

# CANSO ATM Traffic Analysis Report

May 2021

## Global traffic levels in May remain largely consistent with April

- There were 2.5 million flights operated globally in May 2021. This represents 78% of the 3.2 million flights operated in May 2019 and a 105% increase on the 1.21 million flights in May 2020.
- May 2021 saw over 5 million flight hours operated globally. This is 77% of the 6.5 million flight hours flown in May 2019 and an increase of 86% on the 2.7 million monthly flight hours in May 2020.

## More aircraft in the skies

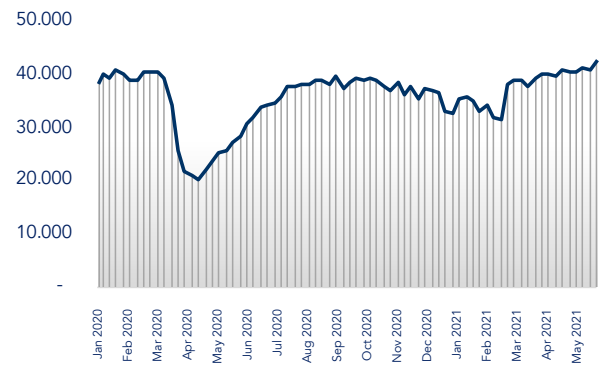
Overall traffic levels held in May 2021, remaining largely consistent with April.

There were on average 80,000 daily flights in May 2021 and global flight hours averaged 162,500 hours daily. This compares to an average of 83,000 daily flights in April 2021 with 166,000 hours daily.

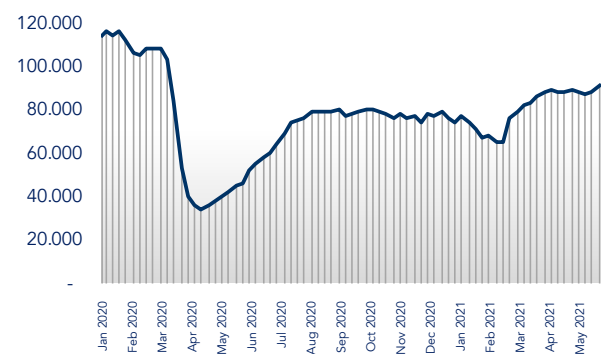
Despite the lower traffic volumes, there is some evidence that airlines are actively deploying their fleet on the reduced number of flights per day. Spaced based ADS-B sensors detected over 42,000 unique aircraft operating globally on 23 May, the highest number recorded in over 16 months.

This shows that on average, in May 2021 each individual aircraft is operating 1.95 flights and 3.99 hours per day. Whereas in January 2020 each individual aircraft was operating an average of 2.65 flights and 5.77 hours per day.

