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Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics
STATISTICAL REPORT



Aviation

Domestic aviation activity
May 2026

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We pay our respects to the Elders past and present and extend that respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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FOREWORD

This report provides an overview of domestic (including charter) commercial aviation activity in Australia for the month of May 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. The passengers carried refer 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 six months where two or more airlines operate in competition.

Information on the total network for the month of May 2026 and on the RPT network for the month of May 2026 is presented on page 2, with estimates for the year ended May 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 May 2026, there are 62 individual routes published.

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

Data on domestic RPT cargo movements at the top five 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 (formerly Toll).

The long-term trends for the top ten 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, with the exception of 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.

CONTENTS

Highlights	1
Total network.....	2
RPT network	3
Top competitive routes.....	4
Top ten airports – passenger movements.....	14
Top five airports – cargo movements.....	15
Top ten routes	16
1. Melbourne – Sydney	16
2. Brisbane – Sydney.....	17
3. Brisbane – Melbourne	18
4. Gold Coast – Sydney	19
5. Adelaide – Melbourne	20
6. Melbourne – Perth	21
7. Adelaide – Sydney	22
8. Gold Coast – Melbourne	23
9. Perth – Sydney	24
10. Brisbane – Cairns	25
Top fifty regional airports	26
Domestic charter activity.....	28
Definitions	29

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HIGHLIGHTS

There were 5.16 million passengers carried on Australian domestic commercial aviation (including charter operations) in May 2026, compared with 5.20 million in May 2025 (down 0.9%). This is also an increase of 0.6% on pre-COVID May 2019 passenger numbers (5.12 million).

4.78 million passengers were carried on Regular Public Transport (RPT) flights in May 2026 (excluding charter operations), a decrease of 1.2% compared to May 2025.

For the month of May 2026, there were 48.5 thousand RPT aircraft trips, a decrease of 3.8% on May 2025.

For the year ending May 2026, there were 60.76 million RPT passengers, an increase of 2.4% on the year ending May 2025.

RPT revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs) performed were 5.70 billion for the month, compared with 5.76 billion in May 2025 (down 1.1%).

Capacity, measured by available seat kilometres (ASKs), decreased to 7.00 billion in May 2026 compared to 7.14 billion in May 2025 (down 1.9%).

The industry wide load factor (RPKs/ASKs) increased from 80.7% in May 2025 to 81.4% in May 2026. The highest load factor (93.0%) was recorded on the Gold Coast – Melbourne route while the lowest load factor (56.1%) was recorded on the Geraldton – Perth and Adelaide – Port Lincoln routes.

For the month of May 2026, Melbourne – Sydney was Australia's busiest RPT route with 650.2 thousand passengers, followed by Brisbane – Sydney with 360.2 thousand passengers and Brisbane – Melbourne with 284.7 thousand passengers.

Sydney was Australia's busiest domestic airport with 2.01 million passenger movements in May 2026, followed by Melbourne with 1.89 million passenger movements and Brisbane with 1.43 million passenger movements.

Total cargo movements at Australian airports on domestic RPT flights were 25.9 thousand tonnes in May 2026, a decrease of 6.2% compared with May 2025.

In May 2026, there were 2.04 million domestic passenger movements through regional airports, a decrease of 1.3% from May 2025. Out of the top 50 regional airports, the largest decrease was recorded at Paraburdoo Airport (down 21.5% on May 2025), while the strongest increase was recorded at Kalgoorlie Airport (up 14.7% on May 2025).

Fixed-wing charter operators carried 377.0 thousand passengers in May 2026, an increase of 2.4% compared with May 2025. There were 6.3 thousand charter aircraft trips in May 2026, an increase of 1.1% compared with May 2025. Perth Airport accounted for 35.6% of all charter passengers in Australia.

TOTAL NETWORK

Summary of monthly commercial aviation activity

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	5.20	5.16	-0.9
Aircraft trips (000s)	56.6	54.8	-3.3

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

RPT NETWORK

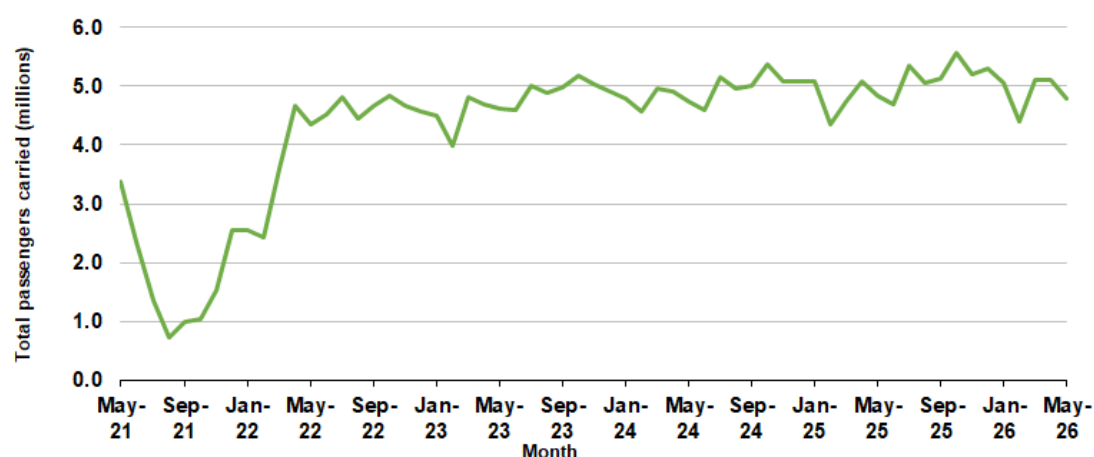
Summary of monthly RPT activity

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	4.84	4.78	-1.2
Revenue passenger kilometres (billions)	5.76	5.70	-1.1
Available seats (millions)	6.14	5.98	-2.6
Available seat kilometres (billions)	7.14	7.00	-1.9
Load factor %	80.7	81.4	0.7 *
Aircraft trips (000s)	50.4	48.5	-3.8

* percentage point difference

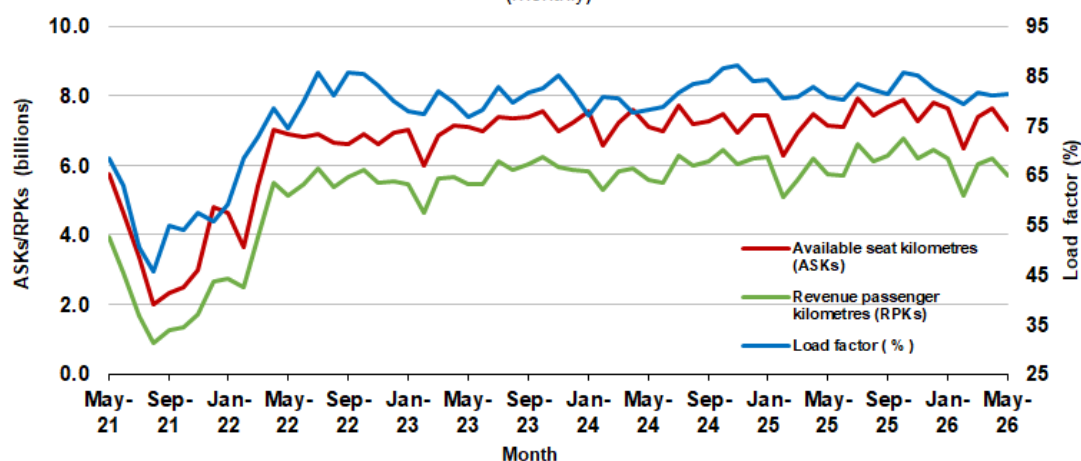
Domestic RPT passenger traffic

(monthly)



RPT Network utilisation

(monthly)



TOTAL NETWORK

Summary of annual commercial aviation activity

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	63.65	65.27	2.5
Aircraft trips (000s)	675.2	680.3	0.8

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

RPT NETWORK

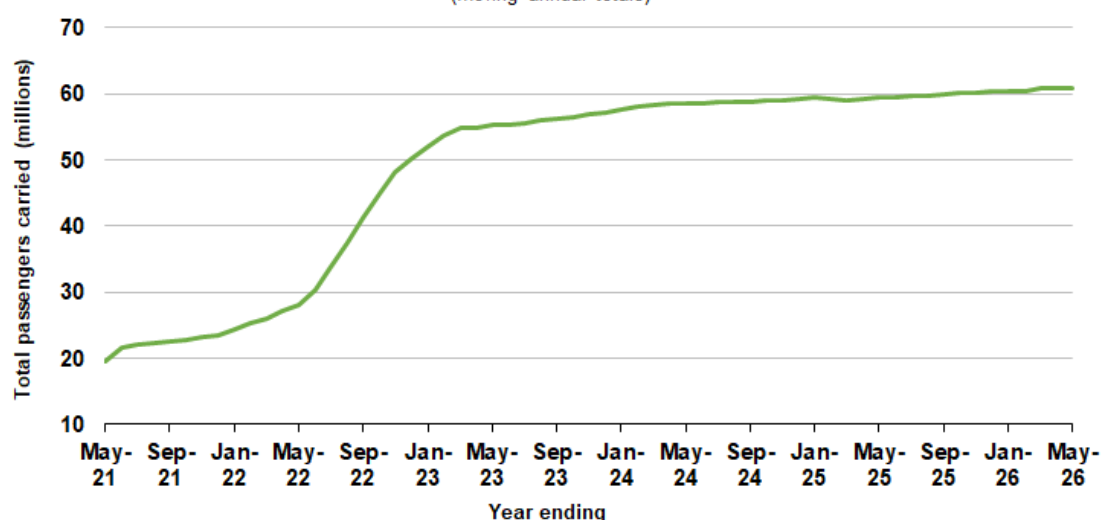
Summary of annual RPT activity

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	59.35	60.76	2.4
Revenue passenger kilometres (billions)	71.44	73.31	2.6
Available seats (millions)	73.29	75.41	2.9
Available seat kilometres (billions)	86.23	89.26	3.5
Load factor %	82.8	82.1	-0.7 *
Aircraft trips (000s)	601.6	604.0	0.4

* percentage point difference

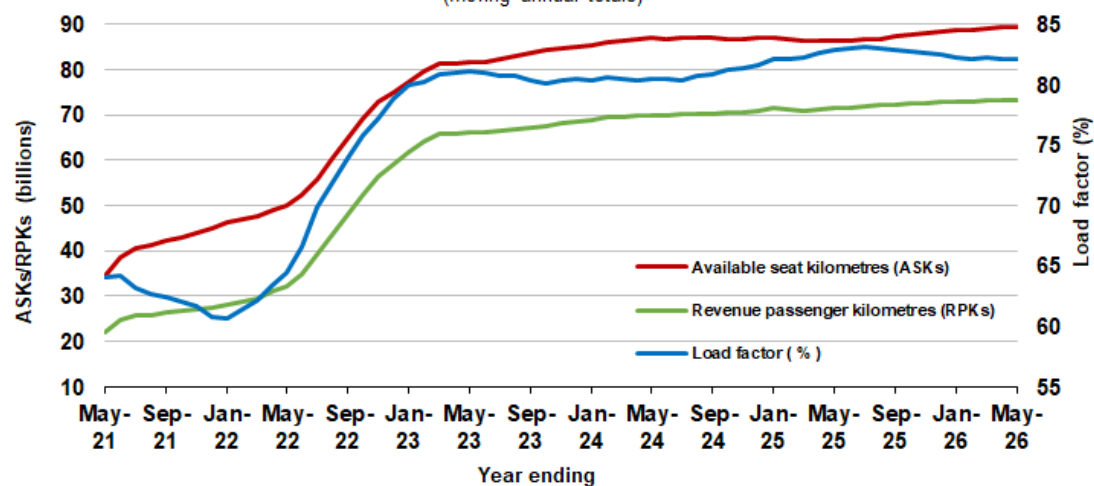
Domestic RPT passenger traffic

(moving annual totals)



