

# CANSO ATM Traffic Analysis Report

March 2021

## March brought significant increases in daily traffic levels

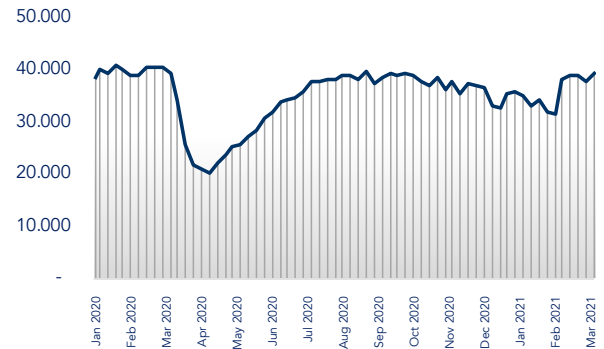
- There were 2.41 million flights operated globally in March 2021. This represents a significant increase in daily average flight numbers over the previous month, with global daily flight numbers increasing by over 20 percent, from an average of 64,300 flights daily in February to 77,700 flights daily in March.
- March 2021 saw 4.94 million flight hours operated globally or an average of 159,400 global flight hours daily. That is an increase of 16.5 percent on daily flight hours in February 2021, which saw 136,800 flight hours daily.

## Improvements against all key metrics

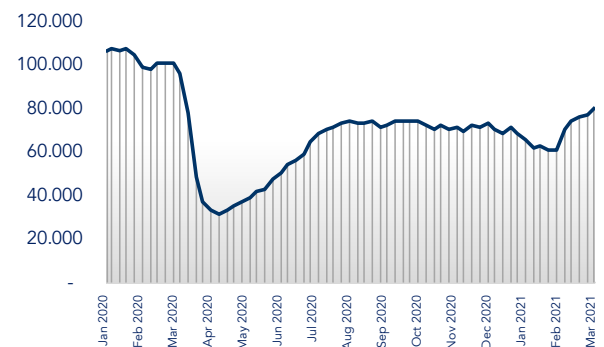
Despite month over month increases in COVID-19 infection numbers, improving situations in key markets drove overall increases in traffic globally. Improvements were seen in the average number of unique aircraft operating daily, as well as average flight numbers and average flight hours daily.

Average global flight numbers at the end of March 2021 have increased by 154 percent since their low point in mid-April 2020, with global flight hours growing by 127 percent over the same period.

