Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics

Aviation
Domestic aviation activity
2017

FOREWORD

This report provides an overview of domestic (including charter) commercial aviation activity in Australia for the year ending December 2017.

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 where two or more airlines operate in competition. For the year ending December 2017 there were 66 such routes.

Information on both the total network and the Regular Public Transport (RPT) network for the year ending December 2017 is presented on page 2.

Detailed information on the 66 individual routes can be found in the RPT summary pages 3–10 of this publication.

The top ten airports in terms of RPT passenger movements are shown on page 11.

Data on domestic RPT cargo movements at the top five cargo airports are provided on page 12. 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 Priority and Virgin Australia Cargo.

The long-term trends for the top twenty competitive RPT routes are presented graphically on pages 13–22.

Domestic RPT passenger movements at the top 50 regional airports are presented on page 23.

Tables providing estimates of domestic charter aviation activity are shown on page 24. BITRE confidentiality standards restrict publication of detailed airport-level estimates for any Australian airport, with the exception of Perth Airport.

A list of definitions can be found on page 25.

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.

CONTENTS

This page is intentionally left blank.

HIGHLIGHTS

There were 62.41 million passengers carried on Australian domestic commercial aviation (including charter operations) in the year ending December 2017, an increase of 1.7 per cent compared with the year ending December 2016. In the year ending December 2017 there were 684 681 aircraft trips, a decrease of 0.5 per cent compared to the previous year.

59.98 million passengers were carried on RPT flights in the year ending December 2017, an increase of 1.7 compared with the year ending December 2016.

RPT revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs) performed were 70.01 billion in the year, up 1.0 per cent on the year ending December 2016.

Capacity, measured by available seat kilometres (ASKs), decreased 1.0 per cent compared with the year ending December 2016, to a total of 88.20 billion.

With RPT passenger traffic increasing and capacity decreasing, the industry wide load factor (RPKs/ASKs) increased from 77.8 per cent in the year ending December 2016 to 79.4 per cent in the year ending December 2017. Load factors on individual routes increased on 48 of the 64 RPT routes for which data is available in both years.

In the year ending December 2017, Melbourne – Sydney remained Australia's busiest RPT route with 9.10 million passengers, an increase of 2.2 per cent compared with the year ending December 2016. It was followed by Brisbane – Sydney with 4.75 million passengers (up 1.9 per cent) and Brisbane – Melbourne with 3.54 million passengers (up 1.4 per cent).

The greatest percentage increase in RPT passenger numbers, compared to the year ending December 2016, was on the Brisbane – Proserpine route (up 13.9 per cent). There were large increases on a number of other routes, including Canberra – Melbourne (up 10.4 per cent), Melbourne – Sunshine Coast (up 10.0 per cent), Sunshine Coast – Sydney (up 7.9 per cent) and Darwin – Perth (up 7.6 per cent).

RPT routes with traffic decreases in the year ending December 2017, compared with the year ending December 2016, included Hamilton Island – Sydney (down 26.2 per cent), Brisbane – Gladstone (down 14.9 per cent), Brisbane – Hamilton Island (down 14.0 per cent) and Karratha – Perth (down 11.0 per cent).

In the year ending December 2017, Sydney remained Australia's busiest domestic airport with 27.33 million passenger movements, followed by Melbourne with 25.35 million passenger movements and Brisbane with 17.29 million passenger movements.

Total cargo movements at Australian airports on domestic RPT flights were 454.8 thousand tonnes in the year ending December 2017, an increase of 4.4 per cent compared to the year ending December 2016.

In the year ending December 2017, the number of domestic aviation passengers travelling through regional airports was 24.47 million, 1.7 per cent higher than for the year ending December 2016. Out of the top 50 regional airports, the strongest growth was at Olympic Dam airport (up 36.3 per cent on year ending December 2016), while the largest decrease was at Hamilton Island airport (down 23.0 per cent on year ending December 2016).

Fixed-wing charter operators carried 2.43 million passengers in the year ending December 2017, an increase of 0.7 per cent compared with the year ending December 2016. Perth airport accounted for 37.9 per cent of all charter passengers in Australia.

TOTAL NETWORK

Summary of annual commercial aviation activity

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	61.38	62.41	1.7
Aircraft trips (000s)	688.1	684.7	-0.5

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 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Total passengers carried (millions)	58.97	59.98	1.7
Revenue passenger kilometres (billions)	69.34	70.01	1.0
Available seats (millions)	77.38	77.15	-0.3
Available seat kilometres (billions)	89.08	88.20	-1.0
Load factor %	77.8	79.4	1.5 *
Aircraft trips (000s)	643.3	638.7	-0.7

* percentage point difference

Domestic RPT passenger traffic
(moving annual totals)
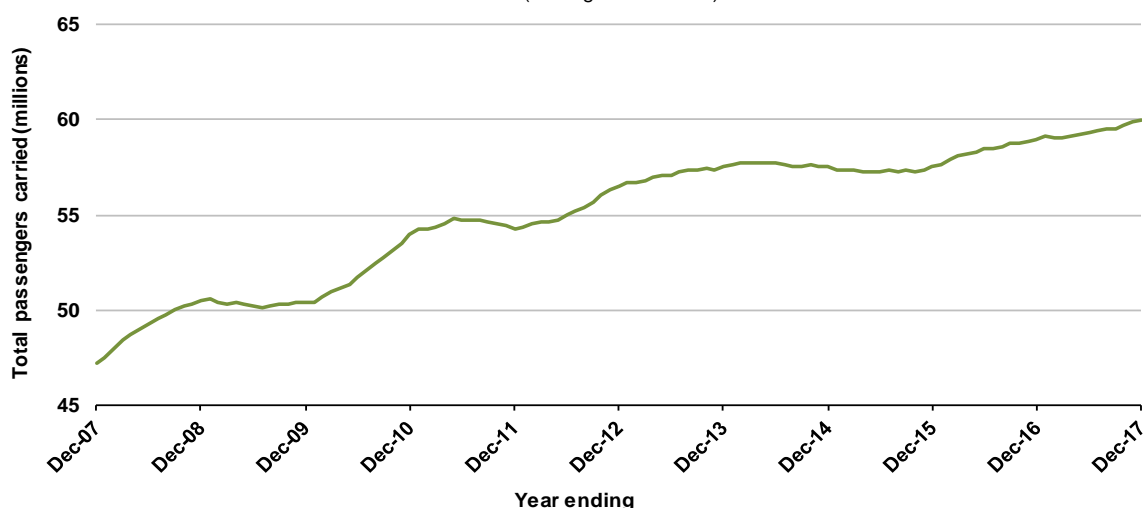
RPT Network utilisation
(moving annual totals)
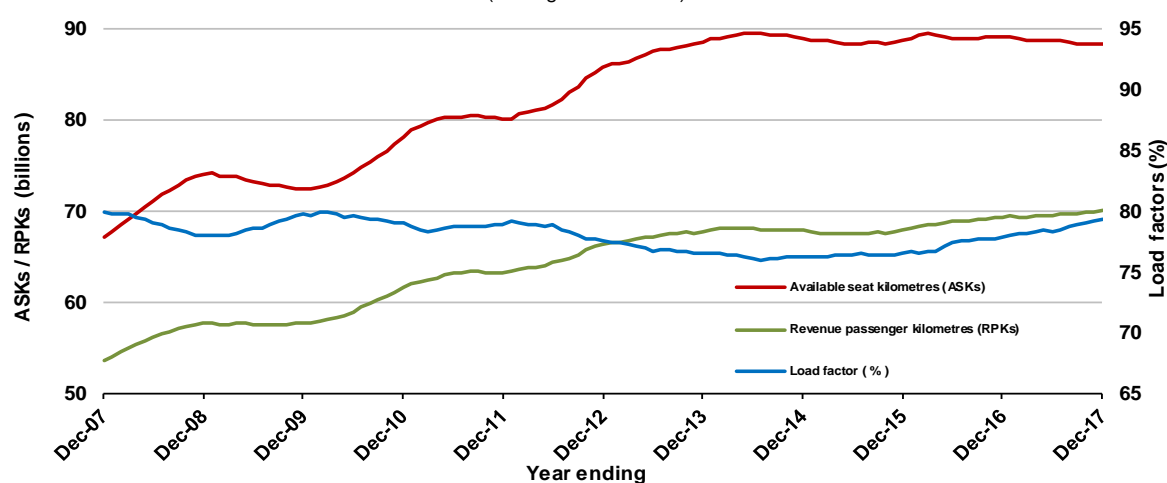
TOP COMPETITIVE ROUTES

