

CANSO ATM Traffic Analysis Report

April 2021

Global traffic levels in April reach 80% of pre-pandemic levels

- There were 2.49 million flights operated globally in April 2021. This represents 80.5% of the 3.1 million flights operated in April 2019 and a 147% increase on the 1.01 million flights in April 2020, the lowest traffic month of the pandemic.
- April 2021 saw 4.98 million flight hours operated globally. This is 76.5% of the 6.51 million flight hours flown in April 2019 and an increase of 124% on monthly flight hours in April 2020.

Back on a growth trajectory

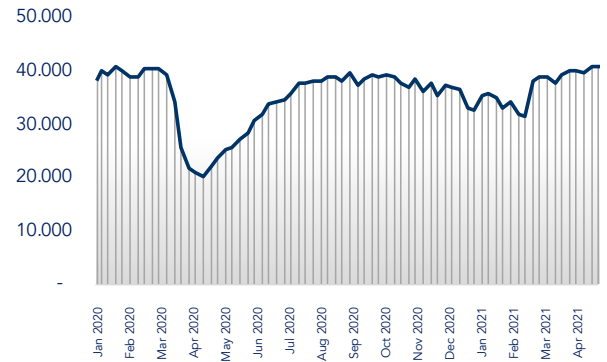
Despite significant pandemic related restrictions on international travel continuing in many regions, the number of flights operated globally exceeded 80% of pre-pandemic traffic levels in April 2021, for the first time in 12 months.

After months of flat growth and traffic declines up to February 2021, sustained growth in March and April saw overall daily average traffic levels exceed last August, the previous high point.

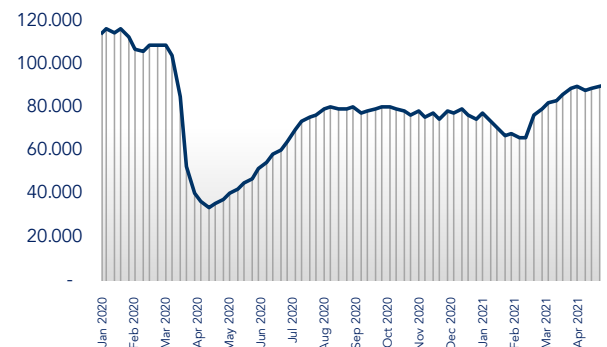
There were on average 83,000 daily flights in April 2021 as compared to 77,700 flights daily in March and 64,300 flights daily in February.

Global flight hours averaged 166,000 hours daily in April 2021. That represents a sustained increase from an average of 159,400 global flight hours daily in March and 136,800 flight hours daily in February 2021.

