Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics

Aviation
Domestic aviation activity
December 2019

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Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE)
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
GPO Box 501, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Telephone: (international) +61 2 6274 7210
Fax: (international) +61 2 6274 6855
Email: bitre@infrastructure.gov.au
Website: www.bitre.gov.au

Inquiries

Should you require additional information about the statistics contained in this publication:

Nebojsa Pavlovic

Telephone (02) 6274 6817 or Facsimile (02) 6274 7727

Electronic mail: AVSTATS@infrastructure.gov.au

Nebojsa.Pavlovic@infrastructure.gov.au

Web site: http://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/aviation/domestic.aspx

FOREWORD

This report provides an overview of domestic (including charter) commercial aviation activity in Australia for the month of December 2019.

The data cover revenue passengers carried by Australian-registered operators of scheduled regular public transport 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. For the month of December 2019, there were 64 such routes.

Information on the total network for the month of December 2019 and on the Regular Public Transport (RPT) network for the month of December 2019 is presented on page 2, with estimates for the year ended December 2019 presented on page 3.

Detailed information on the 64 individual routes can be found in the RPT summary pages 4-13 of this publication.

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, Air North and Skippers as well as the cargo carried by dedicated freighter aircraft operated by Qantas Freight, Toll Aviation and Virgin Australia Cargo.

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

Domestic RPT passenger movements at the top 50 regional airports are presented 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, Transport and Regional 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 5.48 million passengers carried on Australian domestic commercial aviation (including charter operations) in December 2019, an increase of 2.9 per cent on December 2018. For the month of December 2019 there were 56.2 thousand aircraft trips, an increase of 1.9 per cent compared to December 2018.

5.26 million passengers were carried on RPT flights in December 2019, an increase of 2.2 per cent on December 2018.

For the year ending December 2019 there were 61.36 million RPT passengers, an increase of 0.5 per cent on the year ending December 2018.

RPT revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs) performed were 6.20 billion for the month, up 2.1 per cent compared with December 2018. Capacity, measured by available seat kilometres (ASKs), decreased by 0.2 per cent compared with December 2018 to a total of 7.51 billion.

The industry wide load factor (RPKs/ASKs) increased from 80.6 per cent in December 2018 to 82.5 per cent in December 2019. Load factors on individual routes increased on 47 of the 64 published RPT routes.

For the month of December 2019, Melbourne – Sydney remained Australia's busiest RPT route with 756.7 thousand passengers, an increase of 1.3 per cent compared with December 2018. It was followed by Brisbane – Sydney with 408.7 thousand passengers (up 0.4 per cent) and Brisbane – Melbourne with 314.9 thousand passengers (up 4.0 per cent).

The greatest percentage increase in RPT passenger numbers, compared to December 2018, was on the Newman – Perth route (up 23.1 per cent). There were large increases on a number of other routes, including Karratha – Perth (up 16.8 per cent), Brisbane – Mount Isa (up 13.9 per cent) and Hamilton Island – Sydney (up 13.7 per cent).

Routes with traffic decreases in December 2019 compared with December 2018 included Ayers Rock – Sydney (down 11.9 per cent), Alice Springs – Darwin (down 9.9 per cent), Adelaide – Alice Springs (down 9.2 per cent) and Cairns – Melbourne (down 7.2 per cent).

In December 2019, Sydney remained Australia's busiest domestic airport with 2.35 million passenger movements, followed by Melbourne with 2.24 million passenger movements and Brisbane with 1.52 million passenger movements.

Total cargo movements at Australian airports on domestic RPT flights were 41.2 thousand tonnes in December 2019, an increase of 0.9 per cent compared with December 2018.

In December 2019, there were 2.10 million domestic passenger movements through regional airports, 1.6 per cent higher than in December 2018. Out of the top 50 regional airports, the strongest increase was at Newman airport (up 23.1 per cent on December 2018), while the largest decrease was recorded at Alice Springs airport (down 23.6 per cent on December 2018).

Fixed-wing charter operators carried 229.5 thousand passengers in December 2019, an increase of 22.9 per cent on December 2018. Perth Airport accounted for 37.8 per cent of all charter passengers in Australia.

TOTAL NETWORK

Summary of monthly commercial aviation activity

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	5.33	5.48	2.9
Aircraft trips (000s)	55.2	56.2	1.9

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

RPT NETWORK

Summary of monthly RPT activity

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	5.14	5.26	2.2
Revenue passenger kilometres (billions)	6.07	6.20	2.1
Available seats (millions)	6.49	6.52	0.5
Available seat kilometres (billions)	7.53	7.51	-0.2
Load factor %	80.6	82.5	1.9 *
Aircraft trips (000s)	51.7	52.1	0.6

* percentage point difference

Domestic RPT passenger traffic
(monthly)
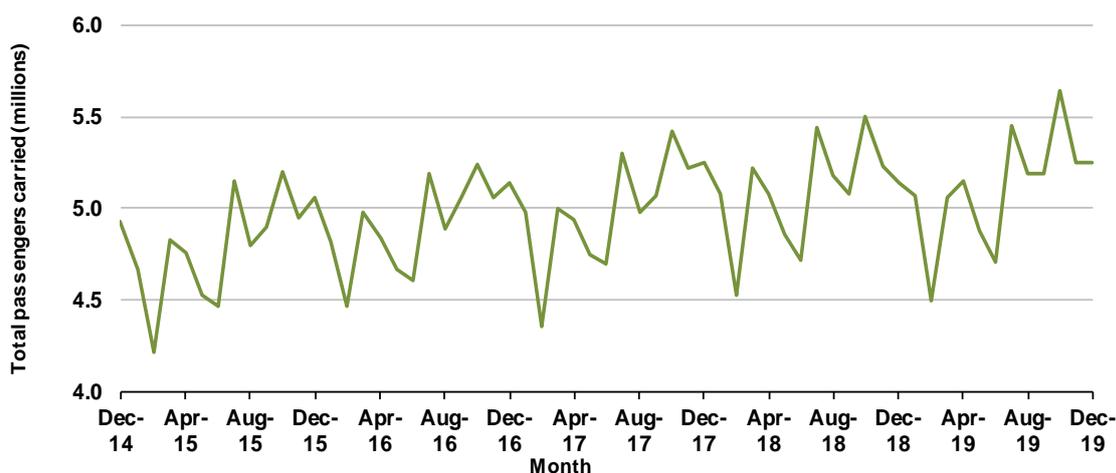
RPT Network utilisation
(monthly)
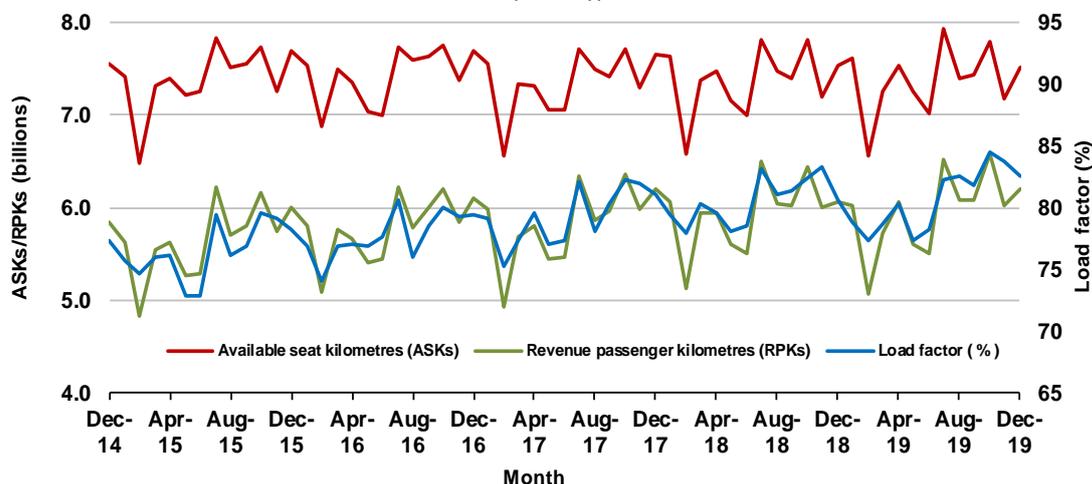
TOTAL NETWORK

Summary of annual commercial aviation activity

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	63.56	64.11	0.9
Aircraft trips (000s)	673.6	683.5	1.5

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

RPT NETWORK

Summary of annual RPT activity

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	61.08	61.36	0.5
Revenue passenger kilometres (billions)	71.26	71.48	0.3
Available seats (millions)	77.33	77.69	0.5
Available seat kilometres (billions)	88.44	88.51	0.1
Load factor %	80.6	80.8	0.2 *
Aircraft trips (000s)	629.5	636.0	1.0

* percentage point difference

Domestic RPT passenger traffic
(moving annual totals)

RPT Network utilisation
(moving annual totals)
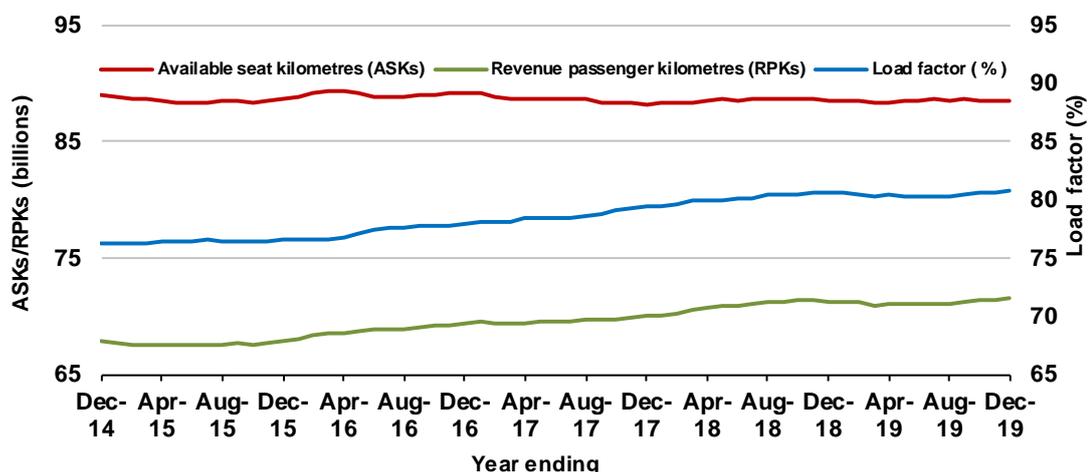
TOP COMPETITIVE ROUTES

