

SPECIAL FOCUS: AIR TRAVEL

The air transport industry in Canada¹

The air transport service industry in Canada had a record year in 1995². Just over 35 million passengers flew on commercial flights on Canadian air carriers, up 8% from 1994, and Canadian air carriers had revenue of \$9.3 billion, 11% more than in 1994.

Passenger revenue of \$7.9 billion accounted for 85% of the industry's total earnings. Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International (CAI) dominate the industry. In 1995, the two airlines carried 60% of the passengers (21 million) and earned 66% of the passenger revenue (\$5.2 billion).

Air travel in B.C.

Air carriers with headquarters in B.C. earned \$383 million in passenger revenue in 1995. Including Air Canada and CAI, a total of \$969 million in revenue was earned carrying passengers on domestic flights originating in B.C.

Vancouver International Airport handled 193,287 passenger flights and 11.0 million passengers during 1995. Toronto's Pearson International Airport was the only airport in Canada that handled more traffic. Victoria International Airport ranked second in B.C. in the number of passengers, followed by Kelowna and Prince George. No other B.C. airport had more than 200,000 passengers in 1995.

BC airports with over 100,000 passengers (1995)

	Passengers	Passenger flights
Vancouver Intl.	11,030,152	193,287
Victoria Intl	726,943	34,990
Kelowna	317,387	15,972
Prince George	241,897	7,628
Vancouver Harb.	166,886	19,916
Victoria Harbour	150,937	21,886
Nanaimo	113,686	12,699
Prince Rupert	112,492	15,697
Kamloops	111,023	8,552

¹ Unless noted otherwise, the information reported here comes from two Statistics Canada publications, *Canadian Civil Aviation* (51-206-XPB) and *Air carrier traffic at Canadian airports* (51-203-XPB).

² 1995 is the most recent year for which financial data are available.

The number of passengers travelling through airports in B.C. grew in 1996. Vancouver International Airport rose 17%, while passenger volume at Victoria International Airport was up 19%.³

Most passengers travel within Canada

During 1995, more than half (56%, or 6.1 million) of the passengers travelling through Vancouver International Airport were either coming from or going to another Canadian destination. Of the remainder, 2.8 million were travelling to or from American destinations, and 2.1 million were travelling overseas.

The proportion was even more pronounced at the smaller airports. At Victoria, 87% of passengers were travelling to a Canadian city, and most of the remainder were bound for the United States.

Nearly 13,000 workers earning top dollar

During 1996, 12,800 people worked in the air transport service industry in B.C.⁴ This was 4.2% less than from the historic peak in 1995, but still higher than any other year for which data is available. Roughly 1% of the provincial workforce is employed in the air transport industry.

Salaried workers in the air transport service industry earned an average \$916 per week in 1996, well above the provincial average of \$768. With average weekly earnings of \$481, workers paid by the hour in the industry were just above the provincial average of \$480.

The future

Transport Canada has forecast that growth in passenger volume through Vancouver International Airport will moderate to between 4 and 5 per cent over the next few years, down from the double-digit increases seen recently.

³ Data from the individual airports.

⁴ The source for employment and earnings data is Statistics Canada, Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH).