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Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.

We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their Elders both past and present.

FOREWORD

This report provides an overview of domestic (including charter) commercial aviation activity in Australia for the month of August 2026.

The data covers revenue passengers carried by Australian-registered operators of scheduled Regular Public Transport (RPT) services over Australian flight stages and fixed-wing charter operators. These estimates include passengers carried between domestic airports on international flights operated by these carriers. 'Passengers carried' refers to traffic on board by stages.

Estimates of passengers and aircraft movements for charter aviation are included in this publication where BITRE confidentiality standards are met.

Individual routes shown are restricted to those with an average exceeding 8,000 passengers per month over the previous 6 months where 2 or more airlines operate in competition.

Information on the total network for the month of August 2026 and on the RPT network for the month of August 2026 is presented on page 2, with estimates for the year ended August 2026 presented on page 3.

Detailed information on individual routes can be found in the RPT summary pages 4-13 of this publication. For the month of August 2026, there are 61 individual routes published.

The top 10 airports in terms of RPT passenger movements are shown on page 14.

Data on domestic RPT cargo movements at the top 5 cargo airports are provided on page 15. The table includes cargo carried on passenger flights operated by the Qantas group (including Jetstar), Virgin Australia, Airnorth and Skippers as well as the cargo carried by dedicated freighter aircraft operated by Qantas Freight and Team Global Express.

Commercial airline cargo operations commenced at Western Sydney International Airport on 26 July 2026. Cargo movement data at Western Sydney International will be published in the 'Top 5 airports by cargo movements' table when the airport ranks among the top 5 airports by cargo movements, and when the number of operators serving the airport is sufficient to allow publication of the data while meeting confidentiality requirements.

The long-term trends for the top 10 competitive RPT routes are presented graphically on pages 16-25.

Domestic RPT passenger movements at regional airports are shown on pages 26-27.

Tables providing estimates of domestic charter aviation activity are shown on page 28. BITRE confidentiality standards restrict publication of detailed estimates for individual Australian airports except for Perth Airport.

A list of definitions can be found on page 29.

This report was prepared by the Aviation Statistics Section of the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics with data provided by airlines.

Estimates are included where data were not available and data presented in this publication may contain revisions to previously published data.

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals, and in percentage changes which are derived from figures prior to rounding.

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HIGHLIGHTS

There were 5.41 million passengers carried on Australian domestic commercial aviation (including charter operations) in August 2026, compared with 5.42 million in August 2025 (down 0.1%). This is also a decrease of 0.3% on pre-COVID August 2019 passenger numbers (5.43 million).

5.02 million passengers were carried on RPT flights in August 2026 (excluding charter operations), a decrease of 0.8% compared to August 2025.

For the month of August 2026, there were 48.9 thousand RPT aircraft trips, a decrease of 3.6% on August 2025.

For the year ending August 2026 there were 60.69 million RPT passengers, an increase of 1.5% on the year ending August 2025.

RPT revenue passenger km (RPKs) performed were 6.11 billion for the month, compared with 6.13 billion in August 2025 (down 0.3%).

Capacity, measured by available seat km (ASKs), decreased to 7.23 billion in August 2026 compared with 7.45 billion in August 2025 (down 2.9%).

The industry-wide load factor (RPKs/ASKs) increased from 82.2% in August 2025 to 84.5% in August 2026. The highest load factor (94.4%) was recorded on the Gold Coast – Melbourne route while the lowest load factor (52.7%) was recorded on the Geraldton – Perth route.

For the month of August 2026, Melbourne – Sydney was Australia's busiest RPT route with 673.1 thousand passengers, followed by Brisbane – Sydney with 363.7 thousand passengers and Brisbane – Melbourne with 313.4 thousand passengers.

Sydney Kingsford Smith was Australia's busiest domestic airport with 2.09 million passenger movements in August 2026, followed by Melbourne with 1.98 million passenger movements and Brisbane with 1.51 million passenger movements.

Total cargo movements at Australian airports on domestic RPT flights were 25.5 thousand tonnes in August 2026, a decrease of 2.1% compared with August 2025.

In August 2026, there were 2.20 million domestic passenger movements through regional airports, a decrease of 1.1% from August 2025. Out of the top 50 regional airports, the largest increase was recorded at Armidale Airport (up 13.8% on August 2025), while the strongest decrease was recorded at Kununurra Airport (down 16.5% on August 2025).

Fixed-wing charter operators carried 392.7 thousand passengers in August 2026, an increase of 10.1% compared with August 2025. There were 6.5 thousand charter aircraft trips in August 2026, an increase of 9.4% compared with August 2025. Perth Airport accounted for 35.8% of all charter passengers in Australia.

TOTAL NETWORK

Summary of monthly commercial aviation activity

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	5.42	5.41	-0.1
Aircraft trips (000s)	56.7	55.5	-2.2

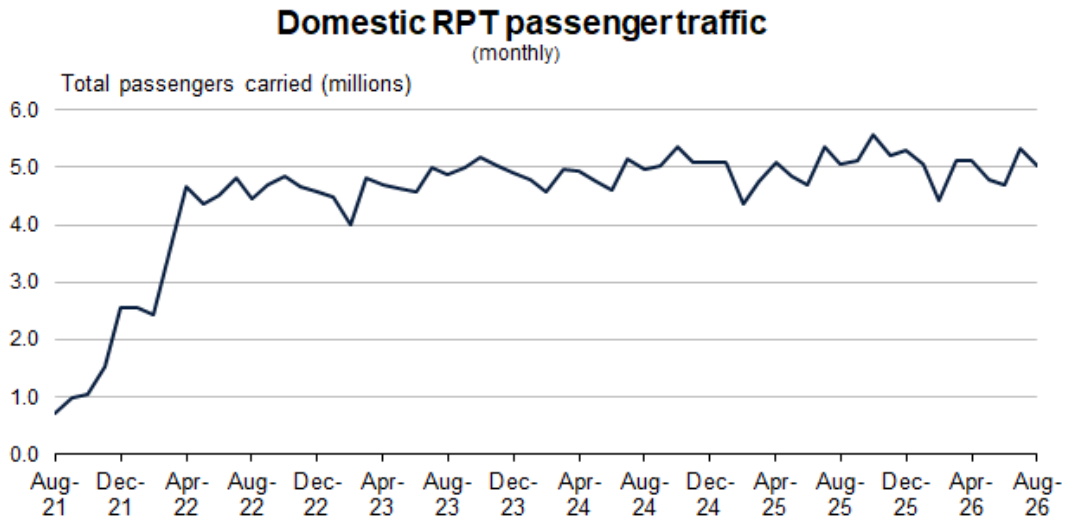
Note: Regular Public Transport and charter aviation activity
Helicopter, joy flights and sightseeing charter flights not included.

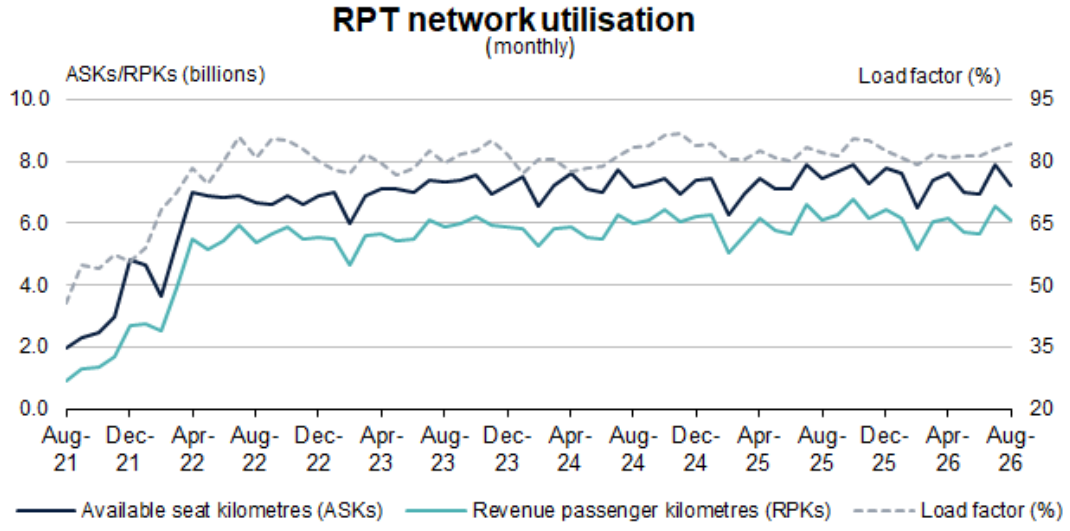
RPT network

Summary of monthly RPT activity

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	5.06	5.02	-0.8
Revenue passenger kilometres (billions)	6.13	6.11	-0.3
Available seats (millions)	6.26	6.07	-3.1
Available seat kilometres (billions)	7.45	7.23	-2.9
Load factor (%)	82.2	84.5	2.2 *
Aircraft trips (000s)	50.7	48.9	-3.6

* percentage point difference





TOTAL NETWORK

Summary of annual commercial aviation activity

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	64.08	65.31	1.9
Aircraft trips (000s)	673.4	678.3	0.7

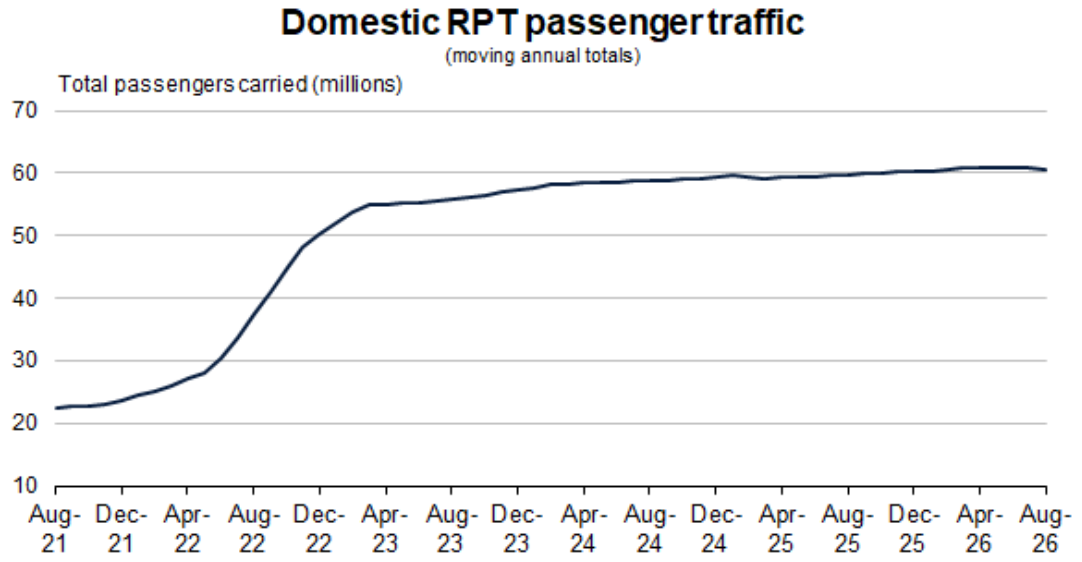
Note: Regular Public Transport and charter aviation activity
Helicopter, joy flights and sightseeing charter flights not included.

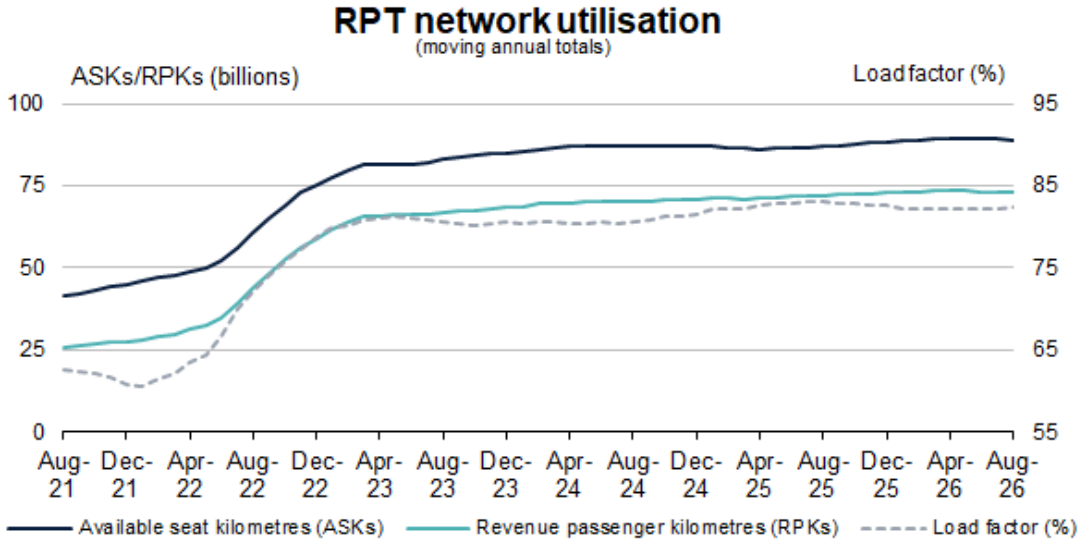
RPT NETWORK

Summary of annual RPT activity

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	59.77	60.69	1.5
Revenue passenger kilometres (billions)	72.08	73.22	1.6
Available seats (millions)	73.56	75.04	2.0
Available seat kilometres (billions)	86.82	88.85	2.3
Load factor (%)	83.0	82.4	-0.6 *
Aircraft trips (000s)	599.6	600.4	0.1

* percentage point difference





TOP COMPETITIVE ROUTES

Table 1: Passengers carried (000s) — annual activity

	City-Pair	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	8 116.3	8 052.5	-0.8
2	Brisbane - Sydney	4 360.5	4 419.7	1.4
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	3 581.6	3 706.0	3.5
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	2 481.7	2 602.1	4.9
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	2 337.8	2 415.1	3.3
6	Gold Coast - Melbourne	2 103.4	2 207.8	5.0
7	Melbourne - Perth	2 079.2	2 087.4	0.4
8	Adelaide - Sydney	1 897.1	1 908.6	0.6
9	Perth - Sydney	1 727.0	1 740.7	0.8
10	Hobart - Melbourne	1 432.9	1 451.0	1.3
11	Brisbane - Cairns	1 309.7	1 302.2	-0.6
12	Brisbane - Perth	1 137.6	1 140.3	0.2
13	Brisbane - Townsville	966.5	1 030.7	6.6
14	Canberra - Melbourne	983.9	938.7	-4.6
15	Adelaide - Brisbane	865.5	913.7	5.6
16	Cairns - Sydney	922.8	904.2	-2.0
17	Launceston - Melbourne	879.0	891.8	1.5
18	Cairns - Melbourne	864.7	850.4	-1.6
19	Hobart - Sydney	832.0	835.3	0.4
20	Brisbane - Mackay	788.9	827.8	4.9
21	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	790.3	820.3	3.8
22	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	735.0	774.2	5.3
23	Adelaide - Perth	715.0	735.0	2.8
24	Karratha - Perth	655.7	728.9	11.2
25	Brisbane - Canberra	649.8	674.9	3.9
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	609.0	608.2	-0.1
27	Canberra - Sydney	621.4	572.2	-7.9
28	Brisbane - Newcastle	522.1	528.1	1.2
29	Perth - Port Hedland	480.0	507.7	5.8
30	Ballina - Sydney	493.2	472.5	-4.2
31	Melbourne - Newcastle	469.2	464.2	-1.0
32	Kalgoorlie - Perth	378.7	447.0	18.1
33	Newman - Perth	432.2	444.4	2.8
34	Broome - Perth	367.2	378.0	2.9
35	Launceston - Sydney	348.8	360.4	3.3
36	Brisbane - Darwin	354.6	345.9	-2.5
37	Brisbane - Hobart	318.8	331.2	3.9
38	Adelaide - Gold Coast	281.3	302.0	7.3
39	Darwin - Melbourne	301.3	300.1	-0.4
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	290.9	295.0	1.4
41	Hamilton Island - Sydney	254.6	222.9	-12.4
42	Brisbane - Gladstone	219.5	216.9	-1.2
43	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	201.1	210.8	4.8
44	Adelaide - Canberra	195.2	196.4	0.6
45	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	164.1	194.1	18.3
46	Brisbane - Emerald	189.0	189.7	0.4
47	Dubbo - Sydney	170.5	187.1	9.7
48	Canberra - Gold Coast	175.4	179.1	2.1
49	Darwin - Perth	191.2	177.8	-7.0
50	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	164.0	174.4	6.3

continued

Table 1: Passengers carried (000s) — annual activity (continued)

	City-Pair	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
51	Port Macquarie - Sydney	164.1	170.8	4.1
52	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	166.1	170.4	2.6
53	Albury - Sydney	153.8	164.4	6.9
54	Brisbane - Launceston	154.2	160.8	4.3
55	Brisbane - Mount Isa	152.3	150.5	-1.2
56	Melbourne - Mildura	150.2	150.4	0.1
57	Brisbane - Bundaberg	140.1	141.3	0.9
58	Geraldton - Perth	120.2	122.7	2.1
59	Ayers Rock - Melbourne	114.2	121.9	6.7
60	Adelaide - Alice Springs	104.2	103.4	-0.8
61	Orange - Sydney	85.5	102.1	19.4
	Total domestic network	**59 770.6**	**60 692.5**	**1.5**

Table 2: Passengers carried (000s) — monthly activity

	City-Pair	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	684.9	673.1	-1.7
2	Brisbane - Sydney	368.8	363.7	-1.4
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	307.3	313.4	2.0
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	213.9	207.4	-3.0
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	197.1	193.3	-1.9
6	Melbourne - Perth	161.9	163.4	1.0
7	Gold Coast - Melbourne	157.7	148.9	-5.6
8	Adelaide - Sydney	145.7	147.6	1.3
9	Perth - Sydney	133.4	139.0	4.1
10	Brisbane - Cairns	118.6	117.0	-1.3
11	Hobart - Melbourne	107.2	103.7	-3.2
12	Brisbane - Perth	89.1	92.4	3.7
13	Brisbane - Townsville	87.4	90.4	3.5
14	Cairns - Sydney	88.5	83.6	-5.5
15	Cairns - Melbourne	81.5	78.6	-3.5
16	Canberra - Melbourne	84.7	76.5	-9.7
17	Adelaide - Brisbane	72.1	73.2	1.5
18	Brisbane - Mackay	71.5	70.6	-1.3
19	Launceston - Melbourne	70.1	68.8	-1.8
20	Karratha - Perth	58.9	65.7	11.5
21	Brisbane - Canberra	60.4	63.1	4.5
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	65.9	62.9	-4.6
23	Adelaide - Perth	56.8	59.7	5.2
24	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	58.4	57.9	-0.8
25	Hobart - Sydney	60.3	57.1	-5.3
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	52.8	55.3	4.8
27	Canberra - Sydney	52.4	47.3	-9.8
28	Brisbane - Newcastle	45.8	45.2	-1.3
29	Perth - Port Hedland	40.9	44.9	10.0
30	Kalgoorlie - Perth	36.6	40.6	10.8
31	Broome - Perth	39.0	39.6	1.4
32	Melbourne - Newcastle	38.6	36.9	-4.4
33	Newman - Perth	36.0	35.8	-0.6
34	Darwin - Melbourne	30.3	35.4	17.1
35	Ballina - Sydney	34.2	35.3	3.1
36	Brisbane - Darwin	38.4	33.7	-12.2
37	Brisbane - Proserpine	25.7	27.8	8.4
38	Adelaide - Gold Coast	23.7	27.2	14.9
39	Brisbane - Hobart	24.0	24.6	2.4
40	Launceston - Sydney	23.0	23.4	1.4
41	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	16.2	18.5	14.4
42	Brisbane - Gladstone	18.8	18.2	-3.1
43	Dubbo - Sydney	15.4	17.7	15.0
44	Darwin - Perth	19.3	17.6	-9.1
45	Hamilton Island - Sydney	22.7	17.5	-22.9
46	Adelaide - Canberra	16.3	16.8	3.2
47	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	13.3	16.8	26.3
48	Brisbane - Emerald	16.5	16.2	-1.5
49	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	14.8	15.4	4.2
50	Albury - Sydney	13.4	14.8	9.8

continued

Table 2: Passengers carried (000s) — monthly activity (continued)

	City-Pair	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
51	Canberra - Gold Coast	16.5	14.6	-11.5
52	Port Macquarie - Sydney	13.8	14.4	4.2
53	Brisbane - Mount Isa	14.0	14.1	0.5
54	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	13.1	13.9	6.0
55	Brisbane - Bundaberg	12.2	12.8	5.6
56	Melbourne - Mildura	12.4	12.1	-2.5
57	Brisbane - Launceston	10.6	11.4	7.7
58	Ayers Rock - Melbourne	10.1	11.2	11.3
59	Geraldton - Perth	10.6	10.4	-2.0
60	Adelaide - Alice Springs	8.9	9.7	8.8
61	Orange - Sydney	7.6	8.7	15.0
	Total domestic network	**5 062.0**	**5 019.5**	**-0.8**

Table 3: Available seats (000s) — monthly activity

	City-Pair	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	811.2	765.4	-5.6
2	Brisbane - Sydney	424.5	406.2	-4.3
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	350.6	347.3	-0.9
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	239.6	230.0	-4.0
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	238.1	232.6	-2.3
6	Melbourne - Perth	194.8	183.7	-5.7
7	Gold Coast - Melbourne	169.5	157.8	-6.9
8	Adelaide - Sydney	191.7	191.5	-0.1
9	Perth - Sydney	169.1	167.4	-1.0
10	Brisbane - Cairns	133.2	127.2	-4.5
11	Hobart - Melbourne	121.6	116.5	-4.2
12	Brisbane - Perth	109.4	111.4	1.8
13	Brisbane - Townsville	102.5	110.6	7.9
14	Cairns - Sydney	95.0	91.4	-3.8
15	Cairns - Melbourne	86.1	83.6	-2.9
16	Canberra - Melbourne	116.4	99.2	-14.8
17	Adelaide - Brisbane	84.7	82.7	-2.3
18	Brisbane - Mackay	98.2	84.7	-13.7
19	Launceston - Melbourne	81.0	79.0	-2.5
20	Karratha - Perth	80.4	93.0	15.7
21	Brisbane - Canberra	74.3	78.8	6.1
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	76.9	72.0	-6.4
23	Adelaide - Perth	72.2	79.8	10.6
24	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	61.4	61.6	0.3
25	Hobart - Sydney	70.5	65.4	-7.1
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	63.6	75.9	19.3
27	Canberra - Sydney	84.2	64.8	-23.0
28	Brisbane - Newcastle	56.3	56.2	-0.2
29	Perth - Port Hedland	62.8	68.7	9.4
30	Kalgoorlie - Perth	61.0	62.5	2.4
31	Broome - Perth	45.8	50.7	10.6
32	Melbourne - Newcastle	46.3	43.0	-7.1
33	Newman - Perth	57.7	60.0	4.0
34	Darwin - Melbourne	36.2	39.7	9.6
35	Ballina - Sydney	39.4	41.4	5.1
36	Brisbane - Darwin	48.5	38.6	-20.3
37	Brisbane - Proserpine	27.5	30.4	10.9
38	Adelaide - Gold Coast	25.6	29.2	14.1
39	Brisbane - Hobart	25.7	27.2	5.5
40	Launceston - Sydney	25.7	26.8	4.3
41	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	21.0	25.2	20.0
42	Brisbane - Gladstone	28.3	27.5	-2.7
43	Dubbo - Sydney	22.4	25.1	12.0
44	Darwin - Perth	27.9	20.2	-27.5
45	Hamilton Island - Sydney	27.2	20.2	-25.5
46	Adelaide - Canberra	24.1	25.2	4.7
47	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	15.9	19.3	21.3
48	Brisbane - Emerald	25.3	23.8	-5.7
49	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	21.0	22.1	5.3
50	Albury - Sydney	17.6	20.3	15.5

continued

Table 3: Available seats (000s) — monthly activity (continued)

	City-Pair	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
51	Canberra - Gold Coast	17.9	16.0	-10.5
52	Port Macquarie - Sydney	19.2	21.1	10.1
53	Brisbane - Mount Isa	22.8	20.3	-11.1
54	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	24.0	24.4	1.9
55	Brisbane - Bundaberg	17.8	19.8	11.3
56	Melbourne - Mildura	17.6	17.9	1.6
57	Brisbane - Launceston	11.5	12.1	5.9
58	Ayers Rock - Melbourne	11.5	12.3	7.2
59	Geraldton - Perth	19.2	19.7	2.6
60	Adelaide - Alice Springs	13.1	10.7	-18.0
61	Orange - Sydney	13.5	13.4	-0.7
	Total domestic network	**6 265.0**	**6 071.4**	**-3.1**

Table 4: Load factors (%) — monthly activity

	City-Pair	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Point diff
1	Melbourne - Sydney	84.5	87.9	3.5
2	Brisbane - Sydney	86.9	89.5	2.7
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	87.7	90.2	2.6
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	89.3	90.2	0.9
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	82.8	83.1	0.3
6	Melbourne - Perth	83.1	89.0	5.9
7	Gold Coast - Melbourne	93.0	94.4	1.3
8	Adelaide - Sydney	76.0	77.1	1.1
9	Perth - Sydney	78.9	83.0	4.1
10	Brisbane - Cairns	89.0	92.0	3.0
11	Hobart - Melbourne	88.1	89.0	0.9
12	Brisbane - Perth	81.5	83.0	1.5
13	Brisbane - Townsville	85.3	81.8	-3.5
14	Cairns - Sydney	93.1	91.5	-1.6
15	Cairns - Melbourne	94.7	94.1	-0.6
16	Canberra - Melbourne	72.8	77.2	4.4
17	Adelaide - Brisbane	85.2	88.5	3.3
18	Brisbane - Mackay	72.9	83.3	10.4
19	Launceston - Melbourne	86.5	87.1	0.7
20	Karratha - Perth	73.3	70.6	-2.7
21	Brisbane - Canberra	81.4	80.1	-1.3
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	85.8	87.4	1.6
23	Adelaide - Perth	78.6	74.8	-3.8
24	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	95.0	93.9	-1.1
25	Hobart - Sydney	85.5	87.2	1.7
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	82.9	72.8	-10.1
27	Canberra - Sydney	62.3	72.9	10.6
28	Brisbane - Newcastle	81.4	80.5	-0.9
29	Perth - Port Hedland	65.2	65.4	0.2
30	Kalgoorlie - Perth	60.0	64.9	4.9
31	Broome - Perth	85.2	78.1	-7.1
32	Melbourne - Newcastle	83.4	85.8	2.4
33	Newman - Perth	62.4	59.6	-2.8
34	Darwin - Melbourne	83.5	89.3	5.8
35	Ballina - Sydney	87.0	85.3	-1.7
36	Brisbane - Darwin	79.2	87.3	8.1
37	Brisbane - Proserpine	93.5	91.4	-2.1
38	Adelaide - Gold Coast	92.7	93.4	0.7
39	Brisbane - Hobart	93.3	90.5	-2.8
40	Launceston - Sydney	89.5	87.1	-2.5
41	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	76.9	73.3	-3.6
42	Brisbane - Gladstone	67.0	66.2	-0.8
43	Dubbo - Sydney	68.9	70.8	1.9
44	Darwin - Perth	69.3	86.9	17.6
45	Hamilton Island - Sydney	83.6	86.6	3.0
46	Adelaide - Canberra	67.8	66.9	-0.9
47	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	83.5	86.9	3.4
48	Brisbane - Emerald	65.0	68.0	2.9
49	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	70.4	69.6	-0.7
50	Albury - Sydney	76.5	72.7	-3.7

continued

Table 4: Load factors (%) — monthly activity(continued)

	City-Pair	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Point diff
51	Canberra - Gold Coast	92.4	91.3	-1.1
52	Port Macquarie - Sydney	72.2	68.4	-3.8
53	Brisbane - Mount Isa	61.2	69.3	8.0
54	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	54.8	57.0	2.2
55	Brisbane - Bundaberg	68.4	65.0	-3.5
56	Melbourne - Mildura	70.7	67.9	-2.8
57	Brisbane - Launceston	92.2	93.8	1.6
58	Ayers Rock - Melbourne	87.7	91.1	3.4
59	Geraldton - Perth	55.1	52.7	-2.5
60	Adelaide - Alice Springs	68.4	90.8	22.4
61	Orange - Sydney	56.1	65.0	8.9
	Total domestic network	**82.2**	**84.5**	**2.2**

Table 5: Aircraft trips [(a)] — monthly activity

	City-Pair	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	4 616	4 239	-8.2
2	Brisbane - Sydney	2 511	2 258	-10.1
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	2 136	2 051	-4.0
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	1 361	1 277	-6.2
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	1 403	1 375	-2.0
6	Melbourne - Perth	1 108	1 092	-1.4
7	Gold Coast - Melbourne	904	872	-3.5
8	Adelaide - Sydney	1 123	1 116	-0.6
9	Perth - Sydney	893	900	0.8
10	Brisbane - Cairns	984	854	-13.2
11	Hobart - Melbourne	724	691	-4.6
12	Brisbane - Perth	613	631	2.9
13	Brisbane - Townsville	786	782	-0.5
14	Cairns - Sydney	497	520	4.6
15	Cairns - Melbourne	444	444	0.0
16	Canberra - Melbourne	745	728	-2.3
17	Adelaide - Brisbane	634	517	-18.5
18	Brisbane - Mackay	701	648	-7.6
19	Launceston - Melbourne	611	606	-0.8
20	Karratha - Perth	481	553	15.0
21	Brisbane - Canberra	624	584	-6.4
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	422	429	1.7
23	Adelaide - Perth	400	456	14.0
24	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	328	326	-0.6
25	Hobart - Sydney	414	403	-2.7
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	677	639	-5.6
27	Canberra - Sydney	1 284	1 120	-12.8
28	Brisbane - Newcastle	464	392	-15.5
29	Perth - Port Hedland	403	407	1.0
30	Kalgoorlie - Perth	413	409	-1.0
31	Broome - Perth	281	329	17.1
32	Melbourne - Newcastle	302	281	-7.0
33	Newman - Perth	348	365	4.9
34	Darwin - Melbourne	199	225	13.1
35	Ballina - Sydney	258	292	13.2
36	Brisbane - Darwin	271	223	-17.7
37	Brisbane - Proserpine	168	164	-2.4
38	Adelaide - Gold Coast	124	142	14.5
39	Brisbane - Hobart	155	166	7.1
40	Launceston - Sydney	170	160	-5.9
41	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	372	385	3.5
42	Brisbane - Gladstone	329	330	0.3
43	Dubbo - Sydney	439	455	3.6
44	Darwin - Perth	158	138	-12.7
45	Hamilton Island - Sydney	152	116	-23.7
46	Adelaide - Canberra	224	248	10.7
47	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	124	124	0.0
48	Brisbane - Emerald	336	317	-5.7
49	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	382	390	2.1
50	Albury - Sydney	326	360	10.4

continued

Table 5: Aircraft trips [(a)] — monthly activity (continued)

	City-Pair	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
51	Canberra - Gold Coast	98	88	-10.2
52	Port Macquarie - Sydney	340	349	2.6
53	Brisbane - Mount Isa	200	140	-30.0
54	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	480	492	2.5
55	Brisbane - Bundaberg	290	314	8.3
56	Melbourne - Mildura	349	326	-6.6
57	Brisbane - Launceston	66	64	-3.0
58	Ayers Rock - Melbourne	64	67	4.7
59	Geraldton - Perth	206	208	1.0
60	Adelaide - Alice Springs	153	127	-17.0
61	Orange - Sydney	246	217	-11.8
	Total domestic network	**50 728**	**48 920**	**-3.6**

(a) Includes RPT cargo flights.

TOP 10 AIRPORTS – PASSENGER MOVEMENTS

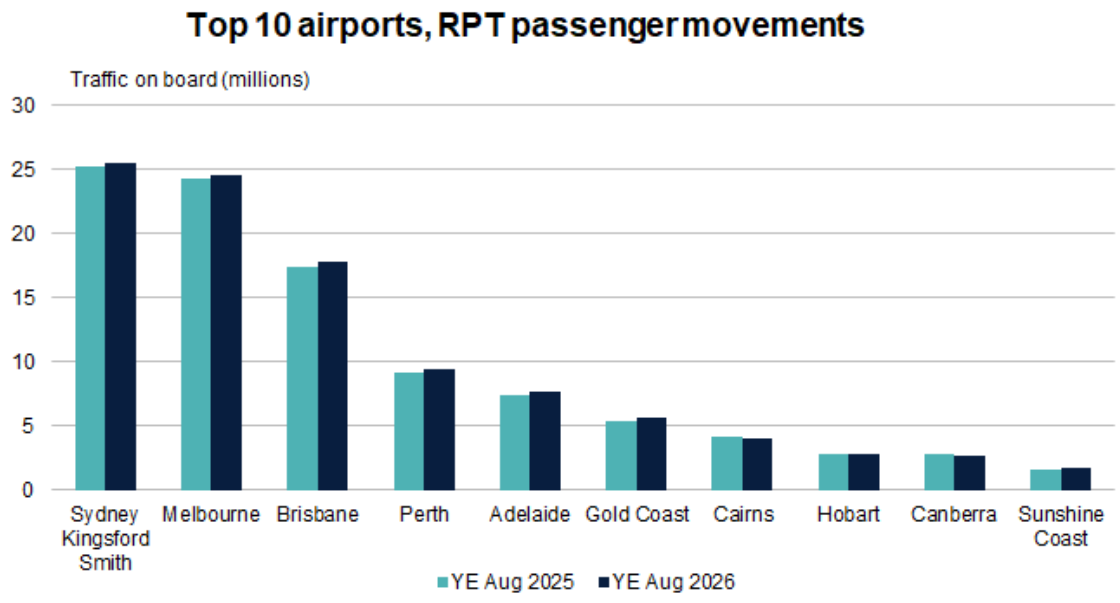
Table 6: Top 10 airports, RPT passenger movements (000s) - monthly activity

	Airport	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change	% of Total
1	Sydney Kingsford Smith	2 113.0	2 092.9	-1.0	20.8
2	Melbourne	2 019.8	1 982.9	-1.8	19.8
3	Brisbane	1 502.6	1 512.2	0.6	15.1
4	Perth	756.4	780.4	3.2	7.8
5	Adelaide	615.6	613.7	-0.3	6.1
6	Gold Coast	442.4	420.4	-5.0	4.2
7	Cairns	389.7	371.0	-4.8	3.7
8	Canberra	242.8	229.4	-5.5	2.3
9	Hobart	208.0	200.8	-3.4	2.0
10	Darwin	172.2	171.9	-0.2	1.7
	Total top 10 airports	**8 462.5**	**8 375.6**	**-1.0**	**83.4**
	Total domestic network	**10 124.0**	**10 039.0**	**-0.8**	**100.0**

Table 7: Top 10 airports, RPT passenger movements (000s) - annual activity

	Airport	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change	% of Total
1	Sydney Kingsford Smith	25 288.2	25 478.2	0.8	21.0
2	Melbourne	24 285.6	24 526.1	1.0	20.2
3	Brisbane	17 394.2	17 772.6	2.2	14.6
4	Perth	9 215.3	9 423.6	2.3	7.8
5	Adelaide	7 445.4	7 621.6	2.4	6.3
6	Gold Coast	5 399.5	5 648.8	4.6	4.7
7	Cairns	4 145.4	4 101.4	-1.1	3.4
8	Hobart	2 820.7	2 889.7	2.4	2.4
9	Canberra	2 771.0	2 702.8	-2.5	2.2
10	Sunshine Coast	1 624.4	1 700.5	4.7	1.4
	Total top 10 airports	**100 389.8**	**101 865.5**	**1.5**	**83.9**
	Total domestic network	**119 541.2**	**121 385.0**	**1.5**	**100.0**

Note: Airport passenger movement numbers are the sum of passenger arrivals and departures at each airport.



In tables 6 and 7, airport passenger movement numbers are the sum of passenger arrivals and departures at each airport for Regular Public Transport operations only. Each domestic passenger generates two passenger movements (a departure and an arrival). For example, a passenger flying from Melbourne to Sydney will be counted twice, as a passenger departure at Melbourne and a passenger arrival at Sydney.

TOP 5 AIRPORTS – CARGO MOVEMENTS

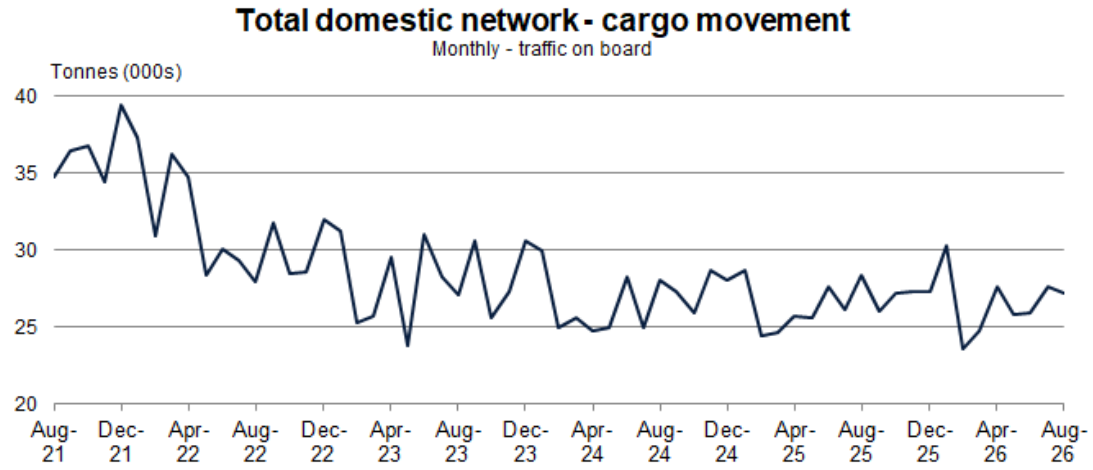
Table 8: Top 5 airports, domestic RPT cargo movements (000s tonnes) - monthly activity

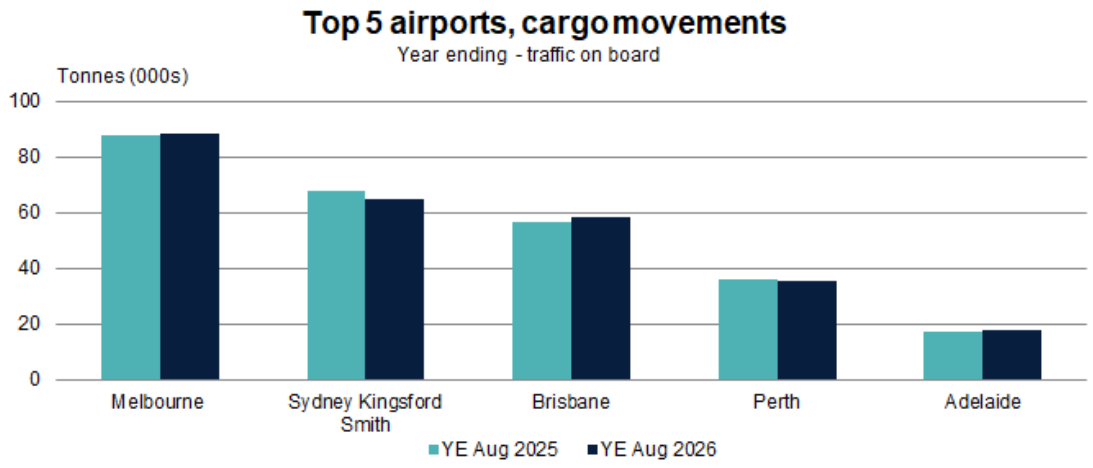
	Airport	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change	% of Total
1	Melbourne	7.2	6.9	-3.8	27.1
2	Brisbane	4.6	4.7	2.2	18.4
3	Sydney Kingsford Smith	5.6	3.1	-44.4	12.2
4	Perth	3.0	2.7	-9.5	10.6
5	Adelaide	1.2	1.5	18.5	5.8
	Total top 5 airports	**21.6**	**18.9**	**-12.5**	**74.1**
	Total domestic network	**26.0**	**25.5**	**-2.1**	**100.0**

Table 9: Top 5 airports, domestic RPT cargo movements (000s tonnes) - annual activity

	Airport	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change	% of Total
1	Melbourne	88.0	88.4	0.5	27.6
2	Sydney Kingsford Smith	67.5	64.8	-4.0	20.2
3	Brisbane	56.7	58.1	2.5	18.1
4	Perth	36.2	35.3	-2.4	11.0
5	Adelaide	16.9	17.9	5.9	5.6
	Total top 5 airports	**265.3**	**264.6**	**-0.3**	**82.6**
	Total domestic network	**320.1**	**320.2**	**0.0**	**100.0**

Notes: (i) Airport cargo tonnes are the sum of cargo tonnes on arrivals and departures at each airport.
(ii) Cargo movements at Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport declined substantially in August 2026 compared to August 2025, partly due to the transition of some cargo operations to Western Sydney International Airport.





Note: Airport cargo tonnes are the sum of cargo tonnes on arrivals and departures at each airport.

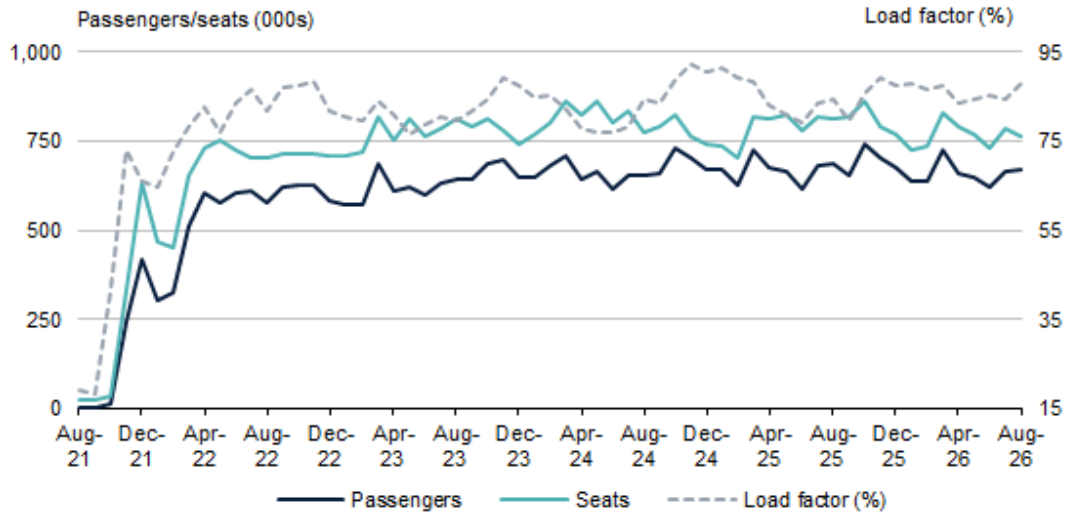
TOP 10 ROUTES

1. Melbourne - Sydney

Monthly data

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	684.9	673.1	-1.7
Seats (000s)	811.2	765.4	-5.6
Load factor %	84.5	87.9	3.5 *
Aircraft trips	4 616	4 239	-8.2

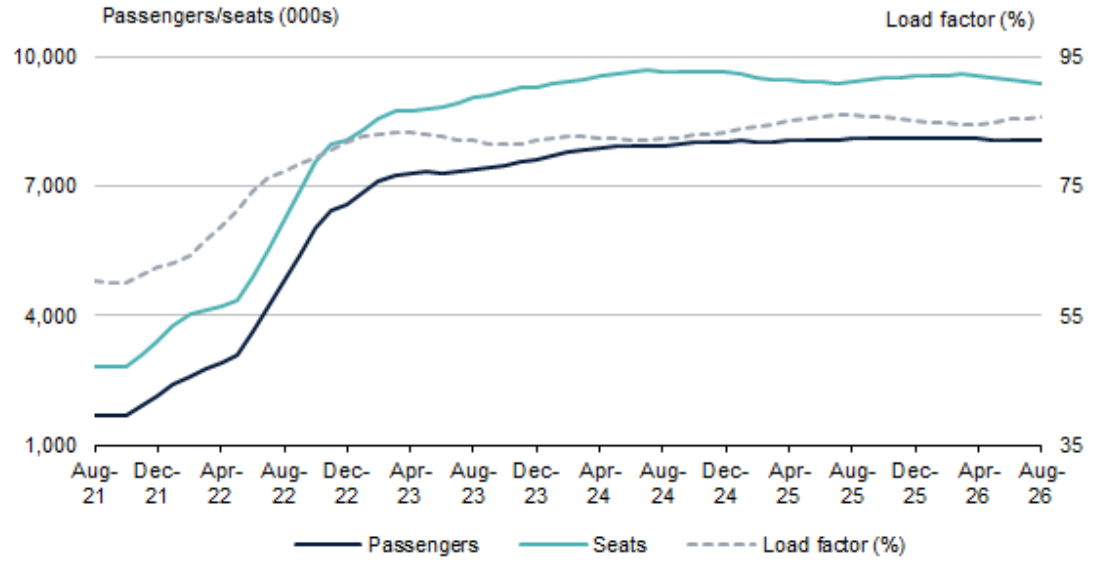
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	8 116.3	8 052.5	-0.8
Seats (000s)	9 423.9	9 384.5	-0.4
Load factor %	86.1	85.8	-0.3 *
Aircraft trips	54 000	53 494	-0.9

* percentage point difference

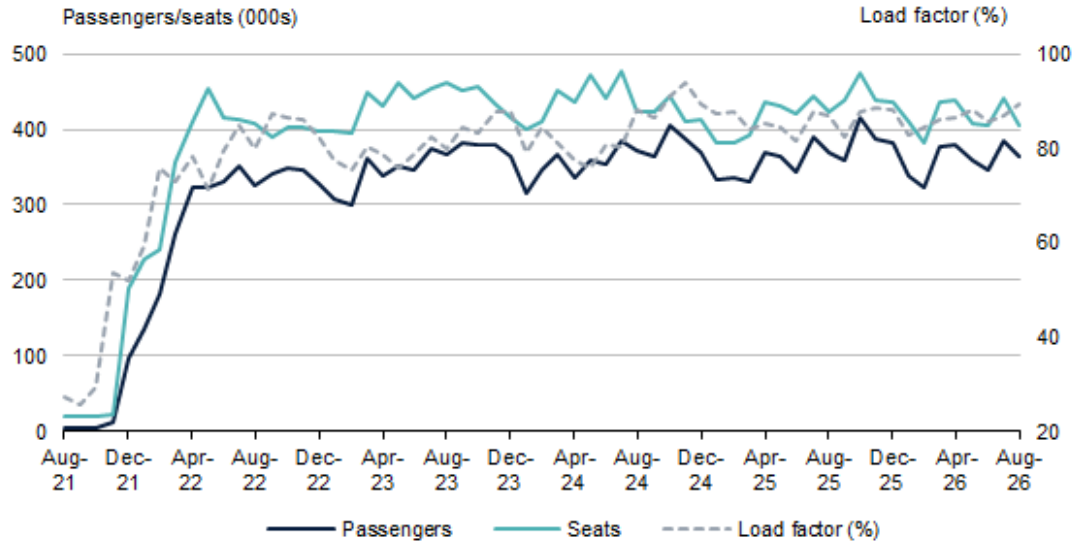


2. Brisbane - Sydney

Monthly data

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	368.8	363.7	-1.4
Seats (000s)	424.5	406.2	-4.3
Load factor %	86.9	89.5	2.7 *
Aircraft trips	2 511	2 258	-10.1

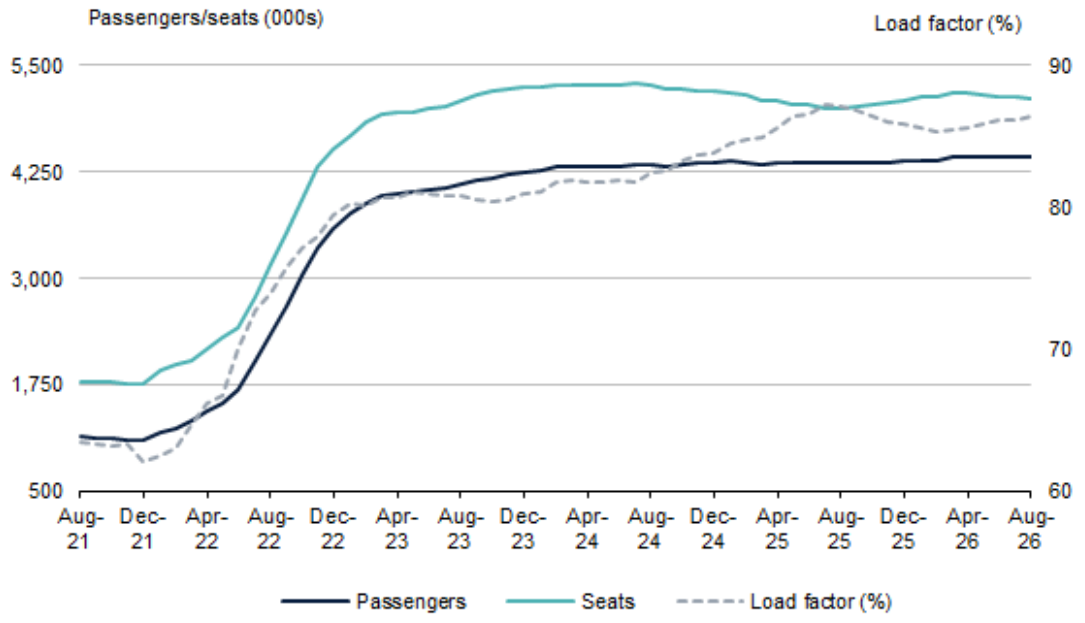
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	4 360.5	4 419.7	1.4
Seats (000s)	5 003.2	5 116.1	2.3
Load factor %	87.2	86.4	-0.8 *
Aircraft trips	29 930	30 082	0.5

* percentage point difference

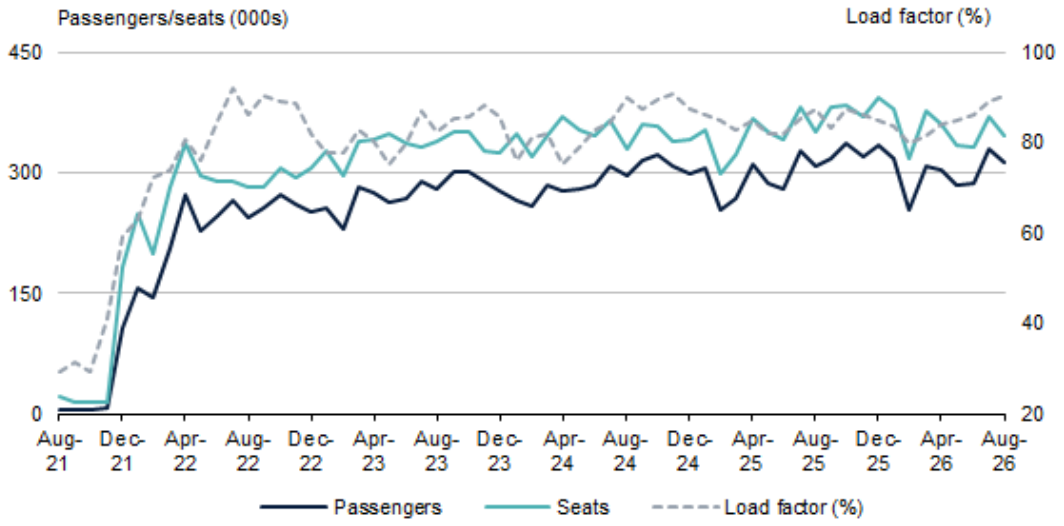


3. Brisbane - Melbourne

Monthly data

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	307.3	313.4	2.0
Seats (000s)	350.6	347.3	-0.9
Load factor %	87.7	90.2	2.6 *
Aircraft trips	2 136	2 051	-4.0

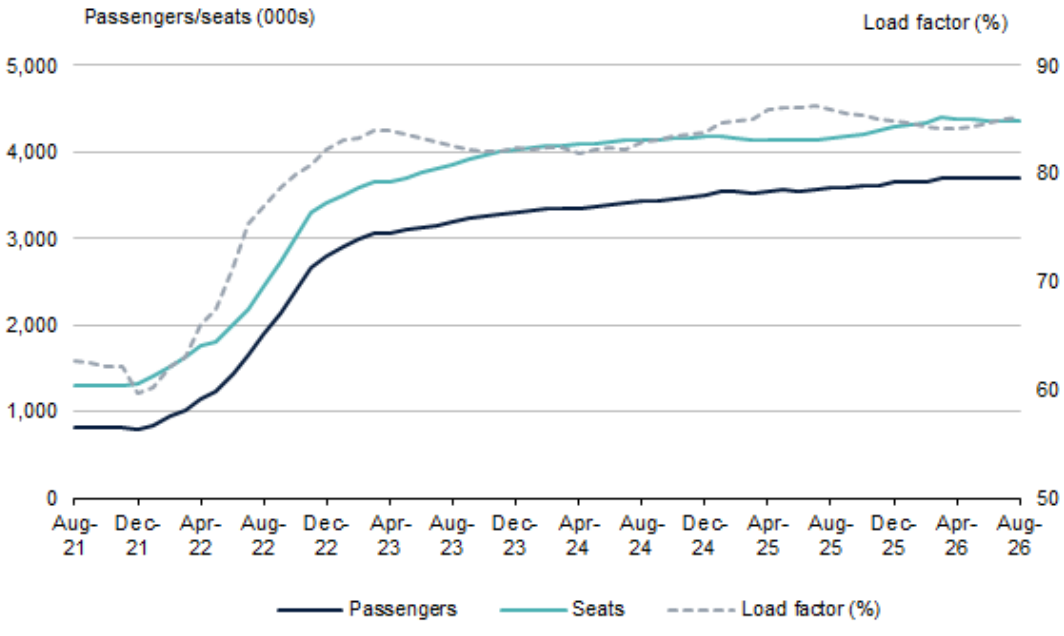
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	3 581.6	3 706.0	3.5
Seats (000s)	4 165.2	4 350.5	4.4
Load factor %	86.0	85.2	-0.8 *
Aircraft trips	25 147	26 135	3.9

* percentage point difference

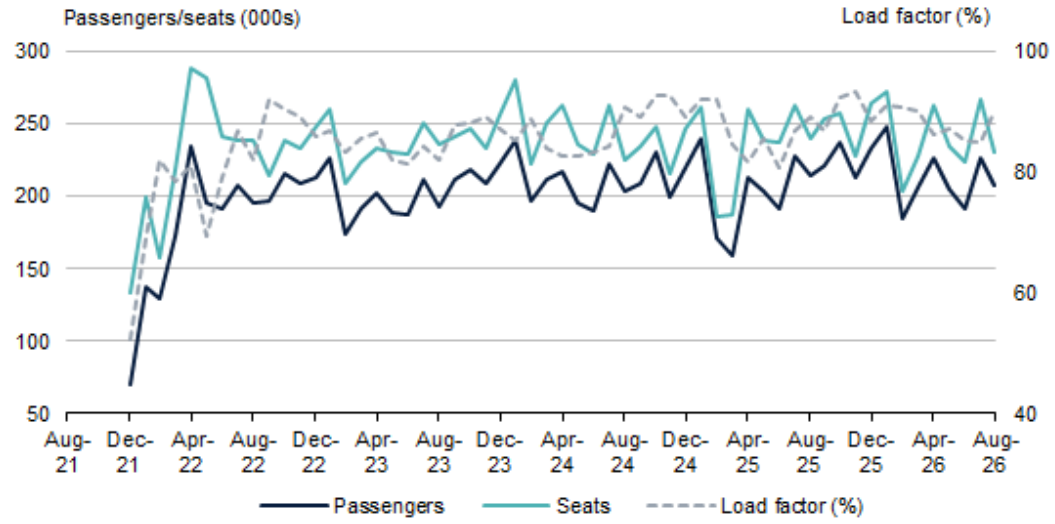


4. Gold Coast - Sydney [a]

Monthly data

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	213.9	207.4	-3.0
Seats (000s)	239.6	230.0	-4.0
Load factor %	89.3	90.2	0.9 *
Aircraft trips	1 361	1 277	-6.2

* percentage point difference

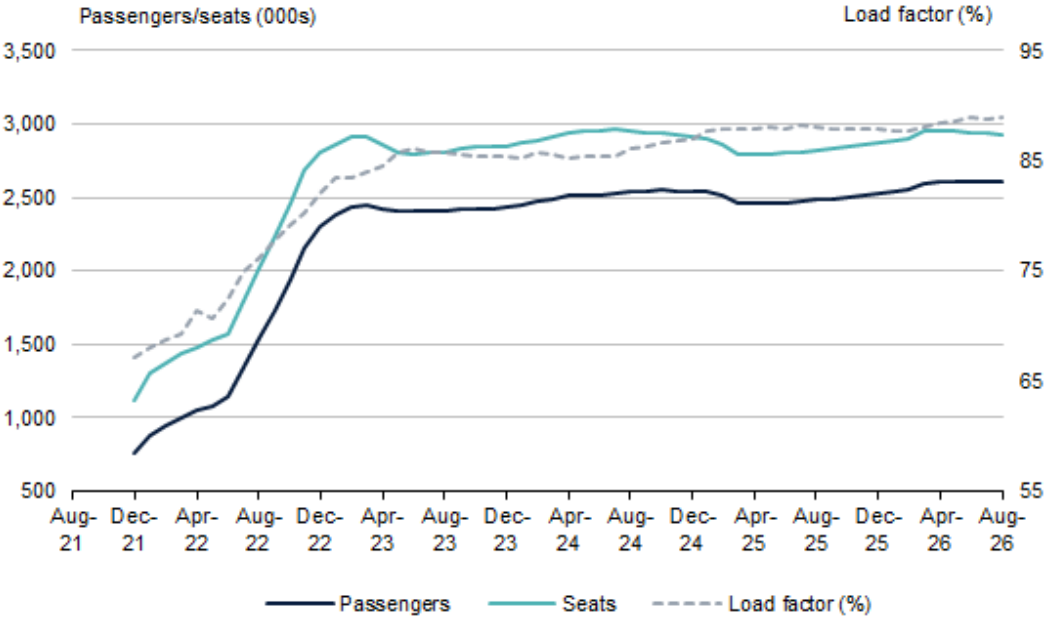


(a) August to November 2021 data not available for release.

Moving annual data

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 481.7	2 602.1	4.9
Seats (000s)	2 818.7	2 927.9	3.9
Load factor %	88.0	88.9	0.8 *
Aircraft trips	16 013	16 555	3.4

* percentage point difference



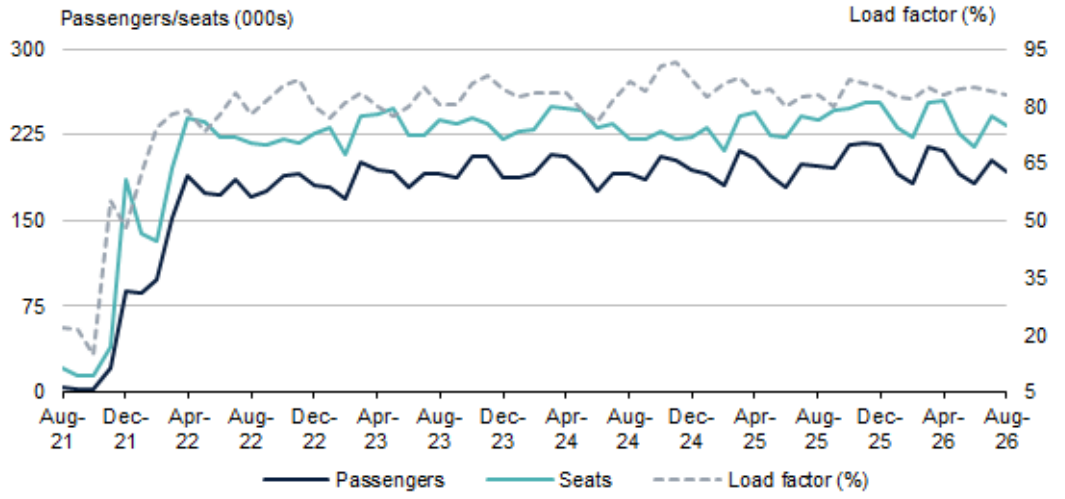
(a) August to November 2021 moving annual totals are not available for release.

5. Adelaide - Melbourne

Monthly data

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	197.1	193.3	-1.9
Seats (000s)	238.1	232.6	-2.3
Load factor %	82.8	83.1	0.3 *
Aircraft trips	1 403	1 375	-2.0

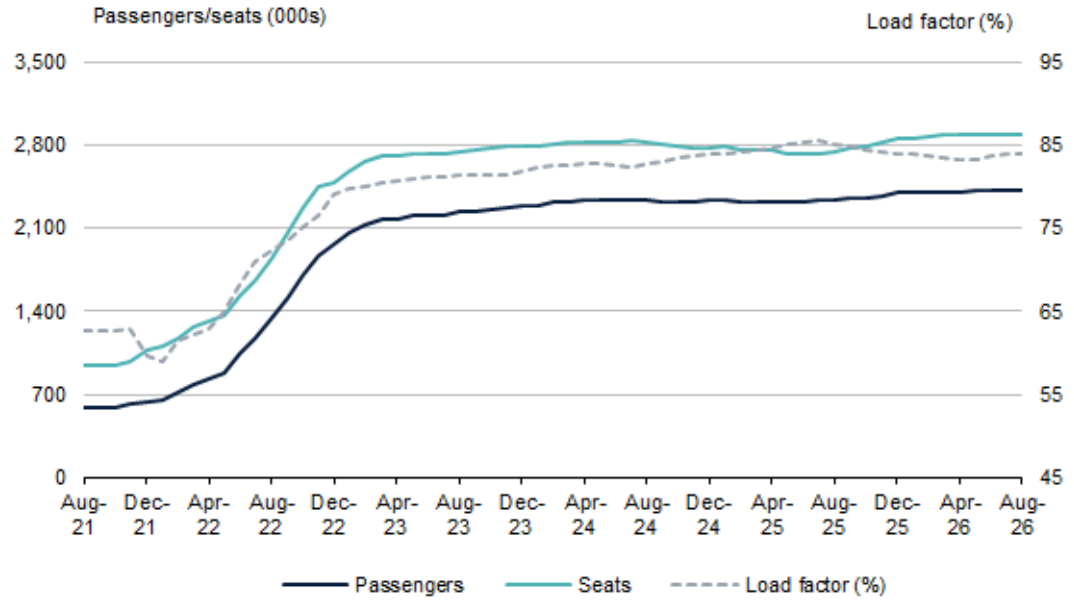
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 337.8	2 415.1	3.3
Seats (000s)	2 746.2	2 879.1	4.8
Load factor %	85.1	83.9	-1.2 *
Aircraft trips	16 298	17 249	5.8

* percentage point difference

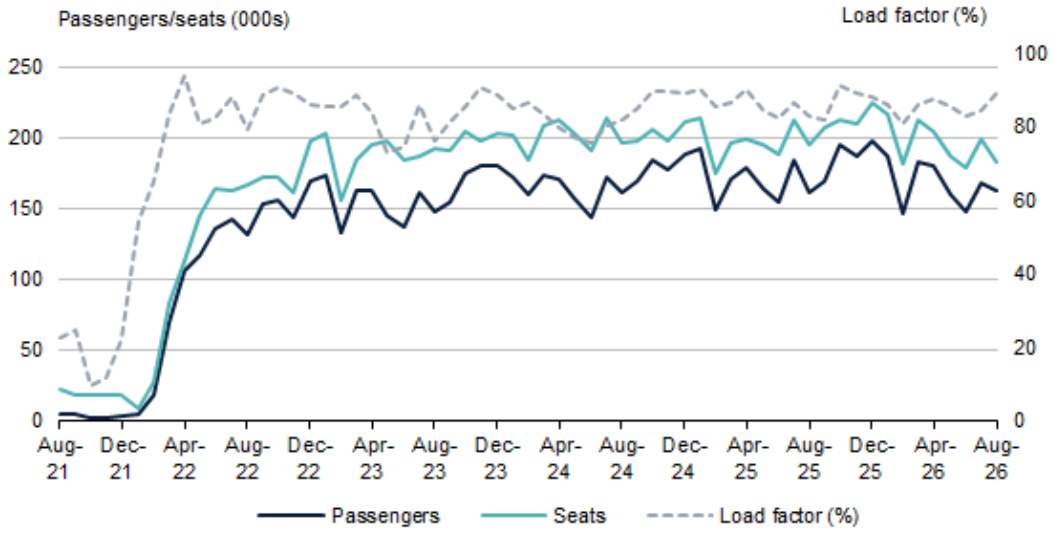


6. Melbourne - Perth

Monthly data

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	161.9	163.4	1.0
Seats (000s)	194.8	183.7	-5.7
Load factor %	83.1	89.0	5.9 *
Aircraft trips	1 108	1 092	-1.4

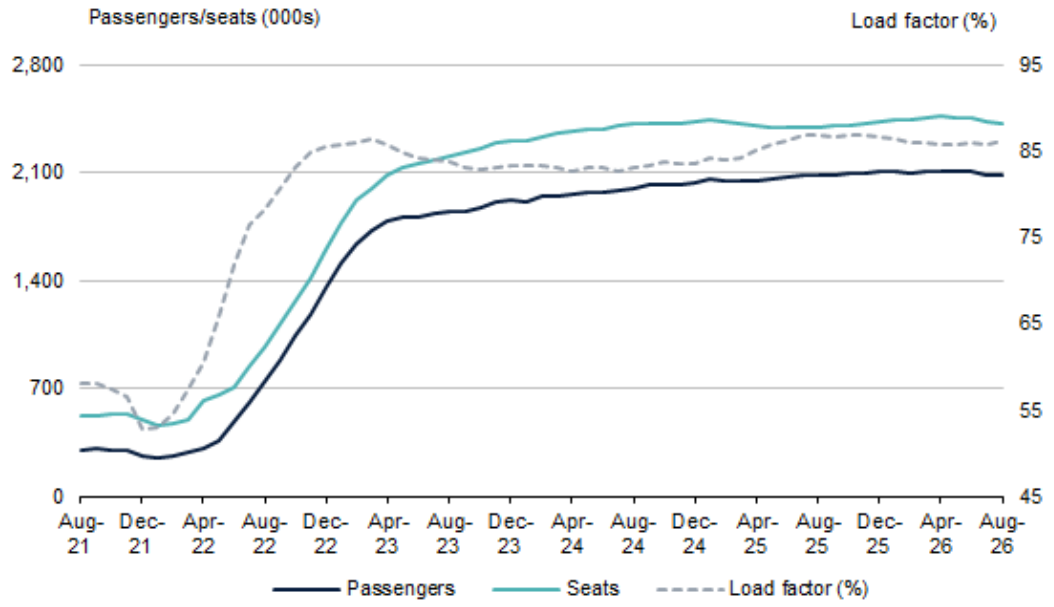
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 079.2	2 087.4	0.4
Seats (000s)	2 391.9	2 422.4	1.3
Load factor %	86.9	86.2	-0.8 *
Aircraft trips	13 375	13 747	2.8

* percentage point difference

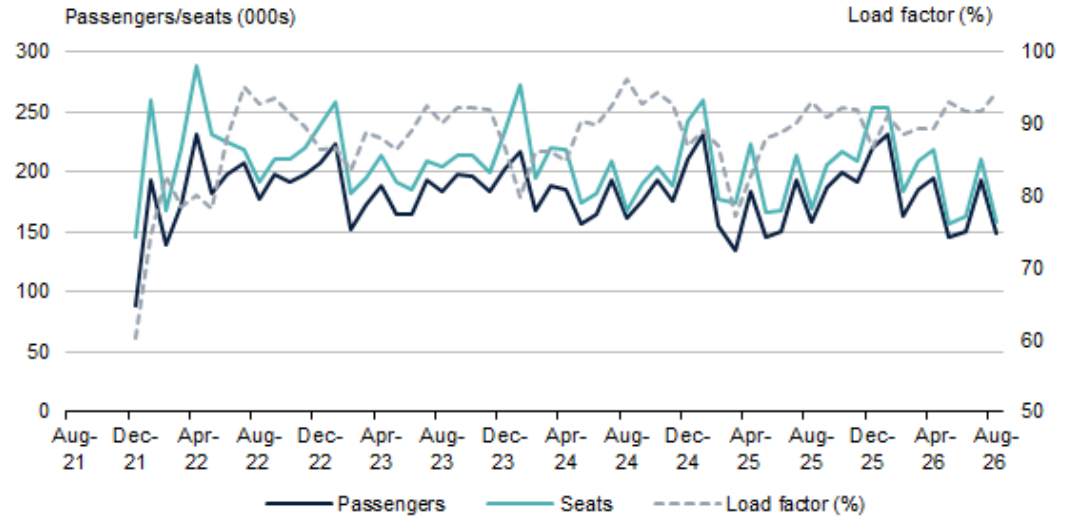


7. Gold Coast - Melbourne

Monthly data

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	157.7	148.9	-5.6
Seats (000s)	169.5	157.8	-6.9
Load factor %	93.0	94.4	1.3 *
Aircraft trips	904	872	-3.5

* percentage point difference

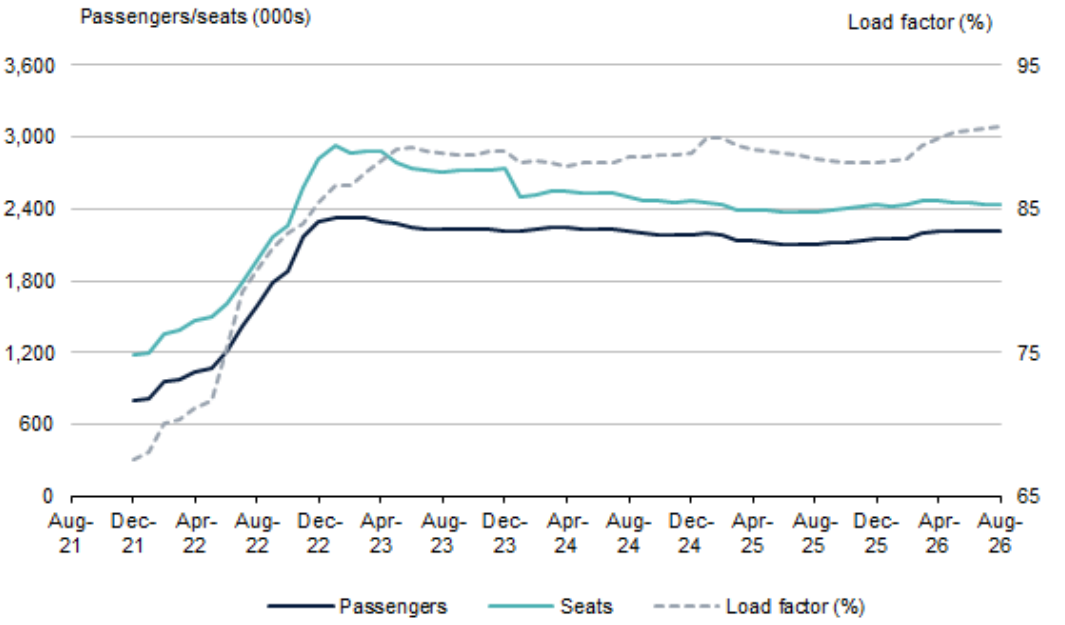


(a) August to November 2021 data not available for release.

Moving annual data

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 103.4	2 207.8	5.0
Seats (000s)	2 375.6	2 433.7	2.4
Load factor %	88.5	90.7	2.2 *
Aircraft trips	12 843	13 239	3.1

* percentage point difference



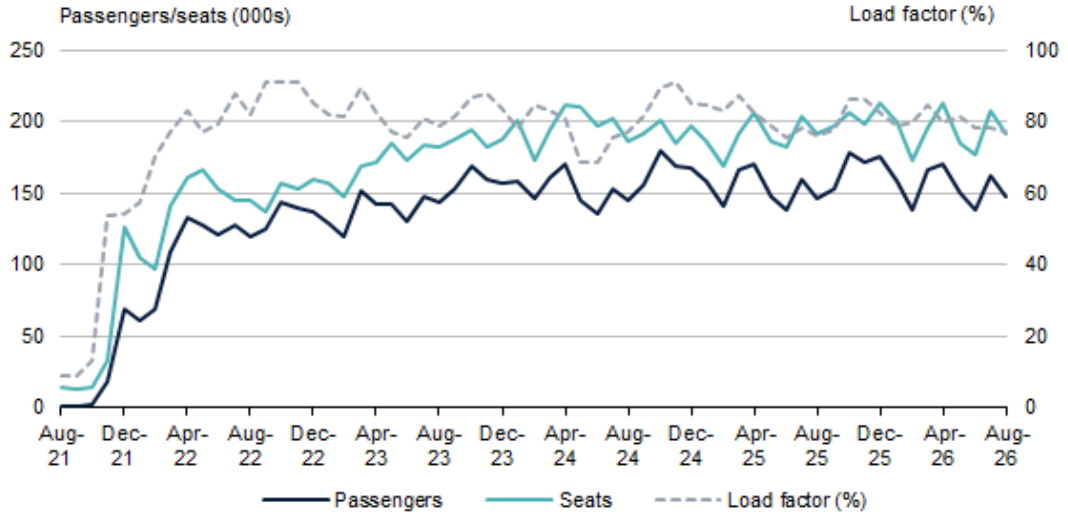
(a) August to November 2021 moving annual totals are not available for release.

8. Adelaide - Sydney

Monthly data

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	145.7	147.6	1.3
Seats (000s)	191.7	191.5	-0.1
Load factor %	76.0	77.1	1.1 *
Aircraft trips	1 123	1 116	-0.6

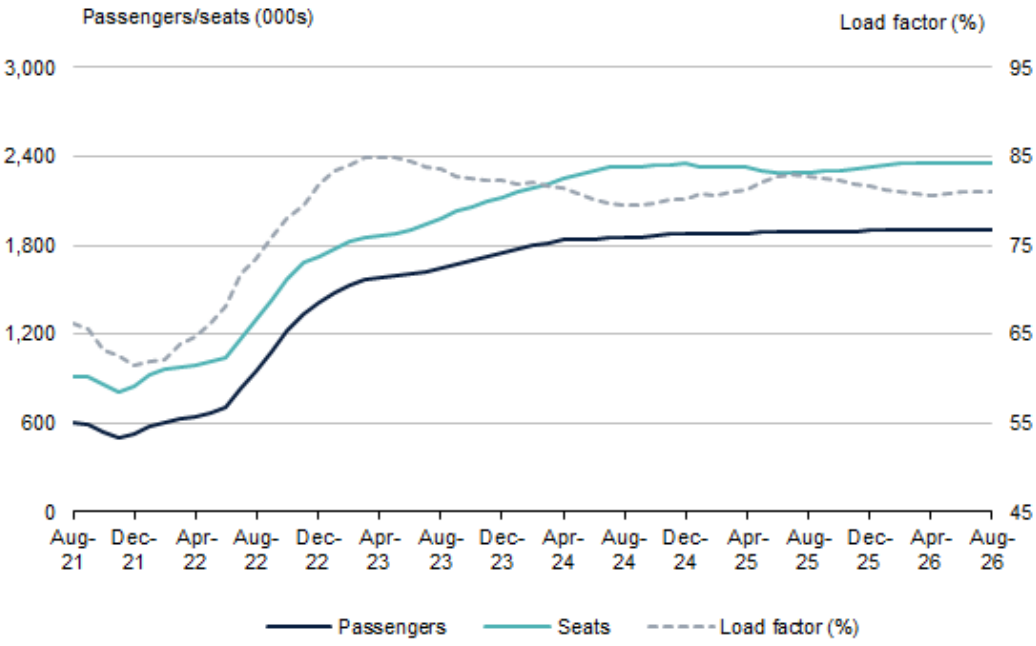
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 897.1	1 908.6	0.6
Seats (000s)	2 291.0	2 356.3	2.8
Load factor %	82.8	81.0	-1.8 *
Aircraft trips	13 448	13 832	2.9

* percentage point difference

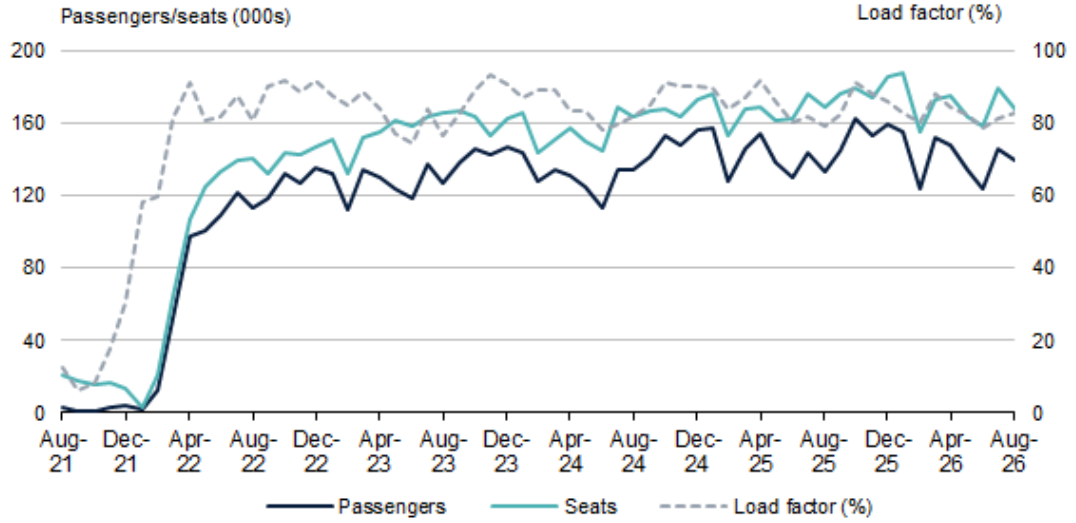


9. Perth - Sydney

Monthly data

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	133.4	139.0	4.1
Seats (000s)	169.1	167.4	-1.0
Load factor %	78.9	83.0	4.1 *
Aircraft trips	893	900	0.8

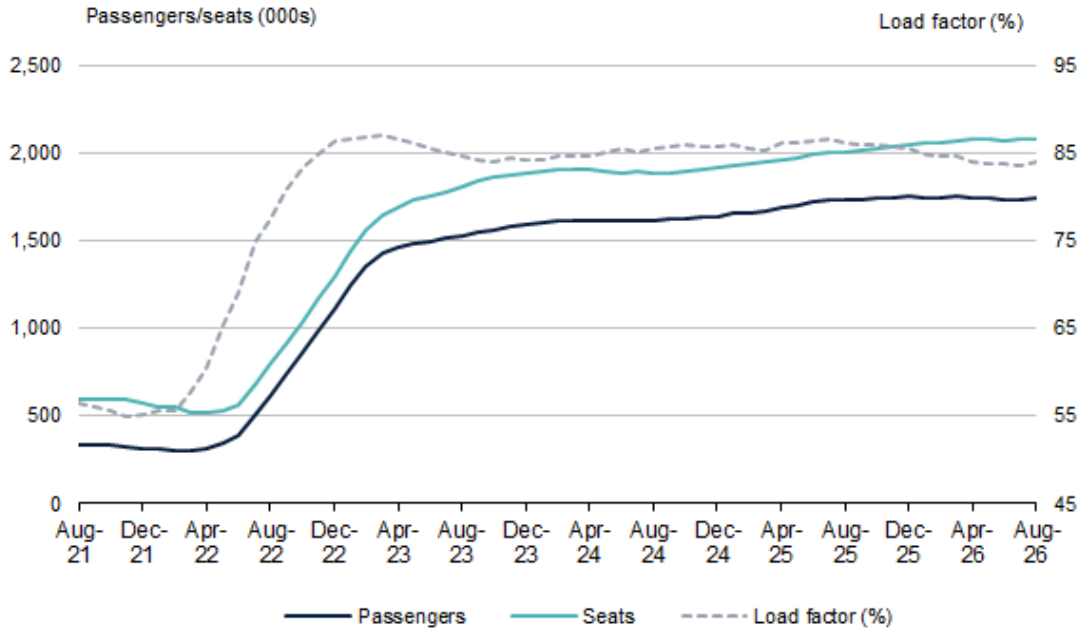
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 727.0	1 740.7	0.8
Seats (000s)	2 003.4	2 073.1	3.5
Load factor %	86.2	84.0	-2.2 *
Aircraft trips	10 669	11 100	4.0

* percentage point difference

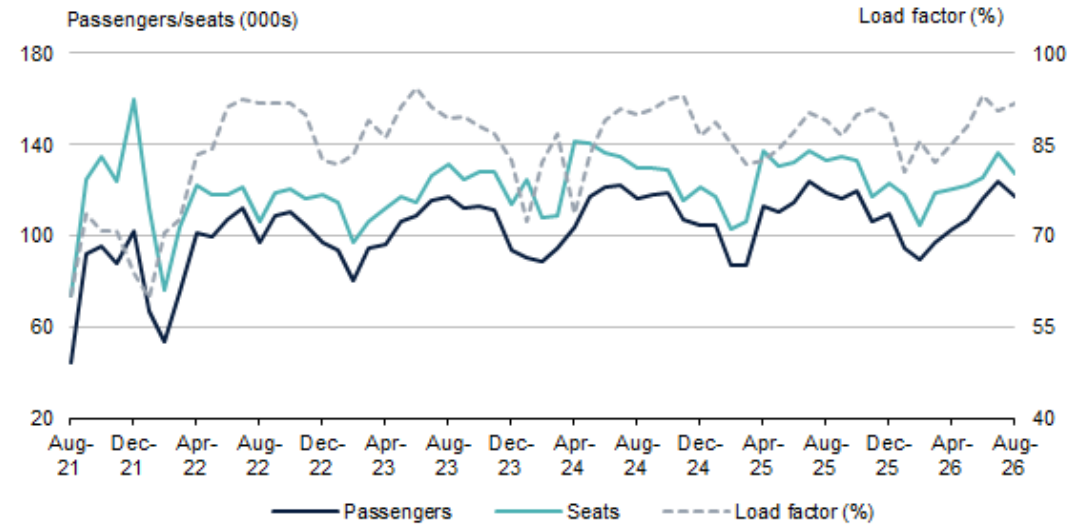


10. Brisbane - Cairns

Monthly data

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	118.6	117.0	-1.3
Seats (000s)	133.2	127.2	-4.5
Load factor %	89.0	92.0	3.0 *
Aircraft trips	984	854	-13.2

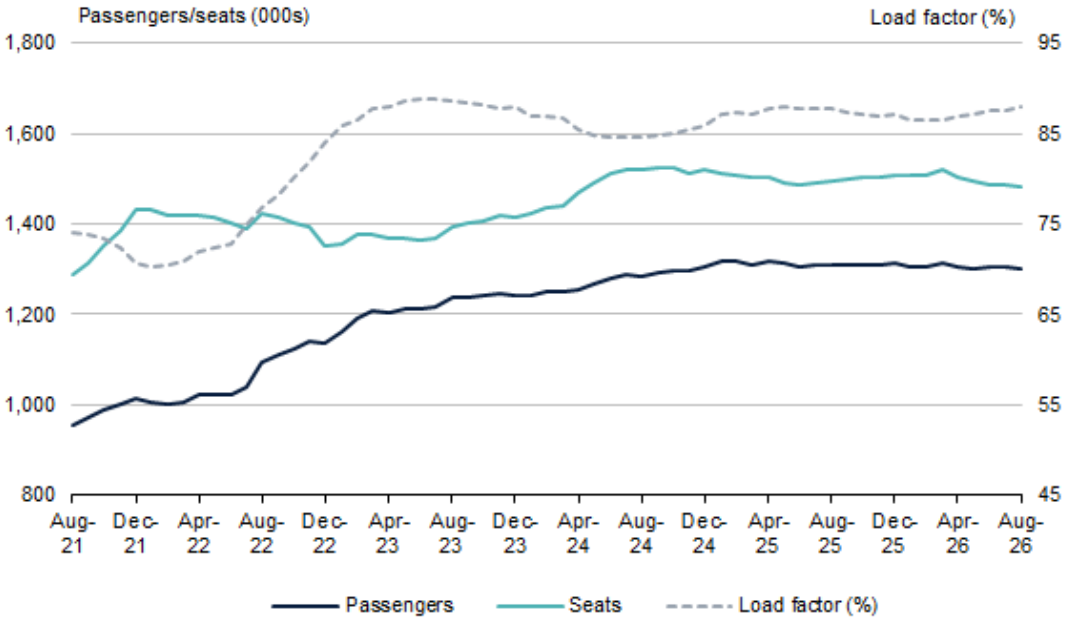
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 309.7	1 302.2	-0.6
Seats (000s)	1 493.7	1 481.3	-0.8
Load factor %	87.7	87.9	0.2 *
Aircraft trips	10 652	10 367	-2.7

