



**Australian Government**

**Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities**

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics

## STATISTICAL REPORT



Aviation

Australian Aircraft Activity 2016

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# Important notice to readers

The Tenth Session of the Statistics Division of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) recommended significant changes to the statistical reporting arrangements for member states. These changes were adopted by the ICAO Council and a new edition of the Reference Manual on the ICAO Statistics Program was published in late 2013.

The changes outlined in the Reference Manual included the introduction of a new ICAO Classification of Civil Aviation Activities. The classification separates flying activity into either *commercial air transport services* or *general aviation*; where commercial air transport services are classified as either scheduled or non-scheduled services and general aviation is classified as non-commercial business aviation, aerial work, pleasure flying, instructional flying or other flying.

These changes were discussed in General Aviation Activity 2011 and readers were invited to provide feedback. All comments were considered, with the following changes introduced from 2014:

- BITRE has adopted the new ICAO Classification of Civil Aviation Activities, incorporating additional detail to better reflect Australian conditions.
- While the results of the General Aviation Activity Survey are presented in this publication, statistics are also presented for commercial air transport activity (including Regular Public Transport). The title of this publication was therefore changed from General Aviation Activity to Australian Aircraft Activity from the 2014 publication.

BITRE are currently analysing the impact these changes may have had on aggregates.

# Explanatory notes

## Australian aviation statistics publications

In order to provide a complete, integrated statistical summary of all Australian aviation, BITRE conducts a range of surveys covering the full spectrum of flying activity.

Monthly surveys of airlines are conducted to compile estimates of:

- Passengers carried to, from and within Australia by Australian and foreign-registered airlines.
- Cargo carried to, from and within Australia by Australian and foreign-registered airlines.
- Changes to airfares charged on competitive Australian domestic routes.
- The on time performance of domestic airlines.
- Aircraft movements and flying activity by airlines.

Originally, the scope of these monthly airline surveys was limited to scheduled regular public transport (RPT) flights, but in 2011 the scope was expanded to include large charter flights that are similar in scale to RPT flights. The monthly surveys of charter activity compile estimates of:

- Passengers carried within Australia on charter flights.
- Cargo carried within Australia on charter flights.
- Aircraft movements and flying activity by charter operators.

To provide a complete statistical summary of Australian aviation, BITRE compiles an annual survey of Australian registered aircraft undertaking On Demand Commercial Air Transport and General Aviation activity. The annual "General Aviation Survey" compiles estimates of:

- Aircraft movements and flying activity by Australian-registered aircraft not reported in the monthly surveys.

The results of these surveys are published in activity-specific reports:

- The monthly *International Airline Activity* report provides a summary of international passenger and cargo air travel to and from Australia. The report also provides an estimate of the movement of passengers between Australian airports by foreign-registered airlines. Statistics published in this report are compiled from the results of monthly surveys of international airlines that operate to/from Australia.
- The monthly *Domestic Aviation Activity* report provides a summary of domestic passenger and cargo air travel within Australia. This publication also provides statistics on the movement of passengers through regional airports and summary statistics for the movement of passengers on large charter flights. Statistics

published in this report are compiled from the results of monthly surveys of domestic airlines and aviation charter companies that operate in Australia.

- The monthly *Domestic On Time Performance* report provides measures of the on time performance of key domestic airlines on competitive routes. Statistics published in this report are compiled from the results of monthly surveys of key domestic airlines operating in Australia.
- The monthly *Domestic Air Fare Indexes* release is a web-based report providing an index-based measure of changes in air fares on competitive routes over time. Statistics published in this report are compiled from information published on domestic airlines' websites for specific routes identified as competitive in the *Domestic Aviation Activity* report.
- The annual *Australian Aircraft Activity* report provides statistics on the flying activity of all Australian-registered aircraft. Key measures are the number of hours flown and the number of landings, classified by the type of flying activity being undertaken. Statistics published in this report are compiled by merging the results of the annual General Aviation Activity Survey with the results of the monthly surveys of airlines.

## Data sources

Survey questionnaires were despatched to owners or operators of all aircraft listed on the Australian Civil Aircraft Register. Responses were received for 79 per cent of aircraft in scope of the Survey. For aircraft where a response was not received, careful estimates were substituted, based on the average of responses by similar aircraft.

Not all aircraft in Australia are listed on the Australian Civil Aircraft Register. Owners of ultralight aircraft, gliders, weight shift aircraft and gyrocopters may instead be registered with their respective associations. Statistics for these aircraft types have been supplied courtesy of Recreational Aviation Australia, the Gliding Federation of Australia, the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia and the Australian Sport Rotorcraft Association.

BITRE statistical surveys are conducted under the authority of Air Navigation Regulation 2016 Part 2. BITRE wishes to thank aircraft owners and operators for their assistance with these statistical collections.

## Please note

Landings include touch-and-go landings and alighting on water.

Location statistics provided in this report refer to the location where the aircraft is most frequently based. For some operations, this may be a significant distance away from where aircraft activity may occur.



Aircraft make is generally the manufacturer. However in cases where there have been changes to the company's name, structure or ownership with little change to the line of aircraft produced, common names (or the most recent name) may be used or retained.

Where figures have been rounded, differences may occur between the sums of component items and totals.

## Symbols and other usages

na	Not applicable.
r	Revised.
-	Greater than zero but less than 50.
..	Not available for confidentiality or other reasons.

## Abbreviations

ASRA	Australian Sport Rotorcraft Association
BITRE	Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
C of A	Certificate of Airworthiness
GA	General Aviation
GFA	Gliding Federation of Australia
HGFA	Hang Gliding Federation of Australia
RA-Aus	Recreational Aviation Australia
RPT	Regular Public Transport