RPT Network utilisation

(moving annual totals)



TOP COMPETITIVE ROUTES

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

	City-Pair	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	8 056.0	8 073.9	0.2
2	Brisbane - Sydney	4 369.8	4 427.4	1.3
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	3 559.8	3 688.4	3.6
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	2 464.9	2 610.8	5.9
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	2 321.2	2 410.7	3.9
6	Gold Coast - Melbourne	2 121.2	2 216.1	4.5
7	Melbourne - Perth	2 054.9	2 108.9	2.6
8	Adelaide - Sydney	1 886.8	1 903.7	0.9
9	Perth - Sydney	1 701.4	1 738.6	2.2
10	Hobart - Melbourne	1 413.3	1 450.7	2.6
11	Brisbane - Cairns	1 312.4	1 302.7	-0.7
12	Brisbane - Perth	1 120.4	1 140.4	1.8
13	Brisbane - Townsville	962.6	1 017.8	5.7
14	Canberra - Melbourne	985.4	960.5	-2.5
15	Cairns - Sydney	919.1	912.4	-0.7
16	Adelaide - Brisbane	862.5	906.6	5.1
17	Launceston - Melbourne	860.4	897.5	4.3
18	Cairns - Melbourne	844.3	857.1	1.5
19	Hobart - Sydney	826.9	839.6	1.5
20	Brisbane - Mackay	777.3	831.2	6.9
21	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	775.5	822.6	6.1
22	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	720.9	774.5	7.4
23	Adelaide - Perth	710.9	729.2	2.6
24	Karratha - Perth	635.6	715.5	12.6
25	Brisbane - Canberra	641.9	667.3	4.0
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	601.6	606.8	0.9
27	Canberra - Sydney	632.2	590.9	-6.5
28	Brisbane - Newcastle	514.9	530.4	3.0
29	Perth - Port Hedland	476.8	500.4	5.0
30	Ballina - Sydney	509.4	469.3	-7.9
31	Melbourne - Newcastle	463.8	468.6	1.0
32	Newman - Perth	423.6	445.2	5.1
33	Kalgoorlie - Perth	370.5	430.8	16.3
34	Broome - Perth	361.3	374.5	3.6
35	Launceston - Sydney	346.8	359.6	3.7
36	Brisbane - Darwin	342.6	354.8	3.6
37	Brisbane - Hobart	314.1	329.0	4.7
38	Brisbane - Proserpine	285.9	296.1	3.6
39	Darwin - Melbourne	293.2	293.4	0.1
40	Adelaide - Gold Coast	278.6	291.3	4.6
41	Hamilton Island - Sydney	251.1	233.5	-7.0
42	Brisbane - Gladstone	221.7	218.0	-1.7
43	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	206.8	203.2	-1.7
44	Adelaide - Canberra	190.8	196.5	3.0
45	Brisbane - Emerald	187.6	189.8	1.2
46	Darwin - Perth	188.7	184.7	-2.1
47	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	162.3	182.7	12.6
48	Dubbo - Sydney	171.0	181.0	5.8
49	Canberra - Gold Coast	174.6	180.9	3.6
50	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	162.8	171.4	5.2

continued

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

	City-Pair	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
51	Port Macquarie - Sydney	163.6	170.4	4.2
52	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	167.2	168.4	0.7
53	Albury - Sydney	158.1	160.1	1.3
54	Brisbane - Launceston	156.1	157.5	0.9
55	Melbourne - Mildura	151.8	150.9	-0.6
56	Brisbane - Mount Isa	151.3	150.7	-0.4
57	Devonport - Melbourne	133.9	148.1	10.6
58	Brisbane - Bundaberg	140.8	141.2	0.2
59	Geraldton - Perth	118.4	122.3	3.3
60	Ayers Rock - Melbourne	116.7	119.5	2.4
61	Adelaide - Alice Springs	105.2	102.3	-2.8
62	Orange - Sydney	..	98.2	NA (a)
Total domestic network		59 349.4	60 760.0	2.4

.. Data not available for release.

(a) Orange - Sydney route included from May 2026, prior data not shown.

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

	City-Pair	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	667.5	650.2	-2.6
2	Brisbane - Sydney	364.2	360.2	-1.1
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	287.7	284.7	-1.0
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	204.0	205.0	0.5
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	189.6	191.0	0.7
6	Melbourne - Perth	164.3	160.1	-2.6
7	Adelaide - Sydney	147.2	150.1	2.0
8	Gold Coast - Melbourne	145.8	145.7	0.0
9	Perth - Sydney	138.0	134.2	-2.7
10	Brisbane - Cairns	110.2	107.5	-2.4
11	Hobart - Melbourne	113.3	106.2	-6.3
12	Brisbane - Perth	92.3	88.5	-4.1
13	Brisbane - Townsville	85.2	87.4	2.6
14	Canberra - Melbourne	82.3	75.2	-8.6
15	Adelaide - Brisbane	68.9	73.5	6.8
16	Launceston - Melbourne	69.2	70.0	1.3
17	Brisbane - Mackay	69.6	66.6	-4.3
18	Cairns - Sydney	68.7	65.1	-5.3
19	Cairns - Melbourne	63.2	61.6	-2.6
20	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	59.9	61.5	2.6
21	Karratha - Perth	58.2	60.7	4.3
22	Adelaide - Perth	56.8	59.1	4.0
23	Hobart - Sydney	58.2	56.5	-2.9
24	Brisbane - Canberra	53.8	54.0	0.4
25	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	54.6	52.8	-3.4
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	53.9	52.4	-2.7
27	Canberra - Sydney	53.0	45.7	-13.8
28	Brisbane - Newcastle	44.4	43.4	-2.2
29	Perth - Port Hedland	41.2	41.6	0.9
30	Kalgoorlie - Perth	33.4	38.1	13.9
31	Newman - Perth	37.5	37.7	0.7
32	Melbourne - Newcastle	35.4	36.7	3.7
33	Ballina - Sydney	34.4	35.5	3.3
34	Broome - Perth	34.6	33.6	-2.9
35	Brisbane - Darwin	32.5	28.4	-12.6
36	Darwin - Melbourne	25.4	28.0	10.1
37	Adelaide - Gold Coast	23.4	26.5	13.2
38	Launceston - Sydney	24.1	24.9	3.1
39	Brisbane - Hobart	22.8	24.0	5.1
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	23.2	21.0	-9.5
41	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	17.6	18.3	4.2
42	Brisbane - Gladstone	19.1	18.2	-4.4
43	Dubbo - Sydney	15.0	16.8	12.1
44	Adelaide - Canberra	16.2	16.1	-0.2
45	Brisbane - Emerald	15.8	15.8	-0.4
46	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	14.9	15.2	1.7
47	Darwin - Perth	16.3	15.0	-8.0
48	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	11.6	14.7	27.6
49	Hamilton Island - Sydney	16.4	14.7	-10.0
50	Canberra - Gold Coast	14.0	14.0	-0.6

continued

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

	City-Pair	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
51	Albury - Sydney	12.9	13.8	7.3
52	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	13.8	13.7	-0.7
53	Port Macquarie - Sydney	12.9	13.6	5.7
54	Melbourne - Mildura	13.5	13.1	-2.5
55	Brisbane - Mount Isa	13.1	12.3	-6.0
56	Brisbane - Bundaberg	12.4	11.9	-4.1
57	Brisbane - Launceston	10.2	11.5	13.0
58	Devonport - Melbourne	12.7	11.3	-10.6
59	Geraldton - Perth	11.1	10.6	-3.7
60	Ayers Rock - Melbourne	8.1	9.8	21.1
61	Orange - Sydney	..	9.0	NA (a)
62	Adelaide - Alice Springs	8.4	8.2	-3.0
	Total domestic network	4 835.9	4 778.0	-1.2

.. Data not available for release.

(a) Orange - Sydney route included from May 2026, prior data not shown.

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

	City-Pair	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	825.9	769.4	-6.8
2	Brisbane - Sydney	431.0	409.1	-5.1
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	350.1	334.5	-4.5
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	238.3	235.2	-1.3
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	224.4	226.1	0.8
6	Melbourne - Perth	195.1	187.6	-3.9
7	Adelaide - Sydney	186.6	184.7	-1.0
8	Gold Coast - Melbourne	165.5	156.7	-5.3
9	Perth - Sydney	160.8	163.2	1.5
10	Brisbane - Cairns	130.7	122.2	-6.5
11	Hobart - Melbourne	131.9	129.2	-2.1
12	Brisbane - Perth	108.7	110.3	1.5
13	Brisbane - Townsville	102.7	110.8	7.8
14	Canberra - Melbourne	113.4	105.2	-7.2
15	Adelaide - Brisbane	82.7	90.5	9.5
16	Launceston - Melbourne	79.9	82.4	3.1
17	Brisbane - Mackay	101.7	91.7	-9.9
18	Cairns - Sydney	77.0	71.2	-7.4
19	Cairns - Melbourne	73.9	69.4	-6.0
20	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	72.7	74.1	1.9
21	Karratha - Perth	82.4	92.8	12.6
22	Adelaide - Perth	72.3	78.0	7.8
23	Hobart - Sydney	68.4	67.3	-1.5
24	Brisbane - Canberra	74.1	74.9	1.1
25	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	64.0	58.3	-8.9
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	68.3	70.4	3.0
27	Canberra - Sydney	82.6	66.0	-20.1
28	Brisbane - Newcastle	52.3	52.0	-0.6
29	Perth - Port Hedland	64.1	67.8	5.8
30	Kalgoorlie - Perth	62.2	61.1	-1.7
31	Newman - Perth	60.0	61.9	3.2
32	Melbourne - Newcastle	44.6	44.1	-1.2
33	Ballina - Sydney	39.2	41.3	5.3
34	Broome - Perth	44.6	51.9	16.2
35	Brisbane - Darwin	42.0	32.9	-21.8
36	Darwin - Melbourne	33.5	33.2	-1.1
37	Adelaide - Gold Coast	25.4	29.1	14.5
38	Launceston - Sydney	26.7	29.5	10.7
39	Brisbane - Hobart	25.9	27.4	5.9
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	27.1	23.6	-13.0
41	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	21.3	24.6	15.5
42	Brisbane - Gladstone	27.5	26.5	-3.8
43	Dubbo - Sydney	22.4	21.6	-3.7
44	Adelaide - Canberra	23.3	24.9	7.0
45	Brisbane - Emerald	25.7	23.4	-8.9
46	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	20.6	21.6	5.0
47	Darwin - Perth	21.7	19.6	-9.7
48	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	15.4	19.3	25.4
49	Hamilton Island - Sydney	22.6	18.4	-18.4
50	Canberra - Gold Coast	16.3	16.1	-1.2

continued

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

	City-Pair	Apr 2025	Apr 2026	% Change
51	Port Macquarie - Sydney	18.1	19.9	9.6
52	Albury - Sydney	16.4	19.0	16.0
53	Darwin - Perth	20.3	18.8	-7.7
54	Brisbane - Launceston	12.9	14.7	13.7
55	Melbourne - Mildura	17.2	19.4	12.6
56	Devonport - Melbourne	17.8	16.7	-6.2
57	Brisbane - Mount Isa	20.7	21.2	2.6
58	Brisbane - Bundaberg	16.5	18.3	11.2
59	Ayers Rock - Melbourne	10.1	12.4	23.0
60	Geraldton - Perth	17.4	19.1	9.7
61	Adelaide - Alice Springs	12.9	10.5	-18.5
62	Brisbane - Moranbah	15.1	16.2	7.5
Total domestic network		6 320.1	6 430.1	1.7