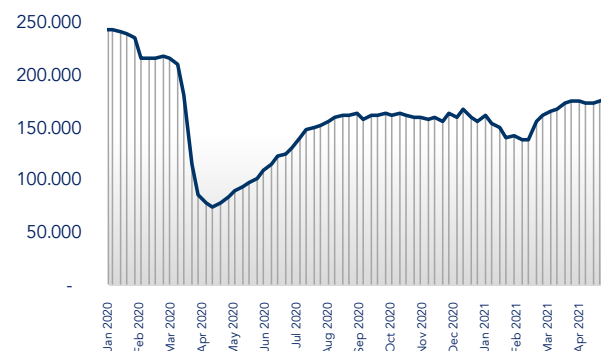
Average unique aircraft



Average global flights

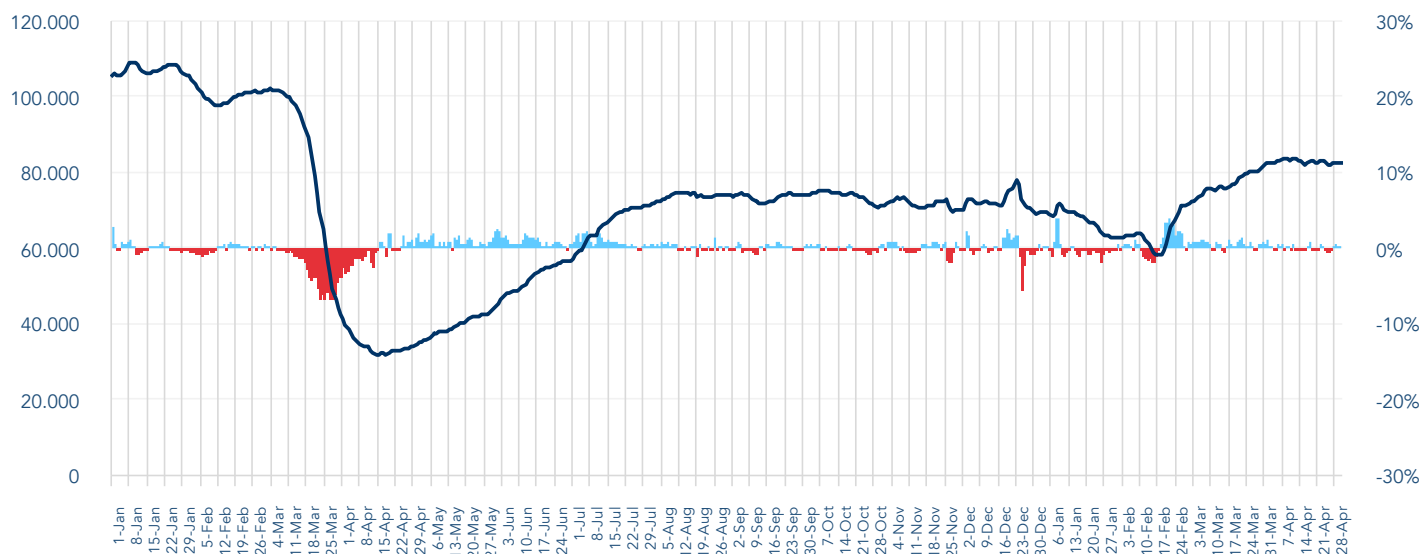


Average global flight hours



Global daily flights variation

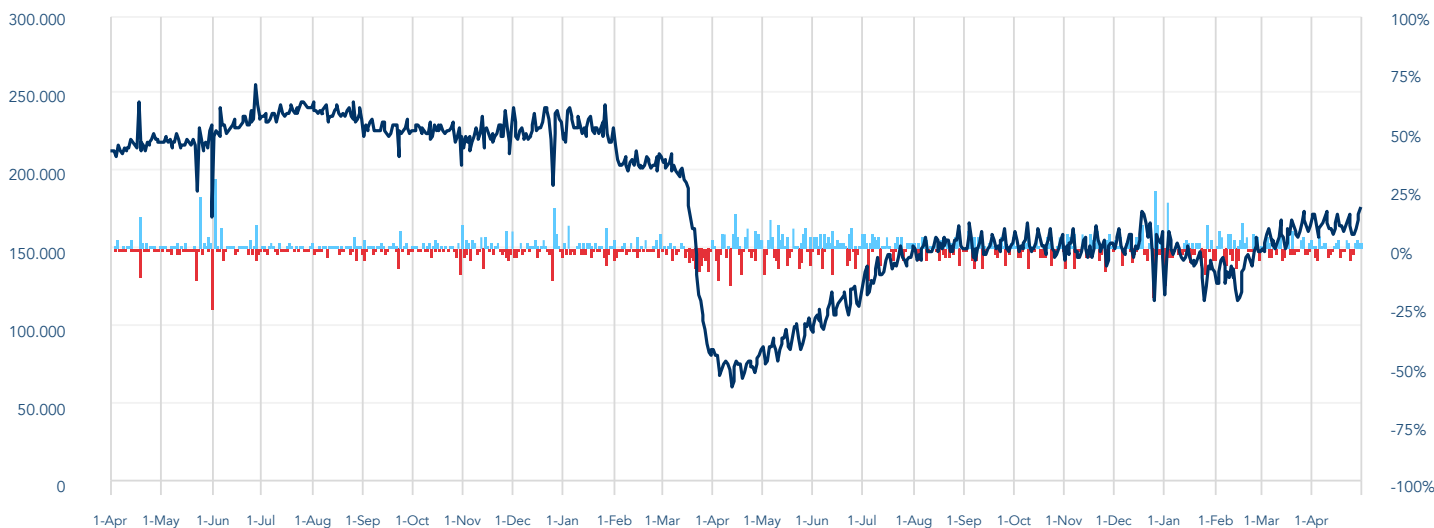
Rolling 7-day average of daily flights



The rolling 7-day average of global daily flight volumes has shown eleven weeks of fairly consistent growth since mid-February 2021. There were over 83,300 flights daily in mid-April, a new pandemic traffic high and a number not seen since mid-March 2020.

