

RECOVERY TRACKER

Flights and vehicle registrations soar

Power generation was lower than in the previous week

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Some high frequency indicators of economic activity showed an uptick for the latest week. Indians narrowed the gap over pre-pandemic vehicle registrations. There were 302,000 registrations during the week ending August 14. This is 5.2 per cent lower than the 318,000 registrations seen during the same period in 2019. The gap was 11.2 per cent in the previous week (*see chart 1*).

More passengers caught flights. There was also a rise in the number of daily flights. There were around 350,000 passengers on average in the last three days of the week. The flights numbered 2,659. The numbers showed a rising trend amid a string of holidays, including Independence Day on Monday (*see chart 2*).

Retail and recreation visits were 12.4 per cent higher than they were before

the pandemic took hold. Search engine Google tracks how people are moving during the pandemic using anonymised location data. Workplace visits showed a decline amid multiple public holidays during the previous week, including Muharram on Tuesday. Raksha Bandhan followed on Thursday, though this was not captured in the Google data, which is released with a lag (*see chart 3*).

The Indian Railways recorded lower growth in the quantity of goods carried. It grew at 6.37 per cent for the latest week compared to 15.95 per cent previously. The freight revenue was up 19.23 per cent in the latest week compared to 26.99 per cent previously (*see chart 4*).

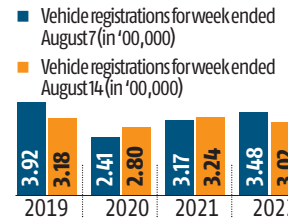
There was a small decline in the amount of electricity generated in the country. The seven-day moving average was 4,299 million units as of reporting day data on 15 August. This is 1.4 per cent lower than the previous

week. It is 16.7 per cent higher than in 2019 (*see chart 5*).

Traffic congestion at 9 am on Monday saw a major drop, according to data from global location technology firm TomTom International. New Delhi traffic congestion was down 74 per cent compared to 2019, while Mumbai traffic was down 75 per cent. Monday was a public holiday on account of Independence Day (*see chart 6*).

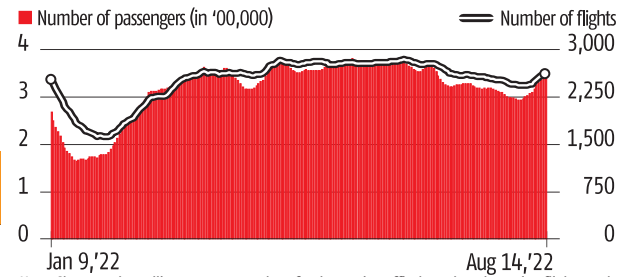
Business Standard tracks these indicators as a way of getting a weekly picture of how the economy is doing. Analysts globally have been tracking similar indicators as official macroeconomic data is often released with a lag. Such high frequency indicators help understand how the economy is reacting to the pandemic, and the impact of various government efforts to control its effects. The Google data is released with a lag. The latest is as of August 10. The traffic data is as of August 15. All other data is as of Sunday.

1: VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS 5.2% BELOW 2019 LEVELS



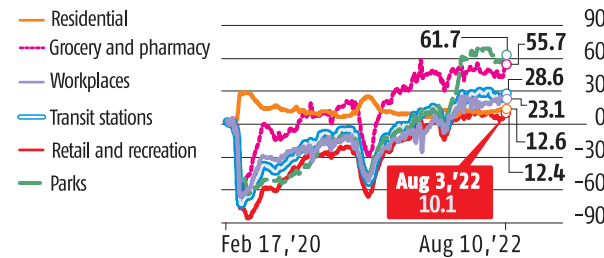
Note: Based on road transport offices (RTOs) for which Vahan data is available
Source: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

2: PICK-UP IN AIR TRAFFIC



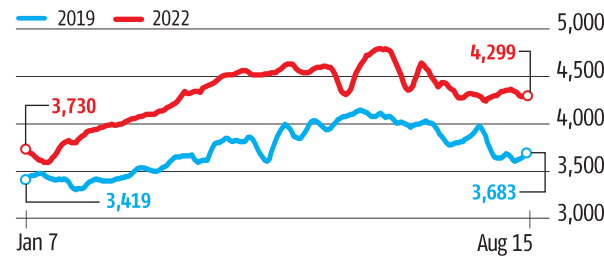
Note: Shows 7-day rolling average numbers for domestic traffic, based on departing flights and passengers. Averages have been used wherever archival data was unavailable
Source: Ministry of Civil Aviation

3: RISE IN RETAIL AND RECREATION VISITS



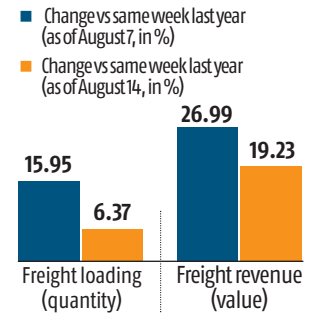
Note: Latest update is as of August 10, 2022, based on location data as processed by the company. The percentage change is compared to a baseline value for the same day of the week, calculated on a median basis during the 5-week period Jan 3–Feb 6, 2020. The chart shows a seven-day rolling average of visits to each category; residential data refers to change in time spent at home
Source: Google LLC "Google Covid-19 Community Mobility Reports", Our World In Data

5: DIP IN POWER GENERATION



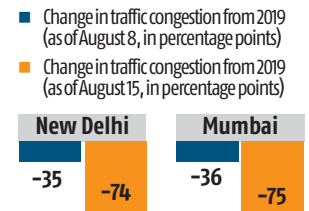
Note: Power generation based on reporting day data (million units, 7-day rolling average)
Source: National Load Despatch Centre

4: LOWER FREIGHT NUMBERS



Note: For seven days ending Sunday
Source: Indian Railways

6: DROP IN TRAFFIC CONGESTION



Note: Refers to change in Monday morning (9 am) traffic congestion. Comparison is made to 2019 levels
Source: TomTom International