

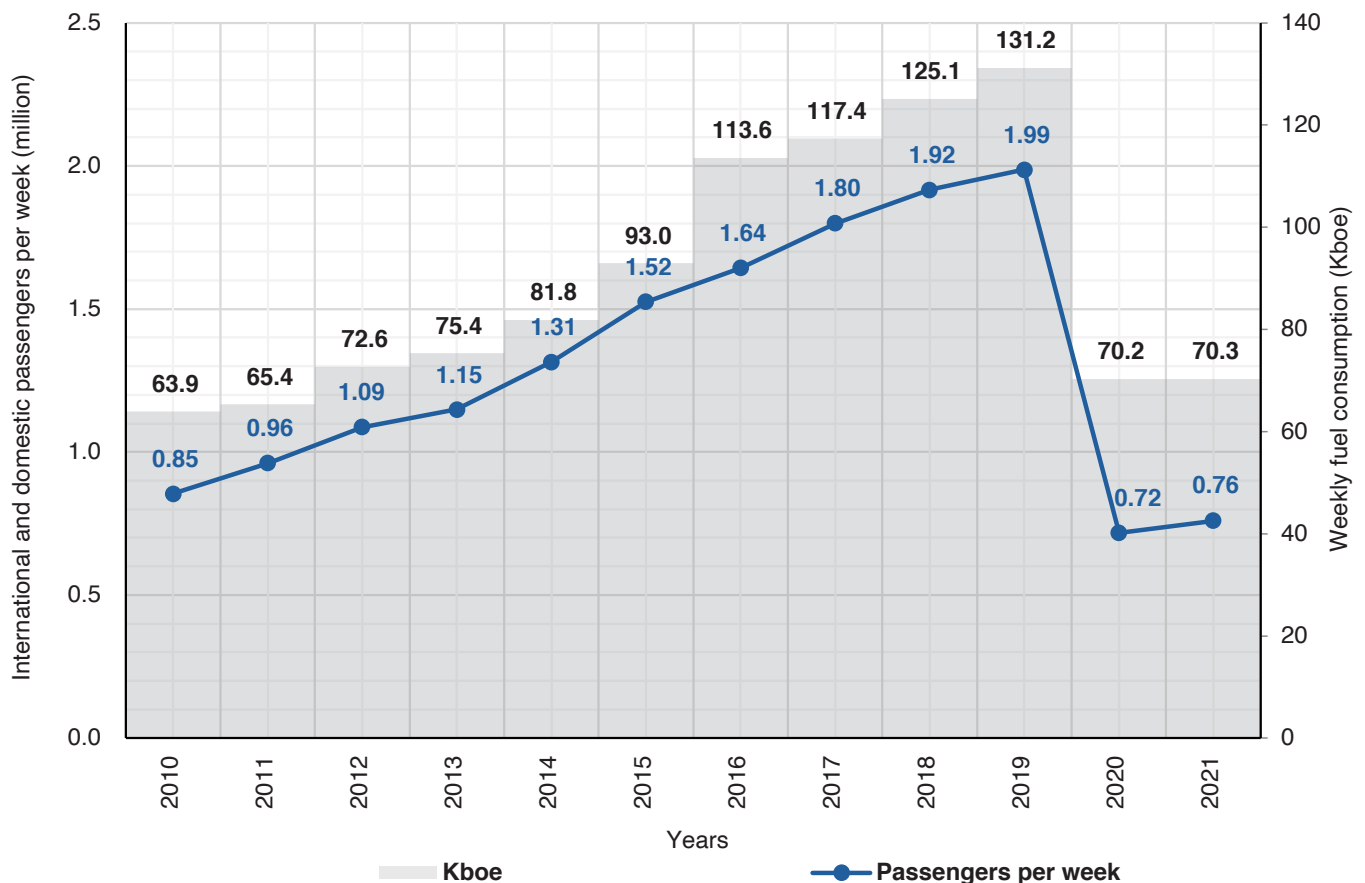
# Data Insight

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## Aviation Fuel Consumed and Passengers Carried in Saudi Arabia

The air transport sector in Saudi Arabia has an important impact on the economy (e.g., job creation, gross domestic product, and gross value added). Over 690 routes are registered in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for both domestic and international travel. There are currently 141 domestic routes. This data insight presents the fuel consumed and total passengers carried by the aviation sector over the past 10 years. Figure 1 shows the sector’s energy and passenger demand per week from January 2010 to June 2021.

**Figure 1.** Average number of passengers carried and barrels of oil equivalent (boe) consumed per week by Saudi Arabia’s aviation sector.



Note: Kboe= thousand barrels of oil equivalent.  
 Source: KAPSARC analysis.

## **Key insights:**

- Since 2010, aviation demand has risen rapidly at an average rate of 10% per year, from 0.85 million passengers per week in 2010 to nearly 2 million passengers per week in 2019.
- Weekly aviation energy consumption increased at an average rate of 8% from 2010 to 2019, from 63.9 thousand barrels of oil equivalent (Kboe) to 131.2 Kboe.
- In 2016, jet fuel consumption increased by 22%, while passengers increased by 8%. This difference in fuel consumption was mainly due to the number of international routes increasing by 43% compared to 2015.
- Demand for aviation dropped sharply in 2020 by 64% to 720,000 passengers per week due to the COVID-19 precautions taken in the Kingdom.
- This drop in demand led to a 46% decline in jet fuel demand in 2020 of 61 Kboe per week.
- Demand has started to recover in 2021, with an increase in passengers and jet fuel demand of 6% and 0.2%, respectively.

## **Source:**

- General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), Data Management and Decision Support Office, BOAD.

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