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

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	9 240.0	9 181.9	-0.6
2	Brisbane - Sydney	4 825.5	4 820.7	-0.1
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	3 569.4	3 608.5	1.1
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	2 722.8	2 733.4	0.4
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	2 498.2	2 538.1	1.6
6	Gold Coast - Melbourne	2 060.8	2 122.2	3.0
7	Melbourne - Perth	2 113.2	2 110.1	-0.1
8	Adelaide - Sydney	1 906.7	1 878.7	-1.5
9	Perth - Sydney	1 716.9	1 692.0	-1.4
10	Hobart - Melbourne	1 652.8	1 670.2	1.1
11	Brisbane - Cairns	1 320.1	1 292.7	-2.1
12	Canberra - Melbourne	1 175.5	1 184.8	0.8
13	Cairns - Sydney	1 132.7	1 078.1	-4.8
14	Brisbane - Townsville	996.0	1 018.1	2.2
15	Brisbane - Perth	956.8	960.6	0.4
16	Launceston - Melbourne	955.4	959.2	0.4
17	Canberra - Sydney	953.0	931.4	-2.3
18	Adelaide - Brisbane	846.5	875.3	3.4
19	Cairns - Melbourne	854.5	855.9	0.2
20	Brisbane - Mackay	743.3	775.6	4.3
21	Hobart - Sydney	705.6	728.9	3.3
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	628.8	665.0	5.8
23	Brisbane - Canberra	643.3	660.1	2.6
24	Adelaide - Perth	635.1	656.8	3.4
25	Brisbane - Newcastle	582.8	604.6	3.7
26	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	544.9	558.0	2.4
27	Brisbane - Rockhampton	513.7	539.5	5.0
28	Melbourne - Newcastle	490.3	483.4	-1.4
29	Karratha - Perth	440.6	466.2	5.8
30	Ballina - Sydney	436.0	433.3	-0.6
31	Perth - Port Hedland	362.4	378.4	4.4
32	Brisbane - Darwin	376.5	354.8	-5.8
33	Newman - Perth	305.7	347.5	13.7
34	Broome - Perth	338.9	328.8	-3.0
35	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	339.8	326.5	-3.9
36	Darwin - Melbourne	307.3	310.9	1.2
37	Darwin - Sydney	310.7	309.5	-0.4
38	Launceston - Sydney	287.9	294.6	2.3
39	Kalgoorlie - Perth	278.3	278.6	0.1
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	250.5	257.1	2.6
41	Brisbane - Gladstone	253.0	247.8	-2.1
42	Brisbane - Hobart	229.0	241.4	5.4
43	Melbourne - Mildura	226.1	231.3	2.3
44	Albury - Sydney	226.3	230.1	1.7
45	Adelaide - Gold Coast	220.5	215.2	-2.4
46	Hamilton Island - Sydney	204.7	213.3	4.2
47	Brisbane - Emerald	195.2	201.5	3.2
48	Ayers Rock - Sydney	194.8	196.2	0.7
49	Adelaide - Canberra	195.2	195.4	0.1
50	Port Macquarie - Sydney	186.9	190.9	2.1

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

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
51	Dubbo - Sydney	188.7	182.0	-3.6
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	181.3	180.7	-0.4
53	Sydney - Tamworth	175.1	174.3	-0.5
54	Darwin - Perth	194.3	174.2	-10.4
55	Sydney - Townsville	169.1	173.5	2.6
56	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	169.6	172.3	1.6
57	Brisbane - Bundaberg	162.8	153.6	-5.6
58	Adelaide - Alice Springs	130.3	144.6	11.0
59	Cairns - Townsville	149.4	143.2	-4.1
60	Brisbane - Mount Isa	129.8	141.0	8.7
61	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	124.3	132.4	6.5
62	Armidale - Sydney	121.8	125.0	2.6
63	Proserpine - Sydney	133.9	113.3	-15.4
64	Alice Springs - Darwin	109.7	109.7	0.0
	Total domestic network	**61 080.9**	**61 357.5**	**0.5**

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

	City-Pair	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	746.8	756.7	1.3
2	Brisbane - Sydney	407.2	408.7	0.4
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	302.7	314.9	4.0
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	239.8	247.9	3.4
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	209.9	207.3	-1.3
6	Gold Coast - Melbourne	184.2	197.8	7.4
7	Melbourne - Perth	194.8	197.5	1.4
8	Adelaide - Sydney	163.0	161.0	-1.2
9	Perth - Sydney	152.2	157.7	3.6
10	Hobart - Melbourne	159.1	157.2	-1.2
11	Brisbane - Cairns	108.6	110.1	1.4
12	Cairns - Sydney	96.5	94.3	-2.3
13	Launceston - Melbourne	92.1	92.6	0.6
14	Canberra - Melbourne	90.5	92.0	1.6
15	Brisbane - Perth	82.4	88.9	7.8
16	Brisbane - Townsville	81.7	87.9	7.6
17	Adelaide - Brisbane	74.1	78.2	5.6
18	Hobart - Sydney	70.4	74.8	6.2
19	Canberra - Sydney	65.3	68.1	4.4
20	Cairns - Melbourne	73.4	68.1	-7.2
21	Brisbane - Mackay	62.6	67.5	7.9
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	61.1	59.2	-3.1
23	Adelaide - Perth	56.3	58.3	3.4
24	Brisbane - Canberra	51.9	57.0	9.7
25	Brisbane - Newcastle	49.7	51.6	3.8
26	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	47.2	51.0	7.9
27	Brisbane - Rockhampton	42.3	44.7	5.7
28	Ballina - Sydney	41.7	41.2	-1.3
29	Melbourne - Newcastle	40.9	41.0	0.3
30	Karratha - Perth	32.2	37.6	16.8
31	Launceston - Sydney	31.5	32.7	3.8
32	Perth - Port Hedland	26.5	29.6	11.9
33	Brisbane - Darwin	29.9	28.5	-4.5
34	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	27.9	27.9	0.0
35	Newman - Perth	22.3	27.4	23.1
36	Brisbane - Hobart	25.3	25.4	0.6
37	Brisbane - Proserpine	22.0	23.9	8.2
38	Darwin - Melbourne	22.4	23.1	3.4
39	Broome - Perth	24.2	23.0	-5.1
40	Hamilton Island - Sydney	19.3	22.0	13.7
41	Darwin - Sydney	22.6	21.9	-2.8
42	Kalgoorlie - Perth	22.1	21.3	-4.0
43	Brisbane - Gladstone	20.0	20.3	1.6
44	Adelaide - Gold Coast	19.3	19.5	0.9
45	Melbourne - Mildura	18.0	18.9	4.8
46	Albury - Sydney	18.0	18.0	-0.3
47	Sydney - Townsville	16.9	16.5	-2.2
48	Port Macquarie - Sydney	15.9	16.4	3.1
49	Adelaide - Canberra	15.0	16.4	9.7
50	Brisbane - Emerald	14.7	15.8	7.4

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

	City-Pair	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
51	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	14.7	15.6	6.1
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	13.4	14.0	4.3
53	Darwin - Perth	13.9	13.7	-1.2
54	Sydney - Tamworth	13.5	13.7	1.3
55	Dubbo - Sydney	13.7	13.5	-1.2
56	Brisbane - Bundaberg	12.9	12.7	-1.5
57	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	11.6	12.0	3.4
58	Cairns - Townsville	10.8	11.5	6.9
59	Brisbane - Mount Isa	9.9	11.3	13.9
60	Ayers Rock - Sydney	12.6	11.1	-11.9
61	Armidale - Sydney	9.5	9.8	2.8
62	Adelaide - Alice Springs	10.4	9.5	-9.2
63	Proserpine - Sydney	9.4	9.4	0.2
64	Alice Springs - Darwin	6.5	5.9	-9.9
	Total domestic network	**5 144.2**	**5 255.2**	**2.2**

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

	City-Pair	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	849.9	860.6	1.3
2	Brisbane - Sydney	469.8	471.5	0.4
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	368.2	367.0	-0.3
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	272.9	281.3	3.1
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	253.0	253.6	0.2
6	Gold Coast - Melbourne	216.7	225.3	4.0
7	Melbourne - Perth	223.1	218.6	-2.0
8	Adelaide - Sydney	190.7	190.4	-0.2
9	Perth - Sydney	173.7	175.8	1.2
10	Hobart - Melbourne	205.0	201.1	-1.9
11	Brisbane - Cairns	127.6	129.0	1.1
12	Cairns - Sydney	115.8	109.7	-5.3
13	Launceston - Melbourne	120.2	119.4	-0.7
14	Canberra - Melbourne	131.6	133.4	1.3
15	Brisbane - Perth	96.7	98.2	1.6
16	Brisbane - Townsville	100.5	106.8	6.3
17	Adelaide - Brisbane	89.4	97.0	8.6
18	Hobart - Sydney	86.1	93.3	8.3
19	Canberra - Sydney	87.5	89.5	2.3
20	Cairns - Melbourne	89.4	79.5	-11.1
21	Brisbane - Mackay	79.9	81.3	1.7
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	75.7	70.1	-7.5
23	Adelaide - Perth	70.2	69.7	-0.6
24	Brisbane - Canberra	68.6	76.1	10.9
25	Brisbane - Newcastle	66.8	66.7	-0.1
26	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	59.5	59.9	0.6
27	Brisbane - Rockhampton	55.4	54.2	-2.1
28	Ballina - Sydney	49.6	48.3	-2.7
29	Melbourne - Newcastle	49.5	47.6	-3.7
30	Karratha - Perth	53.1	63.0	18.6
31	Launceston - Sydney	38.0	39.1	3.0
32	Perth - Port Hedland	43.9	49.5	12.7
33	Brisbane - Darwin	41.6	37.5	-10.0
34	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	37.1	37.2	0.3
35	Newman - Perth	42.3	48.3	14.3
36	Brisbane - Hobart	31.2	30.4	-2.4
37	Brisbane - Proserpine	30.2	29.5	-2.5
38	Darwin - Melbourne	30.6	29.5	-3.6
39	Broome - Perth	33.4	34.2	2.4
40	Hamilton Island - Sydney	26.7	28.4	6.7
41	Darwin - Sydney	35.0	28.8	-17.8
42	Kalgoorlie - Perth	36.9	33.0	-10.5
43	Brisbane - Gladstone	29.6	30.0	1.3
44	Adelaide - Gold Coast	24.3	22.7	-6.6
45	Melbourne - Mildura	27.6	28.2	2.5
46	Albury - Sydney	25.1	25.3	1.1
47	Sydney - Townsville	19.7	19.7	0.1
48	Port Macquarie - Sydney	21.6	21.3	-1.1
49	Adelaide - Canberra	21.9	22.6	3.1
50	Brisbane - Emerald	22.6	23.7	4.5

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

	City-Pair	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
51	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	23.6	23.0	-2.5
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	19.6	20.1	2.5
53	Darwin - Perth	21.9	21.3	-2.7
54	Sydney - Tamworth	21.0	21.2	1.1
55	Dubbo - Sydney	19.8	20.2	1.6
56	Brisbane - Bundaberg	19.3	18.1	-6.2
57	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	15.6	16.0	2.1
58	Cairns - Townsville	20.1	21.0	4.8
59	Brisbane - Mount Isa	15.6	15.3	-1.8
60	Ayers Rock - Sydney	19.8	20.3	2.2
61	Armidale - Sydney	13.6	14.0	3.2
62	Adelaide - Alice Springs	15.8	14.7	-7.2
63	Proserpine - Sydney	11.4	11.1	-2.9
64	Alice Springs - Darwin	13.9	9.9	-29.0
	Total domestic network	**6 486.9**	**6 520.2**	**0.5**