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

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	8 904.7	9 097.1	2.2
2	Brisbane - Sydney	4 658.1	4 746.3	1.9
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	3 493.3	3 541.1	1.4
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	2 704.4	2 740.7	1.3
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	2 393.9	2 456.4	2.6
6	Melbourne - Perth	2 072.9	2 033.2	-1.9
7	Gold Coast - Melbourne	1 966.1	2 012.6	2.4
8	Adelaide - Sydney	1 872.0	1 898.3	1.4
9	Perth - Sydney	1 753.7	1 716.5	-2.1
10	Hobart - Melbourne	1 555.5	1 630.3	4.8
11	Brisbane - Cairns	1 346.9	1 377.9	2.3
12	Canberra - Melbourne	1 026.1	1 133.0	10.4
13	Cairns - Sydney	1 115.3	1 129.3	1.3
14	Brisbane - Perth	984.1	969.1	-1.5
15	Brisbane - Townsville	976.6	960.2	-1.7
16	Canberra - Sydney	959.4	949.2	-1.1
17	Launceston - Melbourne	918.0	923.2	0.6
18	Adelaide - Brisbane	830.3	849.6	2.3
19	Cairns - Melbourne	823.4	841.3	2.2
20	Brisbane - Mackay	678.5	697.9	2.9
21	Hobart - Sydney	616.6	655.9	6.4
22	Adelaide - Perth	617.1	614.1	-0.5
23	Brisbane - Canberra	576.1	594.3	3.1
24	Brisbane - Newcastle	574.0	590.7	2.9
25	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	539.8	582.7	7.9
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	563.8	522.1	-7.4
27	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	441.8	485.8	10.0
28	Melbourne - Newcastle	449.5	476.1	5.9
29	Karratha - Perth	490.6	436.9	-11.0
30	Brisbane - Darwin	407.7	406.2	-0.4
31	Ballina - Sydney	385.2	402.7	4.5
32	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	339.0	347.2	2.4
33	Perth - Port Hedland	339.1	337.3	-0.5
34	Darwin - Sydney	318.8	321.7	0.9
35	Broome - Perth	295.2	313.4	6.2
36	Darwin - Melbourne	301.0	306.3	1.8
37	Launceston - Sydney	288.6	286.4	-0.7
38	Newman - Perth	307.6	284.9	-7.4
39	Brisbane - Gladstone	331.0	281.6	-14.9
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	227.9	259.5	13.9
41	Kalgoorlie - Perth	231.7	241.9	4.4
42	Albury - Sydney	225.1	224.0	-0.5
43	Adelaide - Gold Coast	221.5	214.2	-3.3
44	Brisbane - Hobart	205.8	212.7	3.4
45	Melbourne - Mildura	205.7	212.0	3.1
46	Darwin - Perth	184.4	198.4	7.6
47	Brisbane - Emerald	198.9	197.6	-0.7
48	Hamilton Island - Sydney	265.8	196.0	-26.2
49	Port Macquarie - Sydney	193.4	192.3	-0.5
50	Ayers Rock - Sydney	184.1	191.5	4.0

(continued)

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

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
51	Dubbo - Sydney	188.2	190.8	1.4
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	188.4	182.8	-3.0
53	Adelaide - Canberra	174.0	181.6	4.3
54	Sydney - Tamworth	175.1	180.7	3.2
55	Brisbane - Bundaberg	172.7	173.9	0.6
56	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	178.9	171.5	-4.1
57	Sydney - Townsville	158.4	160.6	1.4
58	Cairns - Townsville	139.2	141.8	1.9
59	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	149.1	128.2	-14.0
60	Armidale - Sydney	127.7	126.2	-1.2
61	Brisbane - Mount Isa	119.8	125.3	4.6
62	Adelaide - Alice Springs	120.7	124.5	3.1
63	Alice Springs - Darwin	116.4	118.8	2.0
64	Geraldton - Perth	117.6	111.9	-4.8
65	Melbourne - Townsville	..	54.2	NA (a)
66	Proserpine - Sydney	..	47.4	NA (b)
	Total domestic network	**58 968.4**	**59 978.9**	**1.7**

(a) Melbourne - Townsville route included from September 2017, prior data not shown.

(b) Proserpine - Sydney route included from September 2017, prior data not shown.

Table 2: Available seats (000s) — annual activity

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	10 652.3	10 772.6	1.1
2	Brisbane - Sydney	5 706.0	5 749.6	0.8
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	4 343.0	4 367.8	0.6
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	3 143.3	3 170.5	0.9
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	3 029.3	3 053.3	0.8
6	Melbourne - Perth	2 563.1	2 429.2	-5.2
7	Gold Coast - Melbourne	2 365.1	2 326.6	-1.6
8	Adelaide - Sydney	2 317.1	2 315.8	-0.1
9	Perth - Sydney	2 160.5	2 094.4	-3.1
10	Hobart - Melbourne	1 960.9	1 990.6	1.5
11	Brisbane - Cairns	1 629.3	1 627.0	-0.1
12	Canberra - Melbourne	1 484.4	1 714.8	15.5
13	Cairns - Sydney	1 333.7	1 333.2	0.0
14	Brisbane - Perth	1 229.4	1 183.7	-3.7
15	Brisbane - Townsville	1 313.8	1 251.2	-4.8
16	Canberra - Sydney	1 362.1	1 297.1	-4.8
17	Launceston - Melbourne	1 159.9	1 158.8	-0.1
18	Adelaide - Brisbane	1 108.5	1 109.0	0.0
19	Cairns - Melbourne	986.8	984.8	-0.2
20	Brisbane - Mackay	913.5	879.9	-3.7
21	Hobart - Sydney	749.0	784.9	4.8
22	Adelaide - Perth	864.3	838.4	-3.0
23	Brisbane - Canberra	794.6	846.6	6.5
24	Brisbane - Newcastle	766.4	801.9	4.6
25	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	658.0	724.0	10.0
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	772.5	634.3	-17.9
27	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	520.8	568.2	9.1
28	Melbourne - Newcastle	567.4	603.4	6.3
29	Karratha - Perth	846.9	691.1	-18.4
30	Brisbane - Darwin	519.0	504.8	-2.7
31	Ballina - Sydney	471.6	496.4	5.3
32	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	451.2	474.1	5.1
33	Perth - Port Hedland	614.4	530.0	-13.7
34	Darwin - Sydney	440.0	434.6	-1.2
35	Broome - Perth	406.3	420.8	3.6
36	Darwin - Melbourne	379.0	381.1	0.5
37	Launceston - Sydney	346.9	334.4	-3.6
38	Newman - Perth	610.8	537.9	-11.9
39	Brisbane - Gladstone	567.2	390.7	-31.1
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	268.9	319.3	18.7
41	Kalgoorlie - Perth	394.6	415.4	5.3
42	Albury - Sydney	345.2	333.3	-3.4
43	Adelaide - Gold Coast	280.3	261.7	-6.7
44	Brisbane - Hobart	244.2	250.9	2.7
45	Melbourne - Mildura	317.0	334.9	5.7
46	Darwin - Perth	266.3	257.5	-3.3
47	Brisbane - Emerald	369.5	301.5	-18.4
48	Hamilton Island - Sydney	334.3	296.9	-11.2
49	Port Macquarie - Sydney	267.7	256.2	-4.3
50	Ayers Rock - Sydney	232.7	245.7	5.6

(continued)

Table 2: (continued): Available seats (000s) — annual activity

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
51	Dubbo - Sydney	292.8	281.2	-4.0
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	294.2	287.2	-2.4
53	Adelaide - Canberra	255.7	283.6	10.9
54	Sydney - Tamworth	279.3	286.1	2.4
55	Brisbane - Bundaberg	238.7	233.9	-2.0
56	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	290.2	288.1	-0.7
57	Sydney - Townsville	211.7	205.5	-2.9
58	Cairns - Townsville	294.0	274.6	-6.6
59	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	189.9	187.8	-1.1
60	Armidale - Sydney	195.5	184.1	-5.9
61	Brisbane - Mount Isa	232.7	186.5	-19.9
62	Adelaide - Alice Springs	180.6	181.8	0.6
63	Alice Springs - Darwin	213.8	211.5	-1.1
64	Geraldton - Perth	241.0	230.5	-4.4
65	Melbourne - Townsville	..	66.5	NA (a)
66	Proserpine - Sydney	..	58.3	NA (b)
	Total domestic network	**77 380.1**	**77 149.4**	**-0.3**

(a) Melbourne - Townsville route included from September 2017, prior data not shown.