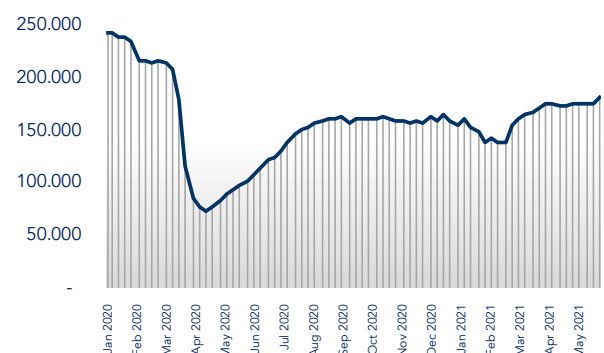
### Average unique aircraft



### Average global flights

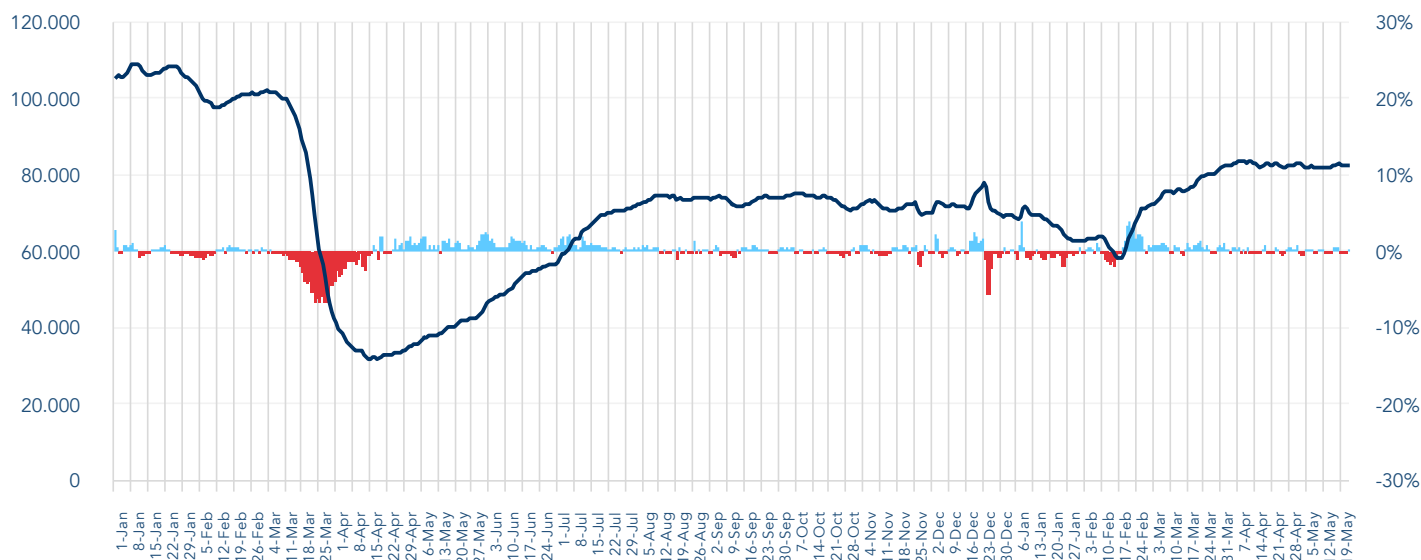


### Average global flight hours



# Global daily flights variation

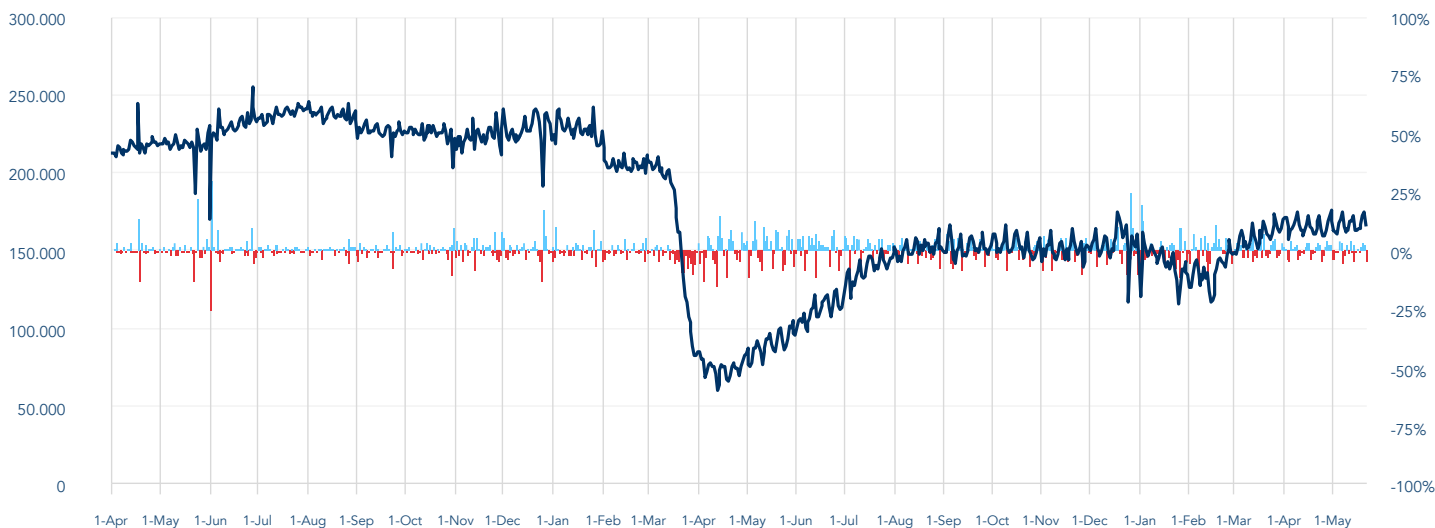
## Rolling 7-day average of daily flights



The rolling 7-day average of global daily flight volumes remained fairly level in May 2021, ending the month at just over 82,000 flights daily.