Table 4: Load factors (%) — monthly activity

	City-Pair	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Point diff
1	Melbourne - Sydney	87.9	87.9	0.0
2	Brisbane - Sydney	86.7	86.7	0.0
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	82.2	85.8	3.6
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	87.9	88.1	0.2
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	83.0	81.7	-1.3
6	Gold Coast - Melbourne	85.0	87.8	2.8
7	Melbourne - Perth	87.3	90.4	3.1
8	Adelaide - Sydney	85.5	84.6	-0.9
9	Perth - Sydney	87.7	89.7	2.0
10	Hobart - Melbourne	77.6	78.2	0.6
11	Brisbane - Cairns	85.1	85.3	0.2
12	Cairns - Sydney	83.3	86.0	2.7
13	Launceston - Melbourne	76.6	77.6	1.0
14	Canberra - Melbourne	68.8	69.0	0.2
15	Brisbane - Perth	85.2	90.5	5.3
16	Brisbane - Townsville	81.3	82.2	0.9
17	Adelaide - Brisbane	82.9	80.6	-2.3
18	Hobart - Sydney	81.8	80.2	-1.6
19	Canberra - Sydney	74.6	76.1	1.5
20	Cairns - Melbourne	82.1	85.7	3.6
21	Brisbane - Mackay	78.4	83.1	4.7
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	80.7	84.6	3.9
23	Adelaide - Perth	80.3	83.6	3.3
24	Brisbane - Canberra	75.7	74.9	-0.8
25	Brisbane - Newcastle	74.5	77.3	2.8
26	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	79.4	85.2	5.8
27	Brisbane - Rockhampton	76.4	82.4	6.0
28	Ballina - Sydney	84.1	85.3	1.2
29	Melbourne - Newcastle	82.6	86.0	3.4
30	Karratha - Perth	60.6	59.6	-1.0
31	Launceston - Sydney	83.1	83.7	0.6
32	Perth - Port Hedland	60.4	59.9	-0.5
33	Brisbane - Darwin	71.7	76.1	4.4
34	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	75.4	75.2	-0.2
35	Newman - Perth	52.7	56.8	4.1
36	Brisbane - Hobart	81.0	83.5	2.5
37	Brisbane - Proserpine	72.9	80.9	8.0
38	Darwin - Melbourne	73.2	78.5	5.3
39	Broome - Perth	72.5	67.2	-5.3
40	Hamilton Island - Sydney	72.5	77.2	4.7
41	Darwin - Sydney	64.4	76.1	11.7
42	Kalgoorlie - Perth	60.0	64.3	4.3
43	Brisbane - Gladstone	67.6	67.8	0.2
44	Adelaide - Gold Coast	79.4	85.8	6.4
45	Melbourne - Mildura	65.4	66.9	1.5
46	Albury - Sydney	71.9	70.9	-1.0
47	Sydney - Townsville	85.6	83.6	-2.0
48	Port Macquarie - Sydney	73.9	77.1	3.2
49	Adelaide - Canberra	68.4	72.7	4.3
50	Brisbane - Emerald	64.9	66.7	1.8

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

	City-Pair	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Point diff
51	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	62.1	67.6	5.5
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	68.6	69.8	1.2
53	Darwin - Perth	63.5	64.5	1.0
54	Sydney - Tamworth	64.2	64.4	0.2
55	Dubbo - Sydney	69.1	67.2	-1.9
56	Brisbane - Bundaberg	67.1	70.4	3.3
57	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	74.3	75.3	1.0
58	Cairns - Townsville	53.7	54.8	1.1
59	Brisbane - Mount Isa	63.6	73.8	10.2
60	Ayers Rock - Sydney	63.7	54.9	-8.8
61	Armidale - Sydney	69.8	69.6	-0.2
62	Adelaide - Alice Springs	65.9	64.5	-1.4
63	Proserpine - Sydney	82.0	84.6	2.6
64	Alice Springs - Darwin	46.9	59.6	12.7
	Total domestic network	**80.6**	**82.5**	**1.9**

Table 5: Aircraft trips [a] — monthly activity

	City-Pair	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	4 730	4 857	2.7
2	Brisbane - Sydney	2 873	2 877	0.1
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	2 193	2 205	0.5
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	1 537	1 571	2.2
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	1 526	1 544	1.2
6	Gold Coast - Melbourne	1 147	1 188	3.6
7	Melbourne - Perth	1 111	1 050	-5.5
8	Adelaide - Sydney	1 149	1 114	-3.0
9	Perth - Sydney	811	795	-2.0
10	Hobart - Melbourne	1 120	1 107	-1.2
11	Brisbane - Cairns	842	884	5.0
12	Cairns - Sydney	606	568	-6.3
13	Launceston - Melbourne	855	860	0.6
14	Canberra - Melbourne	845	852	0.8
15	Brisbane - Perth	522	530	1.5
16	Brisbane - Townsville	675	729	8.0
17	Adelaide - Brisbane	550	559	1.6
18	Hobart - Sydney	498	569	14.3
19	Canberra - Sydney	1 179	1 178	-0.1
20	Cairns - Melbourne	465	413	-11.2
21	Brisbane - Mackay	604	636	5.3
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	449	441	-1.8
23	Adelaide - Perth	475	452	-4.8
24	Brisbane - Canberra	509	558	9.6
25	Brisbane - Newcastle	500	480	-4.0
26	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	333	336	0.9
27	Brisbane - Rockhampton	647	632	-2.3
28	Ballina - Sydney	303	292	-3.6
29	Melbourne - Newcastle	274	262	-4.4
30	Karratha - Perth	468	475	1.5
31	Launceston - Sydney	212	215	1.4
32	Perth - Port Hedland	349	379	8.6
33	Brisbane - Darwin	248	227	-8.5
34	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	396	408	3.0
35	Newman - Perth	310	332	7.1
36	Brisbane - Hobart	175	171	-2.3
37	Brisbane - Proserpine	172	166	-3.5
38	Darwin - Melbourne	173	167	-3.5
39	Broome - Perth	292	292	0.0
40	Hamilton Island - Sydney	163	175	7.4
41	Darwin - Sydney	200	168	-16.0
42	Kalgoorlie - Perth	297	280	-5.7
43	Brisbane - Gladstone	390	397	1.8
44	Adelaide - Gold Coast	136	127	-6.6
45	Melbourne - Mildura	363	371	2.2
46	Albury - Sydney	445	460	3.4
47	Sydney - Townsville	113	111	-1.8
48	Port Macquarie - Sydney	319	328	2.8
49	Adelaide - Canberra	134	136	1.5
50	Brisbane - Emerald	336	350	4.2

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

	City-Pair	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
51	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	603	593	-1.7
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	370	392	5.9
53	Darwin - Perth	127	124	-2.4
54	Sydney - Tamworth	330	346	4.8
55	Dubbo - Sydney	421	429	1.9
56	Brisbane - Bundaberg	297	291	-2.0
57	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	124	124	0.0
58	Cairns - Townsville	303	317	4.6
59	Brisbane - Mount Isa	141	131	-7.1
60	Ayers Rock - Sydney	112	114	1.8
61	Armidale - Sydney	325	325	0.0
62	Adelaide - Alice Springs	115	120	4.3
63	Proserpine - Sydney	63	61	-3.2
64	Alice Springs - Darwin	115	103	-10.4
	Total domestic network	**51 726**	**52 059**	**0.6**

(a) Includes RPT Cargo flights.

TOP TEN AIRPORTS – PASSENGER MOVEMENTS

Table 6: Top ten airports, RPT passenger movements (000s) - monthly activity
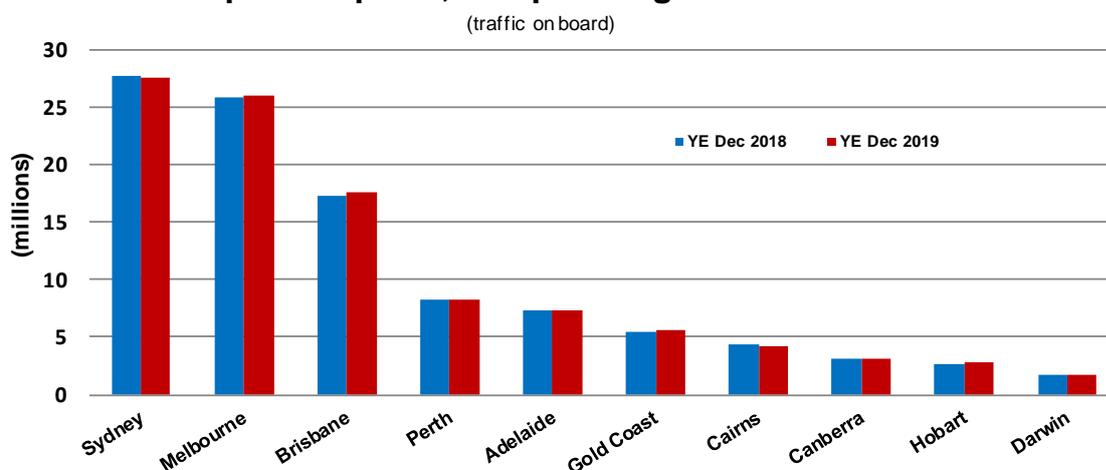
	Airport	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change	% of Total
1	Sydney	2 321.7	2 353.7	1.4	22.4
2	Melbourne	2 196.3	2 237.0	1.9	21.3
3	Brisbane	1 464.9	1 517.5	3.6	14.4
4	Perth	702.2	727.6	3.6	6.9
5	Adelaide	619.4	622.4	0.5	5.9
6	Gold Coast	491.1	513.2	4.5	4.9
7	Cairns	359.9	350.6	-2.6	3.3
8	Hobart	266.7	271.3	1.7	2.6
9	Canberra	238.5	250.9	5.2	2.4
10	Townsville	134.5	142.3	5.8	1.4
	Total top ten airports	**8 795.1**	**8 986.6**	**2.2**	**85.5**
	Total domestic network	**10 288.3**	**10 510.4**	**2.2**	**100.0**

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

	Airport	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change	% of Total
1	Sydney	27 708.7	27 575.7	-0.5	22.5
2	Melbourne	25 874.8	25 996.6	0.5	21.2
3	Brisbane	17 364.7	17 584.5	1.3	14.3
4	Perth	8 222.5	8 286.2	0.8	6.8
5	Adelaide	7 321.2	7 387.7	0.9	6.0
6	Gold Coast	5 489.7	5 571.1	1.5	4.5
7	Cairns	4 309.4	4 155.5	-3.6	3.4
8	Canberra	3 153.9	3 154.4	0.0	2.6
9	Hobart	2 676.6	2 781.7	3.9	2.3
10	Darwin	1 744.4	1 694.4	-2.9	1.4
	Total top ten airports	**103 865.8**	**104 187.8**	**0.3**	**84.9**
	Total domestic network	**122 161.7**	**122 715.0**	**0.5**	**100.0**

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

Top ten airports, RPT passenger movements

(traffic on board)

TOP FIVE AIRPORTS – CARGO MOVEMENTS

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

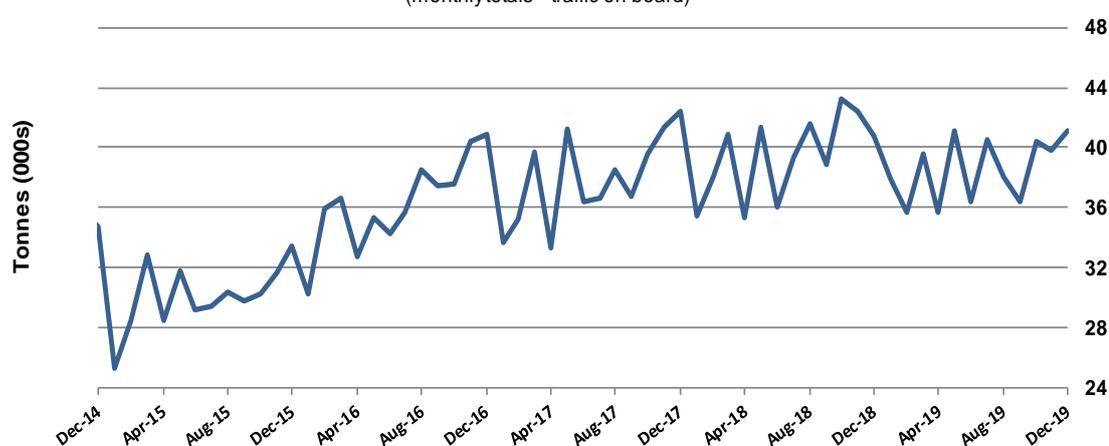|	Airport	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change	% of Total
1	Melbourne	10.8	10.7	-1.1	26.0
2	Sydney	8.7	9.2	4.8	22.3
3	Brisbane	6.4	6.6	4.1	16.1
4	Perth	5.8	5.6	-4.4	13.5
5	Adelaide	2.7	2.6	-2.1	6.4
	Total top five airports	**34.5**	**34.7**	**0.7**	**84.3**
	Total domestic network	**40.8**	**41.2**	**0.9**	**100.0**