# Highlights

## Australian Aircraft Fleet

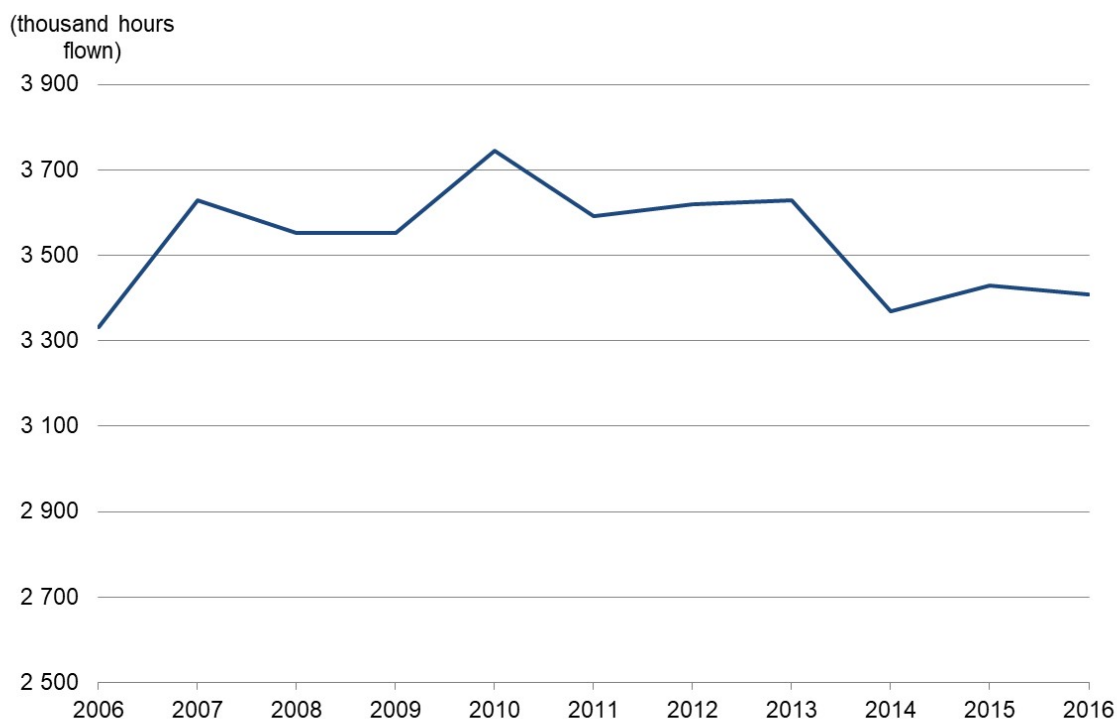
Total hours flown by Australian aircraft was 3.41 million in 2016, a decrease of 0.6 per cent compared with the previous year (see Table 1).

Total airline RPT flying hours fell 3.5 per cent in 2016 to 1.39 million hours (see Table 1). Other VH-Registered aircraft flying hours rose 3.6 per cent in 2016 to 1.61 million hours (see Table 1).

The Sports and Recreation Associations registered sector recorded 410 thousand flying hours in 2016, a decrease of 6.1 per cent compared to 2015 (see Table 1).

Figure 1 shows the flying hours performed by Australian Aircraft.

**Figure 1 Australian Aircraft Fleet hours flown, (2006–2016)**



## The General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered fleet

The total number of hours flown by General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered aircraft for the year ending 31 December 2016 was 3 million. This consisted of 1.75 million hours in Commercial Air Transport and 1.25 million hours in General Aviation (see Table 7).

Commercial Air Transport consists of two sectors, Scheduled and Non-Scheduled. Scheduled Commercial Air Transport recorded 1.39 million hours, while Non-Scheduled recorded 362 thousand hours. Within Scheduled, the largest activity was Domestic, with 978 thousand hours. While in Non-Scheduled, Passenger transport charters was the largest activity with 230 thousand hours (see Table 7).

General Aviation consists of five different sectors of flying. Aerial Work (517 thousand hours), Own Use Business (132 thousand hours), Instructional flying (340 thousand hours), Sport and pleasure flying (224 thousand hours), and Other flying (35 thousand hours). The largest flying activity in Aerial Work was Agricultural mustering, recording 185 thousand hours. Commercial Instructional flying activity made up the majority of the Instructional flying sector, recording 309 thousand hours. While within the Sport and pleasure flying sector the largest flying activity was Pleasure and personal transport, recording 119 thousand hours (see Table 7).

The total number of landings by General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered aircraft for the year ending 31 December 2016 was 3.05 million. This consisted of 1.25 million landings in Commercial Air Transport and 1.79 million landings in General Aviation (see Table 7).

Figure 2 shows the flying hours performed by VH-registered aircraft by the major industry sectors.

**Figure 2** VH-Registered fleet hours flown, by major industry sectors (2016)

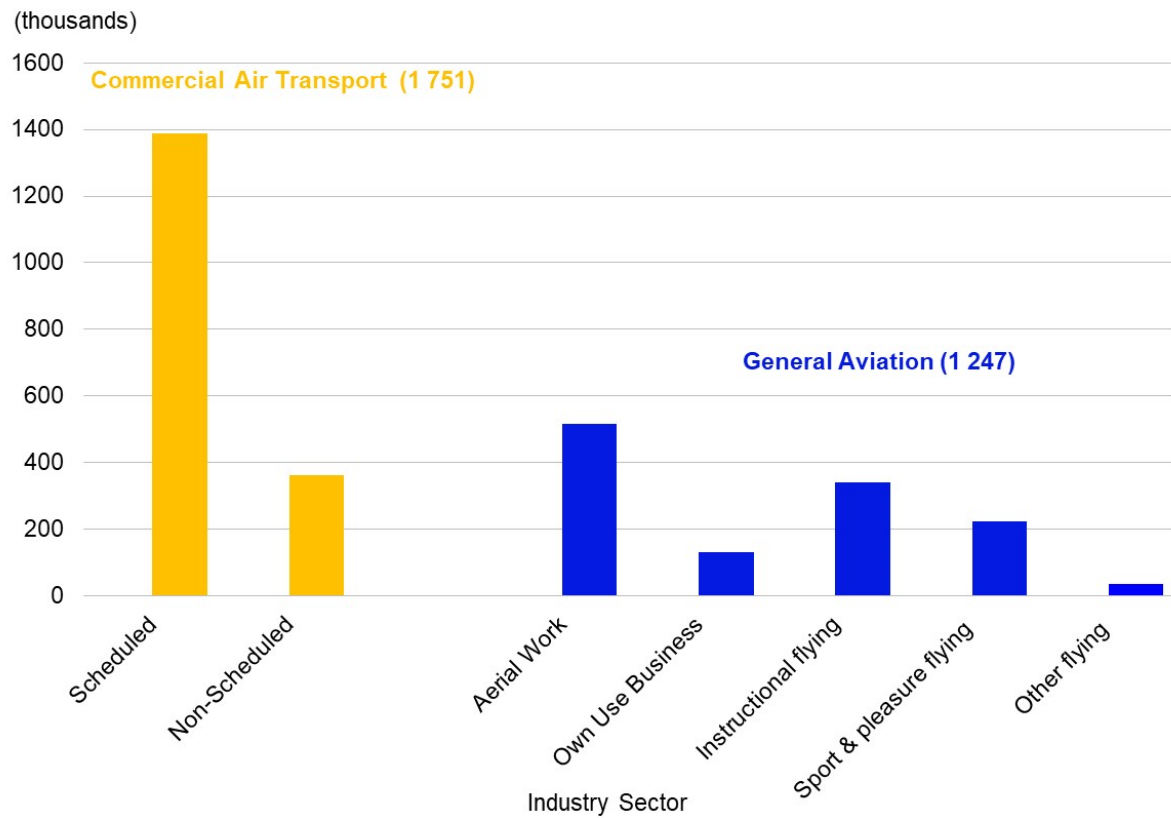
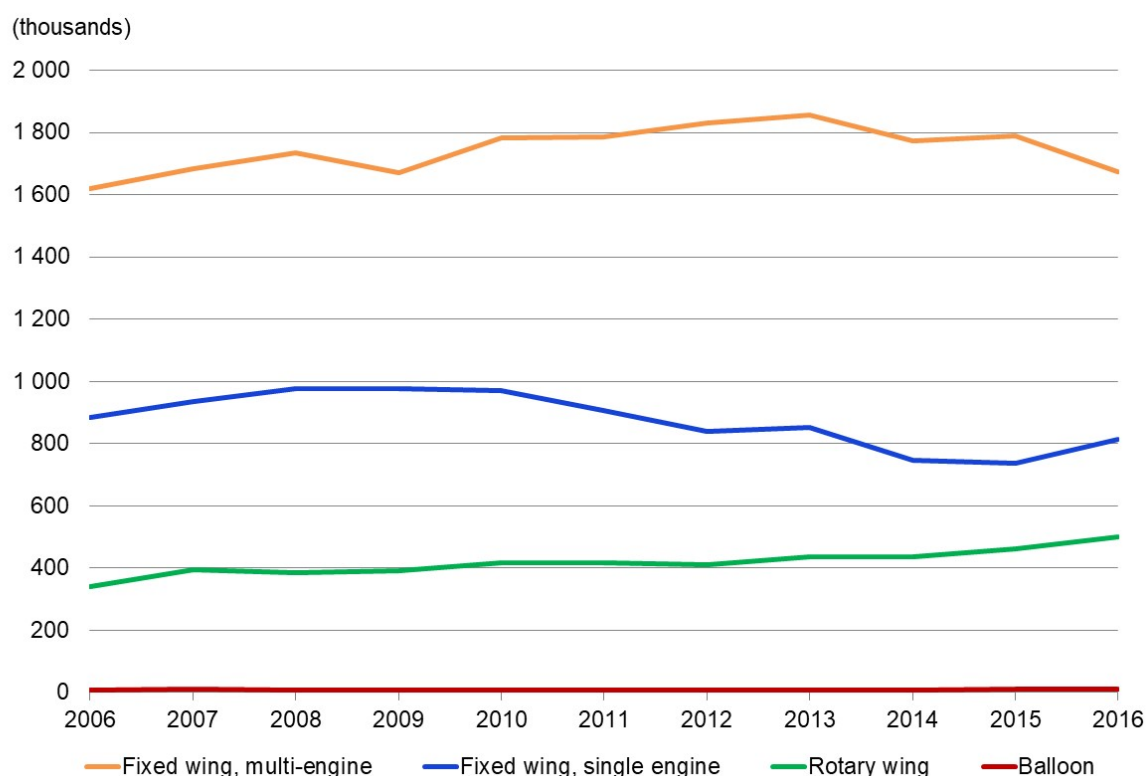


