 1,000	57%

## 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).