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

	Airport	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change	% of Total
1	Melbourne	133.3	122.2	-8.3	26.4
2	Sydney	107.3	100.3	-6.6	21.7
3	Brisbane	73.1	73.0	-0.1	15.8
4	Perth	67.0	61.5	-8.2	13.3
5	Adelaide	28.5	28.4	-0.2	6.1
	Total top five airports	**409.2**	**385.4**	**-5.8**	**83.3**
	Total domestic network	**473.5**	**462.7**	**-2.3**	**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
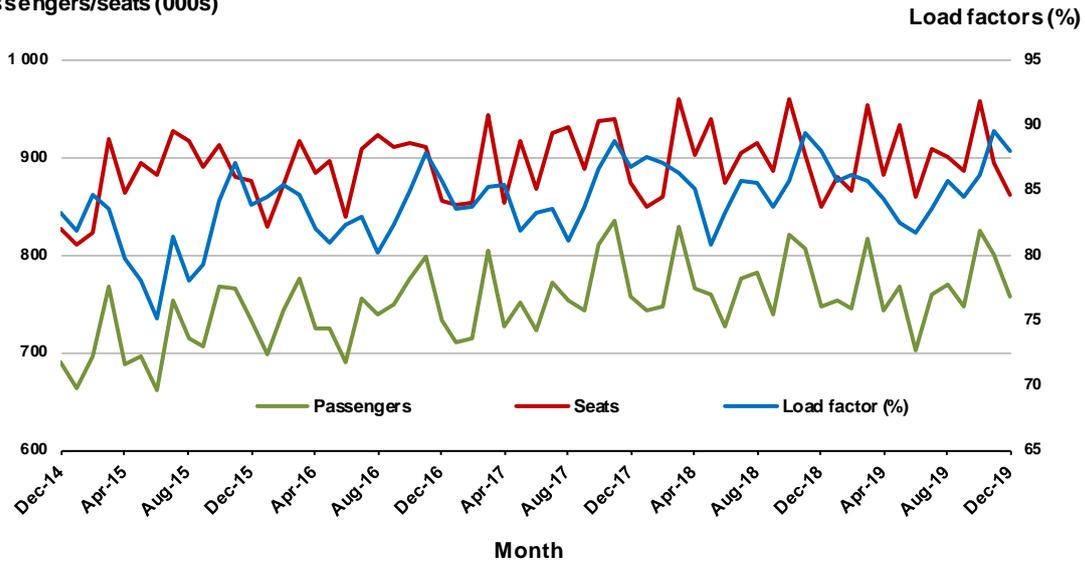(Domestic cargo traffic - traffic on board)
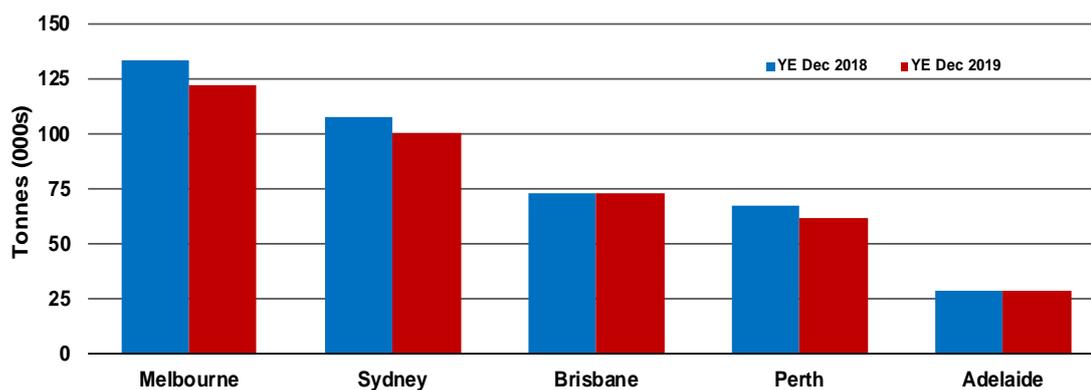
TOP TEN ROUTES

1. Melbourne - Sydney

Monthly data

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	746.8	756.7	1.3
Seats (000s)	849.9	860.6	1.3
Load factor %	87.9	87.9	0.0 *
Aircraft trips	4 730	4 857	2.7

* percentage point difference

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	9 240.0	9 181.9	-0.6
Seats (000s)	10 794.3	10 775.5	-0.2
Load factor %	85.6	85.2	-0.4 *
Aircraft trips	59 882	60 424	0.9

* percentage point difference
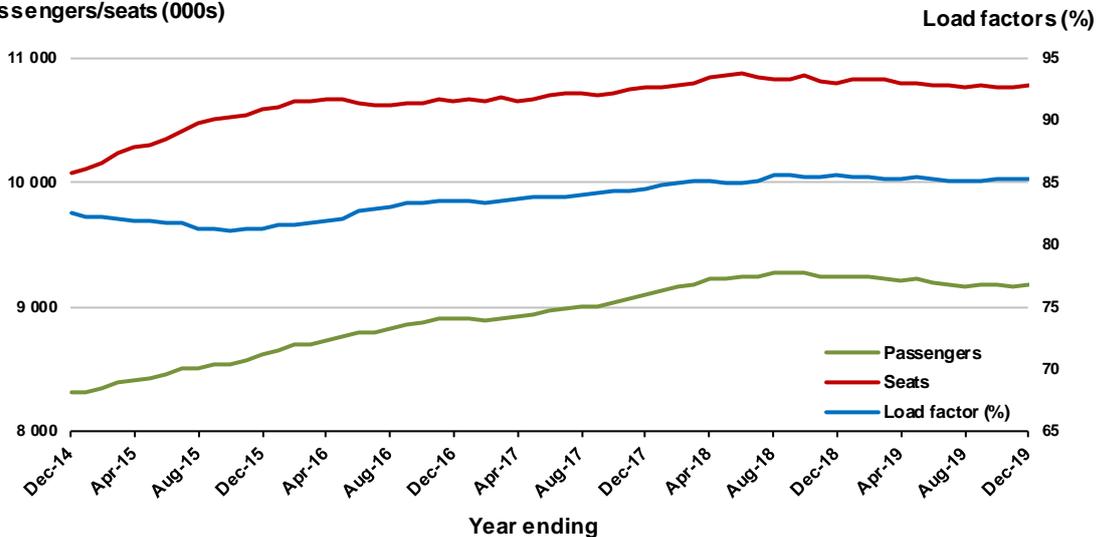
2. Brisbane - Sydney

Monthly data

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	407.2	408.7	0.4
Seats (000s)	469.8	471.5	0.4
Load factor %	86.7	86.7	0.0 *
Aircraft trips	2 873	2 877	0.1

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)   **Load factors (%)**
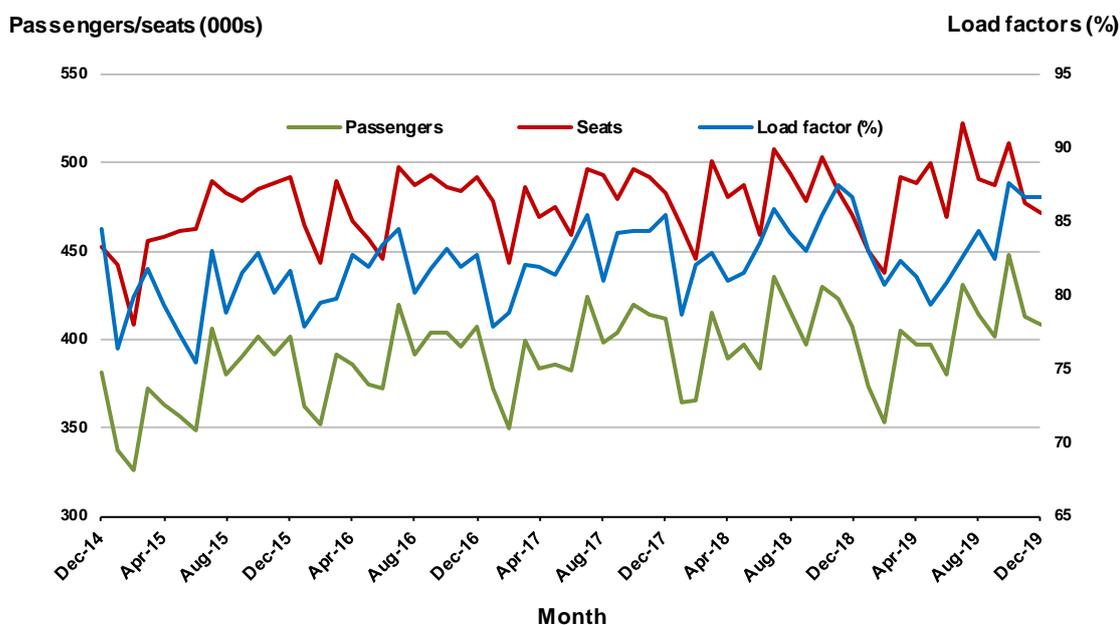
Month

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	4 825.5	4 820.7	-0.1
Seats (000s)	5 774.0	5 795.5	0.4
Load factor %	83.6	83.2	-0.4 *
Aircraft trips	35 029	35 347	0.9

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)   **Load factors (%)**
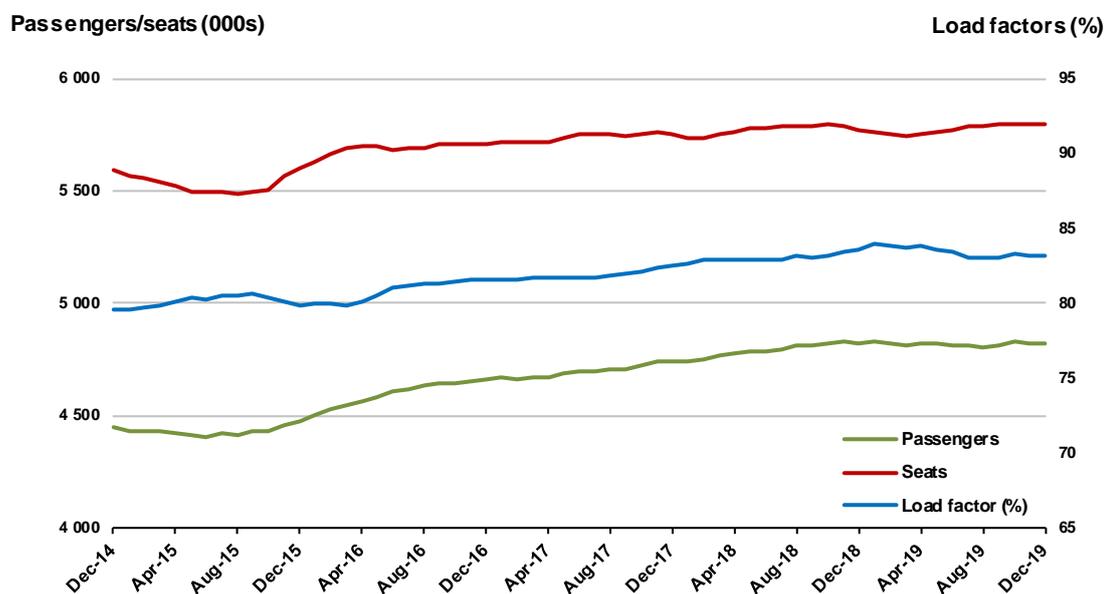
3. Brisbane - Melbourne

Monthly data

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	302.7	314.9	4.0
Seats (000s)	368.2	367.0	-0.3
Load factor %	82.2	85.8	3.6 *
Aircraft trips	2 193	2 205	0.5