(b) Proserpine - Sydney route included from September 2017, prior data not shown.

Table 3: Load factors (%) — annual activity

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	83.6	84.5	0.9
2	Brisbane - Sydney	81.6	82.5	0.9
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	80.4	81.1	0.6
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	86.0	86.4	0.4
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	79.0	80.5	1.4
6	Melbourne - Perth	80.9	83.7	2.8
7	Gold Coast - Melbourne	83.1	86.5	3.4
8	Adelaide - Sydney	80.8	82.0	1.2
9	Perth - Sydney	81.2	82.0	0.8
10	Hobart - Melbourne	79.3	81.9	2.6
11	Brisbane - Cairns	82.7	84.7	2.0
12	Canberra - Melbourne	69.1	66.1	-3.1
13	Cairns - Sydney	83.6	84.7	1.1
14	Brisbane - Perth	80.0	81.9	1.8
15	Brisbane - Townsville	74.3	76.7	2.4
16	Canberra - Sydney	70.4	73.2	2.7
17	Launceston - Melbourne	79.1	79.7	0.5
18	Adelaide - Brisbane	74.9	76.6	1.7
19	Cairns - Melbourne	83.4	85.4	2.0
20	Brisbane - Mackay	74.3	79.3	5.0
21	Hobart - Sydney	82.3	83.6	1.2
22	Adelaide - Perth	71.4	73.3	1.9
23	Brisbane - Canberra	72.5	70.2	-2.3
24	Brisbane - Newcastle	74.9	73.7	-1.2
25	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	82.0	80.5	-1.5
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	73.0	82.3	9.3
27	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	84.8	85.5	0.7
28	Melbourne - Newcastle	79.2	78.9	-0.3
29	Karratha - Perth	57.9	63.2	5.3
30	Brisbane - Darwin	78.6	80.5	1.9
31	Ballina - Sydney	81.7	80.8	-0.9
32	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	75.1	73.2	-1.9
33	Perth - Port Hedland	55.2	63.8	8.6
34	Darwin - Sydney	72.5	74.0	1.6
35	Broome - Perth	72.6	74.6	1.9
36	Darwin - Melbourne	79.4	80.4	1.0
37	Launceston - Sydney	83.2	85.6	2.5
38	Newman - Perth	50.4	53.0	2.6
39	Brisbane - Gladstone	58.4	72.1	13.7
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	84.7	81.3	-3.4
41	Kalgoorlie - Perth	58.7	58.2	-0.5
42	Albury - Sydney	65.2	67.2	2.0
43	Adelaide - Gold Coast	79.0	81.9	2.8
44	Brisbane - Hobart	84.3	84.8	0.5
45	Melbourne - Mildura	64.9	63.3	-1.6
46	Darwin - Perth	69.2	77.0	7.8
47	Brisbane - Emerald	53.8	65.5	11.7
48	Hamilton Island - Sydney	79.5	66.0	-13.5
49	Port Macquarie - Sydney	72.2	75.1	2.8
50	Ayers Rock - Sydney	79.1	77.9	-1.2

(continued)

Table 3: (continued): Load factors (%) — annual activity

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
51	Dubbo - Sydney	64.3	67.9	3.6
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	64.0	63.6	-0.4
53	Adelaide - Canberra	68.1	64.0	-4.0
54	Sydney - Tamworth	62.7	63.2	0.5
55	Brisbane - Bundaberg	72.4	74.3	1.9
56	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	61.6	59.5	-2.1
57	Sydney - Townsville	74.8	78.1	3.3
58	Cairns - Townsville	47.4	51.6	4.3
59	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	78.5	68.3	-10.2
60	Armidale - Sydney	65.3	68.5	3.3
61	Brisbane - Mount Isa	51.5	67.2	15.7
62	Adelaide - Alice Springs	66.8	68.5	1.6
63	Alice Springs - Darwin	54.4	56.2	1.7
64	Geraldton - Perth	48.8	49.0	0.2
65	Melbourne - Townsville	..	81.5	NA (a)
66	Proserpine - Sydney	..	81.3	NA (b)
	Total domestic network	**77.8**	**79.4**	**1.5**

(a) Melbourne - Townsville route included from September 2017, prior data not shown.

(b) Proserpine - Sydney route included from September 2017, prior data not shown.

Table 4: Aircraft trips [a] — annual activity

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	59 270	60 059	1.3
2	Brisbane - Sydney	35 396	35 401	0.0
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	25 933	25 806	-0.5
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	18 379	18 038	-1.9
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	19 374	19 128	-1.3
6	Melbourne - Perth	11 582	11 110	-4.1
7	Gold Coast - Melbourne	12 666	12 389	-2.2
8	Adelaide - Sydney	14 114	13 931	-1.3
9	Perth - Sydney	9 154	9 031	-1.3
10	Hobart - Melbourne	12 286	12 161	-1.0
11	Brisbane - Cairns	10 173	10 168	0.0
12	Canberra - Melbourne	10 812	11 330	4.8
13	Cairns - Sydney	7 665	7 321	-4.5
14	Brisbane - Perth	5 772	5 911	2.4
15	Brisbane - Townsville	8 966	8 857	-1.2
16	Canberra - Sydney	17 080	16 208	-5.1
17	Launceston - Melbourne	8 866	8 921	0.6
18	Adelaide - Brisbane	6 784	6 710	-1.1
19	Cairns - Melbourne	5 232	5 203	-0.6
20	Brisbane - Mackay	7 670	7 202	-6.1
21	Hobart - Sydney	4 714	4 861	3.1
22	Adelaide - Perth	5 675	5 465	-3.7
23	Brisbane - Canberra	5 925	6 083	2.7
24	Brisbane - Newcastle	6 328	6 138	-3.0
25	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	3 955	4 380	10.7
26	Brisbane - Rockhampton	9 351	7 948	-15.0
27	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	2 936	3 220	9.7
28	Melbourne - Newcastle	3 202	3 378	5.5
29	Karratha - Perth	7 035	6 170	-12.3
30	Brisbane - Darwin	3 162	3 084	-2.5
31	Ballina - Sydney	3 194	3 260	2.1
32	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	5 309	5 086	-4.2
33	Perth - Port Hedland	4 614	4 428	-4.0
34	Darwin - Sydney	2 620	2 570	-1.9
35	Broome - Perth	3 322	3 673	10.6
36	Darwin - Melbourne	2 169	2 168	0.0
37	Launceston - Sydney	2 003	1 940	-3.1
38	Newman - Perth	4 374	3 957	-9.5
39	Brisbane - Gladstone	7 196	5 234	-27.3
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	1 578	1 805	14.4
41	Kalgoorlie - Perth	3 420	3 436	0.5
42	Albury - Sydney	6 273	6 054	-3.5
43	Adelaide - Gold Coast	1 589	1 481	-6.8
44	Brisbane - Hobart	1 427	1 424	-0.2
45	Melbourne - Mildura	4 874	4 864	-0.2
46	Darwin - Perth	1 655	1 551	-6.3
47	Brisbane - Emerald	4 976	4 049	-18.6
48	Hamilton Island - Sydney	2 005	1 784	-11.0
49	Port Macquarie - Sydney	4 607	4 376	-5.0
50	Ayers Rock - Sydney	1 395	1 391	-0.3

