

Freight numbers, air traffic decline

Vehicle registrations and power generation higher than before

SACHIN P MAMPATTA & KRISHNA KANT
Mumbai, 31 October

Select weekly indicators of economic activity drifted lower towards the end of October. The Railways carried a lower quantity of goods for the latest week than in the same period last year. There was a 2.68 per cent year-on-year decline in freight quantity compared with 1.96 growth seen the previous week. The amount of money it made from carrying these goods, called freight revenue, grew at 2.32 per cent in the latest week versus 10.54 per cent previously (chart 1).

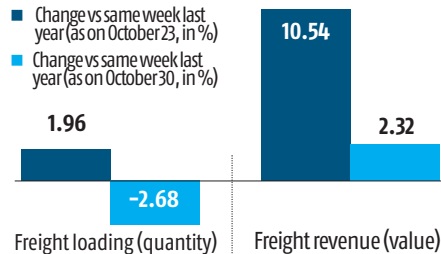
The number of air passengers dipped to around 360,000 on a seven-day moving average basis as of Sunday. It was around 362,000 in the same period last week. The seven-day moving average number of domestic flights was around 2,700 (chart 2). Traffic in major metros was lower than 2019 levels, showed data from global location tracking firm TomTom International. Traffic congestion was 43 per cent below 2019 levels in New Delhi and 45 per cent down in Mumbai. The decline had been worse because of festive holidays the previous week (chart 3).

Different countries have shown different levels of mobility before and after the pandemic took hold, shows data from Google. It uses anonymised location data to track how people are moving during the pandemic. Cross-country comparisons may be affected by regional differences though each nation can be compared to its own pre-pandemic mobility. Workplace visits were up 40 per cent in India, 34 per cent in South Africa and 26 per cent in Brazil compared to their respective baseline values before the pandemic. Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States were at levels lower than in early 2020 (chart 4).

Vehicle registrations declined week-on-week, but were over 50 per cent higher than in 2019. There were 565,000 vehicles registered for the week ending 31st October (chart 5).

Electricity consumption in the country again declined last week but the gap over the 2019 levels widened as decline in generation was even sharp-

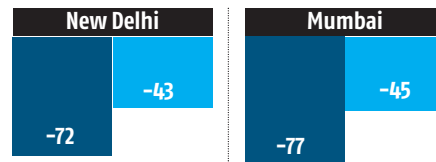
1: DROP IN FREIGHT GROWTH



Note: For seven days ending Sunday
Source: Indian Railways

3: TRAFFIC CONGESTION LOWER THAN 2019 LEVELS

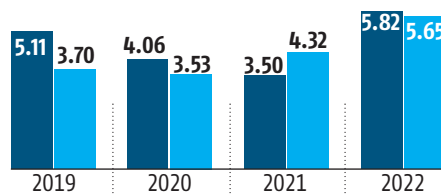
- Change in traffic congestion from 2019 (as of 24th Oct, in %)
- Change in traffic congestion from 2019 (as of 31st Oct, in %)



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

5: VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS ARE UP

- Vehicle registrations for week ending October 23 (in 100,000)
- Vehicle registrations for week ending October 30 (in 100,000)

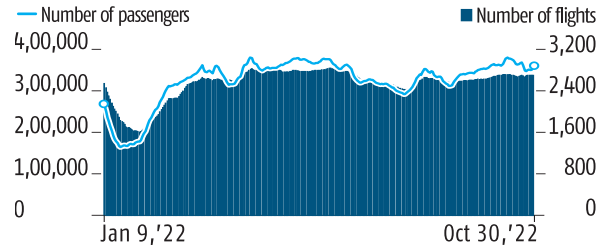


Note: Based on road transport offices (RTOs) for which Vahan data is available.
Source: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

er in 2019. The power producers generated 3,565 million units (MU) of electricity per day on average in the latest week based on reporting day data, compared to 3,888 million units per day in the previous week. In comparison, power generation was 2,929 MU per day during the corresponding week in 2019. (see chart 2).

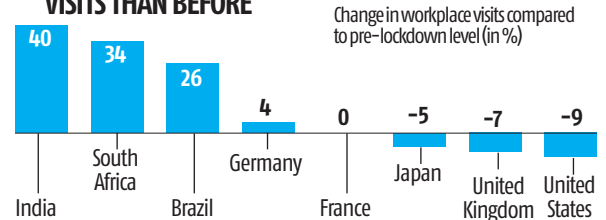
Business Standard has been tracking these indicators

2: FEWER AIR PASSENGERS



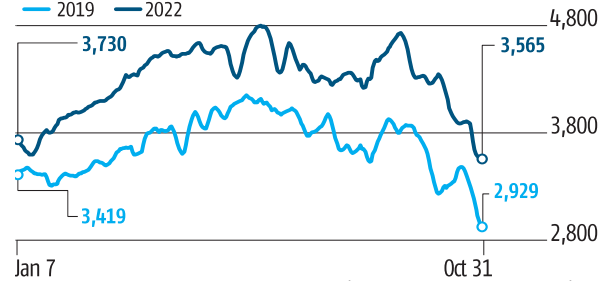
Note: Shows 7-day rolling average numbers for domestic traffic based on departing flights and passengers. Averages have been used wherever archival data was unavailable.
Source: Ministry of Civil Aviation

4: EMERGING MARKETS RECORD HIGHER WORKPLACE VISITS THAN BEFORE



Note: Data looks at workplace visits in large economies. 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 numbers should only be considered for a given country on a standalone basis, as regional differences can affect trends. Latest update is as on October 15, 2022
Source: Google Covid-19 Community Mobility Reports

6: POWER GENERATION HOLDS STEADY



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

since early 2020 to provide a weekly picture of the economy amid the volatility caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Analysts globally have been using similar indicators as official data is often released with a lag. The traffic data is for Monday 9 a.m., October 31. Google data is as of October 15. All other data is as of Sunday, October 30.