* percentage point difference
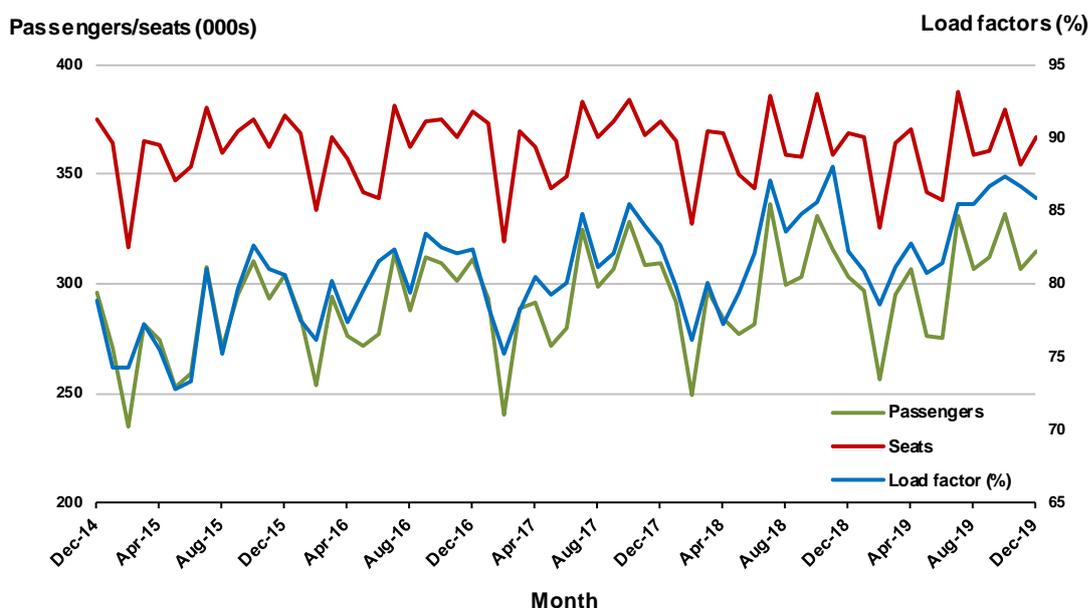
Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	3 569.4	3 608.5	1.1
Seats (000s)	4 338.7	4 313.2	-0.6
Load factor %	82.3	83.7	1.4 *
Aircraft trips	25 501	25 420	-0.3

* percentage point difference
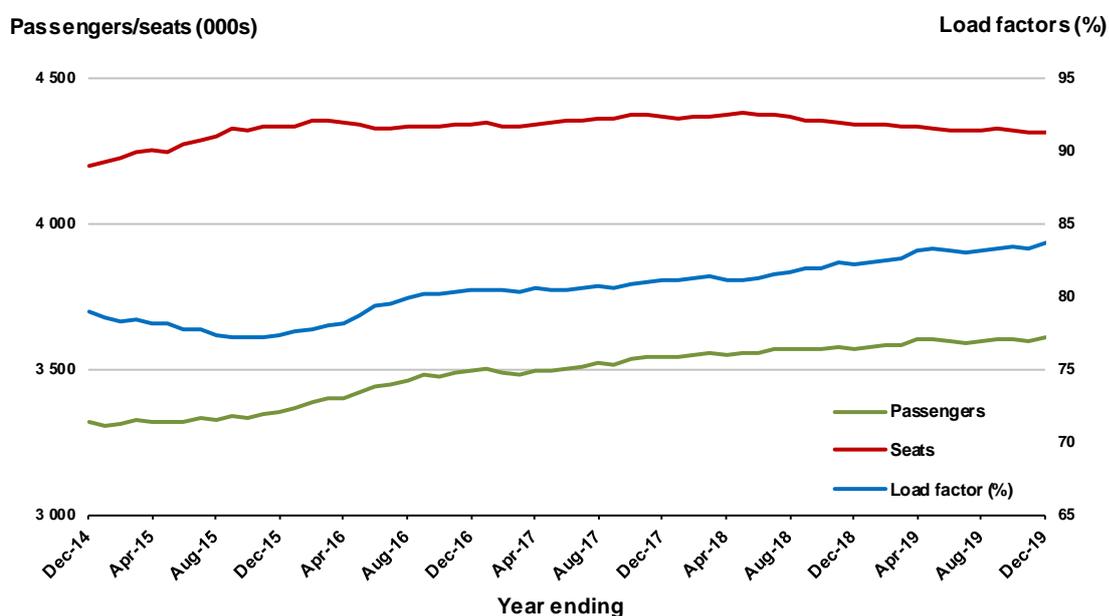
4. Gold Coast - Sydney

Monthly data

	Dec 2018	**Dec 2019**	**% Change**
Passengers carried (000s)	239.8	247.9	3.4
Seats (000s)	272.9	281.3	3.1
Load factor %	87.9	88.1	0.2 *
Aircraft trips	1 537	1 571	2.2

* percentage point difference
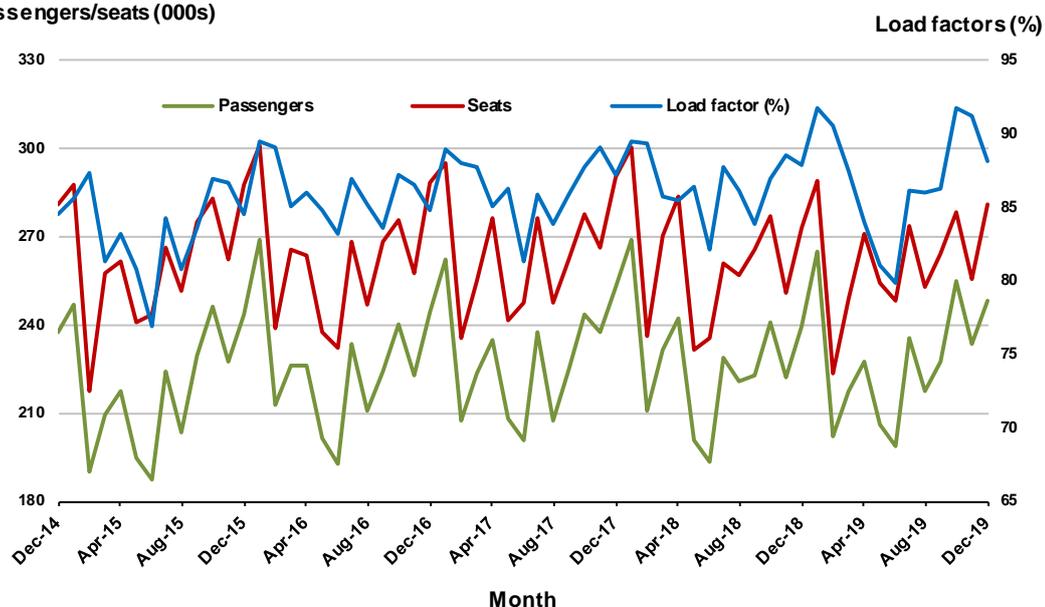
Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	**YE Dec 2019**	**% Change**
Passengers carried (000s)	2 722.8	2 733.4	0.4
Seats (000s)	3 141.1	3 139.9	0.0
Load factor %	86.7	87.1	0.4 *
Aircraft trips	17 838	17 972	0.8

* percentage point difference
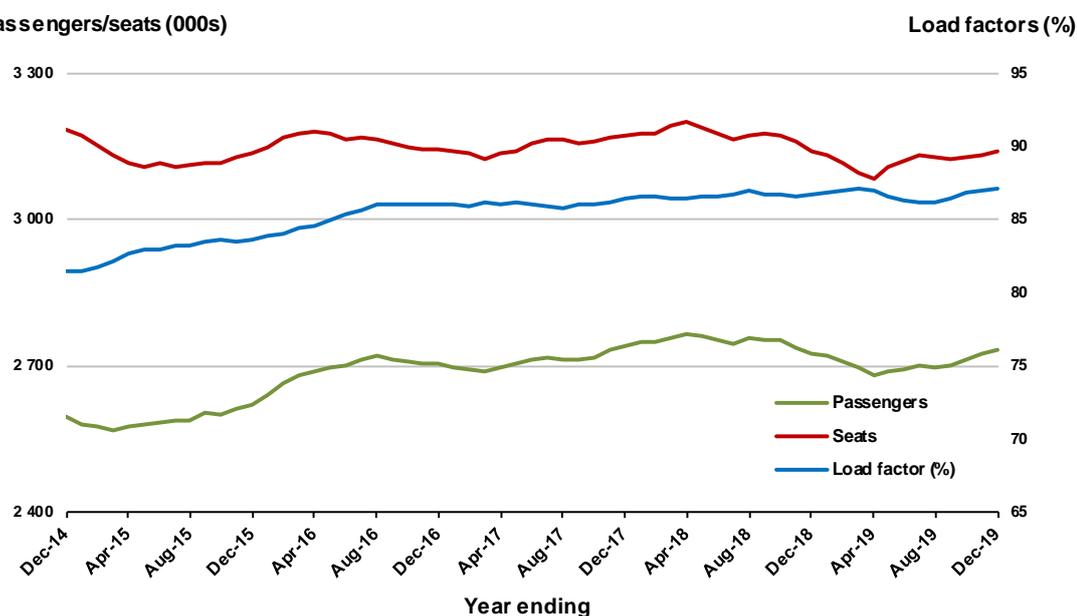
5. Adelaide - Melbourne

Monthly data

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	209.9	207.3	-1.3
Seats (000s)	253.0	253.6	0.2
Load factor %	83.0	81.7	-1.3 *
Aircraft trips	1 526	1 544	1.2

* percentage point difference
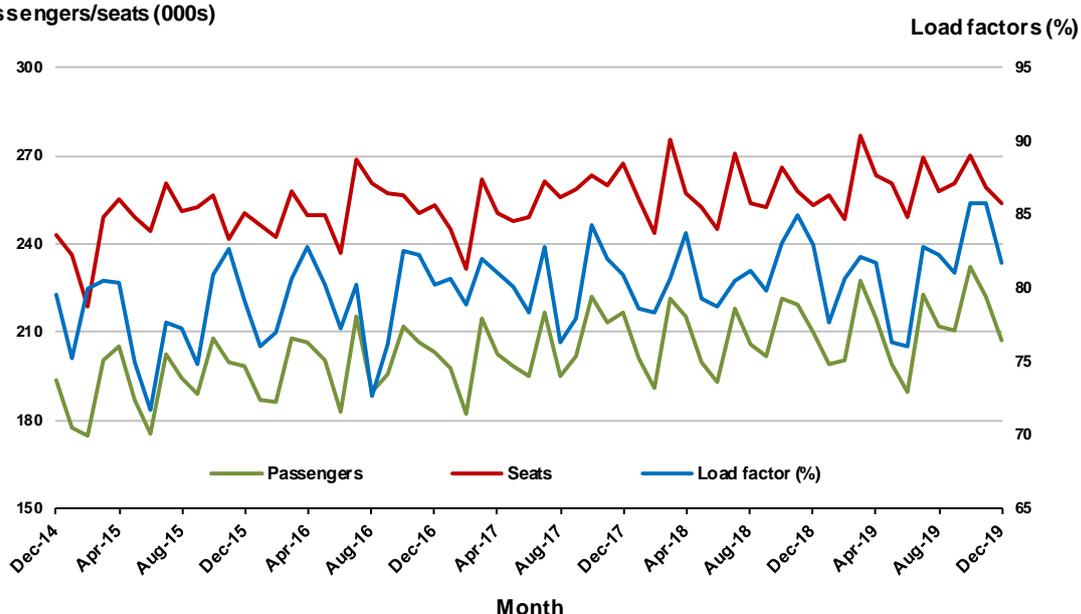
Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 498.2	2 538.1	1.6
Seats (000s)	3 083.6	3 125.9	1.4
Load factor %	81.0	81.2	0.2 *
Aircraft trips	19 056	19 019	-0.2

* percentage point difference
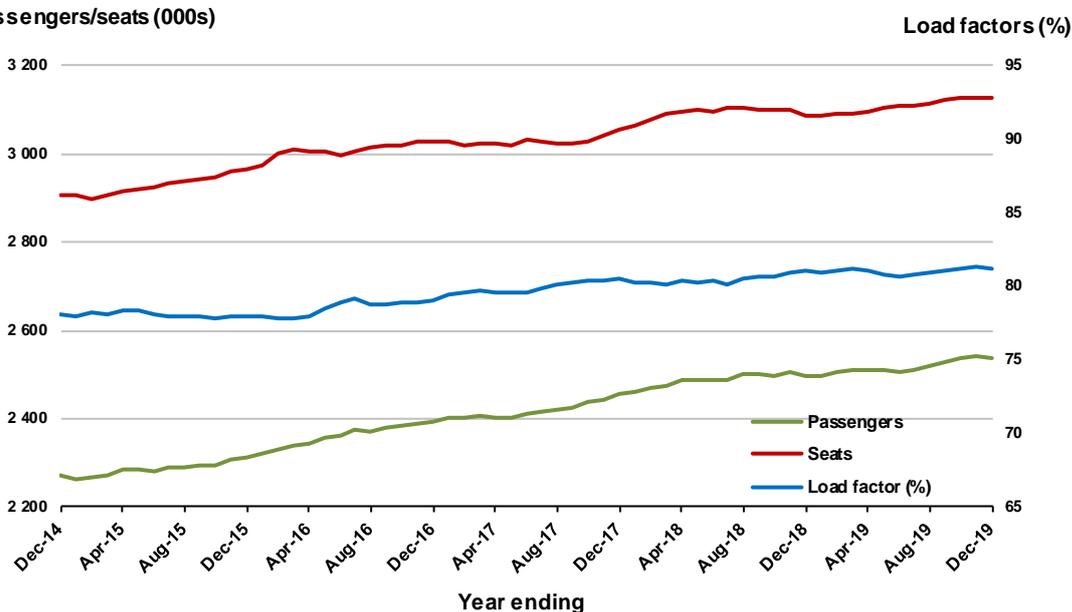
6. Gold Coast - Melbourne

Monthly data

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	184.2	197.8	7.4
Seats (000s)	216.7	225.3	4.0
Load factor %	85.0	87.8	2.8 *
Aircraft trips	1 147	1 188	3.6

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)   **Load factors (%)**

Month
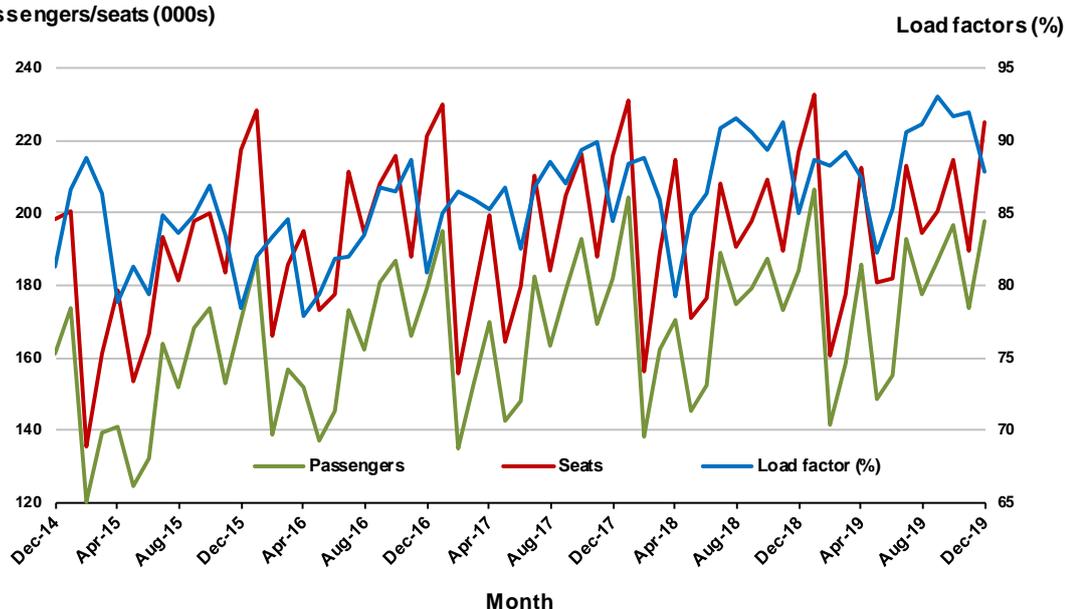
Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 060.8	2 122.2	3.0
Seats (000s)	2 349.9	2 384.0	1.5
Load factor %	87.6	89.0	1.4 *
Aircraft trips	12 433	12 597	1.3

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)   **Load factors (%)**

Year ending
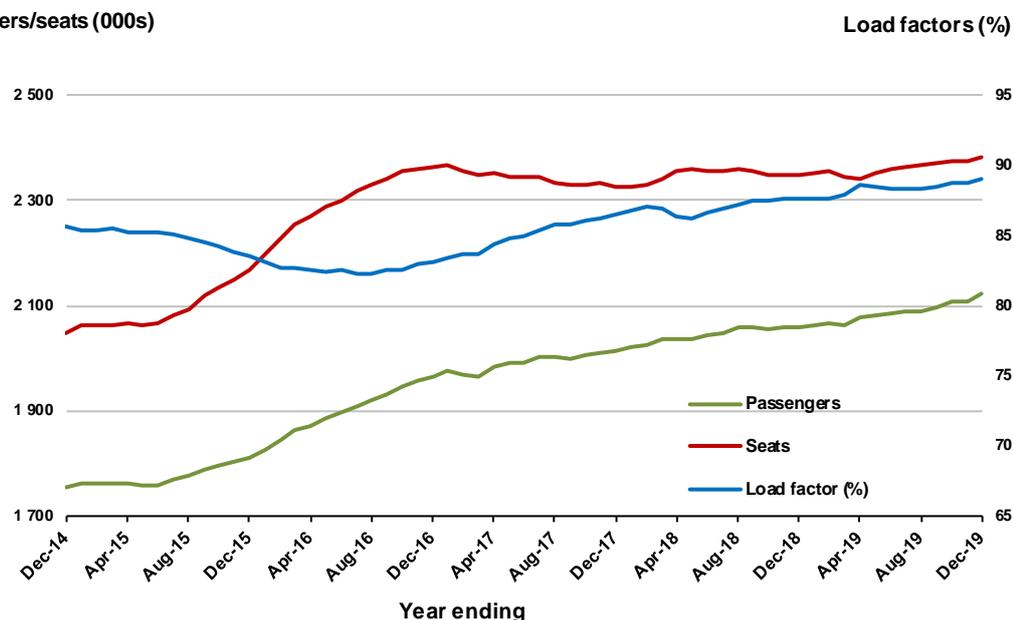
7. Melbourne - Perth

Monthly data

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	194.8	197.5	1.4
Seats (000s)	223.1	218.6	-2.0
Load factor %	87.3	90.4	3.1 *
Aircraft trips	1 111	1 050	-5.5

* percentage point difference
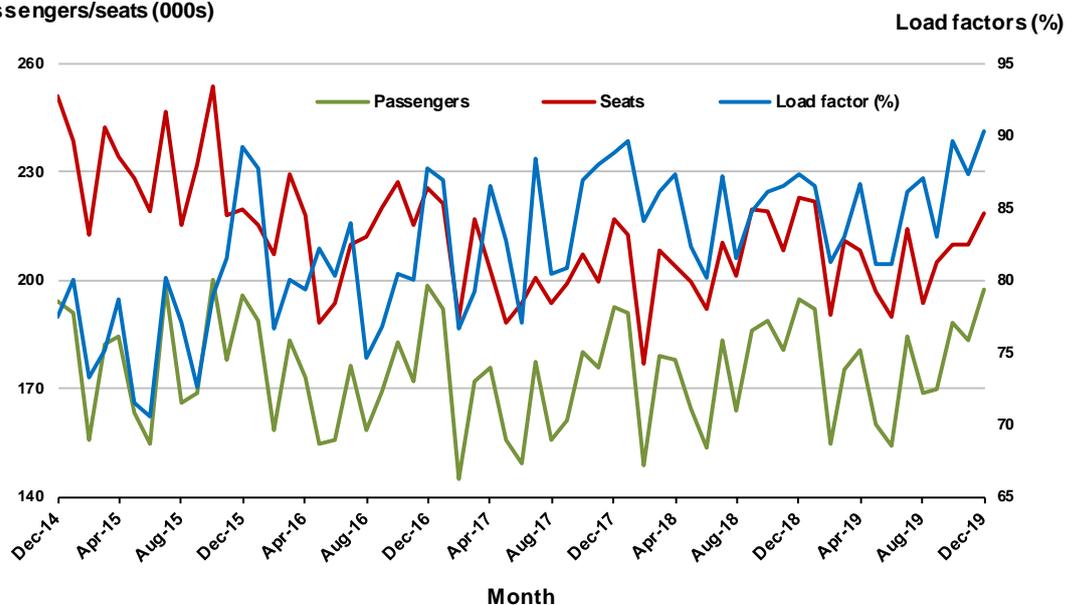
Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 113.2	2 110.1	-0.1
Seats (000s)	2 475.5	2 470.7	-0.2
Load factor %	85.4	85.4	0.0 *
Aircraft trips	11 731	12 274	4.6

* percentage point difference
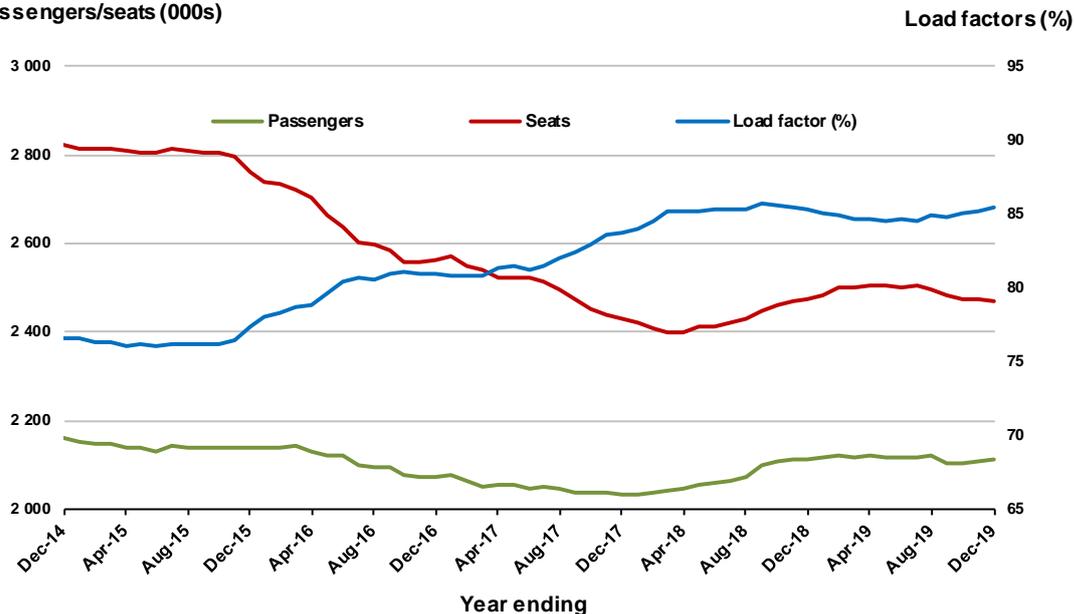
8. Adelaide - Sydney

Monthly data

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	163.0	161.0	-1.2
Seats (000s)	190.7	190.4	-0.2
Load factor %	85.5	84.6	-0.9 *
Aircraft trips	1 149	1 114	-3.0

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)   **Load factors (%)**
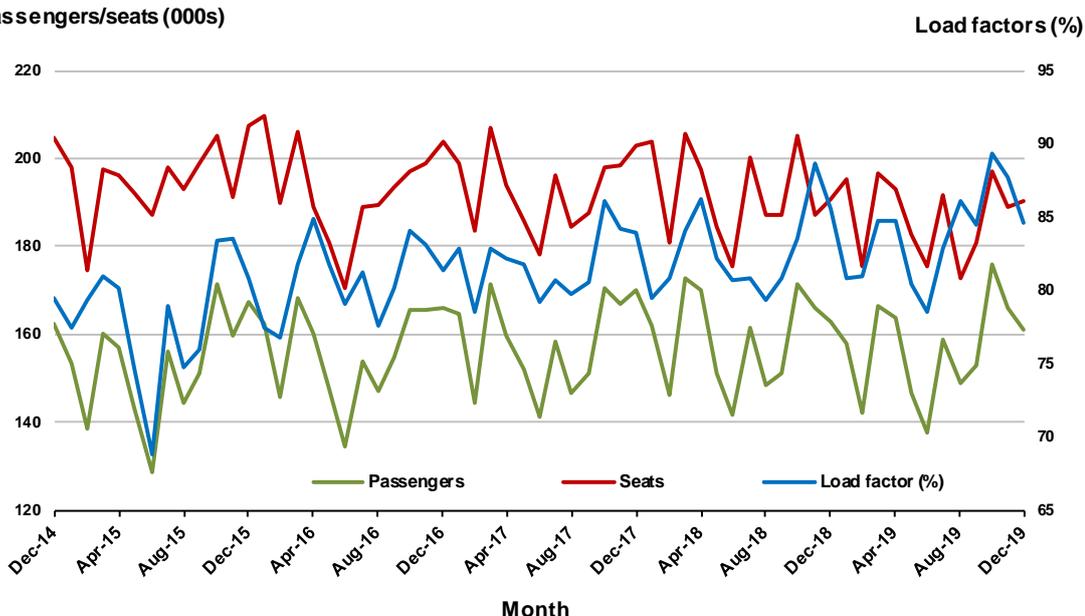
Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 906.7	1 878.7	-1.5
Seats (000s)	2 304.8	2 240.8	-2.8
Load factor %	82.7	83.8	1.1 *
Aircraft trips	13 877	13 216	-4.8

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)   **Load factors (%)**

23
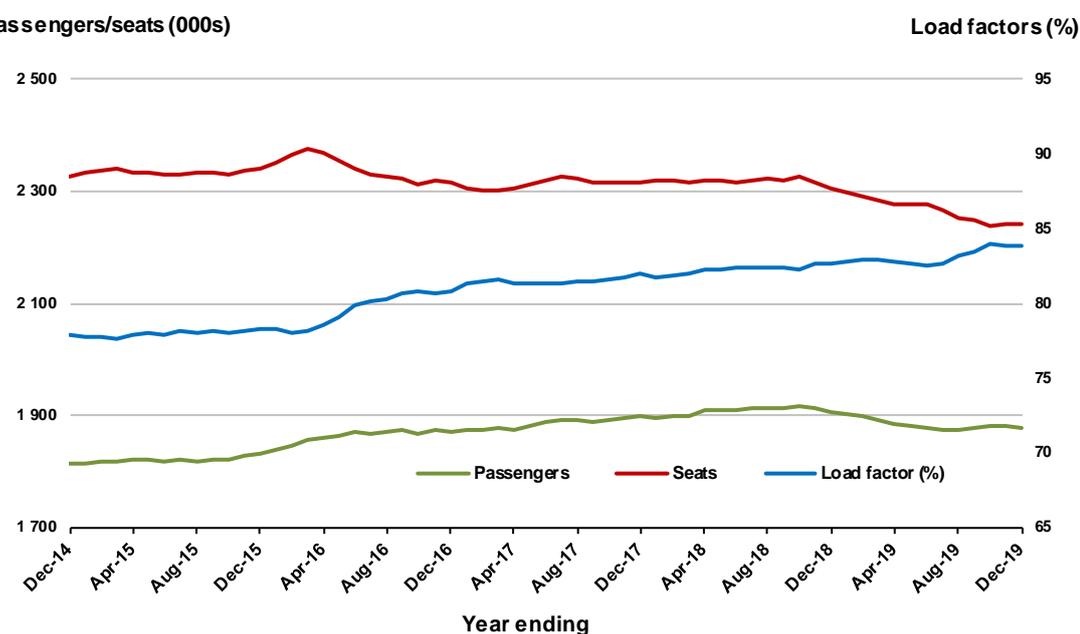
9. Perth - Sydney

Monthly data

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	152.2	157.7	3.6
Seats (000s)	173.7	175.8	1.2
Load factor %	87.7	89.7	2.0 *
Aircraft trips	811	795	-2.0

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**Load factors (%)**

Month
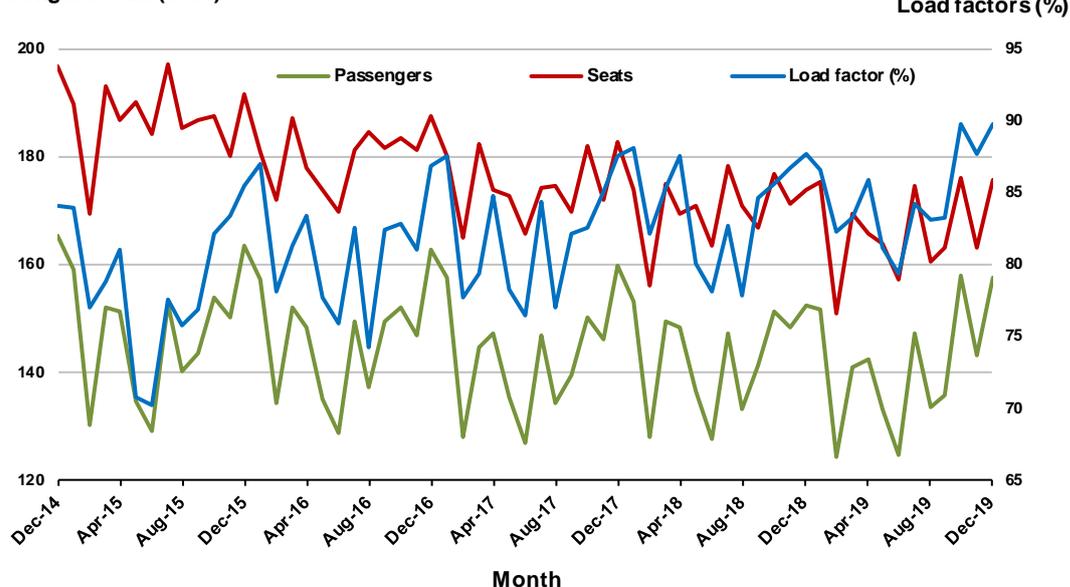
Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 716.9	1 692.0	-1.4
Seats (000s)	2 046.2	1 995.7	-2.5
Load factor %	83.9	84.8	0.9 *
Aircraft trips	9 085	9 006	-0.9

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**Load factors (%)**

Year ending
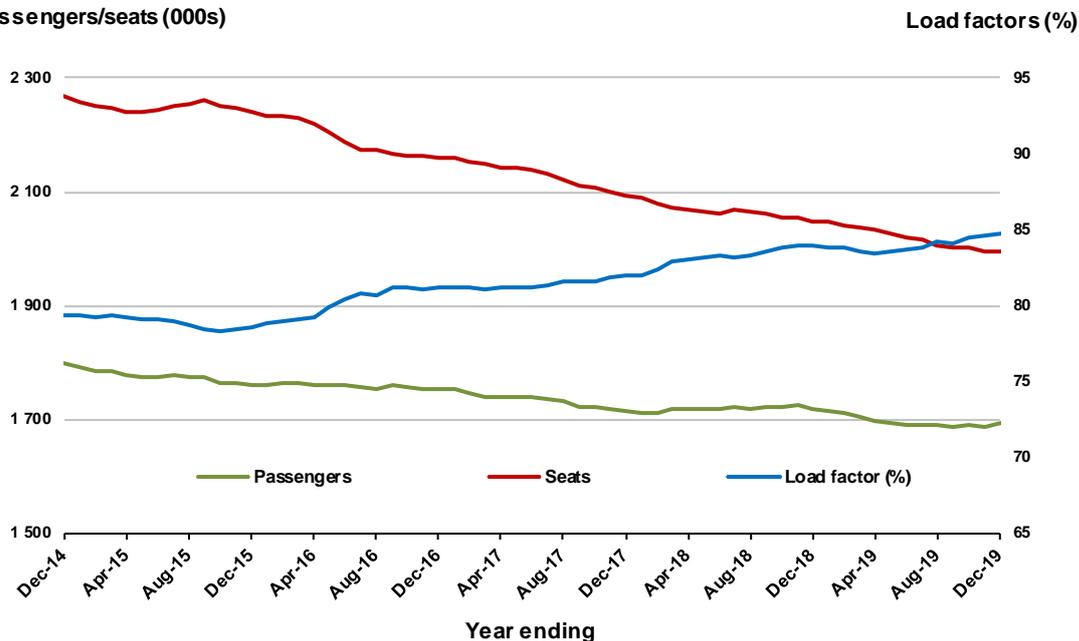
10. Hobart - Melbourne

Monthly data

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	159.1	157.2	-1.2
Seats (000s)	205.0	201.1	-1.9
Load factor %	77.6	78.2	0.6 *
Aircraft trips	1 120	1 107	-1.2

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)   **Load factors (%)**

Month
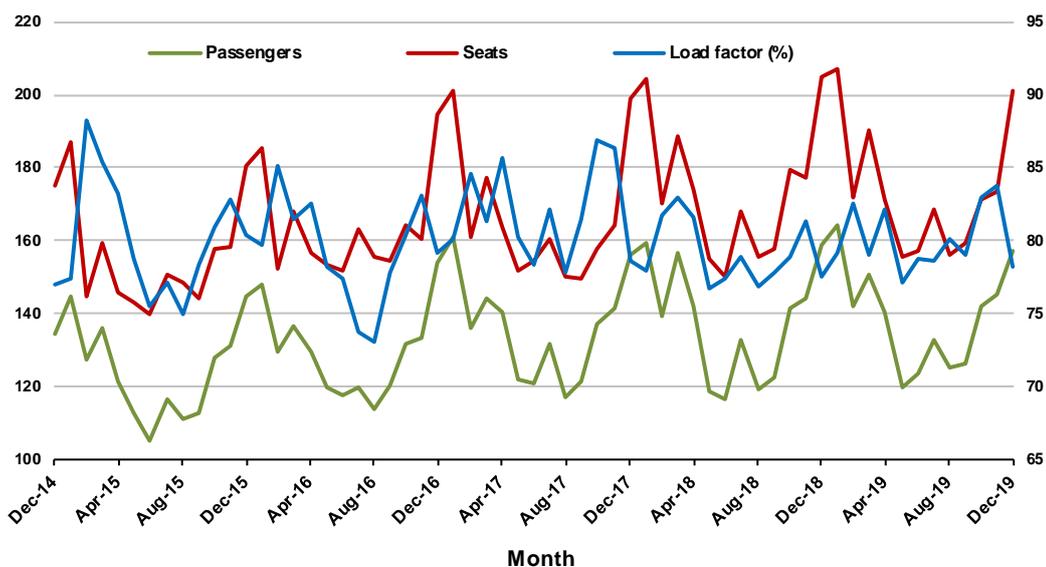
Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 652.8	1 670.2	1.1
Seats (000s)	2 086.7	2 084.6	-0.1
Load factor %	79.2	80.1	0.9 *
Aircraft trips	11 680	11 401	-2.4