(continued)

Table 4: (continued): Aircraft trips [a]**— annual activity**

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
51	Dubbo - Sydney	6 398	6 174	-3.5
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	5 654	5 502	-2.7
53	Adelaide - Canberra	1 719	1 715	-0.2
54	Sydney - Tamworth	4 491	4 538	1.0
55	Brisbane - Bundaberg	3 901	3 773	-3.3
56	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	7 444	7 418	-0.3
57	Sydney - Townsville	1 385	1 239	-10.5
58	Cairns - Townsville	4 967	4 541	-8.6
59	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	1 481	1 535	3.6
60	Armidale - Sydney	4 589	4 410	-3.9
61	Brisbane - Mount Isa	1 882	1 835	-2.5
62	Adelaide - Alice Springs	1 143	1 201	5.1
63	Alice Springs - Darwin	1 733	1 766	1.9
64	Geraldton - Perth	2 482	2 305	-7.1
65	Melbourne - Townsville	..	372	NA (b)
66	Proserpine - Sydney	..	324	NA (c)
	Total domestic network	**643 274**	**638 700**	**-0.7**

(a) Includes RPT Cargo flights.

(b) Melbourne - Townsville route included from September 2017, prior data not shown.

(c) Proserpine - Sydney route included from September 2017, prior data not shown.
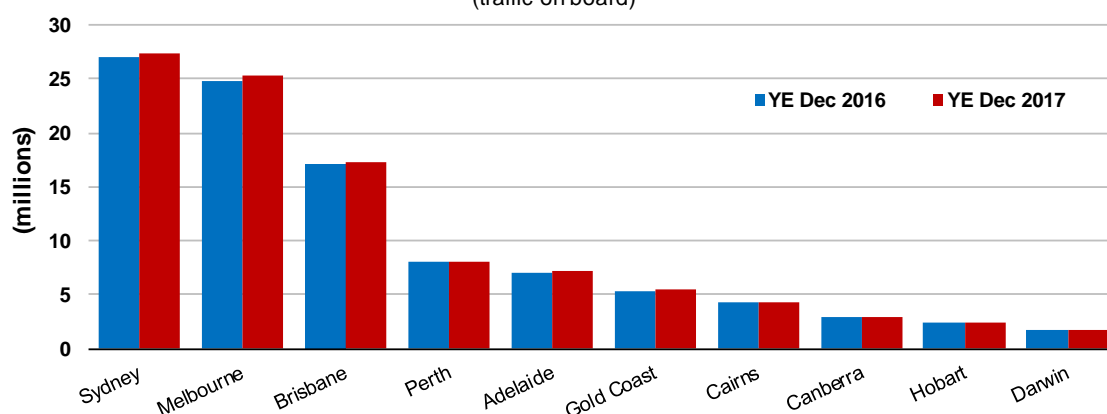
TOP TEN AIRPORTS – PASSENGER MOVEMENTS

Table 5: Top ten airports, RPT passenger movements (000s) — annual activity

	Airport	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change	% of Total
1	Sydney	26 942.0	27 326.5	1.4	22.8
2	Melbourne	24 779.7	25 346.4	2.3	21.0
3	Brisbane	17 080.9	17 289.4	1.2	14.5
4	Perth	8 126.4	7 996.7	-1.6	6.9
5	Adelaide	6 997.1	7 149.2	2.2	5.9
6	Gold Coast	5 327.0	5 420.0	1.7	4.5
7	Cairns	4 243.4	4 312.1	1.6	3.6
8	Canberra	2 886.4	3 022.4	4.7	2.4
9	Hobart	2 378.1	2 510.3	5.6	2.0
10	Darwin	1 803.4	1 802.4	-0.1	1.5
	Total top ten airports	**100 564.5**	**102 175.6**	**1.6**	**85.3**
	Total domestic network	**117 936.9**	**119 957.7**	**1.7**	**100.0**

Note: Airport passenger movement numbers are the sum of passenger arrivals and departures at each airport.
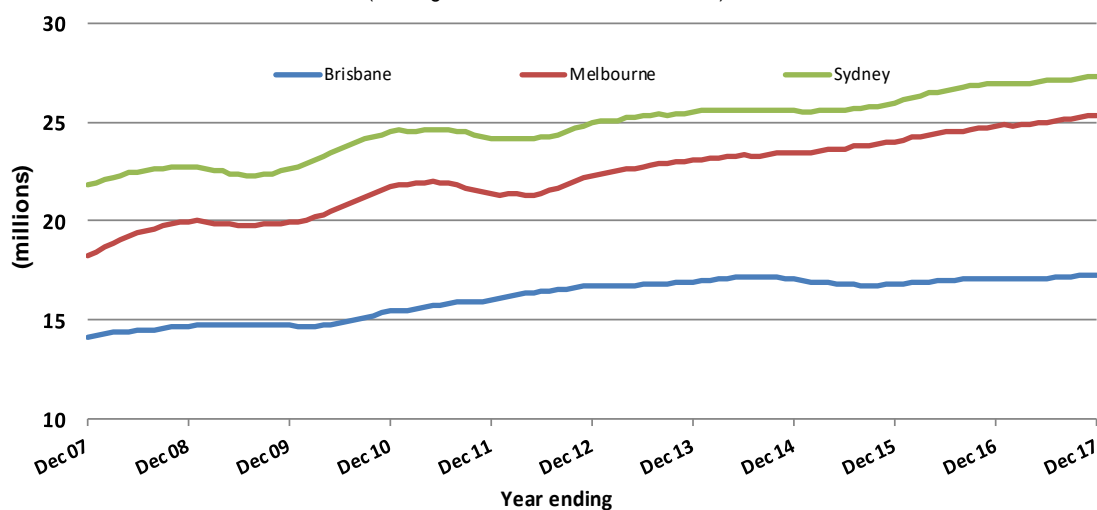
Top ten airports, RPT passenger movements
(traffic on board)

Top three airports, domestic passenger movements
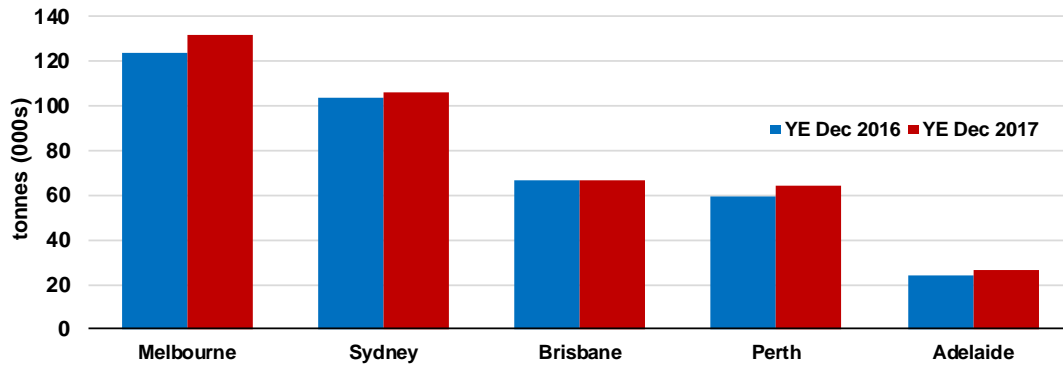(moving annual totals - traffic on board)

TOP FIVE AIRPORTS – CARGO MOVEMENTS

Table 6: Top five airports, domestic RPT cargo movements (000s tonnes) - annual activity