Figure 3 shows the flying hours performed by VH-registered aircraft by the major categories of aircraft.

**Figure 3 VH-Registered fleet hours flown, by category of aircraft (2006–2016)**



The general aviation and commercial air transport VH registered fleets include 13 463 aircraft on the Civil Aviation Aircraft Register (Table 3). The number of aircraft registered at 31 December 2016 represents a decrease of 0.6 per cent over the number registered at 31 December 2015 (13 548 aircraft).

The number of fixed wing, single engine aircraft decreased by 0.9 per cent to 8 807, or 65.4 per cent of all registered aircraft in the General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered fleet (see Table 4).

Fixed wing, multi-engine aircraft decreased by 1.2 per cent to 2 234 (16.6 per cent of the total) (see Table 4).

The number of helicopters increased by 1.6 per cent to 2 044 (15.2 per cent of the total), with the number of single engine helicopters increasing by 1.4 per cent to 1 787. The number of multi-engine helicopters increased by 3.2 per cent to 257 (see Table 4).

Hot-air balloons and airships decreased by 2.1 per cent to 378, or 2.8 per cent of total aircraft (see Table 4).

The Australian General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered fleet contains many older aircraft, with the average age being 34.4 years for fixed wing aircraft, compared to 17.5 years for rotary aircraft and 13.5 years for balloons and airships (see Table 4).

About one in every five (2 908 aircraft) General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered aircraft reported performing no flying during the year ended 31 December 2016.

From responses to the survey, reasons why the aircraft did not fly were provided for these aircraft. These reasons are summarised in the following table:

**Table A Reasons for nil flying activity (2016)**

<b>Reason for nil activity</b>	<b>Number of aircraft</b>	<b>Percentage of reporting inactive aircraft</b>
Repair / maintenance / restoration	1 430	49.2
Aircraft in storage	365	12.6
Aircraft unserviceable / unairworthy	230	7.9
Aircraft awaiting sale	143	4.9
Amateur-built aircraft not yet completed	112	3.9
Work or other commitments	100	3.4
Lack of business / company ceased operating	97	3.3
Sold prior to 1 January 2016	80	2.8
Owner's health issues / deceased	80	2.8
Financial reasons	60	2.1
C of A not yet issued	29	1.0
New Aircraft	23	0.8
Operator or owner travelling	21	0.7
This aircraft is unknown to the operator	20	0.7
Other	118	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 908</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: This table covers aircraft with zero hours reported and not those with reduced hours for any of the above reasons (for example, drought).

## The Sport and Recreational registered fleet

The sport and recreational registered aircraft fleet in 2016 consisted of 7 225 aircraft who flew a total of 410 thousand hours (see Table 5).

### *Ultralight flying*

#### **Information provided by Recreational Aviation Australia (RA-Aus)**

In 2016, ultralight aircraft flew a total of 148 thousand hours, representing a decrease of 11.2 per cent over 2015 (see Table 12).

At the end of December 2016, a total 2 930 aircraft had current registrations issued by Recreational Aviation Australia, a decrease of 11.3 per cent over 2015 (3 302 aircraft) (see Table 5).

### *Gliding*

#### **Information provided by the Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA)**

The number of registered gliders in 2016 was 1 262, an increase of 1.4 per cent compared with December 2015. The total number of reported flying hours increased by 1.4 per cent to 117 thousand hours in the calendar year 2016 compared with 2015 (see Table 1).

### *Hang gliding*

#### **Information provided by the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia (HGFA)**

The total number of hours flown by hang gliders in 2015–16 was down 2.9 per cent on the previous year to 108 thousand hours (see Table 1).

### *Gyroplanes*

#### **Information provided by the Australian Sport Rotorcraft Association (ASRA)**

The number of gyroplanes in 2016 was 342. The total number of estimated hours flown by gyroplanes in 2016 decreased by 15.0 per cent to 37 thousand hours (see Table 1).



# Tables

**Table 1** Total hours flown by industry sector (1985-2016)

Year	Total Scheduled <sup>a</sup>	Other VH-registered aircraft <sup>b</sup>	Ultralight flying <sup>c</sup>	Gliding <sup>d</sup>	Hang Gliding <sup>e</sup>	Gyroplanes <sup>f</sup>	Total
<i>(thousand hours)</i>							
1985	494.8	1 568.1	..	79.9	..	..	2 142.8
1986	518.9	1 558.6	..	..	..	..	2 077.5
1987	556.4	1 597.4	..	79.9	..	..	2 233.7
1988	600.1	1 762.6	..	79.9	..	..	2 442.6
1989	554.9	1 927.6	..	75.4	..	..	2 557.9
1990	613.1	1 930.8	..	72.6	..	..	2 616.4
1991	692.8	1 754.7	..	74.2	63.7	..	2 585.4
1992	750.3	1 651.0	52.4	83.3	73.5	..	2 610.4
1993	781.2	1 703.9	56.8	73.0	86.2	..	2 701.1
1994	838.7	1 715.7	73.0	80.1	77.6	15.0	2 800.1
1995	899.6	1 761.3	72.0	75.9	86.4	14.4	2 909.6
1996	938.5	1 799.0	70.4	69.2	103.2	23.3	3 003.7
1997	969.8	1 839.3	75.1	68.9	102.3	23.3	3 078.7
1998	958.2	1 877.9	67.6	65.4	87.5	33.4	3 090.0
1999	963.5	1 842.2	73.9	63.9	104.6	30.4	3 078.5
2000	1 074.2	1 714.8	74.1	..	106.7	29.7	2 999.5
2001	1 044.3	1 702.9	76.5	..	120.0	37.0	2 980.6
2002	926.0	1 687.7	80.6	..	122.2	32.3	2 848.9
2003	969.0	1 645.9	84.5	..	124.7	28.3	2 852.5
2004	1 090.4	1 645.0	87.1	..	132.0	29.3	2 983.7
2005	1 144.1	1 722.8	92.9	194.7	134.2	32.9	3 321.6
2006	1 156.7	1 695.0	120.2	228.9	103.0	27.9	3 331.6
2007	1 191.6	1 831.8	138.3	343.4	94.5	28.0	3 627.6
2008	1 250.5	1 857.7	156.2	169.9	88.3	30.5	3 553.1
2009	1 241.4	1 807.5	174.3	198.4	96.0	35.6	3 553.2
2010	1 325.7	1 847.7	200.4	228.7	97.9	44.4	3 744.9
2011	1 347.4	1 771.4	198.6	126.9	98.7	48.6	3 591.5
2012	1 382.1	1 704.9	187.9 <sup>r</sup>	192.0	105.1	46.8	3 618.7
2013	1 410.7	1 741.8	153.5 <sup>r</sup>	159.4	117.2	44.9	3 627.7
2014	1 402.1	1 526.4	176.1 <sup>r</sup>	110.9	113.8	38.9	3 368.1
2015	1 440.0	1 552.3	167.0 <sup>r</sup>	115.1	110.9	43.5	3 428.7
2016	1 389.4	1 608.8	148.2	116.8	107.7	37.0	3 407.9

<sup>a</sup> Hours flown by Australian (including regional) airlines on domestic and international flight stages in Scheduled operations. From August 2004 RPT freight operations are included.

<sup>b</sup> Includes hours flown in General Aviation as well as Non-Scheduled Commercial Air Transport (Charter)

<sup>c</sup> Year ended 30 June prior to 2011. Data from 2011 are for calendar year.

<sup>d</sup> Year ended 30 April prior to 2000. No data are available between 2000 and 2004. Data from 2005-2010 are for year ended 30 June. Data from 2011 are for calendar year.

<sup>e</sup> Year ended 30 June.

<sup>f</sup> Year ended 30 June until 2005. From 2006 onwards, calendar year data are provided.

<sup>r</sup> revised

**Table 2 Hours flown and percentage change, by industry sector and flying activity (2014–2016)**

Flying Activity	2014 <sup>a</sup>		2015 <sup>a</sup>		2016 <sup>a</sup>	
	Hours flown (thousands)	Percentage change over 2013	Hours flown (thousands)	Percentage change over 2014	Hours flown (thousands)	Percentage change over 2015
Scheduled	1 402.1	-0.6%	1 440.0	2.7%	1 389.4	-3.5%
Non-Scheduled <sup>b</sup>	328.4	-32.4%	355.6	8.3%	318.9	-10.3%
Private	139.7	-39.6%	166.1	18.9%	161.3	-2.9%
Business	110.2	-15.8%	138.3	25.5%	131.7	-4.7%
Test & ferry	30.6	28.5%	26.5	-13.5%	34.8	31.1%
Training	336.9	-11.1%	305.1	-9.4%	339.6	11.3%
Agriculture	110.7	38.6%	79.4	-28.3%	110.7	39.5%
Survey & photography	37.3	-25.9%	33.3	-10.7%	34.9	4.8%
Pipe & powerline patrol	50.0	145.2%	51.5	3.1%	50.4	-2.1%
Mustering	153.5	22.9%	154.1	0.4%	184.7	19.8%
Search & rescue	9.4	55.5%	9.8	4.9%	9.1	-7.1%
Ambulance	102.5	2.6%	105.0	2.5%	102.0	-2.9%
Towing	4.2	-24.0%	6.9	64.6%	4.8	-30.5%
Other aerial work	113.1	8.3%	120.6	6.6%	126.0	4.4%
Total Hours Flown	2 928.5	-0.8%	2 992.2	2.2%	2 998.2	0.2%

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey, Domestic Monthly Survey, and International Monthly Survey.

<sup>a</sup> Activity Classifications based on 2013 categories.

<sup>b</sup> Excludes Air Ambulance which was reclassified from General Aviation to Commercial Air Transport from 2014.

**Table 3** Number of aircraft, landings and hours flown in General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport operations by state or territory (2016)<sup>a</sup>

State or Territory	Number of aircraft			Commercial Air Transport		General Aviation		Total
	Total	Active <sup>b</sup>	Number of landings (thousands)	No. Active aircraft <sup>b</sup>	Hours flown (thousands)	No. Active aircraft <sup>b</sup>	Hours flown (thousands)	Hours flown (thousands)
Intrastate								
NSW	3628	2724	727.8	388	190.4	2631	303.5	493.9
QLD	3132	2431	580.2	528	125.9	2304	326.5	452.4
WA	1889	1505	456.0	406	175.3	1262	229.5	404.8
VIC	2657	2023	408.3	284	64.6	1919	202.3	266.9
NT	627	533	172.5	272	82.5	436	73.5	156.0
SA	878	691	213.3	89	39.1	658	87.4	126.6
ACT	127	98	25.5	23	19.6	83	7.6	27.2
TAS	201	163	39.8	29	6.7	151	16.4	23.1
Interstate	219	219	361.4	219	666.8			666.8
International	105	105	60.4	105	380.5			380.5
Australia	13 463	10 492	3 045.2	2 343	1 751.5	9 444	1 246.8	2 998.2

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey

Note: Major Airlines are classified to Interstate and International

<sup>a</sup> VH-registered aircraft only

<sup>b</sup> General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport active aircraft may exceed total active aircraft as some aircraft may operate in both categories.

**Table 4 Australian Aircraft Fleet, VH-registered (2016)**

Aircraft make	Number of Aircraft	Average age of	Hours flown	Landings
		aircraft <sup>a</sup> (years)		
Fixed wing, single-engine				
Cessna	3 135	38.8	347.5	496.7
Piper	1 412	42.2	116.6	174.9
Amateur-built	1 310	14.7	33.1	45.4
Beechcraft	354	40.4	15.3	14.5
De Havilland	308	72.2	8.3	18.3
Air Tractor	158	15.7	47.6	100.2
Mooney	153	36.3	8.7	7.3
Cirrus	150	8.4	14.0	12.4
Auster	127	65.6	1.2	1.5
American Champion	99	29.0	12.1	23.5
Other	1 601	35.1	210.7	429.4
Subtotal	8 807	35.6	815.2	1 324.0
Fixed wing, multi-engine				
Beechcraft	418	31.4	99.2	91.2
Piper	403	38.9	51.9	57.3
Cessna	395	36.4	57.5	54.8
Boeing	199	9.5	593.3	248.4
Airbus	124	7.6	448.9	159.6
Bombardier	82	10.4	108.1	100.9
Fokker	75	24.1	68.2	43.1
Aero Commander	55	44.6	14.9	17.5
Saab	52	22.7	60.2	68.7
Fairchild	50	28.2	17.1	20.3
Other	381	31.3	154.8	138.2
Subtotal	2 234	29.4	1 673.9	999.9
Total	11 041	34.4	2 489.1	2 323.9

**Table 4 (continued) Australian Aircraft Fleet, VH-registered (2016)**

Helicopter make	Average age of		Hours flown	Landings
	Number of Aircraft	aircraft <sup>a</sup>		
		(years)	(thousands)	
Rotary wing, single-engine				
Robinson	1 026	12.0	298.5	336.5
Bell	301	35.9	58.7	103.0
Aerospatiale/Eurocopter	176	19.1	42.2	90.8
Amateur-built	95	12.5	0.7	1.2
Schweizer	39	15.6	5.5	9.3
Agusta	24	37.2	2.9	4.4
Hughes	22	40.3	3.0	7.3
Enstrom	17	31.5	2.0	2.5
Kawasaki	16	47.9	0.3	0.4
McDonnell Douglas	16	27.6	5.4	6.5
Other	55	28.1	10.4	19.2
Subtotal	1 787	18.7	429.5	581.0
Rotary wing, multi-engine				
Agusta	65	5.0	19.8	39.3
Bell	54	23.4	14.7	25.2
Aerospatiale/Eurocopter	49	21.3	9.0	13.5
Sikorsky	35	18.8	9.5	23.0
Kawasaki	22	25.4	7.0	13.8
Other	32	16.6	9.7	15.1
Subtotal	257	18.1	69.7	129.9
Total	2 044	17.5	499.2	710.9

**Table 4 (continued) Australian Aircraft Fleet, VH-registered (2016)**

Balloon or airship make	Number of Aircraft	Average age of	Hours flown (thousands)	Landings
		aircraft <sup>a</sup> (years)		
Kavanagh	257	10.4	8.7	9.1
Cameron	48	19.9	0.7	0.7
Thunder/Colt	31	27.7	0.1	0.2
Amateur-built	16	7.4	0.1	0.2
Balloon Works	8	30.6	-	-
Other	18	13.1	0.3	0.3
Total	378	13.5	9.9	10.4

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey

<sup>a</sup> As at end of 2016

**Table 5 Australian Aircraft Fleet, Sports and Recreational Registered Aircraft (2016)**

Aircraft	Number of Aircraft	Hours flown
		(thousands)
Ultralight	2 930	148.2
Gliders	1 262	116.8
Hang gliders	2 691	107.7
Gyroplanes	342	37.0
Total	7 225	409.6

Note: Includes data from Sport and Recreational Associations

**Table 6** Number of Aircraft, by Fuel Type and Hours Flown in Australian Fleet (2016)

<b>Fuel type</b>	<b>Number of aircraft</b>	<b>Total hours flown (thousands)</b>
<b>Fixed wing, single engine</b>		
Diesel	8	2.0
Avtur	453	159.4
Avgas	8 346	653.8
Subtotal	8 807	815.2
<b>Fixed wing, multi-engine</b>		
Diesel	4	0.6
Avtur	1 065	1 529.5
Avgas	1 165	143.8
Subtotal	2 234	1 673.9
Subtotal (Fixed wing)	11 041	2 489.1
<b>Rotary wing, single engine</b>		
Avtur	550	118.0
Avgas	1 237	311.5
Subtotal	1 787	429.5
<b>Rotary wing, multi-engine</b>		
Avtur	257	69.7
Subtotal	257	69.7
Subtotal (Rotary wing)	2 044	499.2
<b>Balloons and airships</b>		
N/A	378	9.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 463</b>	<b>2 998.2</b>

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey

**Table 7 Flying Activity by VH-registered aircraft (2016)**

Industry sector and flying activity		Number of Aircraft	Average age of Aircraft <sup>a</sup> (years)	Hours flown (thousands)	Landings
<b>Commercial air transport</b>					
Scheduled	International	200	8.5	380.5	61.7
	Domestic	621	15.0	978.4	665.9
	Freight only	96	36.0	30.6	38.3
Non-scheduled	Passenger transport charters	1669	24.7	229.6	345.5
	Air ambulance	162	13.9	102.0	108.0
	Freight only	83	11.1	13.7	7.6
	Other commercial air transport	73	30.2	16.7	25.8
<b>Total Commercial air transport</b>		2343 <sup>b</sup>	22.3	1 751.5	1 252.8
<b>General Aviation</b>					
Aerial work	Agricultural spreading/spraying	682	20.8	96.4	245.7
	Agricultural mustering	679	17.7	184.7	127.8
	Agriculture - other	493	19.3	14.2	16.1
	Construction - sling loads	33	18.5	1.6	2.3
	Construction - other	5	16.6	0.2	0.3
	Photography	568	19.1	12.4	9.4
	Pipeline or powerline surveying	459	19.5	25.4	15.2
	Other surveying	510	17.6	22.5	21.2
	Observation and Patrol	452	18.2	25.0	11.8
	Search and rescue	97	19.0	9.1	13.4
	Policing	37	15.6	8.5	9.4
	Firefighting	592	18.8	27.1	33.1
	Advertising	13	36.1	0.7	0.5
	Other aerial work	843	22.4	88.6	120.6
Own Use Business	Own business travel	2254	28.7	131.7	124.7
Instructional flying	Instructional flying - commercial	1037	23.9	308.7	598.7
	Instructional flying - non-commercial	610	27.7	30.9	58.8
Sport & pleasure flying	Glider towing	41	48.3	4.1	30.3
	Parachute dropping	1031	42.2	22.6	50.5
	Aerobatics	152	28.9	3.6	6.8
	Joyflights/sightseeing charters	466	23.6	58.9	95.2
	Pleasure and personal transport	3727	35.4	119.1	131.9
	Community service flights	50	29.7	1.9	1.4
	Other sport and pleasure flying	739	25.5	14.1	19.8
Other flying	Test flights	428	22.3	2.5	4.5
	Ferry flights	683	24.1	10.1	7.9
	Other flights	428	29.4	22.1	34.9
<b>Total General Aviation</b>		9444 <sup>c</sup>	30.1	1 246.8	1 792.4
<b>Total</b>		10492 <sup>d</sup>	29.2	2 998.2	3 045.2

<sup>a</sup> As at end of 2016<sup>b</sup> The sum of all Commercial Air Transport category's aircraft will exceed Total Commercial Air Transport aircraft as some aircraft operate in multiple categories.<sup>c</sup> The sum of all General Aviation category's aircraft will exceed Total General Aviation aircraft as some aircraft operate in multiple categories.<sup>d</sup> The sum of Total General Aviation and Total Commercial Air Transport aircraft will exceed Total aircraft as some aircraft operate in both industry sectors.

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey



**Table 8** Hours flown by broad activity type, by state or territory (2016), for VH-registered aircraft

State or Territory	Commercial Air Transport		General Aviation					Total
	Scheduled	Non-scheduled	Aerial Work	Own Use Business	Instructional flying	Sport & pleasure	Other flying	
	(thousands)							
Intrastate								
NSW	144.2	46.2	107.0	36.2	88.1	65.1	7.2	493.9
QLD	23.9	102.1	163.9	42.0	53.6	57.0	10.0	452.4
WA	83.0	92.3	107.6	14.8	73.1	29.2	4.9	404.8
VIC	30.3	34.3	56.2	19.7	79.2	42.1	5.0	266.9
NT	23.1	59.3	50.2	8.4	2.4	8.0	4.6	156.0
SA	16.6	22.5	20.9	8.5	39.2	16.3	2.5	126.6
ACT	17.5	2.1	2.1	0.4	1.1	3.8	0.2	27.2
TAS	3.4	3.3	8.6	1.9	2.8	2.8	0.3	23.1
Interstate	666.8							666.8
International	380.5							380.5
Australia	1 389.4	362.0	516.5	131.7	339.6	224.2	34.8	2 998.2

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey

Note: Major Airlines are classified to Interstate and International

**Table 9** Landings by broad activity type, by state or territory (2016), for VH-registered aircraft

State or Territory	Commercial Air Transport		General Aviation					Total
	Scheduled	Non-scheduled	Aerial Work	Own Use Business	Instructional flying	Sport & pleasure	Other flying	
	(thousands)							
Intrastate								
NSW	157.6	66.7	197.8	35.1	158.5	102.9	9.0	727.8
QLD	28.0	145.6	181.3	39.8	82.6	89.1	13.7	580.2
WA	52.6	104.6	87.3	13.1	147.6	44.0	6.8	456.0
VIC	39.9	65.8	65.7	18.2	150.6	58.9	9.2	408.3
SA	18.6	22.8	31.6	8.6	108.4	20.1	3.2	213.3
NT	27.3	72.2	45.8	7.9	2.8	11.8	4.7	172.5
TAS	6.1	6.4	15.7	1.5	4.8	4.9	0.4	39.8
ACT	14.1	2.8	1.6	0.5	2.0	4.3	0.2	25.5
Interstate	361.4							361.4
International	60.4							60.4
Australia	765.9	486.9	626.9	124.7	657.5	336.0	47.3	3 045.2

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey

Note: Major Airlines are classified to Interstate and International

**Table 10** Hours flown and landings by engine type (2016), for VH-registered aircraft

		Jet aircraft		Turbo-prop aircraft		Turbo-shaft aircraft		Piston engine aircraft	
		Hours flown	Landings	Hours flown	Landings	Hours flown	Landings	Hours flown	Landings
(thousands)									
Commercial Air Transport	Scheduled	1 130.3	473.3	235.9	256.3	0.0	0.0	23.3	36.3
	Non-scheduled	40.6	24.1	122.1	119.1	65.0	151.4	134.4	192.4
General Aviation	Aerial Work	6.1	3.9	93.9	162.5	95.3	144.9	321.1	315.6
	Own Use Business	11.3	6.6	11.0	10.5	5.6	8.6	103.9	99.1
	Instructional flying	1.9	1.5	6.0	5.5	5.0	8.4	326.6	642.1
	Sport & pleasure	0.9	0.9	18.4	41.8	11.1	25.8	193.8	267.4
	Other flying	3.0	1.6	7.7	7.6	5.7	14.5	18.4	23.6
Total		1 194.1	511.8	494.9	603.3	187.7	353.5	1 121.5	1 576.6

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey

**Table 11** Hours flown<sup>a</sup> in Ultralight operations, by state and category of aircraft (2016)

State or Territory	Uncertified aircraft	Certified aircraft							Subtotal (Certified aircraft)	Total
		Commercially manufactured			Amateur-built		Weight shift			
	CAO 95.10	CAO 95.25	CAO 95.55	CAO 101.55	CAO 95.55	CAO 101.28	Powered parachutes	Trikes CAO 95.32		
	(thousands)									
QLD	0.2	3.1	30.5	1.0	9.9	0.4	0.3	1.4	46.5	46.7
NSW	0.2	0.6	21.4	1.7	7.7	0.2	0.1	1.6	33.4	33.6
VIC	0.1	0.3	22.4	0.8	4.1	0.4	1.5	1.1	30.5	30.6
SA	0.2	0.2	11.0	1.0	3.9	0.2	0.2	0.9	17.4	17.5
WA	-	0.1	5.8	0.1	2.2	-	0.0	1.7	10.0	10.0
TAS	-	0.2	1.4	0.9	0.9	-	0.2	0.3	3.9	4.0
ACT	0.0	-	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	2.1	-	2.8	2.8
NT	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.1	2.5	2.7
Unknown	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	0.0	-	0.4	0.4
Australia	1.0	4.8	93.8	5.8	29.9	1.5	4.4	7.1	147.2	148.2

<sup>a</sup> Covers hours flown during the previous 12 months at time of annual renewal of each aircraft's registration.

Note: All statistics courtesy of Recreational Aviation Australia (RA-Aus).

**Table 12** Hours flown<sup>a</sup> in Ultralight operations, by category of aircraft (2006–2016)

Year	Uncertified aircraft	Certified aircraft							Subtotal (Certified aircraft)	Total
		Commercially manufactured			Amateur-built		Weight shift			
	CAO 95.10	CAO 95.25	CAO 95.55	CAO 101.55	CAO 95.55	CAO 101.28	Powered parachutes	Trikes CAO 95.32		
	(thousands)									
2006	5.1	15.3	32.8	25.2	31.1	3.3	3.0	4.5	115.1	120.2
2007	4.0	13.1	55.8	21.3	31.9	3.1	3.4	5.6	134.2	138.3
2008	2.9	11.7	71.2	19.1	36.7	3.5	3.9	7.2	153.3	156.2
2009	2.8	11.6	88.3	16.8	39.7	3.3	4.2	7.5	171.5	174.3
2010	3.0	9.0	111.8	12.3	41.0	3.0	3.5	16.7	197.4	200.4
2011	2.1	6.4	121.7	9.6	38.5	1.8	2.3	16.2	196.6	198.6
2012	1.0	6.9	125.1	8.5	34.0	1.4	2.9	8.1	186.9	187.9
2013	1.0	7.1	90.2	10.5	30.5	1.4	2.3	10.5	152.5	153.5
2014	2.4	7.8	112.8	7.7	32.0	1.4	2.6	9.4	173.7	176.1
2015	1.0	7.9	103.6	7.9	35.1	2.0	2.5	7.1	166.0	167.0
2016	1.0	4.8	93.8	5.8	29.9	1.5	4.4	7.1	147.2	148.2

<sup>a</sup> Covers hours flown during the previous 12 months at time of annual renewal of each aircraft's registration.

Note: All statistics courtesy of Recreational Aviation Australia (RA-Aus).

<sup>r</sup> revised

# Survey Form



**Australian Government**

**Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development**

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics

## General Aviation Activity Survey

Year ended 31 December 2016

This information is collected under the authority of Air Navigation Regulation 2016, Part 2 which provides penalties for non-compliance. This survey has been approved by the Australian Government Statistical Clearing House (Approval Number 00560—11).

**Please return the completed form by 30 August 2017.**

For all aircraft operated in the year ending 31 December 2016, please provide aircraft registrations, postcode of aircraft base, and number of hours flown and landings. Flying activity performed entirely outside Australia or its Territories should not be recorded.

Name:	Username:
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		Aircraft Registration (a)						
		Postcode of Aircraft Base (b)	Hours	Landings	Hours	Landings	Hours	Landings
Commercial Air Transport	Scheduled	International						
		Domestic						
		Freight only						
	Non-Scheduled	Passenger transport charters						
		Air ambulance						
		Freight only						
General Aviation	Aerial Work	Other commercial air transport						
		Agricultural spreading / spraying						
		Agricultural mustering						
		Agriculture - other						
		Construction - sling loads						
		Construction - other						
		Photography						
		Pipeline or powerline surveying						
		Other surveying						
		Observation and Patrol						
		Search and Rescue						
		Policing						
		Firefighting						
		Advertising						
		Other aerial work						
	Own business travel							
		Instructional flying - commercial						
		Instructional flying - non-commercial						
	Sport & pleasure flying	Glider towing						
		Parachute dropping						
		Aerobatics						
		Joyflights / sightseeing charters						
		Pleasure and personal transport						
		Community service flights						
		Other sport and pleasure flying						
	Other flying	Test flights						
		Ferry flights						
		Other Flights						

Additional comments:		
Email:	Phone:	Date:

- (a) Aircraft Registration: Pre-printed registrations are based on information supplied by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority. Please add any additional aircraft you operated in 2016 that are not listed. If insufficient room please photocopy form and attach additional sheets.
- (b) Aircraft Base: Please indicate the postcode of the aerodrome or landing area at which the aircraft was most frequently based during 2016. For balloon operations, indicate the postcode of the general area from which most flying was conducted.

## DEFINITIONS

Flying hours should be recorded on the basis of the types of flying in which the aircraft was engaged, as defined below. Total time (including taxi time) is preferred, but airborne time or tacho time is acceptable if total time is not readily available.

Careful estimates are acceptable where exact figures are not readily available. *If your aircraft was inactive for all of 2016, please provide a 'Nil flying' response by entering '0' in the Hours and Landings fields, as this is required for producing accurate estimates of activity.*

### Commercial Air Transport

#### Scheduled

*International*  
*Domestic RPT*  
*Freight only*

Scheduled operations of international airlines operating into/out of Australia.  
Scheduled operations of domestic airlines operating within Australia.  
Scheduled operations carrying freight only.

#### Non Scheduled

*Passenger transport charters*

*Air Ambulance*

*Freight only*

*Other commercial air transport*

Flying involving the carriage of passengers by the aircraft operator or his/her employees for hire or reward (but excluding scheduled airline operations).  
Operations as an aerial ambulance for the transport of ill or injured persons (excluding Angel flights).  
Flying involving the carriage of cargo by the aircraft operator or his/her employees for hire or reward (but excluding scheduled airline operations).  
Includes on-demand charter and all other commercial air transport not classified elsewhere.

### General Aviation

#### Aerial Work

*Agricultural spreading / spraying*

*Agricultural mustering*

*Other agriculture*

*Construction – sling loads*

*Construction – other*

*Photography*

*Pipeline or powerline surveying*

*Other Surveying*

*Observation and patrol*

*Search and rescue*

*Policing*

*Fire fighting*

*Advertising*

*Other Aerial work*

Flying involving the spreading/spraying of chemicals, seeds, and fertilisers. This includes flights to and from the spread / spray area.  
Aerial stock mustering involving the direct use of aircraft for the movement of livestock.  
Other agricultural activity including aerial culling and baiting.  
Flying using sling loads for construction purposes.  
Includes all flying for construction purposes, excluding sling loads.  
All aerial photographic work.  
Aerial inspection patrols along pipelines or powerlines.  
Flying involving the use of aircraft for surveying not classified elsewhere. Includes geophysical surveys.  
Flying involving the use of aircraft for aerial observations and patrol. Includes coastal surveillance.  
Includes any search missions, as well as evacuation or rescue work.  
Flying involving the use of aircraft in police operations, includes traffic control, ground support, high-speed car pursuits, observation, air patrol etc.  
Flying involving the use of aircraft to combat fires (e.g. spotting, water bombing etc.). This includes flights to and from the fire area.  
Includes skywriting and banner towing advertising.  
Includes aerial spotting (stock, fish, etc.), cloud seeding, etc.