Table 4: Load factors (%) — monthly activity

	City-Pair	May 2025	May 2026	% Point diff
1	Melbourne - Sydney	80.8	84.5	3.7
2	Brisbane - Sydney	84.5	88.1	3.6
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	82.2	85.1	2.9
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	85.6	87.2	1.6
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	84.5	84.5	0.0
6	Melbourne - Perth	84.2	85.4	1.1
7	Adelaide - Sydney	78.9	81.3	2.4
8	Gold Coast - Melbourne	88.1	93.0	4.9
9	Perth - Sydney	85.8	82.2	-3.6
10	Brisbane - Cairns	84.3	88.0	3.6
11	Hobart - Melbourne	85.9	82.2	-3.7
12	Brisbane - Perth	84.9	80.2	-4.6
13	Brisbane - Townsville	82.9	78.9	-4.0
14	Canberra - Melbourne	72.5	71.4	-1.1
15	Adelaide - Brisbane	83.3	81.2	-2.0
16	Launceston - Melbourne	86.5	85.0	-1.5
17	Brisbane - Mackay	68.4	72.7	4.2
18	Cairns - Sydney	89.3	91.4	2.0
19	Cairns - Melbourne	85.6	88.7	3.1
20	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	82.5	83.0	0.5
21	Karratha - Perth	70.6	65.4	-5.2
22	Adelaide - Perth	78.6	75.9	-2.8
23	Hobart - Sydney	85.2	83.9	-1.3
24	Brisbane - Canberra	72.6	72.1	-0.5
25	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	85.3	90.5	5.1
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	78.8	74.5	-4.4
27	Canberra - Sydney	64.2	69.2	5.0
28	Brisbane - Newcastle	84.8	83.4	-1.4
29	Perth - Port Hedland	64.3	61.3	-2.9
30	Kalgoorlie - Perth	53.7	62.3	8.5
31	Newman - Perth	62.5	61.0	-1.5
32	Melbourne - Newcastle	79.2	83.2	4.0
33	Ballina - Sydney	87.8	86.1	-1.7
34	Broome - Perth	77.5	64.8	-12.7
35	Brisbane - Darwin	77.2	86.3	9.0
36	Darwin - Melbourne	75.9	84.5	8.6
37	Adelaide - Gold Coast	92.2	91.2	-1.0
38	Launceston - Sydney	90.3	84.2	-6.2
39	Brisbane - Hobart	88.2	87.5	-0.7
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	85.6	89.0	3.4
41	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	82.4	74.3	-8.1
42	Brisbane - Gladstone	69.4	69.0	-0.5
43	Dubbo - Sydney	66.6	77.6	10.9
44	Adelaide - Canberra	69.4	64.7	-4.6
45	Brisbane - Emerald	61.5	67.3	5.7
46	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	72.5	70.2	-2.3
47	Darwin - Perth	75.2	76.7	1.5
48	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	74.9	76.2	1.3
49	Hamilton Island - Sydney	72.5	80.0	7.5
50	Canberra - Gold Coast	86.2	86.7	0.6

continued

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

	City-Pair	May 2025	May 2026	% Point diff
51	Albury - Sydney	73.4	72.1	-1.3
52	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	59.0	56.1	-2.9
53	Port Macquarie - Sydney	74.6	71.3	-3.4
54	Melbourne - Mildura	74.4	65.7	-8.7
55	Brisbane - Mount Isa	63.6	58.1	-5.6
56	Brisbane - Bundaberg	64.0	65.9	1.9
57	Brisbane - Launceston	92.7	90.5	-2.2
58	Devonport - Melbourne	70.8	70.2	-0.6
59	Geraldton - Perth	58.4	56.1	-2.3
60	Ayers Rock - Melbourne	86.5	88.8	2.3
61	Orange - Sydney	..	68.8	NA (a)
62	Adelaide - Alice Springs	67.5	76.5	9.0
	Total domestic network	80.7	81.4	0.7

.. Data not available for release.

(a) Orange - Sydney route included from May 2026, prior data not shown.

Table 5: Aircraft trips ^(a) — monthly activity

	City-Pair	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	4 719	4 409	-6.6
2	Brisbane - Sydney	2 596	2 378	-8.4
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	2 140	2 009	-6.1
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	1 366	1 339	-2.0
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	1 338	1 357	1.4
6	Melbourne - Perth	1 112	1 104	-0.7
7	Adelaide - Sydney	1 099	1 115	1.5
8	Gold Coast - Melbourne	890	862	-3.1
9	Perth - Sydney	866	872	0.7
10	Brisbane - Cairns	957	822	-14.1
11	Hobart - Melbourne	778	751	-3.5
12	Brisbane - Perth	619	629	1.6
13	Brisbane - Townsville	789	728	-7.7
14	Canberra - Melbourne	722	741	2.6
15	Adelaide - Brisbane	643	633	-1.6
16	Launceston - Melbourne	617	629	1.9
17	Brisbane - Mackay	706	720	2.0
18	Cairns - Sydney	410	396	-3.4
19	Cairns - Melbourne	379	362	-4.5
20	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	405	447	10.4
21	Karratha - Perth	491	537	9.4
22	Adelaide - Perth	397	449	13.1
23	Hobart - Sydney	421	414	-1.7
24	Brisbane - Canberra	606	569	-6.1
25	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	340	306	-10.0
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	694	717	3.3
27	Canberra - Sydney	1 282	1 130	-11.9
28	Brisbane - Newcastle	438	448	2.3
29	Perth - Port Hedland	410	404	-1.5
30	Kalgoorlie - Perth	409	406	-0.7
31	Newman - Perth	355	371	4.5
32	Melbourne - Newcastle	291	292	0.3
33	Ballina - Sydney	259	298	15.1
34	Broome - Perth	282	323	14.5
35	Brisbane - Darwin	235	189	-19.6
36	Darwin - Melbourne	187	187	0.0
37	Adelaide - Gold Coast	124	144	16.1
38	Launceston - Sydney	176	179	1.7
39	Brisbane - Hobart	156	170	9.0
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	168	132	-21.4
41	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	378	381	0.8
42	Brisbane - Gladstone	321	320	-0.3
43	Dubbo - Sydney	438	364	-16.9
44	Adelaide - Canberra	215	239	11.2
45	Brisbane - Emerald	338	313	-7.4
46	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	377	372	-1.3
47	Darwin - Perth	123	127	3.3
48	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	124	125	0.8
49	Hamilton Island - Sydney	128	106	-17.2
50	Canberra - Gold Coast	90	88	-2.2

continued

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

	City-Pair	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
51	Albury - Sydney	327	320	-2.1
52	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	483	487	0.8
53	Port Macquarie - Sydney	309	304	-1.6
54	Melbourne - Mildura	360	368	2.2
55	Brisbane - Mount Isa	192	178	-7.3
56	Brisbane - Bundaberg	314	296	-5.7
57	Brisbane - Launceston	62	70	12.9
58	Devonport - Melbourne	295	245	-16.9
59	Geraldton - Perth	211	206	-2.4
60	Ayers Rock - Melbourne	53	60	13.2
61	Orange - Sydney	..	215	NA (b)
62	Adelaide - Alice Springs	150	129	-14.0
Total domestic network		50 388	48 475	-3.8

(a) Includes RPT cargo flights.

(b) Orange - Sydney route included from May 2026, prior data not shown.

.. Data not available for release.

TOP TEN AIRPORTS – PASSENGER MOVEMENTS

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

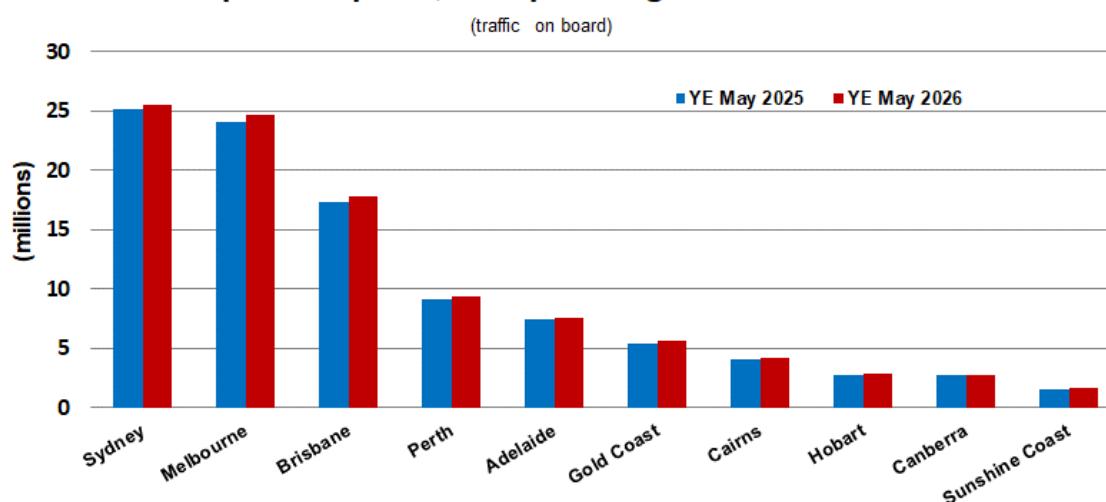
Airport	May 2025	May 2026	% Change	% of Total
1 Sydney	2 041.2	2 013.7	-1.3	21.1
2 Melbourne	1 926.7	1 885.9	-2.1	19.7
3 Brisbane	1 445.9	1 426.7	-1.3	14.9
4 Perth	760.6	752.3	-1.1	7.9
5 Adelaide	590.2	604.1	2.4	6.3
6 Gold Coast	412.0	416.0	1.0	4.4
7 Cairns	327.4	315.8	-3.6	3.3
8 Canberra	230.0	215.3	-6.4	2.3
9 Hobart	208.4	202.7	-2.7	2.1
10 Townsville	136.9	138.4	1.0	1.4
Total top ten airports	8 079.3	7 970.9	-1.3	83.4
Total domestic network	9 671.9	9 556.1	-1.2	100.0

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

Airport	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change	% of Total
1 Sydney	25 179.9	25 505.0	1.3	21.0
2 Melbourne	24 096.2	24 618.5	2.2	20.3
3 Brisbane	17 301.5	17 740.6	2.5	14.6
4 Perth	9 106.5	9 412.0	3.4	7.7
5 Adelaide	7 388.9	7 606.3	2.9	6.3
6 Gold Coast	5 388.4	5 674.7	5.3	4.7
7 Cairns	4 113.5	4 133.1	0.5	3.4
8 Hobart	2 787.0	2 891.8	3.8	2.4
9 Canberra	2 767.2	2 742.0	-0.9	2.3
10 Sunshine Coast	1 577.0	1 708.0	8.3	1.4
Total top ten airports	99 706.1	102 032.1	2.3	84.0
Total domestic network	118 698.8	121 520.0	2.4	100.0

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

Top ten airports, RPT passenger movements



TOP FIVE AIRPORTS – CARGO MOVEMENTS

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

Airport	May 2025	May 2026	% Change	% of Total
1 Melbourne	7.6	7.1	-7.6	27.2
2 Sydney	5.7	5.4	-5.1	21.0
3 Brisbane	5.0	4.8	-3.9	18.4
4 Perth	3.1	2.9	-5.5	11.1
5 Adelaide	1.4	1.5	8.3	5.7
Total top five airports	22.8	21.6	-4.9	83.4
Total domestic network	27.6	25.9	-6.2	100.0