Airport	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change	% of Total
1 Melbourne	123.7	132.0	6.7	29.0
2 Sydney	104.0	106.2	2.1	23.4
3 Brisbane	66.9	66.5	-0.6	14.6
4 Perth	59.8	64.6	7.9	14.2
5 Adelaide	24.4	26.9	10.1	5.9
Total top five airports	**378.9**	**396.2**	**4.6**	**87.1**
Total domestic network	**435.6**	**454.8**	**4.4**	**100.0**

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

Top five airports, cargo movements
(Domestic cargo traffic - traffic on board)

Total domestic network - cargo movements
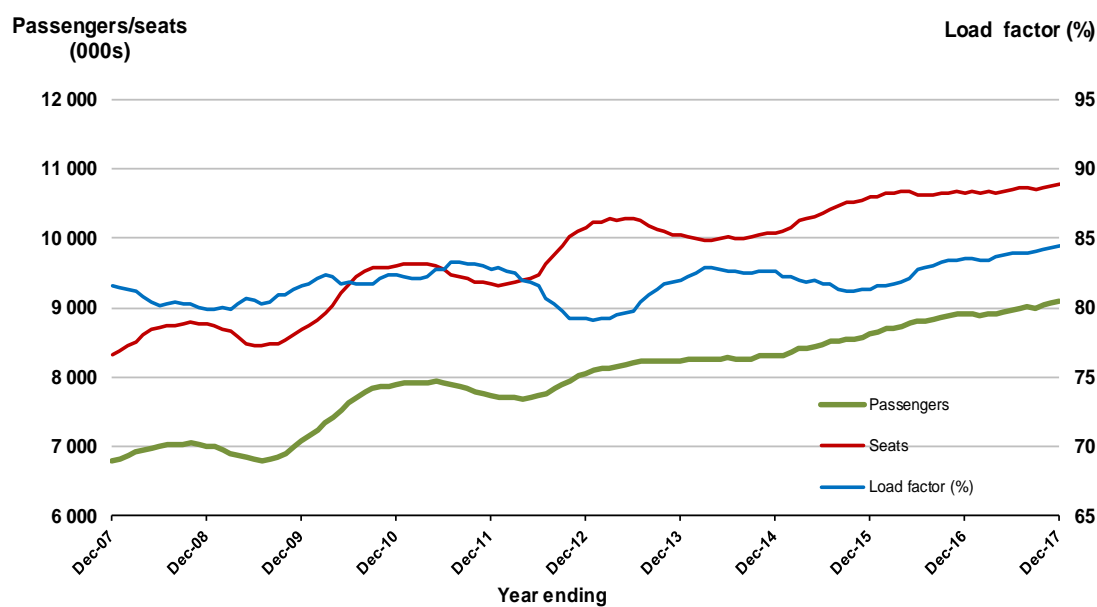(moving annual totals - traffic on board)
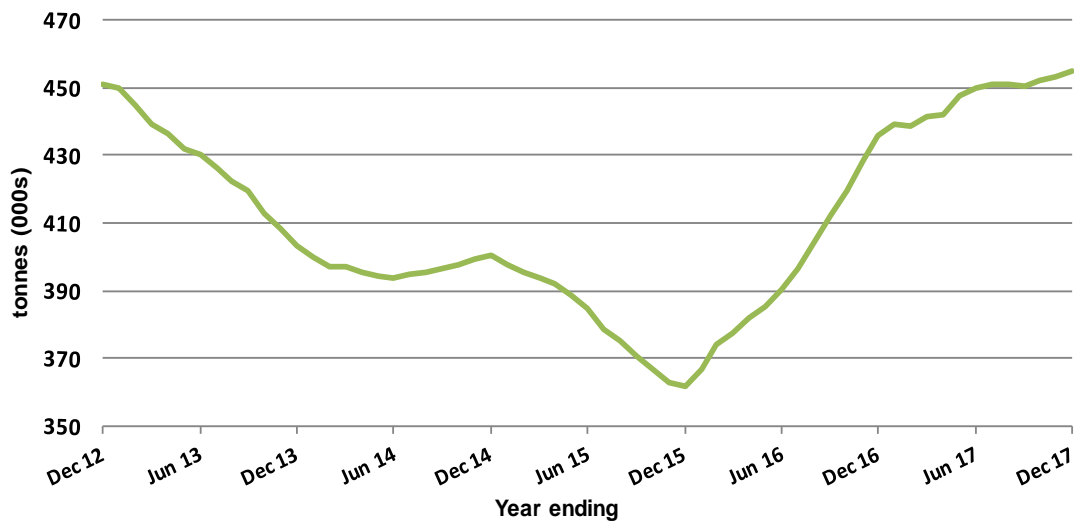
TOP TWENTY ROUTES
1. Melbourne - Sydney

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	8 904.7	9 097.1	2.2
Seats (000s)	10 652.3	10 772.6	1.1
Load factor %	83.6	84.5	0.9 *
Aircraft trips	59 270	60 059	1.3

* percentage point difference

2. Brisbane - Sydney

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	4 658.1	4 746.3	1.9
Seats (000s)	5 706.0	5 749.6	0.8
Load factor %	81.6	82.5	0.9 *
Aircraft trips	35 396	35 401	0.0

* percentage point difference
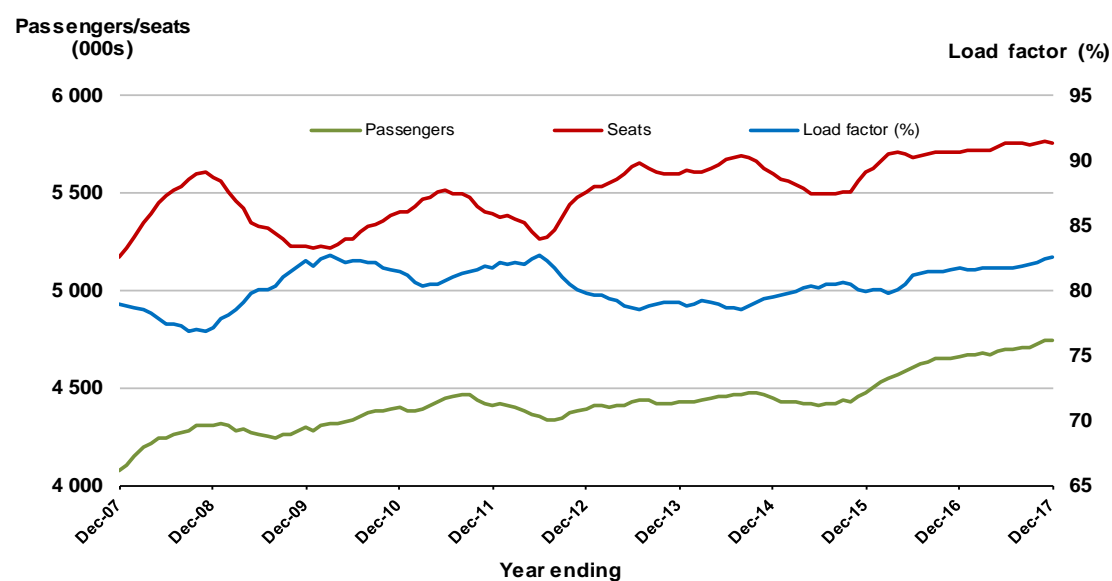
3. Brisbane - Melbourne

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	3 493.3	3 541.1	1.4
Seats (000s)	4 343.0	4 367.8	0.6
Load factor %	80.4	81.1	0.6 *
Aircraft trips	25 933	25 806	-0.5

* percentage point difference
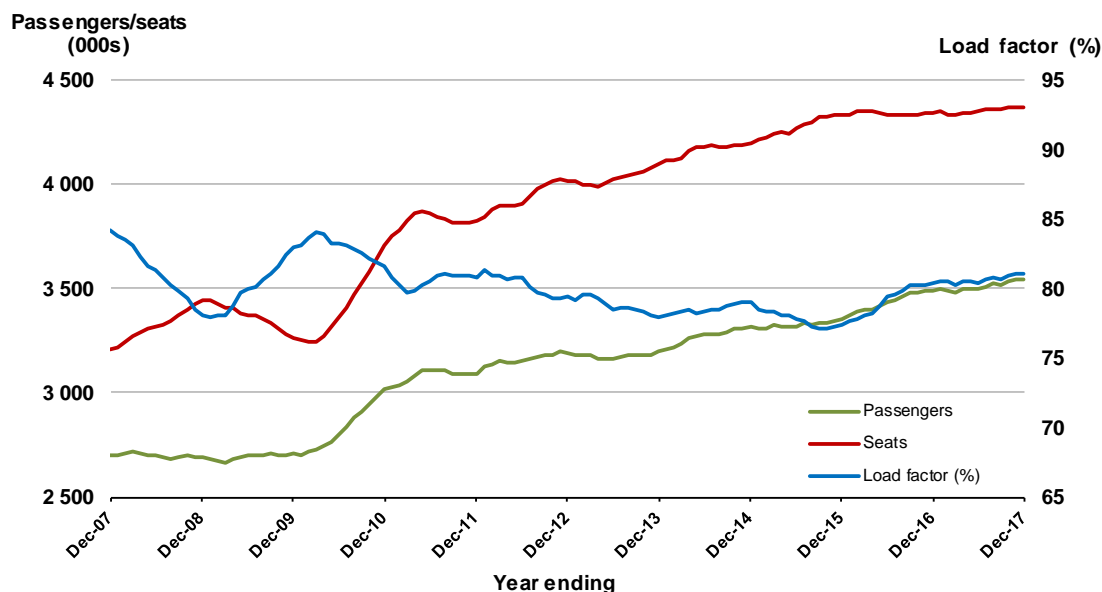
4. Gold Coast - Sydney

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 704.4	2 740.7	1.3
Seats (000s)	3 143.3	3 170.5	0.9
Load factor %	86.0	86.4	0.4 *
Aircraft trips	18 379	18 038	-1.9

* percentage point difference
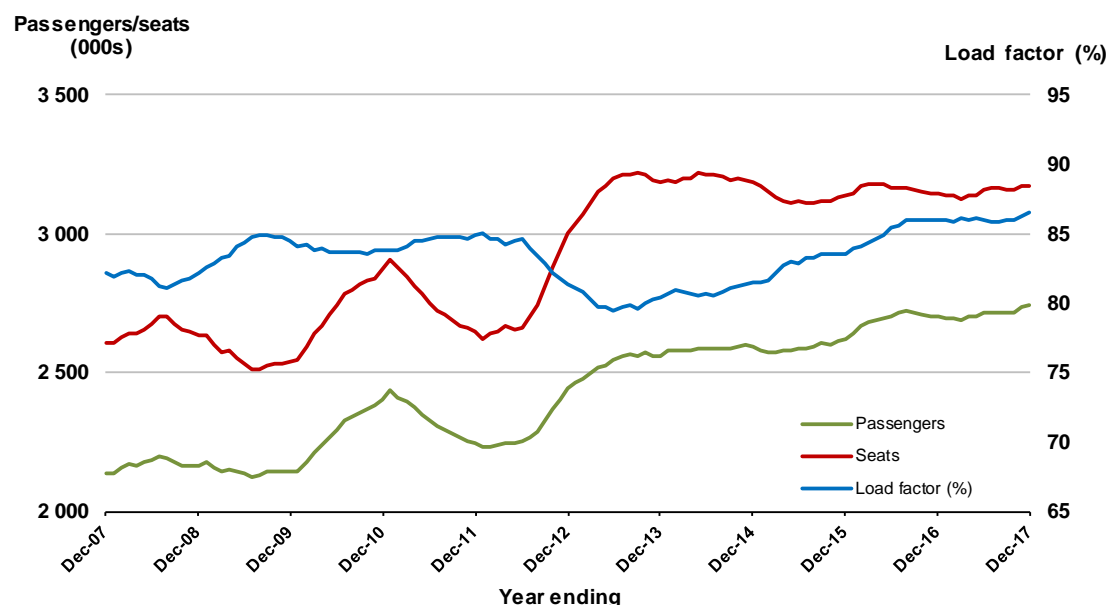
5. Adelaide - Melbourne

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 393.9	2 456.4	2.6
Seats (000s)	3 029.3	3 053.3	0.8
Load factor %	79.0	80.5	1.4 [*]
Aircraft trips	19 374	19 128	-1.3

* percentage point difference
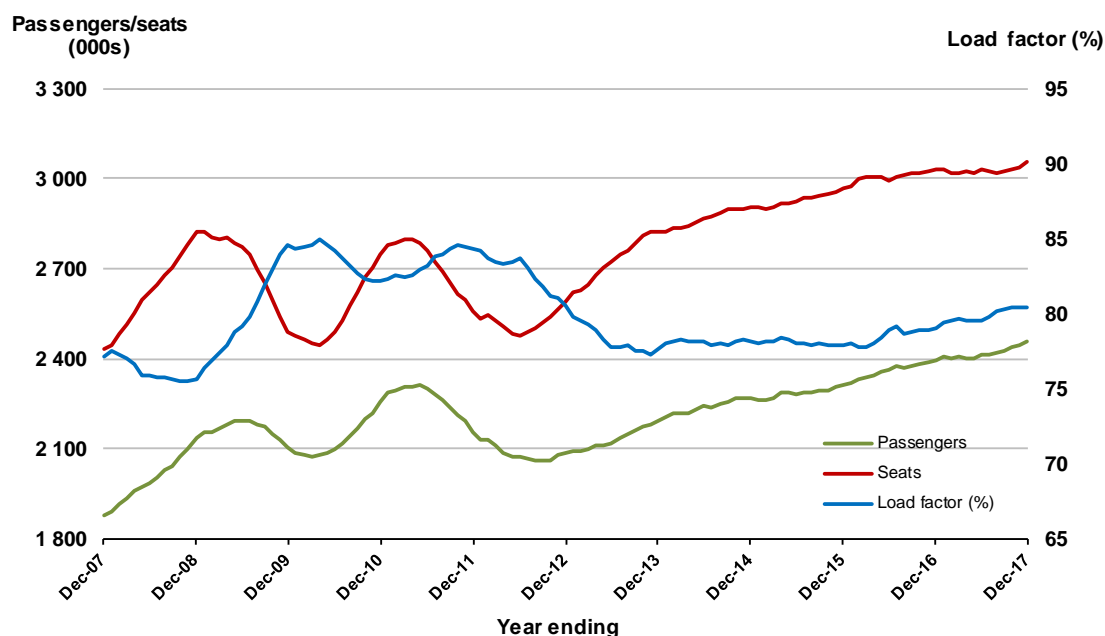
6. Melbourne - Perth

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	2 072.9	2 033.2	-1.9
Seats (000s)	2 563.1	2 429.2	-5.2
Load factor %	80.9	83.7	2.8 [*]
Aircraft trips	11 582	11 110	-4.1

* percentage point difference
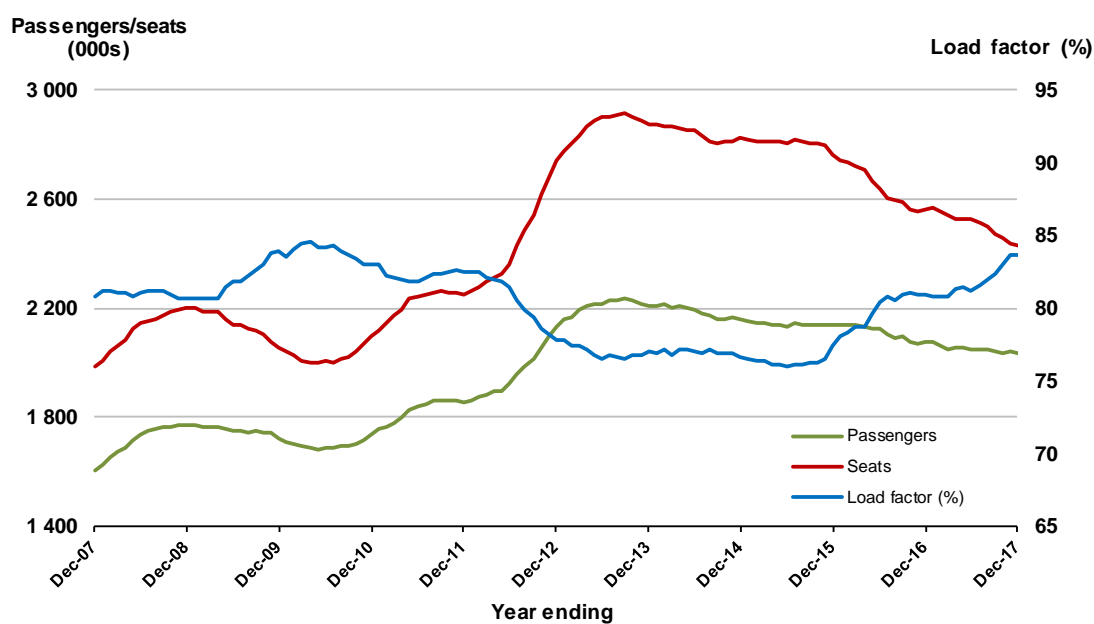
7. Gold Coast - Melbourne

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 966.1	2 012.6	2.4
Seats (000s)	2 365.1	2 326.6	-1.6
Load factor %	83.1	86.5	3.4 *
Aircraft trips	12 666	12 389	-2.2

* percentage point difference
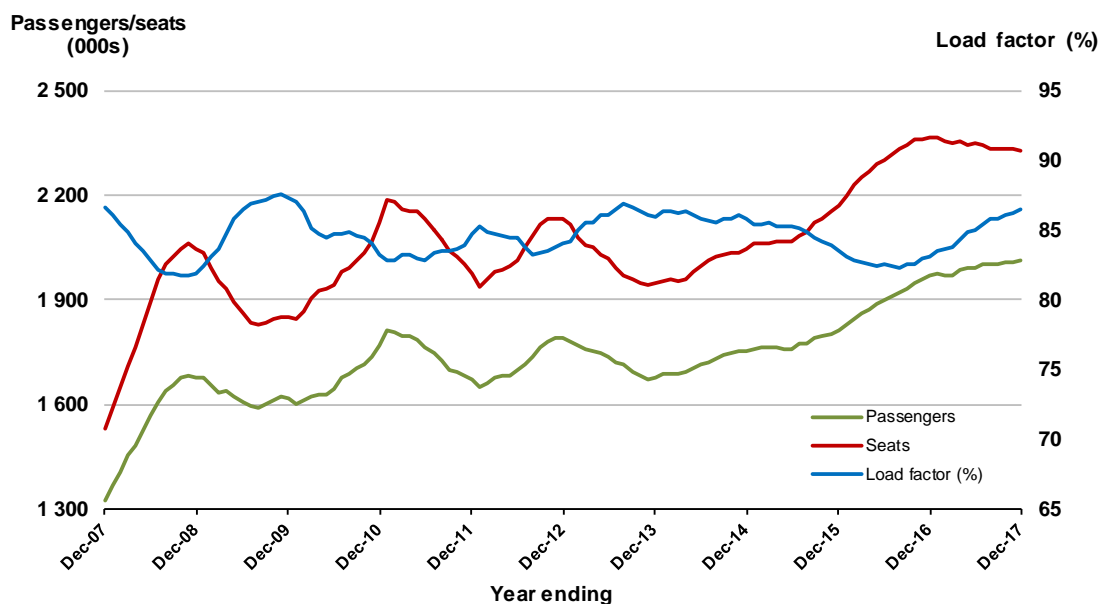
8. Adelaide - Sydney

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 872.0	1 898.3	1.4
Seats (000s)	2 317.1	2 315.8	-0.1
Load factor %	80.8	82.0	1.2 *
Aircraft trips	14 114	13 931	-1.3

* percentage point difference
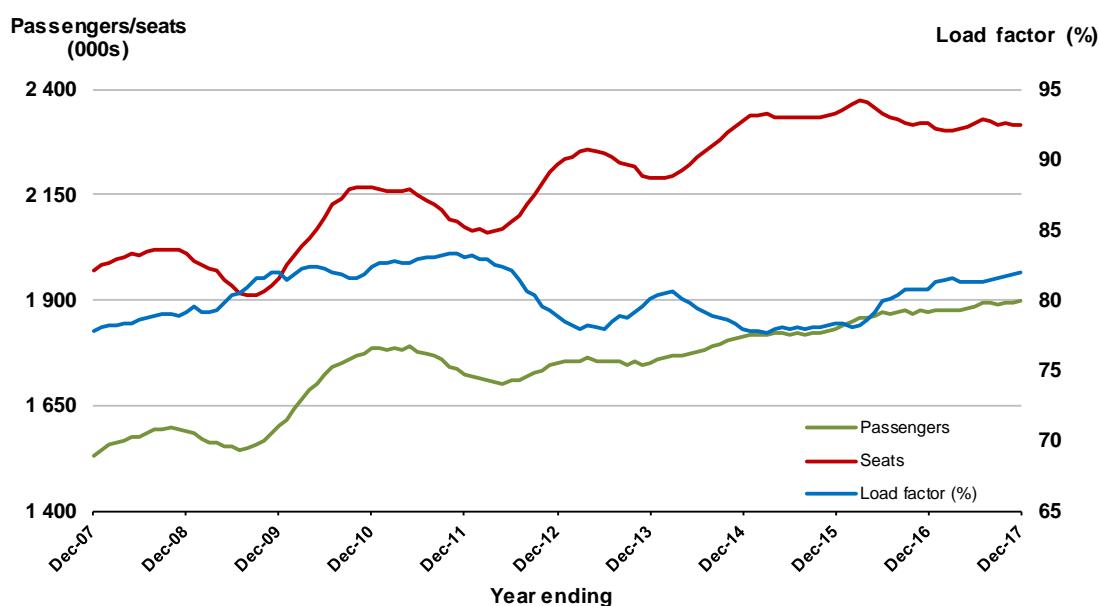
9. Perth - Sydney

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 753.7	1 716.5	-2.1
Seats (000s)	2 160.5	2 094.4	-3.1
Load factor %	81.2	82.0	0.8 *
Aircraft trips	9 154	9 031	-1.3

* percentage point difference
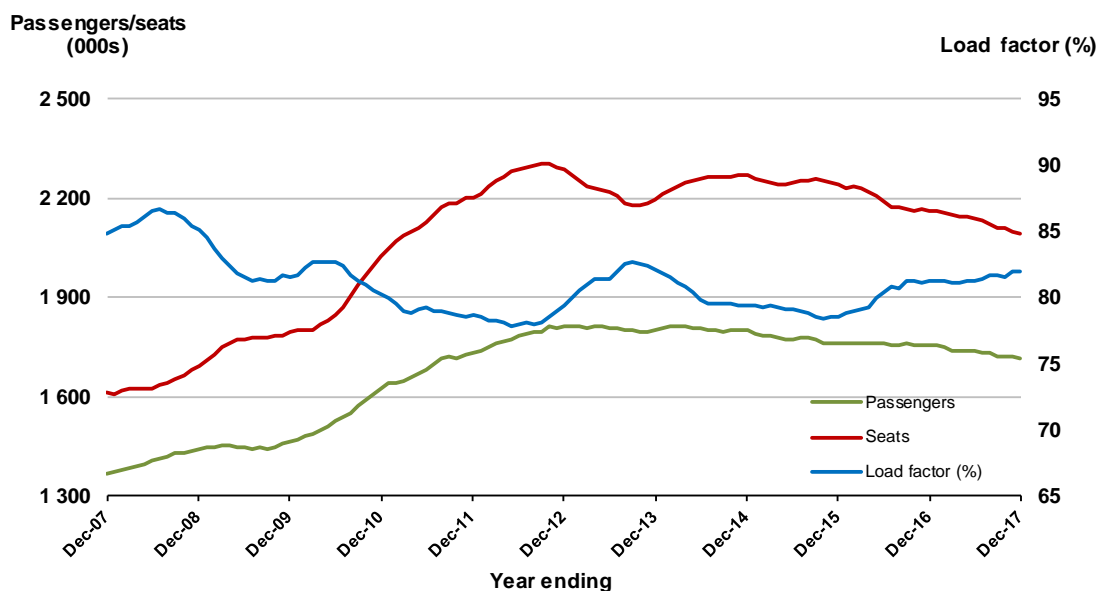
10. Hobart - Melbourne