* percentage point difference

Passengers/seats (000s)   **Load factors (%)**

Year ending
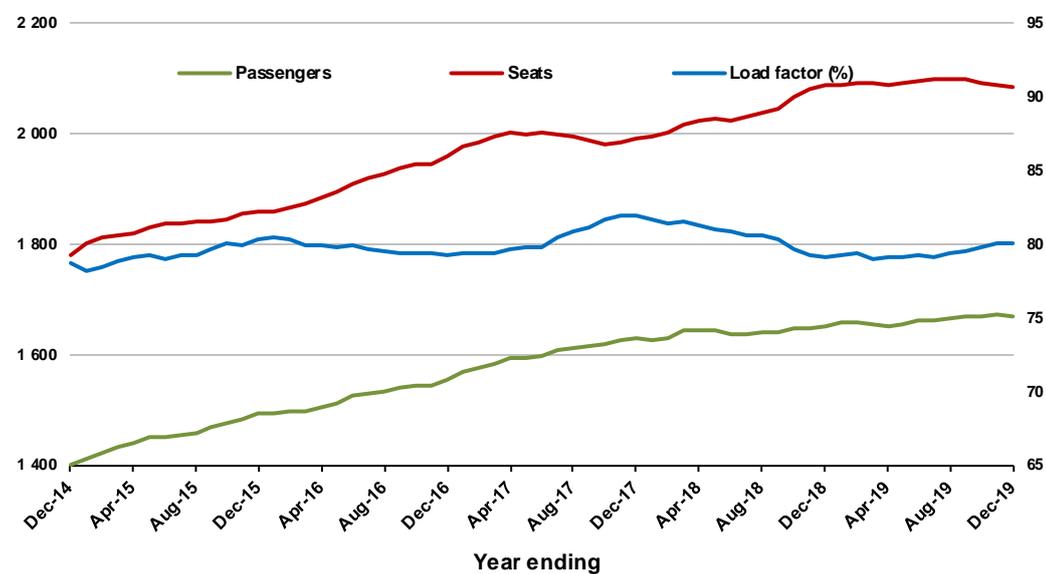
TOP FIFTY REGIONAL AIRPORTS

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

	Airport	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
1	Cairns	359.9	350.6	-2.6
2	Hobart	266.7	271.3	1.7
3	Townsville	134.5	142.3	5.8
4	Launceston	138.8	140.0	0.9
5	Darwin	127.8	125.7	-1.7
6	Newcastle	106.4	106.3	0.0
7	Mackay	70.0	75.1	7.3
8	Ballina	51.5	51.5	-0.1
9	Rockhampton	44.5	47.1	6.0
10	Hamilton Island	40.6	44.1	8.6
11	Proserpine	37.2	39.0	4.8
12	Karratha	32.2	37.6	16.5
13	Alice Springs	45.1	34.5	-23.6
14	Coffs Harbour	33.9	33.8	-0.3
15	Port Hedland	27.1	30.2	11.4
16	Ayers Rock	30.3	29.5	-2.5
17	Newman	22.3	27.4	23.1
18	Broome	27.4	26.7	-2.7
19	Kalgoorlie	23.0	22.3	-3.1
20	Albury	20.6	20.7	0.5
21	Mildura	20.2	20.6	2.0
22	Gladstone	20.0	20.4	1.7
23	Port Macquarie	18.5	19.3	4.2
24	Mount Isa	15.6	18.0	15.3
25	Wagga Wagga	15.2	16.0	5.3
26	Dubbo	15.9	15.8	-0.4
27	Emerald	14.7	15.8	7.4
28	Port Lincoln	14.7	15.6	5.9
29	Hervey Bay	14.4	15.2	5.3
30	Tamworth	14.6	14.9	2.2
31	Paraburdoo	12.8	14.3	11.8
32	Devonport	12.6	13.2	5.1
33	Bundaberg	12.9	12.7	-1.5
34	Toowoomba Wellcamp	10.1	11.2	11.3
35	Armidale	9.9	10.3	4.3
36	Thursday Island	8.7	8.5	-1.8
37	Geraldton	8.8	8.4	-4.2
38	Moranbah	7.6	8.0	5.3
39	Griffith	6.8	7.5	10.0
40	Kununurra	7.0	7.2	3.2
41	Roma	6.8	7.1	5.4
42	Mount Gambier	6.0	6.6	9.8
43	Burnie	6.6	6.5	-1.1
44	Weipa	6.3	6.4	0.8
45	Gove	6.0	6.3	5.9
46	Orange	5.3	6.3	17.7
47	Merimbula	5.9	5.9	-0.4
48	Whyalla	5.6	5.5	-2.3
49	Learmonth	6.1	5.3	-13.6
50	Norfolk Island	5.0	5.2	4.4
	Total top 50 regional airports	**1 960.4**	**1 989.8**	**1.5**
	Total regional airports	**2 067.8**	**2 100.0**	**1.6**
	Total domestic network	**10 288.3**	**10 510.4**	**2.2**

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 the Australian Bureau of Statistics

"The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)", not based in Major Urban areas.

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

	Airport	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
1	Cairns	4 309.4	4 155.5	-3.6
2	Hobart	2 676.6	2 781.7	3.9
3	Darwin	1 744.4	1 694.4	-2.9
4	Townsville	1 649.2	1 666.0	1.0
5	Launceston	1 382.0	1 395.3	1.0
6	Newcastle	1 255.1	1 274.1	1.5
7	Mackay	847.5	878.9	3.7
8	Rockhampton	551.7	571.7	3.6
9	Alice Springs	621.7	554.5	-10.8
10	Ballina	538.2	533.3	-0.9
11	Ayers Rock	416.3	489.6	17.6
12	Karratha	441.7	468.2	6.0
13	Hamilton Island	427.4	452.5	5.9
14	Proserpine	448.6	433.4	-3.4
15	Broome	416.4	403.8	-3.0
16	Coffs Harbour	403.6	395.6	-2.0
17	Port Hedland	371.5	387.5	4.3
18	Newman	306.2	348.7	13.9
19	Kalgoorlie	289.0	289.7	0.3
20	Albury	260.2	255.6	-1.8
21	Mildura	270.7	254.2	-6.1
22	Gladstone	253.2	247.9	-2.1
23	Mount Isa	211.3	226.8	7.3
24	Port Macquarie	215.1	218.6	1.6
25	Dubbo	219.7	211.5	-3.8
26	Wagga Wagga	217.1	208.2	-4.1
27	Emerald	195.3	201.5	3.2
28	Paraburdoo	178.1	191.0	7.3
29	Tamworth	189.6	189.4	-0.1
30	Port Lincoln	169.9	172.3	1.4
31	Hervey Bay	163.9	166.8	1.8
32	Bundaberg	162.9	153.7	-5.6
33	Devonport	147.5	148.4	0.6
34	Armidale	128.9	132.8	3.0
35	Toowoomba Wellcamp	136.7	120.0	-12.2
36	Kununurra	107.2	113.8	6.2
37	Moranbah	103.7	109.8	5.9
38	Geraldton	113.4	106.7	-5.9
39	Thursday Island	100.8	97.1	-3.7
40	Roma	87.9	96.7	10.0
41	Griffith	79.8	94.1	17.9
42	Mount Gambier	80.5	85.3	6.0
43	Learmonth	88.3	84.7	-4.0
44	Orange	76.8	82.6	7.4
45	Gove	84.2	81.6	-3.1
46	Whyalla	76.3	79.0	3.6
47	Olympic Dam	74.8	75.9	1.4
48	Burnie	71.1	72.5	1.9
49	Weipa	80.5	72.3	-10.2
50	Merimbula	68.7	67.6	-1.6
	Total top 50 regional airports	**23 510.6**	**23 592.9**	**0.3**
	Total regional airports	**24 921.1**	**24 995.0**	**0.3**
	Total domestic network	**122 161.7**	**122 715.0**	**0.5**

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 the Australian Bureau of Statistics
"The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)", not based in Major Urban areas.

DOMESTIC CHARTER ACTIVITY

Table 12: Charter passengers carried and aircraft trips - monthly activity

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Total domestic charter passengers	186 766	229 506	22.9
Total domestic charter aircraft trips	3 436	4 125	20.1

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

Table 13: Charter passengers carried and aircraft trips - annual activity

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Total domestic charter passengers	2 476 879	2 754 764	11.2
Total domestic charter aircraft trips	44 090	47 435	7.6

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

Table 14: Domestic airports - charter activity - monthly

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	% Change
Total domestic charter passenger movements	373 532	459 012	22.9
Total domestic charter aircraft movements	6 872	8 250	20.1
Perth airport charter passenger movements	143 519	173 312	20.8
Perth airport charter aircraft movements	2 382	2 830	18.8

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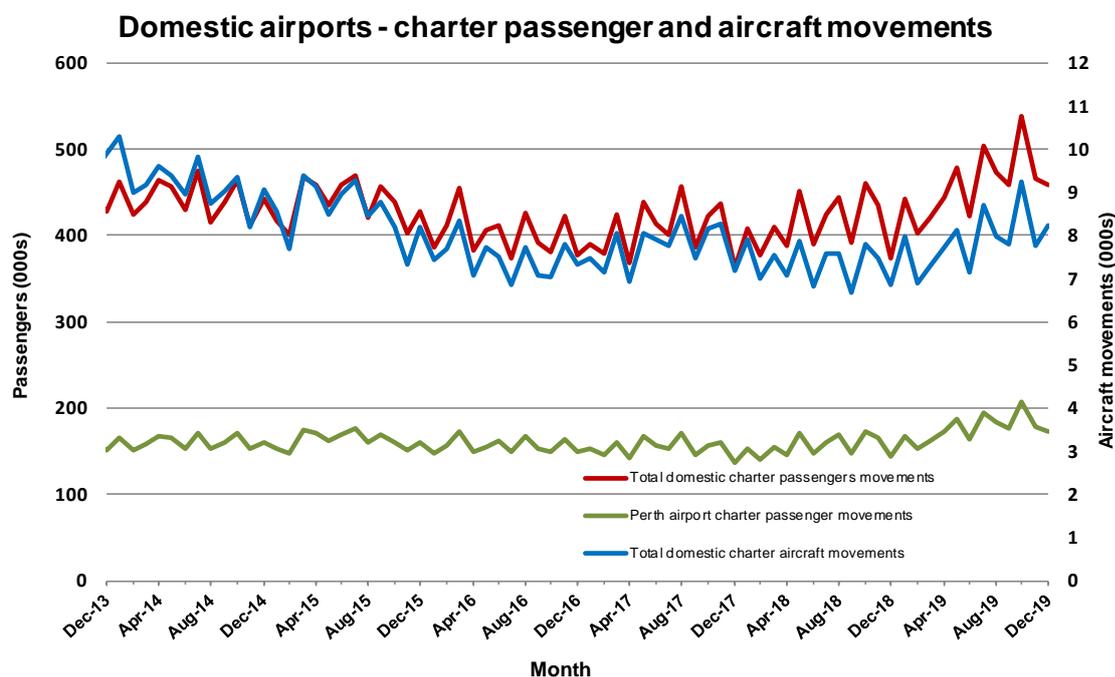Charter passenger and aircraft movement numbers are the sum of arrivals and departures at each airport.

Table 15: Domestic airports - charter activity - annual

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Total domestic charter passenger movements	4 953 758	5 509 528	11.2
Total domestic charter aircraft movements	88 180	94 870	7.6
Perth airport charter passenger movements	1 874 778	2 120 702	13.1
Perth airport charter aircraft movements	30 010	33 158	10.5

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.

Domestic airports - charter passenger and aircraft movements

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 passenger departure at Melbourne and as a passenger 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	The total of all traffic (revenue passengers) on each flight stage between two directly connected airports.
..	Data not included
NA	Not applicable