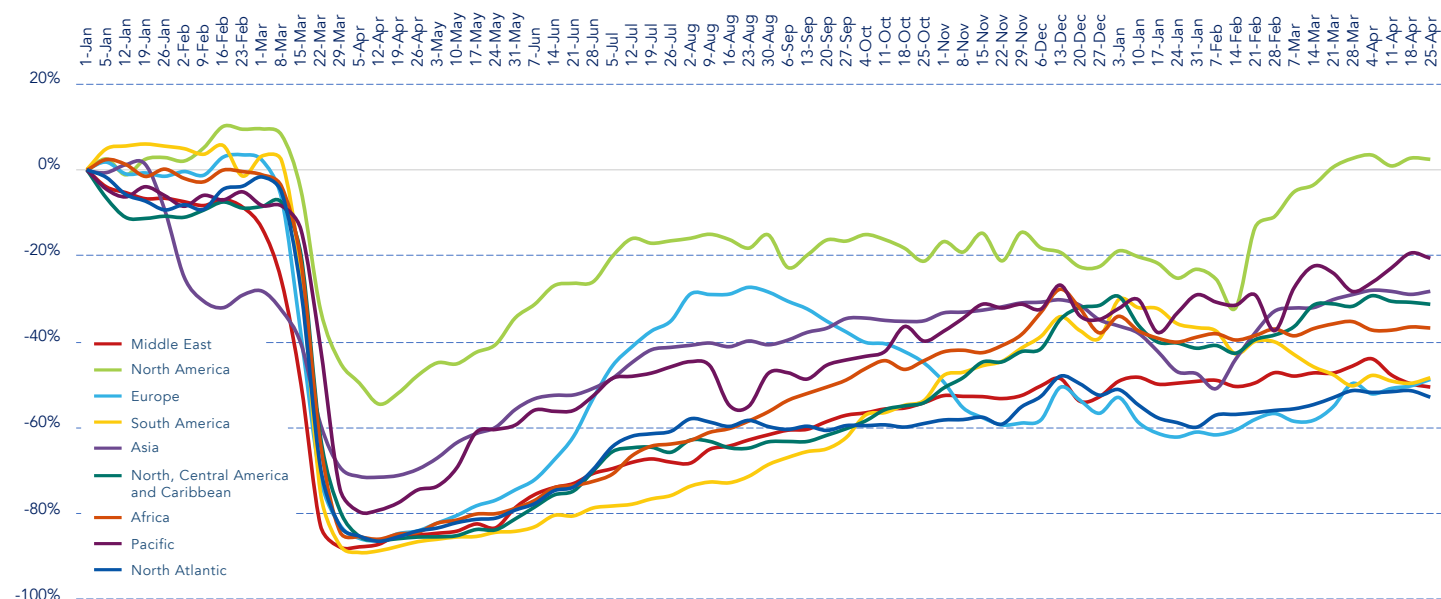
Daily flight hours

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



Global flight hours are an important metric of ATM workload. 30 April represents a new post-pandemic high point with 176,000 flight hours operated, just beating 18 December 2020, the previous high point of the traffic recovery with 174,500 hours globally. Daily global flight hours in April 2021 ranged from a low of 157,000 hours on 4 April, to a high of 176,000 on 30 April.

Percent change in movements by region



The strength of traffic levels in the United States continued in April with flights in North American airspace averaging 39,000 flights daily at the end of April 2021. That growth is all the more remarkable when one considers that international flights are still heavily affected as demonstrated by the fact that North Atlantic traffic remained at less than 50% of pre-pandemic levels. Europe and Asia saw modest month over month growth in average daily flights with the Middle East losing 200 flights daily and most other regions remaining flat.

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 25 Apr 2021	7,400 4,900	-34%	6,100 3,000	-51%
North America	01 Jan 2020 25 Apr 2021	67,400 63,000	-7%	38,000 39,000	+3%
Europe	01 Jan 2020 25 Apr 2021	44,700 25,200	-44%	24,900 12,800	-49%
South America	01 Jan 2020 25 Apr 2021	10,700 5,300	-50%	5,800 3,000	-48%
Asia	01 Jan 2020 25 Apr 2021	74,900 55,900	-25%	35,000 25,200	-28%
Caribbean	01 Jan 2020 25 Apr 2021	9,100 6,400	-30%	6,400 4,400	-31%
Africa	01 Jan 2020 25 Apr 2021	4,200 2,700	-36%	1,800 1,200	-33%
North Atlantic	01 Jan 2020 25 Apr 2021	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.

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.