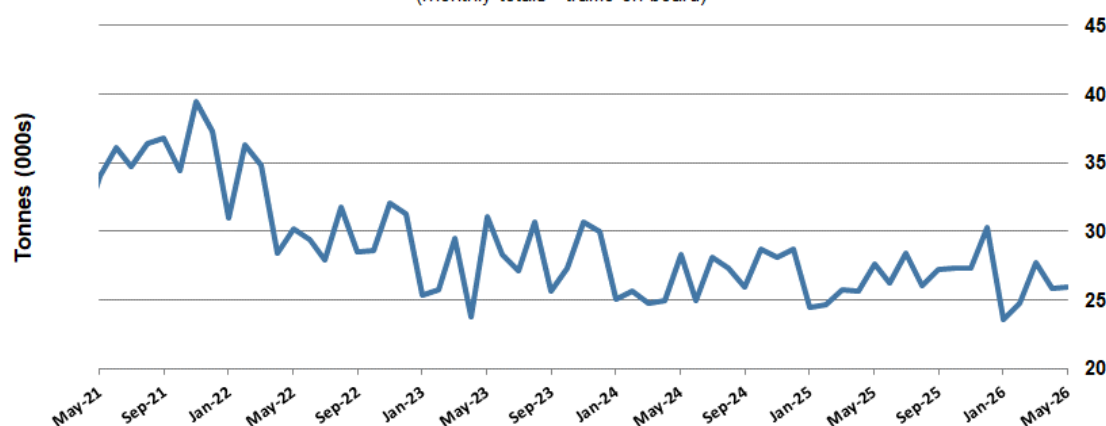
Table 9: Top five airports, domestic RPT cargo movements (000s tonnes) - annual activity

Airport	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change	% of Total
1 Melbourne	87.8	89.1	1.5	27.8
2 Sydney	67.6	67.5	-0.1	21.1
3 Brisbane	56.9	57.7	1.4	18.0
4 Perth	36.2	35.9	-1.0	11.2
5 Adelaide	17.3	17.2	-1.0	5.4
Total top five airports	265.9	267.4	0.6	83.4
Total domestic network	319.8	320.5	0.2	100.0

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

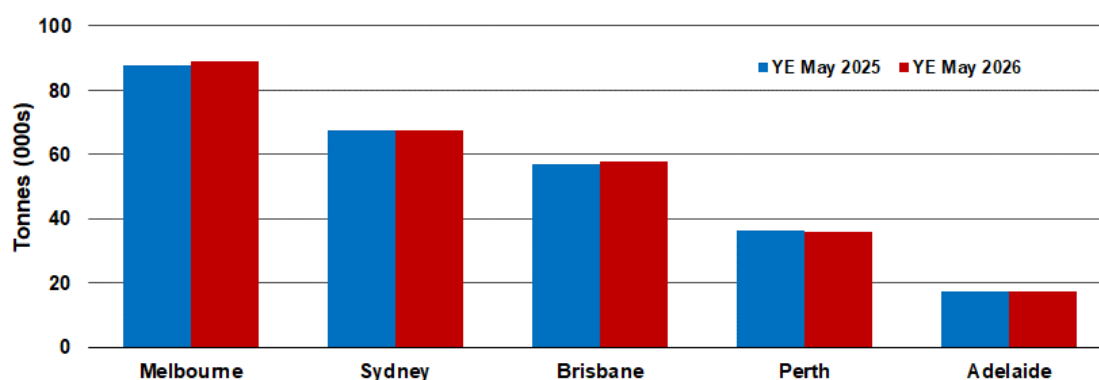
Total domestic network - cargo movement

(monthly totals - traffic on board)



Top five airports, cargo movements

(Domestic cargo traffic - traffic on board)



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

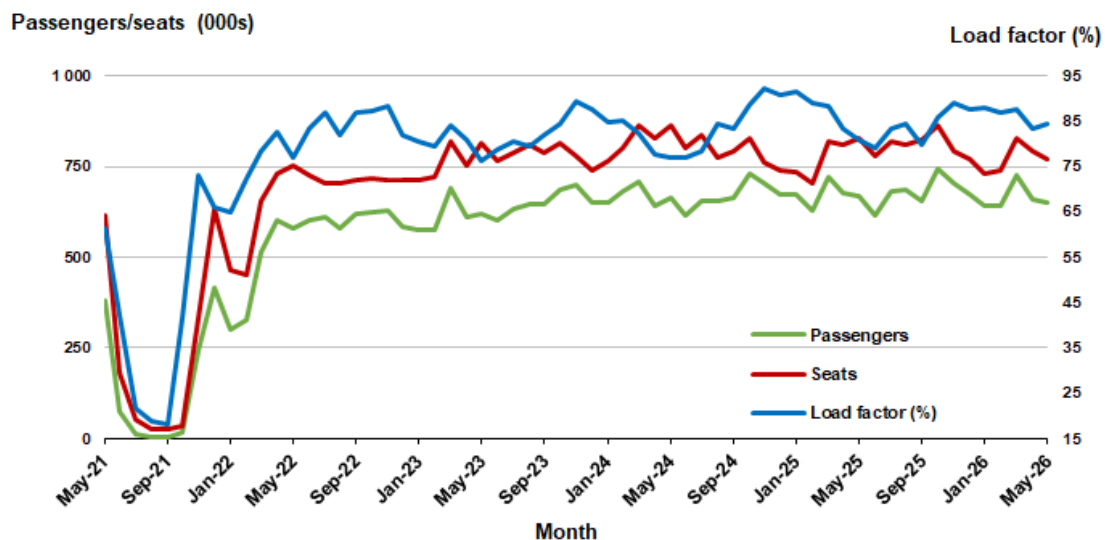
TOP TEN ROUTES

1. Melbourne - Sydney

Monthly data

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	667.5	650.2	-2.6
Seats (000s)	825.9	769.4	-6.8
Load factor %	80.8	84.5	3.7 *
Aircraft trips	4 719	4 409	-6.6

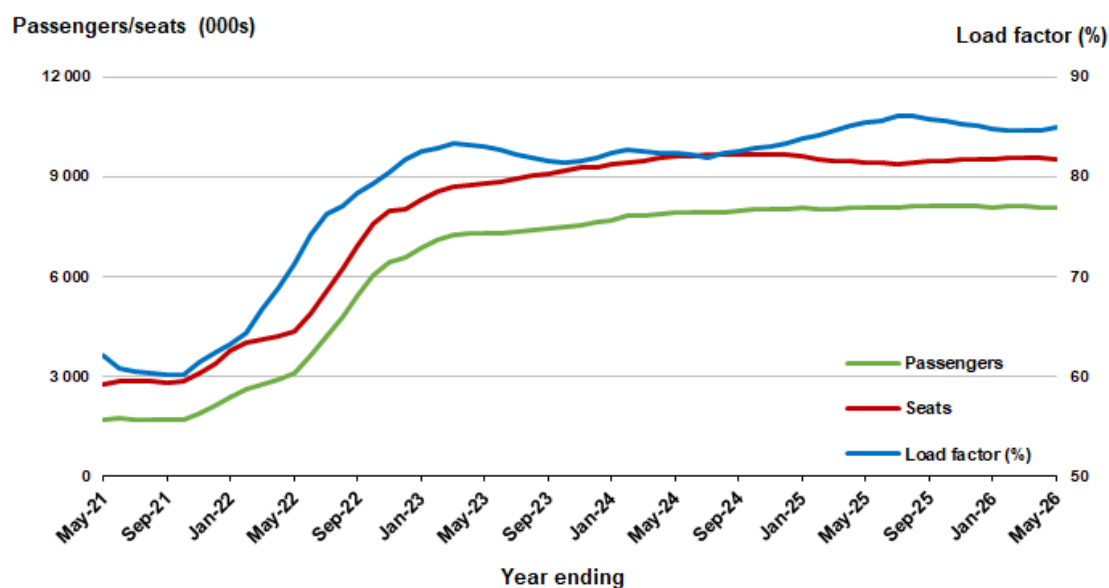
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	8 056.0	8 073.9	0.2
Seats (000s)	9 426.2	9 508.8	0.9
Load factor %	85.5	84.9	-0.6 *
Aircraft trips	54 172	54 310	0.3

* percentage point difference

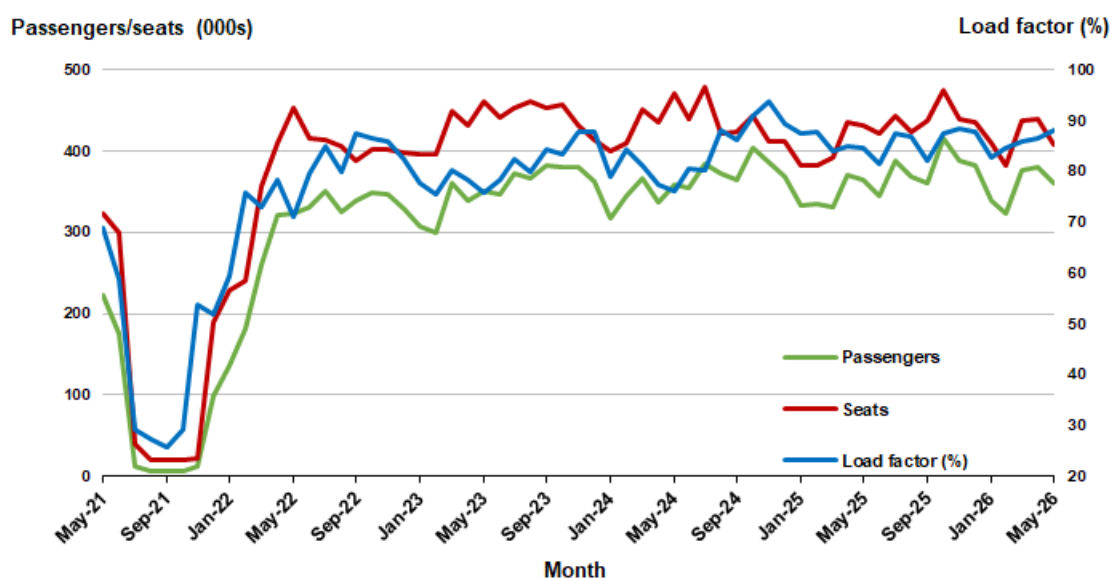


2. Brisbane - Sydney

Monthly data

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	364.2	360.2	-1.1
Seats (000s)	431.0	409.1	-5.1
Load factor %	84.5	88.1	3.6 *
Aircraft trips	2 596	2 378	-8.4

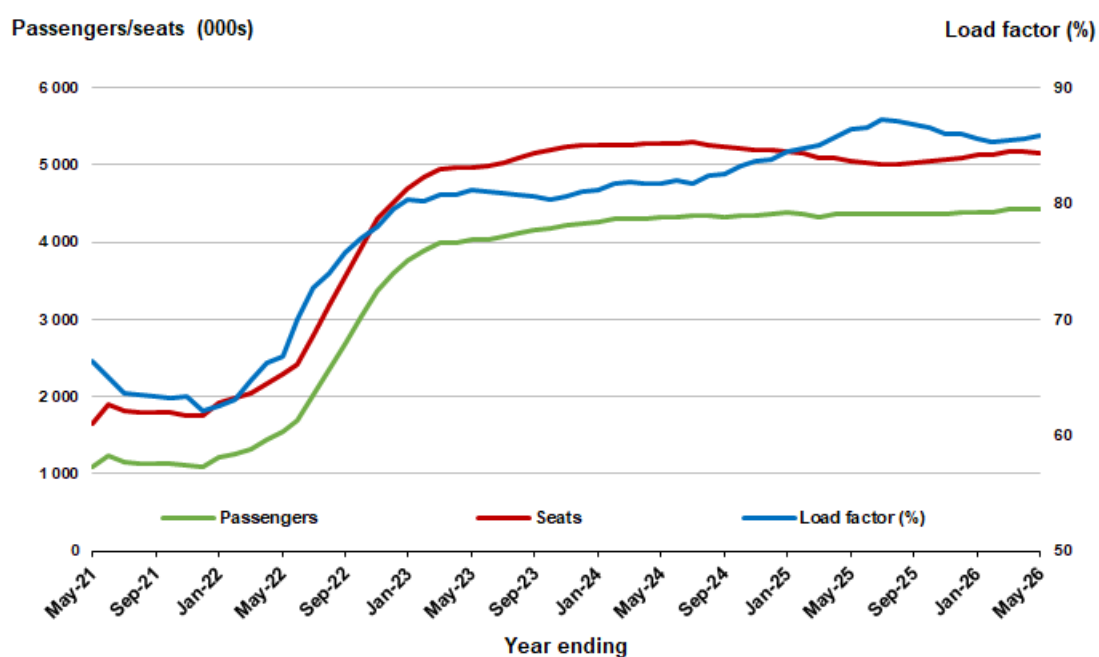
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	4 369.8	4 427.4	1.3
Seats (000s)	5 054.0	5 154.3	2.0
Load factor %	86.5	85.9	-0.6 *
Aircraft trips	30 355	30 548	0.6