* percentage point difference



TOP 50 REGIONAL AIRPORTS

Table 10: Top 50 regional airports (000s) — passenger movements, monthly

	Airport	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
1	Cairns	389.7	371.0	-4.8
2	Hobart	208.0	200.8	-3.4
3	Darwin	172.2	171.9	-0.2
4	Townsville	146.6	147.4	0.5
5	Launceston	104.8	105.3	0.5
6	Newcastle	104.7	97.9	-6.5
7	Mackay	81.4	79.7	-2.0
8	Karratha	60.5	67.1	10.8
9	Rockhampton	56.1	58.5	4.4
10	Proserpine	48.8	52.7	8.0
11	Broome	53.2	52.6	-1.2
12	Port Hedland	42.5	46.5	9.4
13	Ballina	44.7	45.8	2.4
14	Kalgoorlie	36.8	40.7	10.6
15	Hamilton Island	42.6	40.0	-6.2
16	Ayers Rock	35.9	37.0	3.0
17	Alice Springs	35.8	35.8	0.1
18	Newman	36.0	35.8	-0.6
19	Coffs Harbour	21.3	22.5	5.9
20	Hervey Bay	18.7	21.0	12.4
21	Dubbo	18.6	21.0	12.6
22	Mount Isa	20.8	21.0	0.6
23	Albury	20.0	19.9	-0.7
24	Wagga Wagga	19.4	19.3	-0.9
25	Gladstone	18.8	18.2	-3.1
26	Paraburdoo	20.7	17.5	-15.4
27	Port Macquarie	16.2	16.9	4.1
28	Emerald	16.5	16.2	-1.5
29	Mildura	15.6	15.0	-4.1
30	Tamworth	13.6	14.1	3.8
31	Port Lincoln	13.1	13.9	6.0
32	Kununurra	16.0	13.4	-16.5
33	Bundaberg	12.2	12.8	5.6
34	Orange	10.3	11.5	11.5
35	Geraldton	11.2	11.1	-0.8
36	Thursday Island	10.8	10.7	-0.5
37	Devonport	12.1	10.6	-13.0
38	Armidale	9.1	10.4	13.8
39	Learmonth	11.0	10.2	-6.9
40	Weipa	8.7	9.0	3.1
41	Olympic Dam	8.8	8.4	-3.8
42	Gove	9.0	8.1	-10.0
43	Moranbah	8.1	6.8	-16.1
44	Burnie	6.5	6.5	0.1
45	Griffith	6.9	6.0	-12.9
46	Merimbula	6.0	6.0	-0.4
47	Albany	5.4	5.9	9.3
48	Broken Hill	5.6	5.6	-1.5
49	Mount Gambier	6.3	5.5	-12.6
50	Roma	5.4	5.4	-0.4
	Total top 50 regional airports	**2 103.0**	**2 086.7**	**-0.8**
	Total regional airports	**2 223.2**	**2 199.8**	**-1.1**
	Total domestic network	**10 124.0**	**10 039.0**	**-0.8**

Note: Airport passenger movement numbers are the sum of passenger arrivals and departures at each airport. Regional airports are defined as airports which are, according to Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), not based in Major Cities.

Table 11: Top 50 regional airports (000s) — passenger movements, annual

	Airport	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
1	Cairns	4 145.4	4 101.4	-1.1
2	Hobart	2 820.7	2 889.7	2.4
3	Townsville	1 638.1	1 668.4	1.8
4	Darwin	1 650.1	1 632.4	-1.1
5	Launceston	1 442.5	1 477.7	2.4
6	Newcastle	1 192.0	1 239.1	4.0
7	Mackay	907.1	931.1	2.6
8	Karratha	670.1	744.7	11.1
9	Rockhampton	649.1	645.6	-0.5
10	Ballina	603.8	587.7	-2.7
11	Proserpine	533.4	581.7	9.0
12	Port Hedland	493.0	521.6	5.8
13	Hamilton Island	493.7	483.1	-2.1
14	Broome	447.9	457.6	2.2
15	Kalgoorlie	379.0	447.7	18.1
16	Newman	433.3	444.9	2.7
17	Alice Springs	359.5	367.5	2.2
18	Ayers Rock	349.0	354.8	1.7
19	Coffs Harbour	254.5	267.3	5.0
20	Hervey Bay	210.4	232.5	10.5
21	Mount Isa	237.3	231.8	-2.3
22	Albury	221.2	226.1	2.2
23	Wagga Wagga	215.0	224.8	4.6
24	Dubbo	206.1	222.2	7.8
25	Paraburdoo	267.6	222.1	-17.0
26	Gladstone	219.5	217.0	-1.2
27	Port Macquarie	190.7	198.7	4.2
28	Emerald	189.0	190.0	0.5
29	Mildura	187.6	183.4	-2.2
30	Port Lincoln	166.1	170.5	2.6
31	Tamworth	159.7	159.9	0.1
32	Devonport	139.4	143.0	2.6
33	Bundaberg	140.3	141.4	0.8
34	Orange	114.4	135.0	18.0
35	Geraldton	127.1	130.7	2.8
36	Kununurra	141.3	129.2	-8.6
37	Thursday Island	119.0	117.6	-1.2
38	Armidale	102.1	114.1	11.7
39	Olympic Dam	101.6	103.6	2.0
40	Weipa	97.3	100.9	3.8
41	Learmonth	113.5	98.5	-13.2
42	Moranbah	105.1	89.8	-14.6
43	Busselton	96.3	87.8	-8.9
44	Burnie	81.3	82.9	1.9
45	Gove	87.3	82.0	-6.1
46	Merimbula	69.2	75.0	8.4
47	Griffith	76.1	71.7	-5.8
48	Mount Gambier	71.1	70.3	-1.1
49	Albany	66.6	66.7	0.2
50	Roma	61.4	62.5	3.6
	Total top 50 regional airports	**23 843.0**	**24 225.7**	**1.6**
	Total regional airports	**25 256.5**	**25 609.6**	**1.4**
	Total domestic network	**119 541.2**	**121 385.0**	**1.5**

Note: Airport passenger movement numbers are the sum of passenger arrivals and departures at each airport. Regional airports are defined as airports which are, according to Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), not based in Major Cities.

DOMESTIC CHARTER ACTIVITY

Table 12: Charter passengers carried and aircraft trips - monthly activity (000s)

	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Total domestic charter passengers	356.8	392.7	10.1
Total domestic charter aircraft trips	6.0	6.5	9.4

Note: Helicopter, joyflights and sightseeing charter flights not included.

Table 13: Charter passengers carried and aircraft trips - annual activity (000s)

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Total domestic charter passengers	4 307.0	4 618.4	7.2
Total domestic charter aircraft trips	73.8	77.9	5.5

Note: Helicopter, joyflights and sightseeing charter flights not included.

Table 14: Domestic airports - charter activity - monthly (000s)

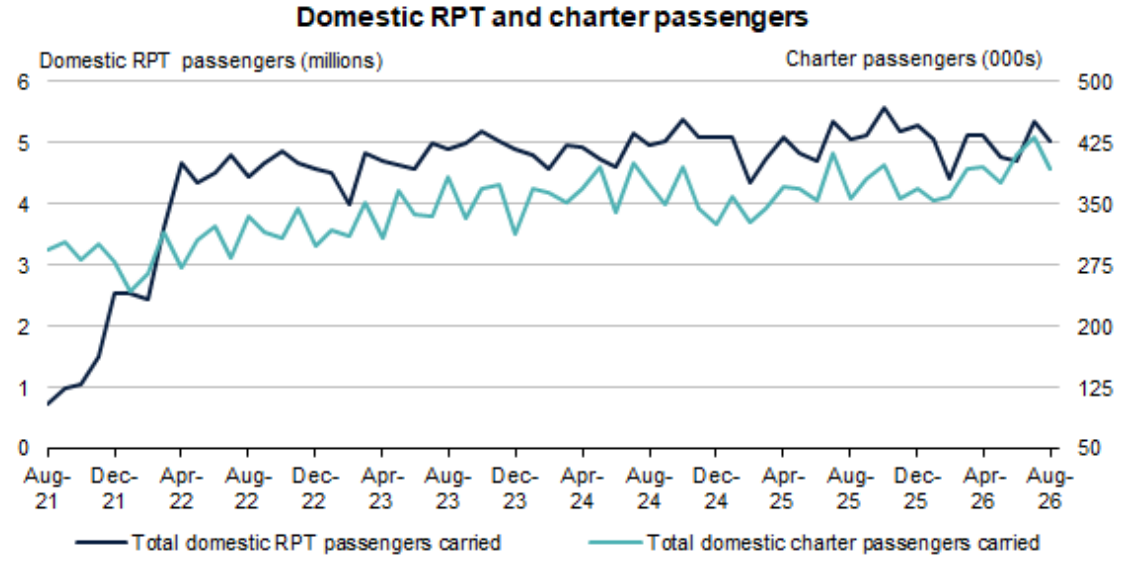
	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	% Change
Total domestic charter passenger movements	713.6	785.3	10.1
Total domestic charter aircraft movements	11.9	10.9	-8.3
Perth airport charter passenger movements	253.0	281.5	11.2
Perth airport charter aircraft movements	3.6	4.0	10.9

Note: Helicopter, joyflights and sightseeing charter flights not included.
Charter passenger and aircraft movement numbers are the sum of arrivals and departures at each airport.

Table 15: Domestic airports - charter activity - annual (000s)

	YE Aug 2025	YE Aug 2026	% Change
Total domestic charter passenger movements	8 614.1	9 236.8	7.2
Total domestic charter aircraft movements	147.7	155.8	5.5
Perth airport charter passenger movements	3 051.9	3 278.3	7.4
Perth airport charter aircraft movements	44.6	47.4	6.4

Note: Helicopter, joyflights and sightseeing charter flights not included.
Charter passenger and aircraft movement numbers are the sum of arrivals and departures at each airport.



DEFINITIONS

Aircraft trips	The number of flight stages. A return flight counts as 2 aircraft trips.
Airport movements	Airport movements (passenger and cargo) are measured once on arrival and once on departure. Each domestic trip generates 2 movements at airports. For example, a trip from Melbourne to Sydney will be counted twice, as a departure at Melbourne and as an arrival at Sydney. At the national level the sum of all domestic airport traffic will therefore be equal to twice the number of trips undertaken.
Available Seat Km (ASKs)	Calculated by multiplying the number of seats available on each flight stage by the distance in km between the ports. The distances used are great circle distances.
City-pair	The ports shown make up the city-pair route. Passenger movements shown for a city pair reflect total traffic in both directions.
Flight stage	The operation of an aircraft from take-off to landing.
Load factor	The total revenue passenger km performed as a percentage of the total available seat km.
Passengers carried	Revenue passengers carried.
Regular Public Transport Services (RPT)	All air service operations in which aircraft are available for the transport of members of the public and are conducted in accordance with fixed schedules. It does not include charter or other non-scheduled operations.
Revenue passengers	All passengers paying any fare. Frequent flyer redemption travellers are regarded as revenue passengers.
Revenue Passenger Km (RPKs)	Calculated by multiplying the number of revenue passengers travelling on each flight stage by the distance in km between the ports. The distances used are great circle distances.
Traffic on board by stages (TOB)	The total of all traffic (revenue passengers) on each flight stage between 2 directly connected airports.
..	Not available for confidentiality or other reasons.
n/a	Not applicable.