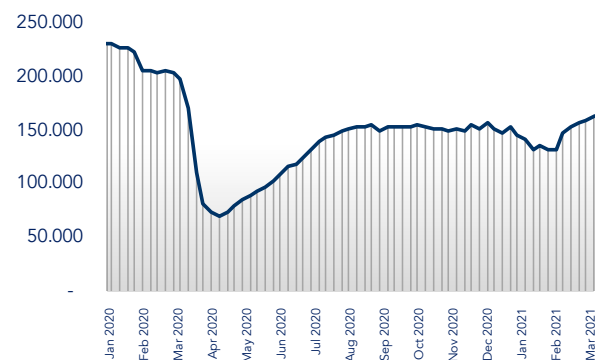
### Average unique aircraft



### Average global flights

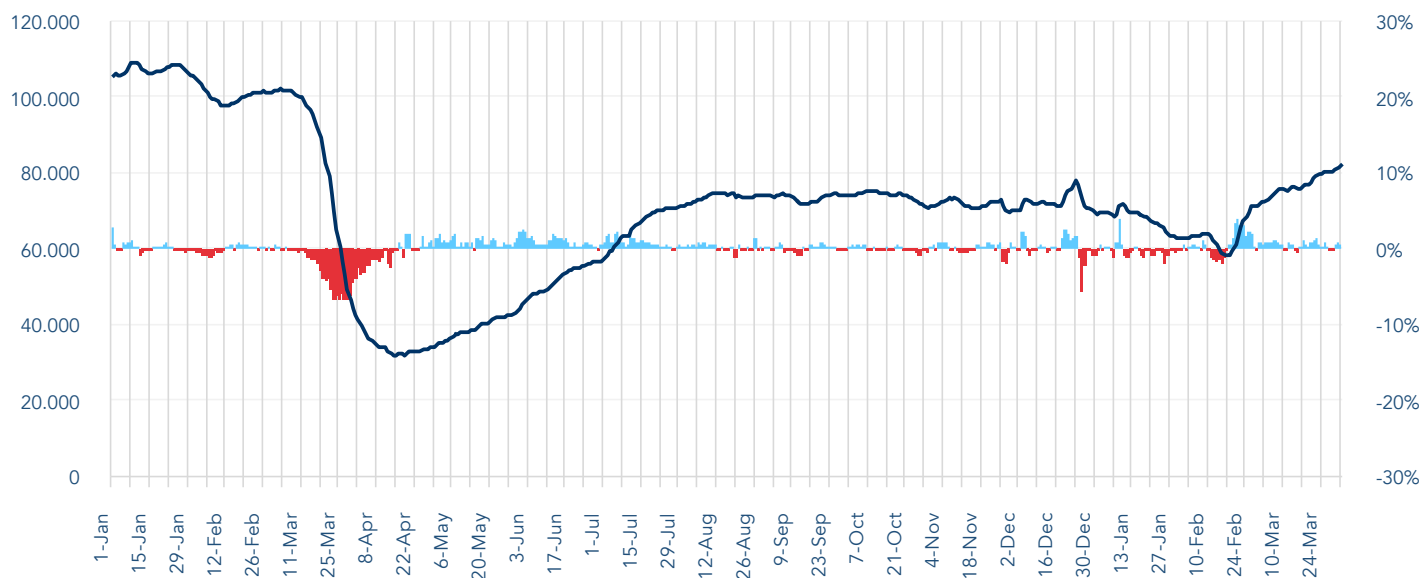


### Average global flight hours



# Global daily flights variation

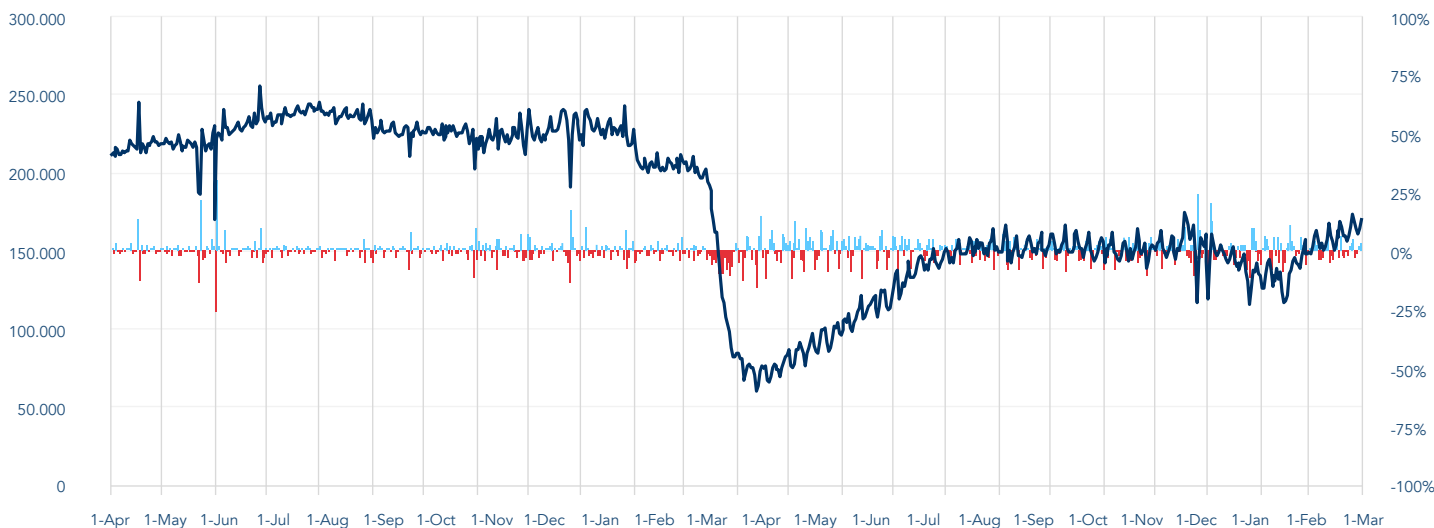
## Rolling 7-day average of daily flights



The rolling 7-day average of global daily flight volumes has shown six weeks of steady increases since mid-February 2021. Daily traffic ended the month at over 81,000 flights per day, a number not seen since mid-March 2020.