* percentage point difference

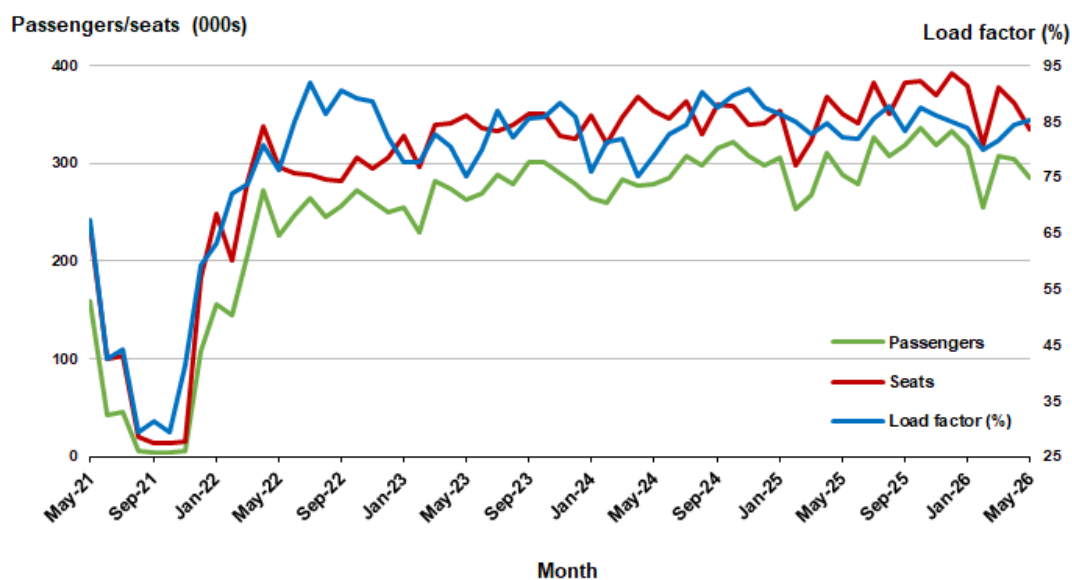


3. Brisbane - Melbourne

Monthly data

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	287.7	284.7	-1.0
Seats (000s)	350.1	334.5	-4.5
Load factor %	82.2	85.1	2.9 *
Aircraft trips	2 140	2 009	-6.1

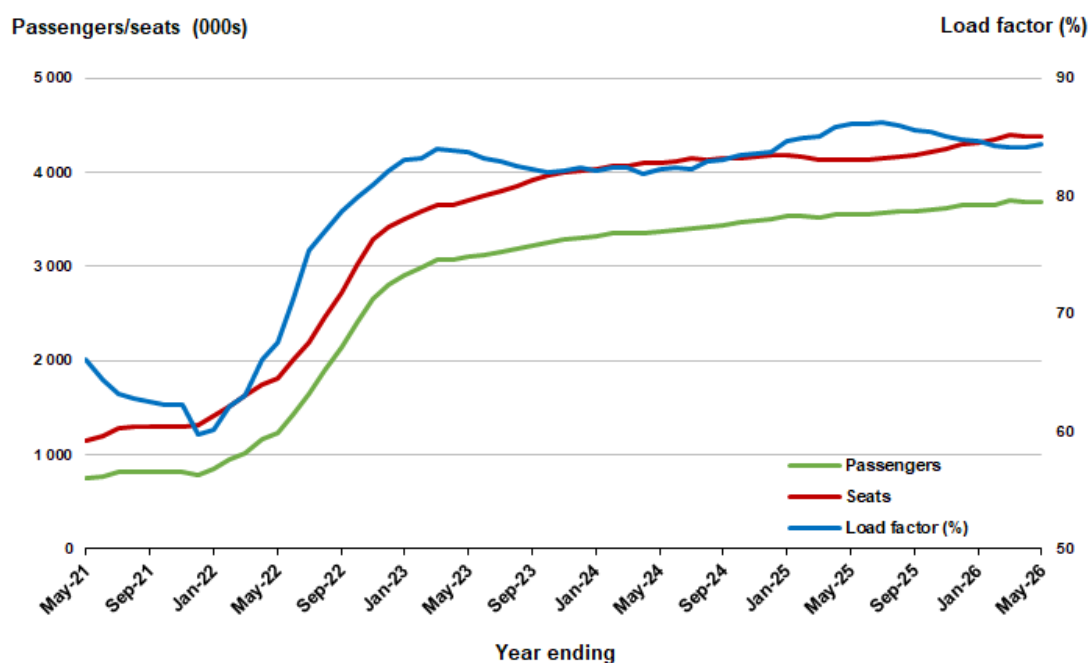
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	3 559.8	3 688.4	3.6
Seats (000s)	4 131.6	4 374.2	5.9
Load factor %	86.2	84.3	-1.8 *
Aircraft trips	24 808	26 460	6.7

* percentage point difference



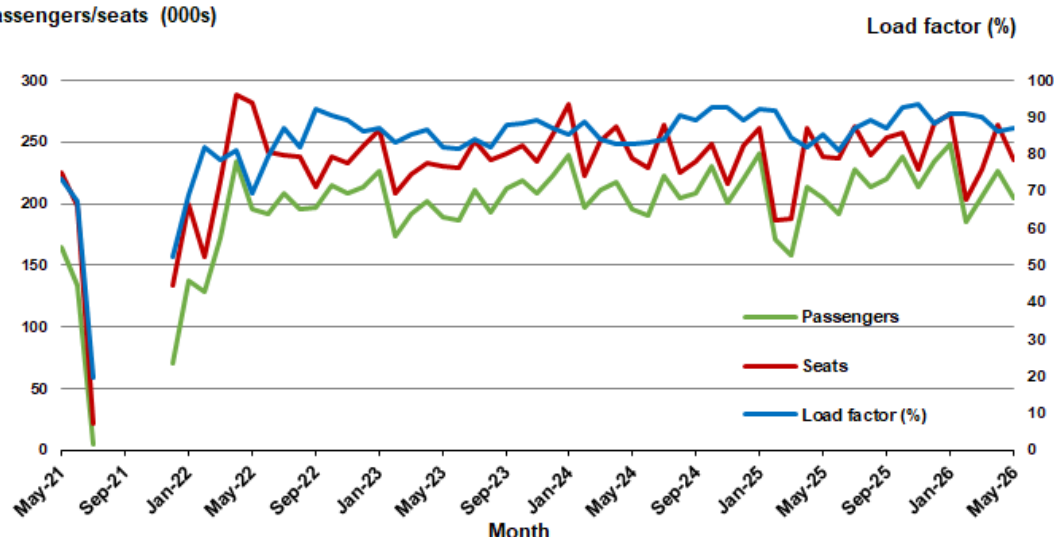
4. Gold Coast - Sydney ^(a)

Monthly data

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	204.0	205.0	0.5
Seats (000s)	238.3	235.2	-1.3
Load factor %	85.6	87.2	1.6 *
Aircraft trips	1 366	1 339	-2.0

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)



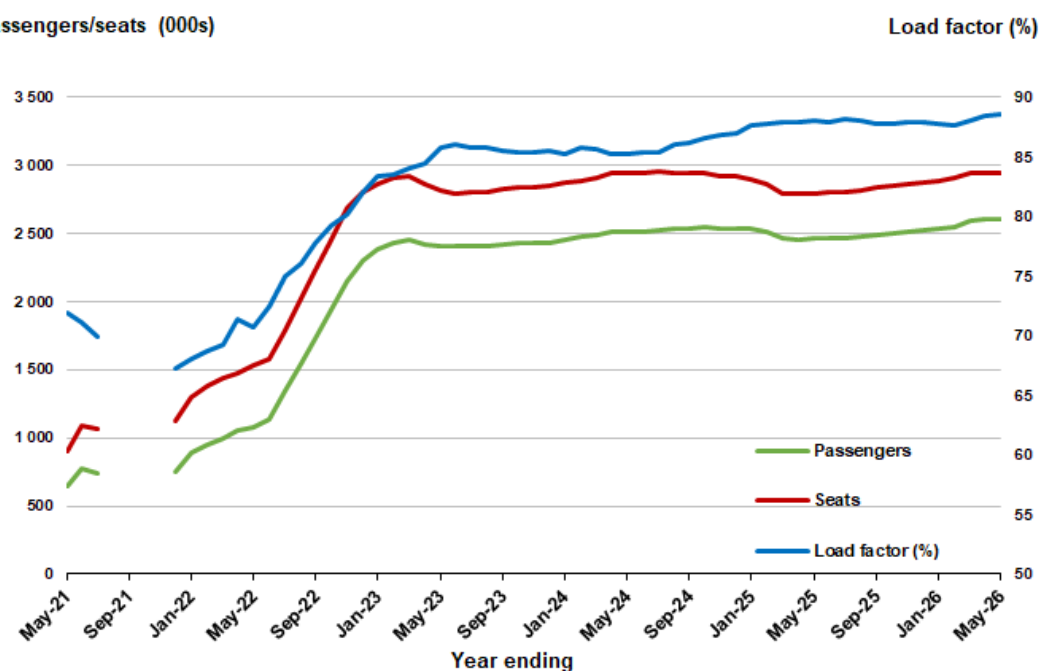
(a) August to November 2020 data not available for release.

Moving annual data

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 464.9	2 610.8	5.9
Seats (000s)	2 797.4	2 946.0	5.3
Load factor %	88.1	88.6	0.5 *
Aircraft trips	15 866	16 703	5.3

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)



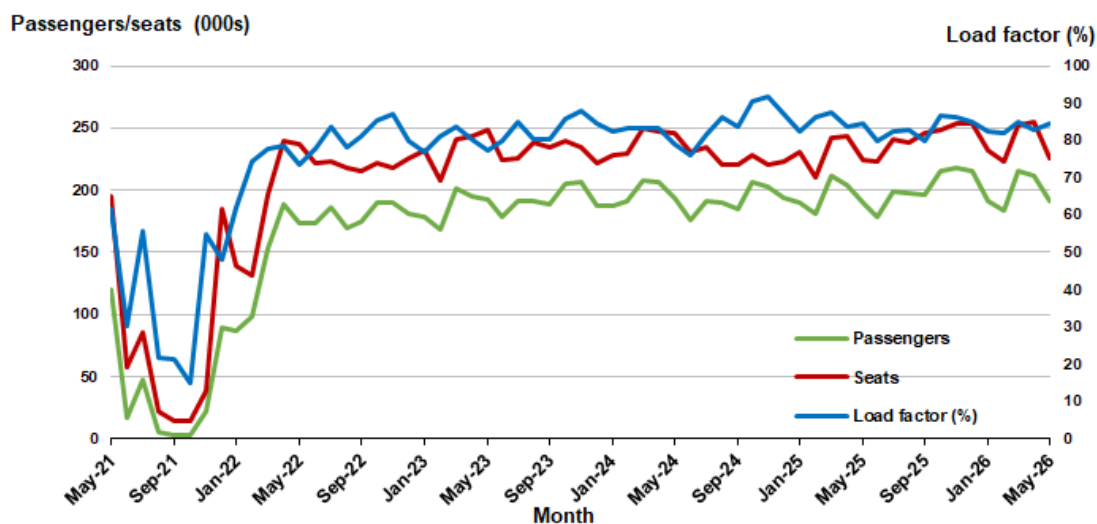
(a) August to November 2020 moving annual totals are not available for release.

5. Adelaide - Melbourne

Monthly data

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	189.6	191.0	0.7
Seats (000s)	224.4	226.1	0.8
Load factor %	84.5	84.5	0.0 *
Aircraft trips	1 338	1 357	1.4

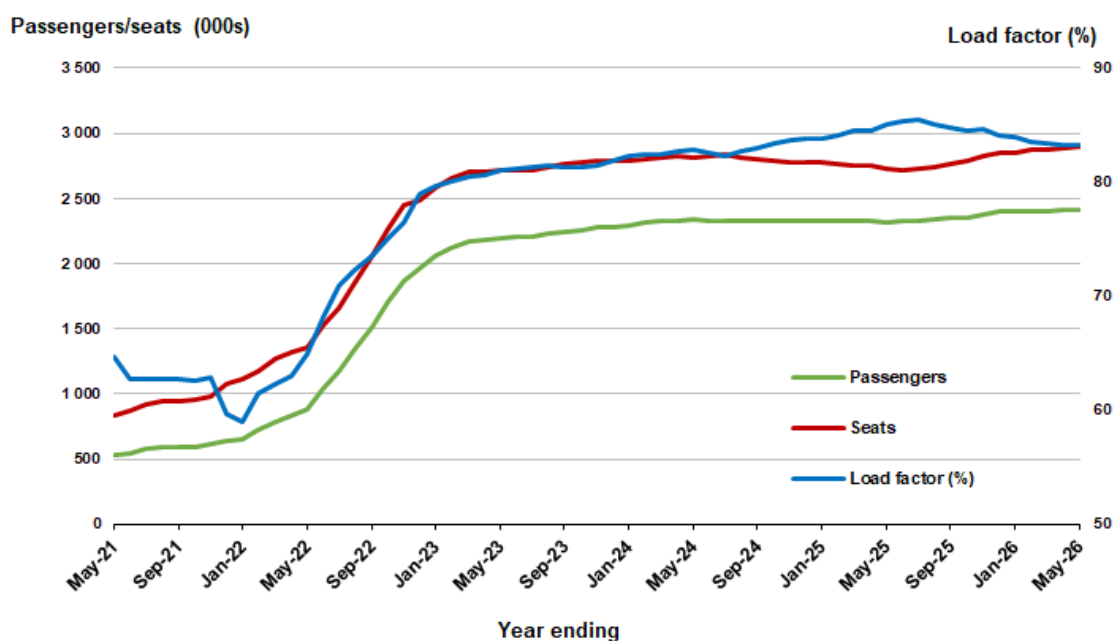
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 054.9	2 108.9	2.6
Seats (000s)	2 397.6	2 457.8	2.5
Load factor %	85.7	85.8	0.1 *
Aircraft trips	13 283	13 770	3.7

* percentage point difference



6. Melbourne - Perth

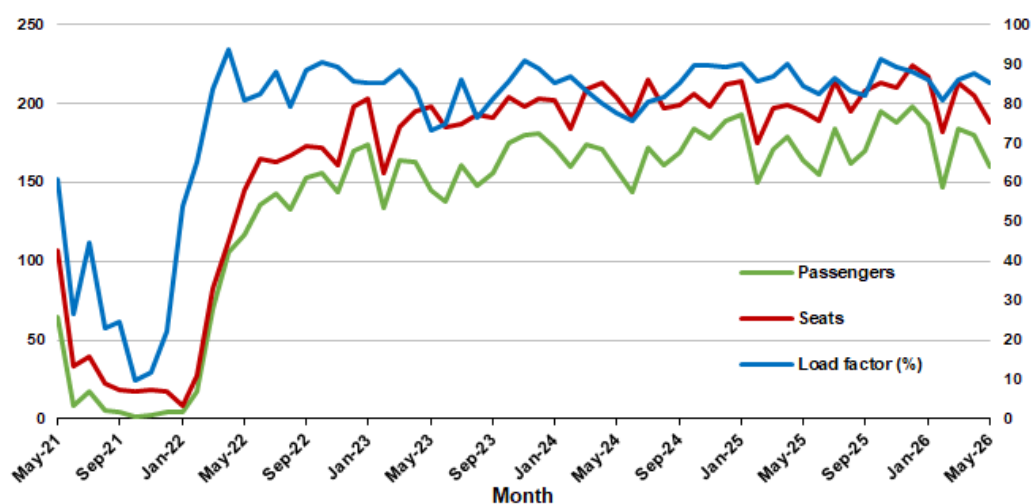
Monthly data

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	164.3	160.1	-2.6
Seats (000s)	195.1	187.6	-3.9
Load factor %	84.2	85.4	1.1 *
Aircraft trips	1 112	1 104	-0.7

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)

Load factor (%)



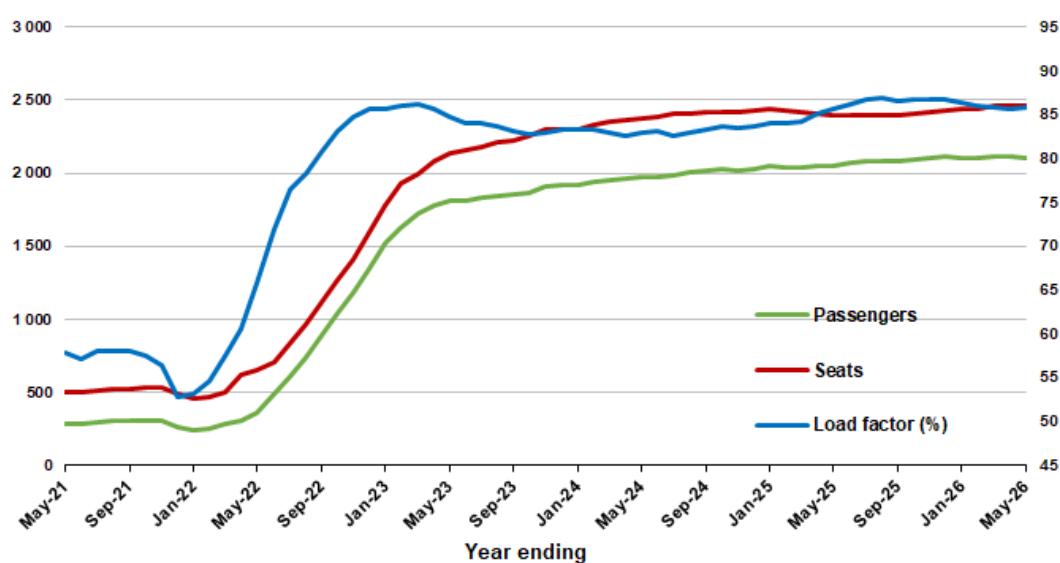
Moving annual data

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 321.2	2 410.7	3.9
Seats (000s)	2 729.5	2 893.4	6.0
Load factor %	85.0	83.3	-1.7 *
Aircraft trips	16 294	17 315	6.3

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)

Load factor (%)

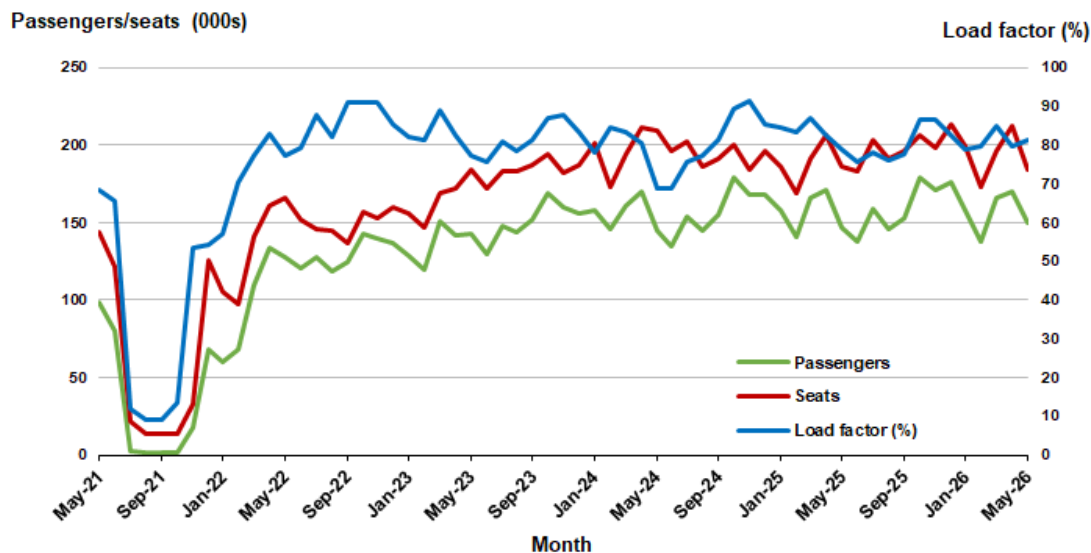


7. Adelaide - Sydney

Monthly data

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	147.2	150.1	2.0
Seats (000s)	186.6	184.7	-1.0
Load factor %	78.9	81.3	2.4 *
Aircraft trips	1 099	1 115	1.5

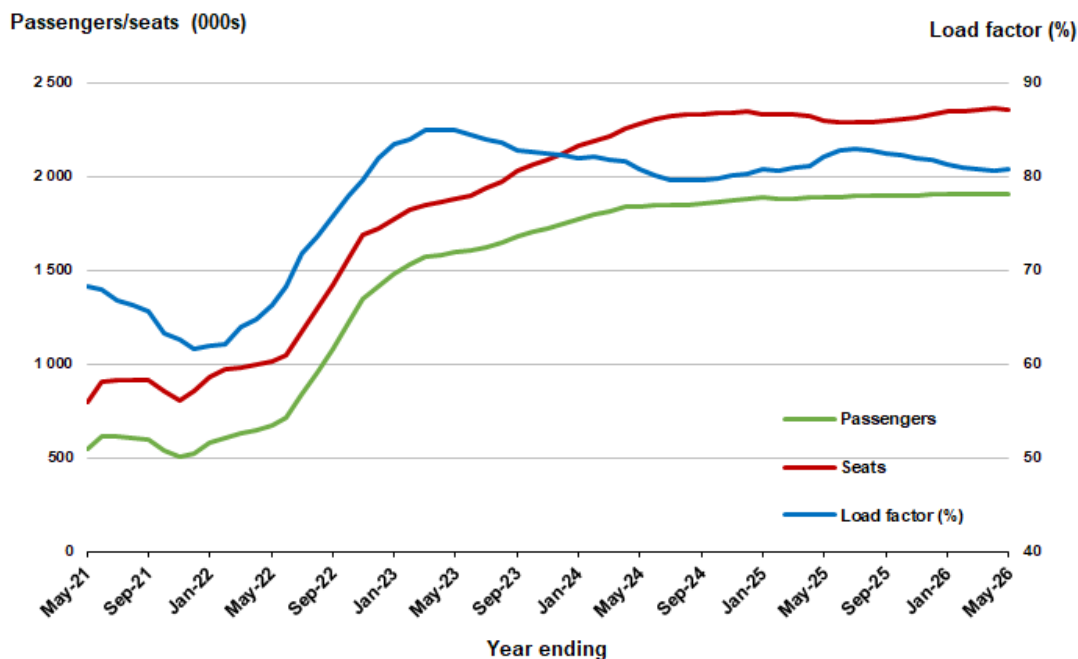
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 886.8	1 903.7	0.9
Seats (000s)	2 298.4	2 358.0	2.6
Load factor %	82.1	80.7	-1.4 *
Aircraft trips	13 560	13 787	1.7

* percentage point difference

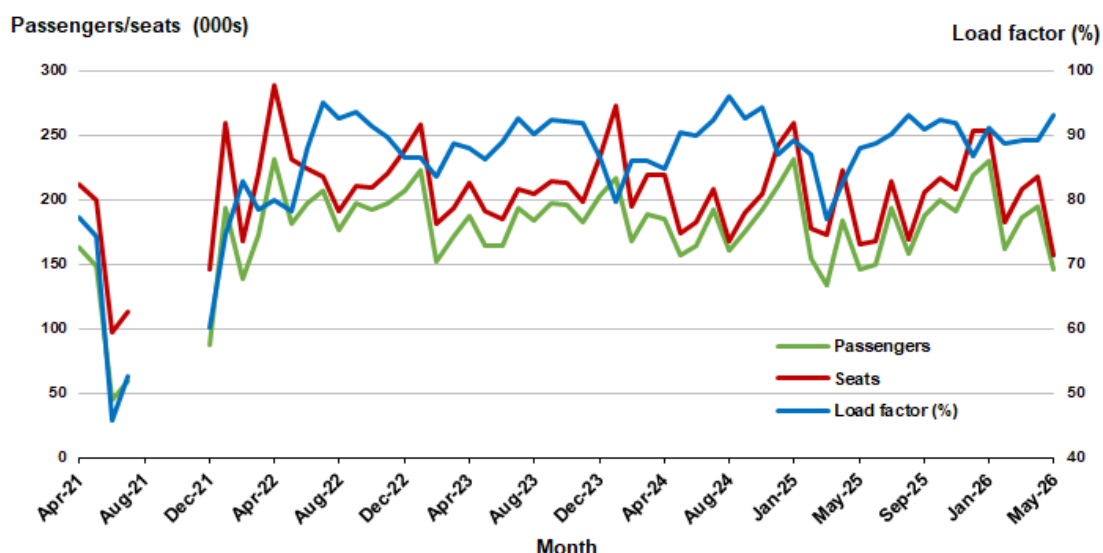


8. Gold Coast - Melbourne ^(a)

Monthly data

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	145.8	145.7	0.0
Seats (000s)	165.5	156.7	-5.3
Load factor %	88.1	93.0	4.9 *
Aircraft trips	890	862	-3.1

* percentage point difference

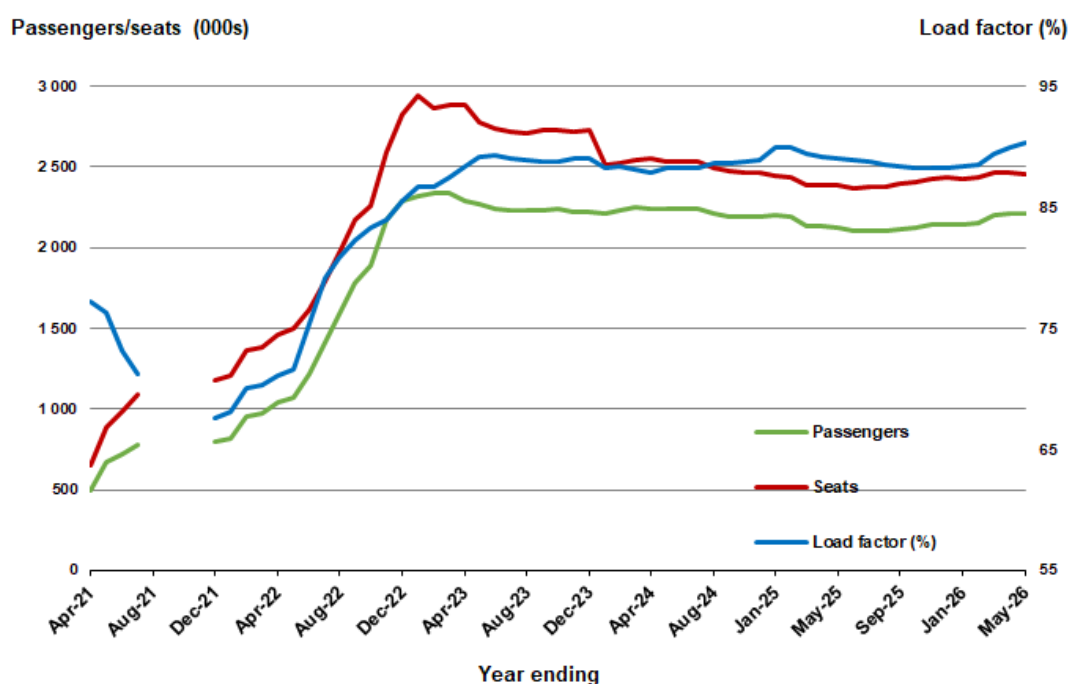


(a) August to November 2021 data not available for release.

Moving annual data

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 121.2	2 216.1	4.5
Seats (000s)	2 382.2	2 454.2	3.0
Load factor %	89.0	90.3	1.3 *
Aircraft trips	12 877	13 291	3.2

* percentage point difference



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

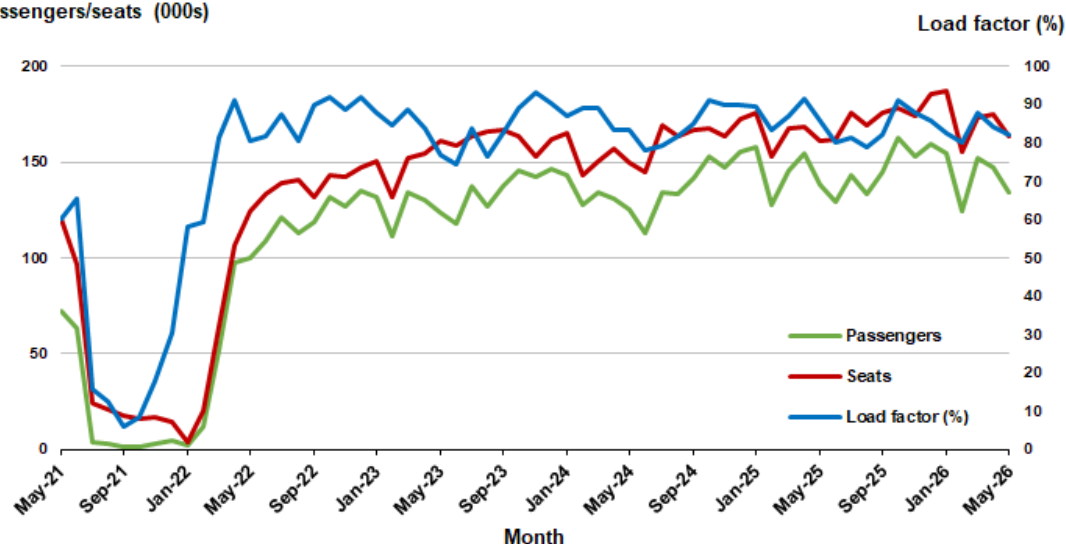
9. Perth - Sydney

Monthly data

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	138.0	134.2	-2.7
Seats (000s)	160.8	163.2	1.5
Load factor %	85.8	82.2	-3.6 *
Aircraft trips	866	872	0.7

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)

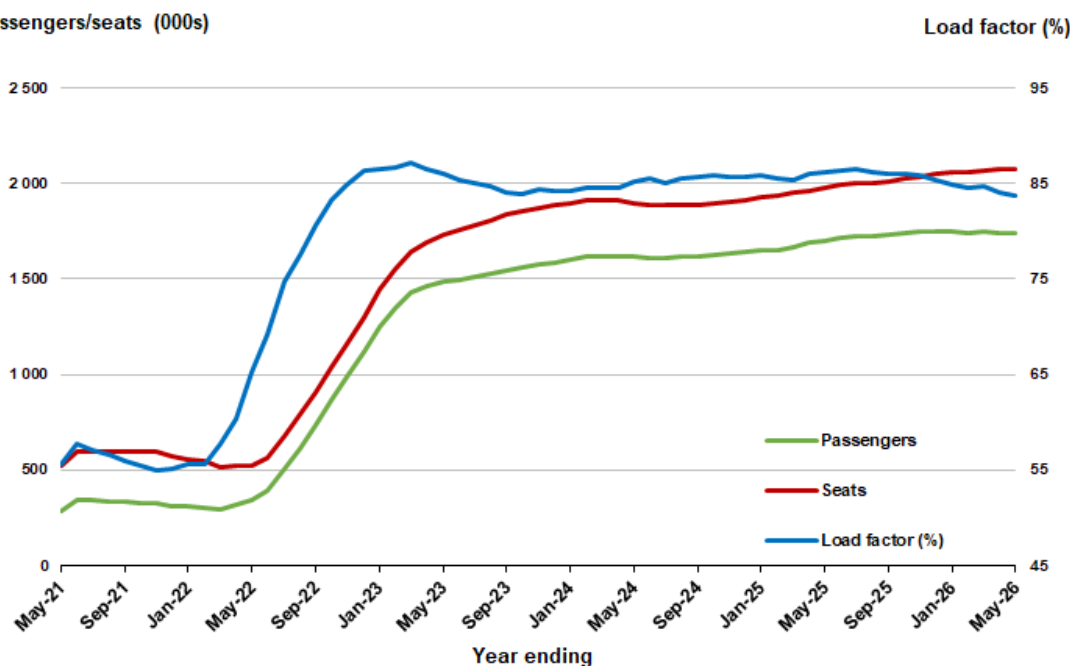


Moving annual data

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 701.4	1 738.6	2.2
Seats (000s)	1 973.6	2 075.5	5.2
Load factor %	86.2	83.8	-2.4 *
Aircraft trips	10 463	11 097	6.1

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)

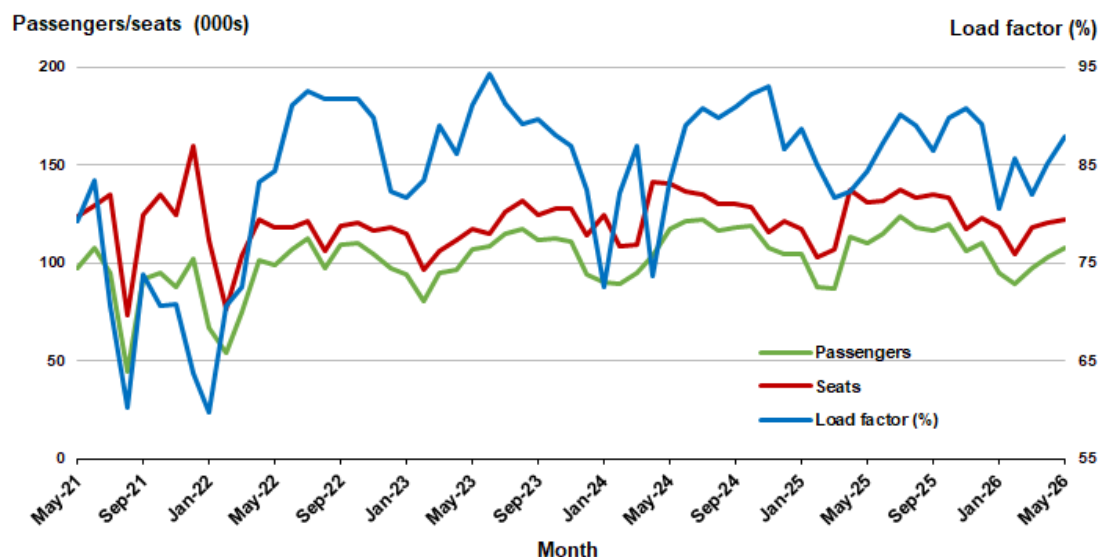


10. Brisbane - Cairns

Monthly data

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	110.2	107.5	-2.4
Seats (000s)	130.7	122.2	-6.5
Load factor %	84.3	88.0	3.6 *
Aircraft trips	957	822	-14.1

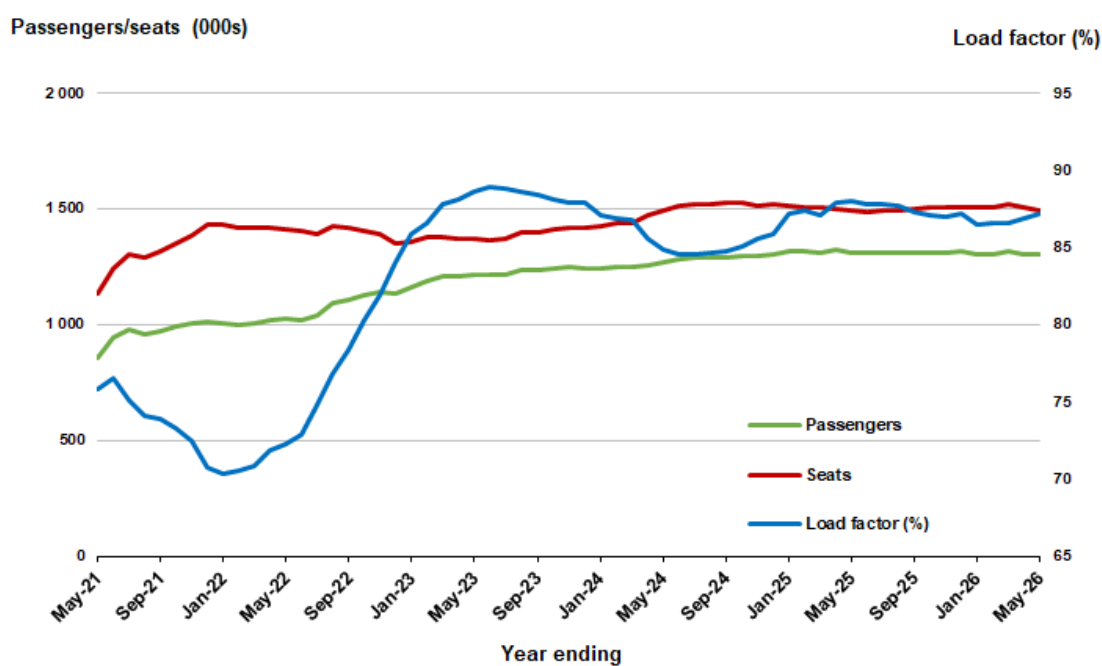
* percentage point difference



Moving annual data

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 312.4	1 302.7	-0.7
Seats (000s)	1 491.9	1 495.0	0.2
Load factor %	88.0	87.1	-0.8 *
Aircraft trips	10 498	10 726	2.2

* percentage point difference



TOP FIFTY REGIONAL AIRPORTS

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

	Airport	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
1	Cairns	327.4	315.8	-3.6
2	Hobart	208.4	202.7	-2.7
3	Townsville	136.9	138.4	1.0
4	Darwin	143.0	137.2	-4.0
5	Launceston	104.8	108.3	3.3
6	Newcastle	94.6	98.6	4.3
7	Mackay	79.5	75.6	-5.0
8	Karratha	59.5	62.0	4.2
9	Rockhampton	57.2	55.5	-2.8
10	Ballina	41.6	44.3	6.7
11	Proserpine	42.1	44.1	4.9
12	Port Hedland	42.5	42.9	0.9
13	Broome	41.9	39.9	-4.8
14	Kalgoorlie	33.4	38.4	14.7
15	Newman	37.6	37.7	0.5
16	Hamilton Island	33.0	33.6	2.0
17	Alice Springs	29.8	31.2	4.6
18	Ayers Rock	28.1	30.1	7.3
19	Coffs Harbour	22.8	21.3	-6.6
20	Dubbo	18.2	19.7	8.4
21	Mount Isa	20.4	19.1	-6.4
22	Wagga Wagga	19.6	18.9	-3.7
23	Gladstone	19.1	18.2	-4.4
24	Paraburdoo	23.0	18.1	-21.5
25	Albury	18.7	18.0	-3.7
26	Hervey Bay	17.5	18.0	2.9
27	Mildura	16.5	15.9	-3.2
28	Port Macquarie	14.9	15.9	6.4
29	Emerald	15.8	15.8	-0.4
30	Tamworth	13.5	14.2	5.4
31	Port Lincoln	13.8	13.7	-0.7
32	Kununurra	14.8	12.7	-14.5
33	Orange	10.7	12.2	13.4
34	Bundaberg	12.4	11.9	-4.2
35	Devonport	12.7	11.3	-10.8
36	Geraldton	11.8	11.3	-3.7
37	Learmonth	11.5	11.1	-3.9
38	Thursday Island	9.9	9.9	0.5
39	Armidale	9.6	9.7	2.0
40	Olympic Dam	8.8	8.8	-0.7
41	Weipa	9.1	8.4	-8.6
42	Moranbah	8.3	7.1	-14.3
43	Busseton	8.1	6.9	-15.0
44	Burnie	6.6	6.8	3.2
45	Gove	7.4	6.5	-12.3
46	Mount Gambier	6.6	6.0	-9.2
47	Merimbula	5.8	6.0	3.5
48	Griffith	6.8	5.8	-13.5
49	Albany	6.1	5.7	-7.3
50	Roma	5.7	5.3	-7.3
Total top 50 regional airports		1 947.9	1 926.6	- 1.1
Total regional airports		2 069.8	2 042.4	- 1.3
Total domestic network		9 671.9	9 556.1	- 1.2

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 fifty regional airports (000s) — passenger movements, annual

Airport	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
1 Cairns	4 113.5	4 133.1	0.5
2 Hobart	2 787.0	2 891.8	3.8
3 Townsville	1 642.0	1 660.1	1.1
4 Darwin	1 622.5	1 643.0	1.3
5 Launceston	1 424.4	1 477.8	3.7
6 Newcastle	1 179.6	1 250.5	6.0
7 Mackay	897.6	937.3	4.4
8 Karratha	648.7	731.6	12.8
9 Rockhampton	642.2	644.9	0.4
10 Ballina	614.2	585.0	-4.8
11 Proserpine	514.5	574.6	11.7
12 Port Hedland	489.0	514.4	5.2
13 Hamilton Island	489.8	484.3	-1.1
14 Broome	445.0	454.1	2.1
15 Newman	424.9	445.8	4.9
16 Kalgoorlie	371.1	431.5	16.3
17 Alice Springs	359.0	367.6	2.4
18 Ayers Rock	344.0	350.9	2.0
19 Coffs Harbour	252.4	264.7	4.8
20 Mount Isa	238.7	231.7	-2.9
21 Paraburdoo	277.2	230.4	-16.9
22 Hervey Bay	205.2	227.4	10.9
23 Albury	224.3	225.8	0.7
24 Wagga Wagga	212.0	223.9	5.6
25 Gladstone	221.8	218.0	-1.7
26 Dubbo	205.3	216.5	5.5
27 Port Macquarie	189.4	198.5	4.8
28 Emerald	187.7	189.8	1.1
29 Mildura	190.8	184.9	-3.1
30 Port Lincoln	167.2	168.5	0.7
31 Tamworth	160.4	158.2	-1.4
32 Devonport	134.1	148.2	10.5
33 Bundaberg	141.0	141.3	0.2
34 Kununurra	139.4	135.8	-2.6
35 Orange	112.7	130.5	15.8
36 Geraldton	125.0	130.2	4.2
37 Thursday Island	120.9	115.7	-4.3
38 Armidale	100.9	111.5	10.5
39 Olympic Dam	101.3	104.0	2.7
40 Learmonth	110.8	100.9	-9.0
41 Weipa	95.3	100.3	5.2
42 Busseton	94.7	98.3	3.8
43 Moranbah	108.4	93.4	-13.8
44 Gove	89.5	83.7	-6.5
45 Burnie	79.9	82.7	3.5
46 Merimbula	67.8	74.7	10.2
47 Griffith	73.5	74.6	1.4
48 Mount Gambier	70.8	72.4	2.2
49 Albany	67.5	66.0	-2.2
50 Roma	61.1	62.4	3.6
Total top 50 regional airports	23 635.9	24 243.1	2.6
Total regional airports	25 046.1	25 632.4	2.3
Total domestic network	118 698.8	121 520.0	2.4

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)

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Total domestic charter passengers	368.3	377.0	2.4
Total domestic charter aircraft trips	6.2	6.3	1.1

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

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

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Total domestic charter passengers	4 297.3	4 506.4	4.9
Total domestic charter aircraft trips	73.7	76.3	3.6

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

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

	May 2025	May 2026	% Change
Total domestic charter passenger movements	736.7	754.0	2.4
Total domestic charter aircraft movements	12.5	12.6	1.1
Perth airport charter passenger movements	263.9	268.2	1.6
Perth airport charter aircraft movements	3.8	3.9	2.0

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

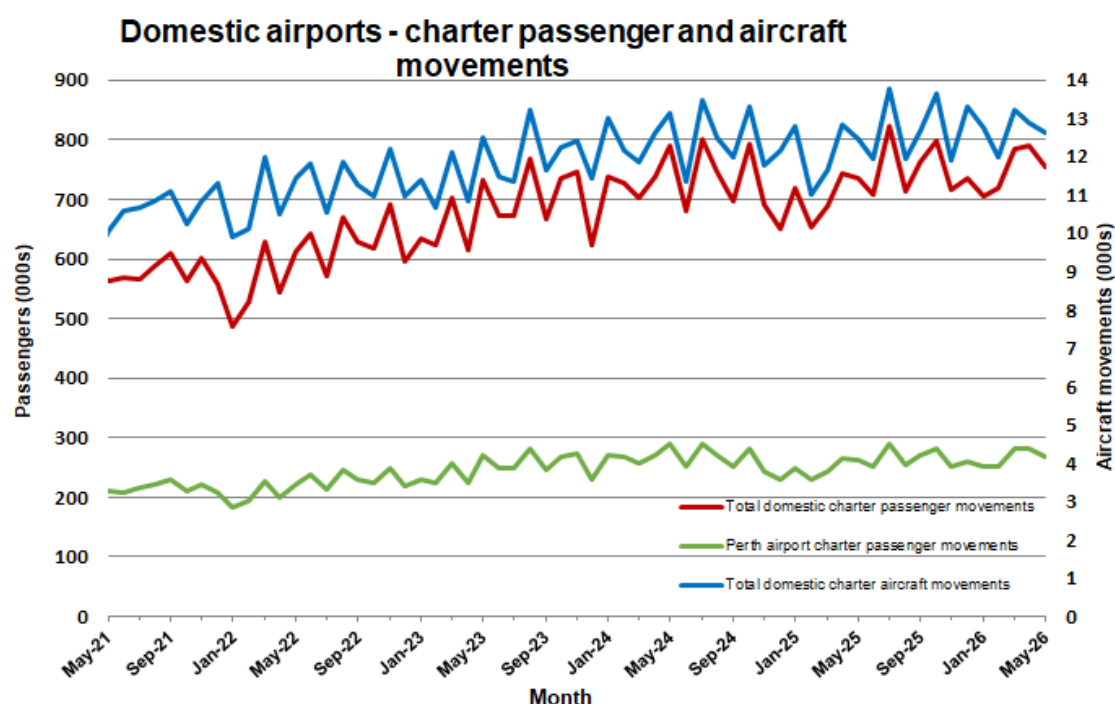
Charter passenger and aircraft movement numbers are the sum of arrivals and departures at each airport.

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

	YE May 2025	YE May 2026	% Change
Total domestic charter passenger movements	8 594.6	9 012.7	4.9
Total domestic charter aircraft movements	147.3	152.7	3.6
Perth airport charter passenger movements	3 098.4	3 186.0	2.8
Perth airport charter aircraft movements	45.7	46.1	0.9

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.



DEFINITIONS

Aircraft Trips	The number of flight stages. A return flight counts as two aircraft trips.
Airport Movements	Airport movements (passenger and cargo) are measured once on arrival and once on departure. Each domestic trip generates two 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 Kilometres (ASKs)	Calculated by multiplying the number of seats available on each flight stage, by the distance in kilometres 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 kilometres performed as a percentage of the total available seat kilometres.
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 Kilometres (RPKs)	Calculated by multiplying the number of revenue passengers travelling on each flight stage, by the distance in kilometres 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 two directly connected airports.
..	Not available for confidentiality or other reasons.
NA	Not applicable.