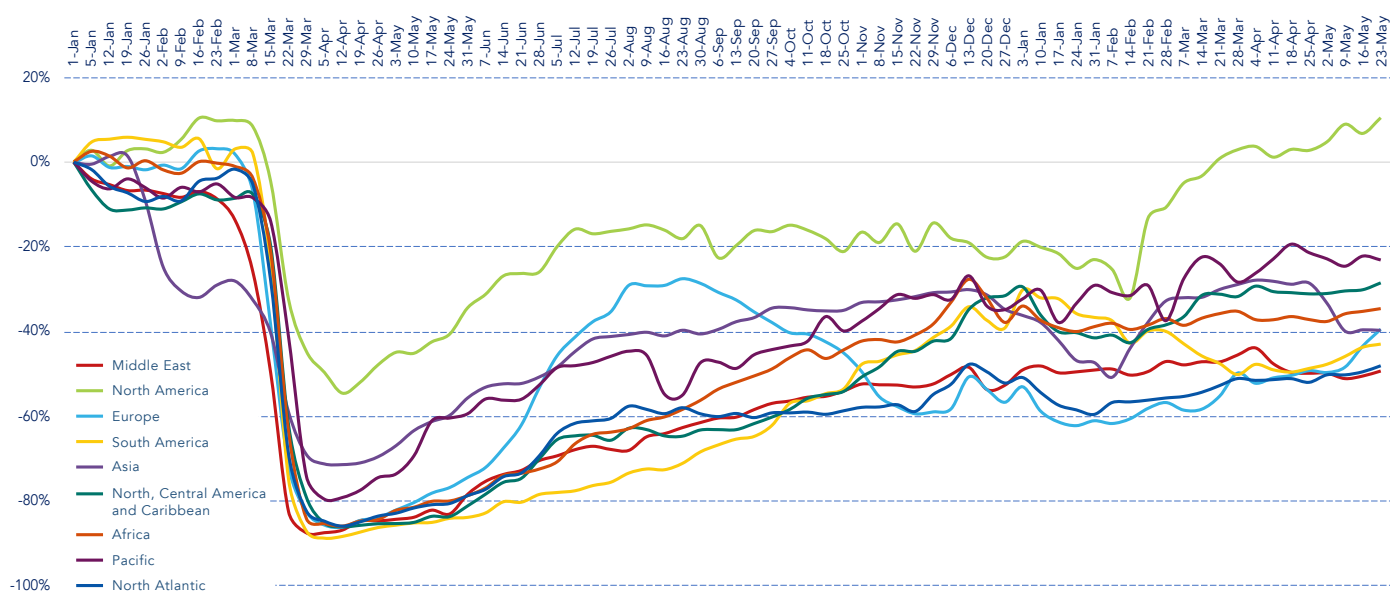
## Daily flight hours

### 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. Daily global flight hours in May 2021 ranged from a low of 163,000 hours on 2 May, to a high of 175,000 on 21 May.

## Percent change in movements by region



The strength of traffic recovery in the United States continued in May with evidence of a normal summer peak beginning as the number of daily flights reached 42,000, 11% above traffic levels in January 2020. Europe also saw considerable growth, with daily volumes growing by 2,300 flights and 3,600 flight hours over April 2021. Most regions saw volumes that were flat or up in May over April 2021. However in Asia volumes fell by 4,000 flights daily from April due to restrictions as a result of local COVID-19 infection clusters.

## 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 23 May 2021	7,400 5,000	32%	6,100 3,100	49%
<b>North America</b>	01 Jan 2020 23 May 2021	67,400 68,000	-1%	38,000 42,000	-11%
<b>Europe</b>	01 Jan 2020 23 May 2021	44,700 28,800	36%	24,900 15,100	39%
<b>South America</b>	01 Jan 2020 23 May 2021	10,700 5,800	46%	5,800 3,300	43%
<b>Asia</b>	01 Jan 2020 23 May 2021	74,900 49,800	34%	35,000 21,200	39%
<b>Caribbean</b>	01 Jan 2020 23 May 2021	9,100 6,600	27%	6,400 4,600	28%
<b>Africa</b>	01 Jan 2020 23 May 2021	4,200 2,600	38%	1,800 1,200	33%
<b>North Atlantic</b>	01 Jan 2020 23 May 2021	6,800 3,400	50%	2,300 1,200	48%

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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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