#### Own-use business travel

Business flying not through a hire or reward arrangement.

<b>Instructional flying</b>	Flying involving training for the issue or renewal of a licence or rating, aircraft type endorsement or conversion training. Includes solo navigation exercises conducted as part of a course of applied flying training.
<b>Sport and pleasure flying</b>	
<i>Pleasure and personal transport</i>	Flying for private pleasure, or personal transport not associated with a business or profession.
<i>Community service flights</i>	Flights that are provided on a voluntary basis for public benefit. This includes non-emergency flights provided as part of an organised voluntary or charitable activity. This does not include flights where a pilot provides a flight to a friend or family member.
<i>Glider towing</i>	Includes the use of aircraft for glider towing.
<i>Parachute dropping</i>	Flying associated with the dropping of parachutists.
<i>Aerobatics</i>	Aerobatic flight involves manoeuvres intentionally performed by an aircraft involving an abrupt change in its attitude, an abnormal attitude, or an abnormal variation in speed.
<i>Joyflights / sightseeing charters</i>	Flying involving the carriage of passengers for joyflights or sightseeing purposes that take off and land at the same location.
<i>Other sport and pleasure flying</i>	Other sport and pleasure flying not classified elsewhere.
<b>Other flying</b>	
<i>Test</i>	Flying associated with the testing of an aircraft.
<i>Ferry</i>	Flying associated with an aircraft delivery or movement to a location for maintenance, hire or other planned use.
<i>Other flying</i>	Flying not classified elsewhere.

## DIFFICULTIES AND ENQUIRES

The aircraft and operator/owner details included on this form are provided to the Bureau by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority shortly before dispatch of the survey forms. Although the latest available information is used, there will inevitably be a number of short-term discrepancies involving recent changes of operator, ownership or address.

Should any discrepancies occur over the longer term, please advise your local CASA office.

If you have any questions relating to the survey, please contact Aviation Statistics Section on (02) 6274 6135, fax (02) 6274 7727 or email [avstats@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:avstats@infrastructure.gov.au).



# Definitions

Advertising	Includes skywriting and banner towing advertising.
Aerobatics	Aerobatic flight involves manoeuvres intentionally performed by an aircraft involving an abrupt change in its attitude, an abnormal attitude, or an abnormal variation in speed.
Agricultural mustering	Aerial stock mustering involving the direct use of aircraft for the movement of livestock.
Agricultural spreading / spraying	Flying involving the spreading/spraying of chemicals, seeds, and fertilisers. This includes flights to and from the spread / spray area.
Air Ambulance	Operations as an aerial ambulance for the transport of ill or injured persons (excluding Angel flights).
Commercial Air Transport	An aircraft operation involving the transport of passengers, cargo or mail for remuneration or hire.
Community service flights	Flights that are provided on a voluntary basis for public benefit. This includes non-emergency flights provided as part of an organised voluntary or charitable activity. This does not include flights where a pilot provides a flight to a friend or family member.
Construction – other	Includes all flying for construction purposes, excluding sling loads.
Construction – sling loads	Flying using sling loads for construction purposes.
Domestic RPT	Scheduled operations of domestic airlines operating within Australia.
Ferry	Flying associated with an aircraft delivery or movement to a location for maintenance, hire or other planned use.
Fire fighting	Flying involving the use of aircraft to combat fires (e.g. spotting, water bombing etc.). This includes flights to and from the fire area.
General Aviation	An aircraft operation other than a commercial air transport operation.
Glider towing	Includes the use of aircraft for glider towing.
Instructional flying	Flying involving training for the issue or renewal of a licence or rating, aircraft type endorsement or conversion training. Includes solo navigation exercises conducted as part of a course of applied flying training.
International	Scheduled operations of international airlines operating into/out of Australia.

Joyflights / sightseeing charters	Flying involving the carriage of passengers for joyflights or sightseeing purposes that take off and land at the same location.
Non- scheduled Freight only	Flying involving the carriage of cargo by the aircraft operator or his/her employees for hire or reward (but excluding scheduled airline operations).
Observation and patrol	Flying involving the use of aircraft for aerial observations and patrol. Includes coastal surveillance.
Other Aerial work	Includes aerial spotting (stock, fish, etc.), cloud seeding, etc.
Other agriculture	Other agricultural activity including aerial culling and baiting.
Other commercial air transport	Includes on-demand charter and all other commercial air transport not classified elsewhere.
Other flying	Flying not classified elsewhere.
Other sport and pleasure flying	Other sport and pleasure flying not classified elsewhere.
Other Surveying	Flying involving the use of aircraft for surveying not classified elsewhere. Includes geophysical surveys.
Own-use business travel	Business flying not through a hire or reward arrangement.
Parachute dropping	Flying associated with the dropping of parachutists.
Passenger transport charters	Flying involving the carriage of passengers by the aircraft operator or his/her employees for hire or reward (but excluding scheduled airline operations).
Photography	All aerial photographic work.
Pipeline or powerline surveying	Aerial inspection patrols along pipelines or powerlines.
Pleasure and personal transport	Flying for private pleasure, or personal transport not associated with a business or profession.
Policing	Flying involving the use of aircraft in police operations, includes traffic control, ground support, high-speed car pursuits, observation, air patrol etc.
Scheduled Freight only	Scheduled operations carrying freight only.
Search and rescue	Includes any search missions, as well as evacuation or rescue work.
Test	Flying associated with the testing of an aircraft.

# Aviation Statistics publications

These publications and data releases are available in electronic format, and can be downloaded free of charge from the Department's website at [www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/aviation/index.aspx](http://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/aviation/index.aspx)

## Airline On Time Performance

Produced: Monthly, calendar and financial years.

Contents: Domestic airline on time performance by airline, route and airport.

## Airport Traffic Data

Produced: Calendar and financial year, monthly for top 20 airports.

Contents: Time series of airport activity for the international, domestic and regional RPT sectors.

## Australian Aircraft Activity

Produced: Calendar year.

Contents: Commercial Air Transport and General Aviation flying activity; hours flown and landings by category of operation and aircraft type; numbers of aircraft by type.

## Australian Air Distances

Produced: As required.

Contents: Air distances covering routes operated on commercial services.

## Australian Domestic Aviation Activity

Produced: Monthly, calendar and financial year.

Contents: Data supplied by Australian airlines operating over Australian flight stages; traffic on top competitive city pairs and industry totals.

## Avline

Produced: Financial year.

Contents: Overview of Australian aviation industry including traffic data, air fares, and airport charges.

## Domestic Airfares indexes

Produced: Monthly.

Contents: Time series of fare indexes covering business, full economy, restricted economy and best discount fares.

## International Airline Activity

Produced: Monthly, calendar and financial year.

Contents: Comprehensive data on all international services to/from Australia. International passenger and freight traffic; operator market shares; city pair data; industry analysis.





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