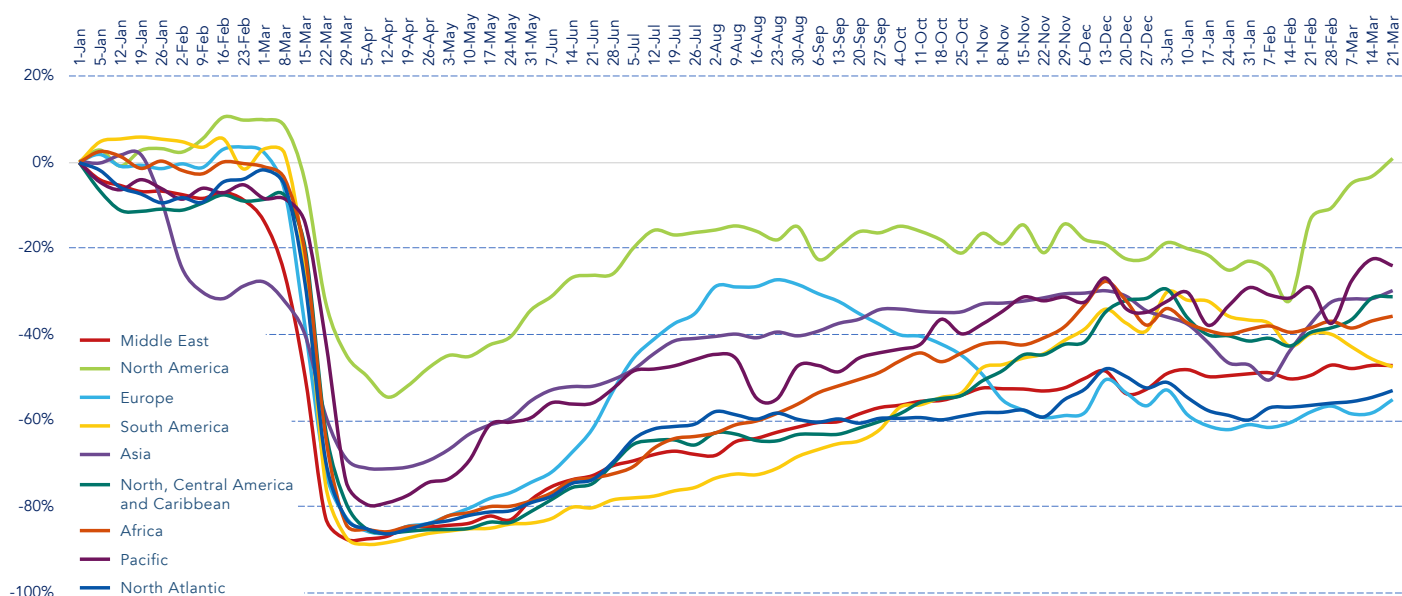
## Daily flight hours

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



Global flight hours are an important metric of ATM workload. Driven by Christmas travel, 18 December, 2020 continues to mark the high point of the traffic recovery with 174,500 hours globally. Daily global flight hours in March 2021 ranged from a low of 152,000 hours on 7 March, to a high of 173,400 on 26 March.

## Percent change in movements by region



Remarkable recovery in traffic in the United States in March drove North America to exceed January 2020 volumes for the first time. Most regions saw smaller but positive increases in March, with the exception of South America. South America has seen consistent declines in traffic volumes over the past three months and has fallen to -48 percent of January 2020 volumes, dropping an average of 700 daily flights and 1000 daily flight hours over the past three months. Traffic volumes in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and the North Atlantic saw only minor differences month over month, while traffic in Asia gained an additional 900 daily flights and 4,700 daily flight hours in March, suggesting some recovery in longer haul flights.

## 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 Mar 2021	7,400 5,200	30%	6,100 3,200	48%
<b>North America</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Mar 2021	67,400 62,600	7%	38,000 38,300	-1%
<b>Europe</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Mar 2021	44,700 22,200	50%	24,900 11,200	55%
<b>South America</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Mar 2021	10,700 5,400	50%	5,800 3,000	48%
<b>Asia</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Mar 2021	74,900 54,600	27%	35,000 24,500	30%
<b>Caribbean</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Mar 2021	9,100 6,600	27%	6,400 4,400	31%
<b>Africa</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Mar 2021	4,200 3,000	29%	1,800 1,200	33%
<b>North Atlantic</b>	01 Jan 2020 21 Mar 2021	6,800 3,100	54%	2,300 1,100	52%

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## 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.

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## 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).

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## 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).

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