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 555.5	1 630.3	4.8
Seats (000s)	1 960.9	1 990.6	1.5
Load factor %	79.3	81.9	2.6 *
Aircraft trips	12 286	12 161	-1.0

* percentage point difference
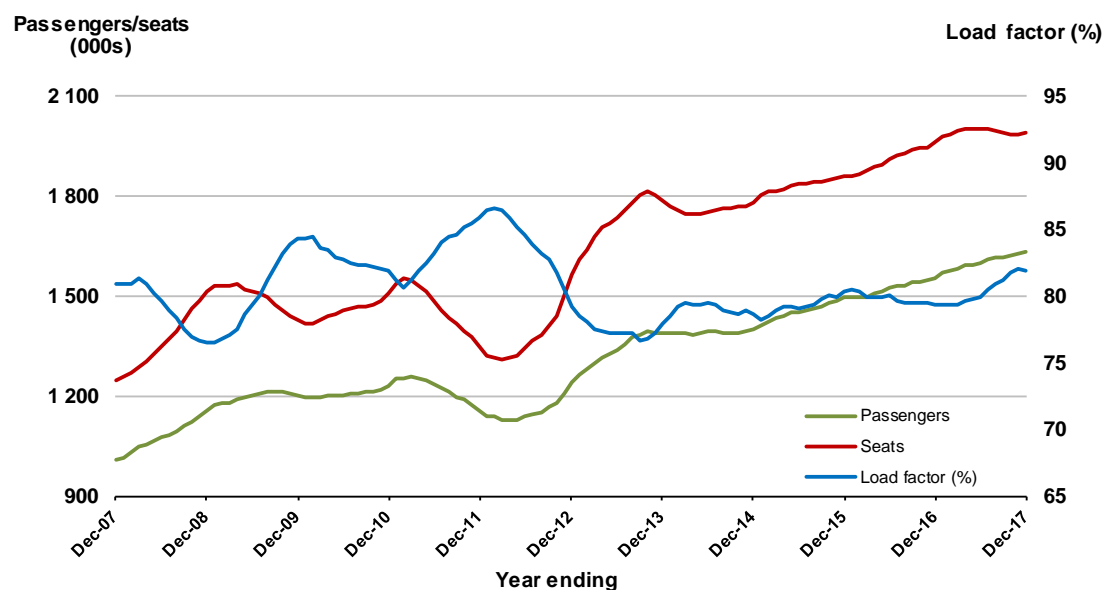
11. Brisbane - Cairns

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 346.9	1 377.9	2.3
Seats (000s)	1 629.3	1 627.0	-0.1
Load factor %	82.7	84.7	2.0 *
Aircraft trips	10 173	10 168	0.0

* percentage point difference
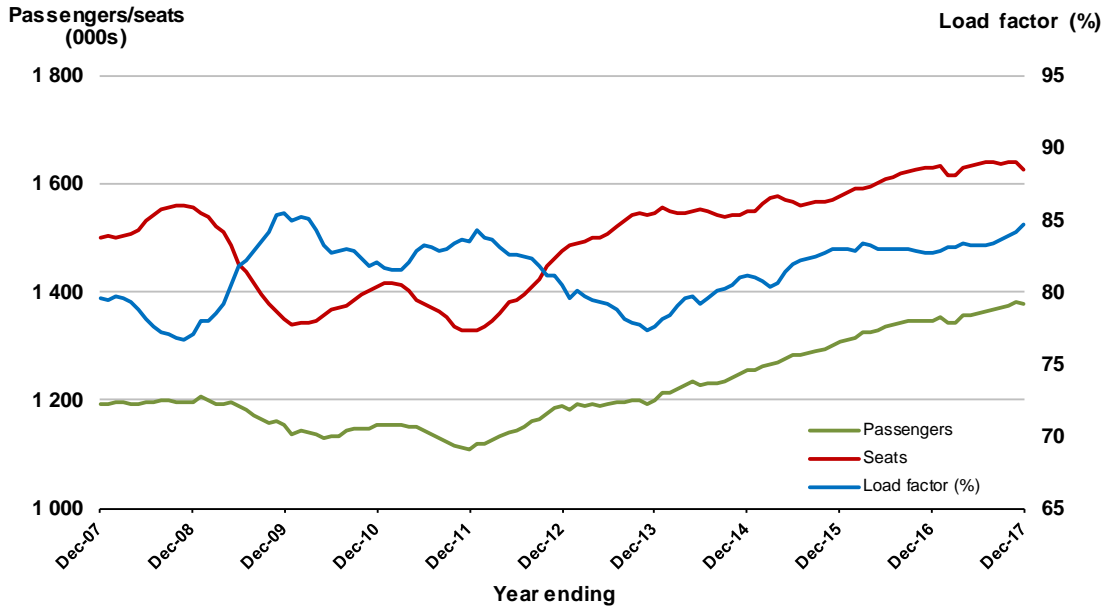
12. Canberra - Melbourne

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 026.1	1 133.0	10.4
Seats (000s)	1 484.4	1 714.8	15.5
Load factor %	69.1	66.1	-3.1 *
Aircraft trips	10 812	11 330	4.8

* percentage point difference
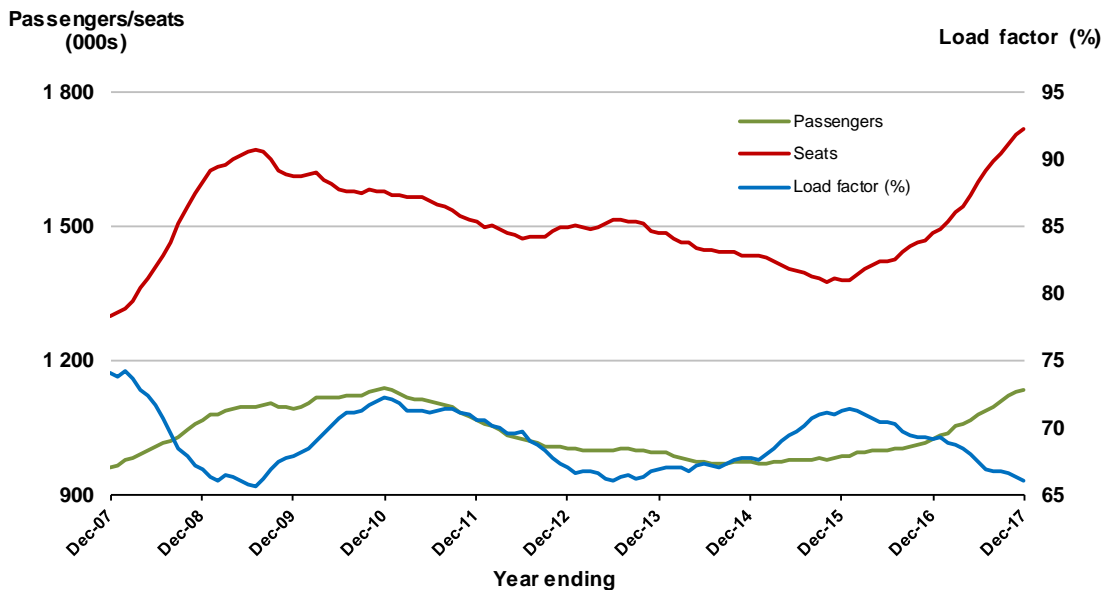
13. Cairns - Sydney

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 115.3	1 129.3	1.3
Seats (000s)	1 333.7	1 333.2	0.0
Load factor %	83.6	84.7	1.1 *
Aircraft trips	7 665	7 321	-4.5

* percentage point difference
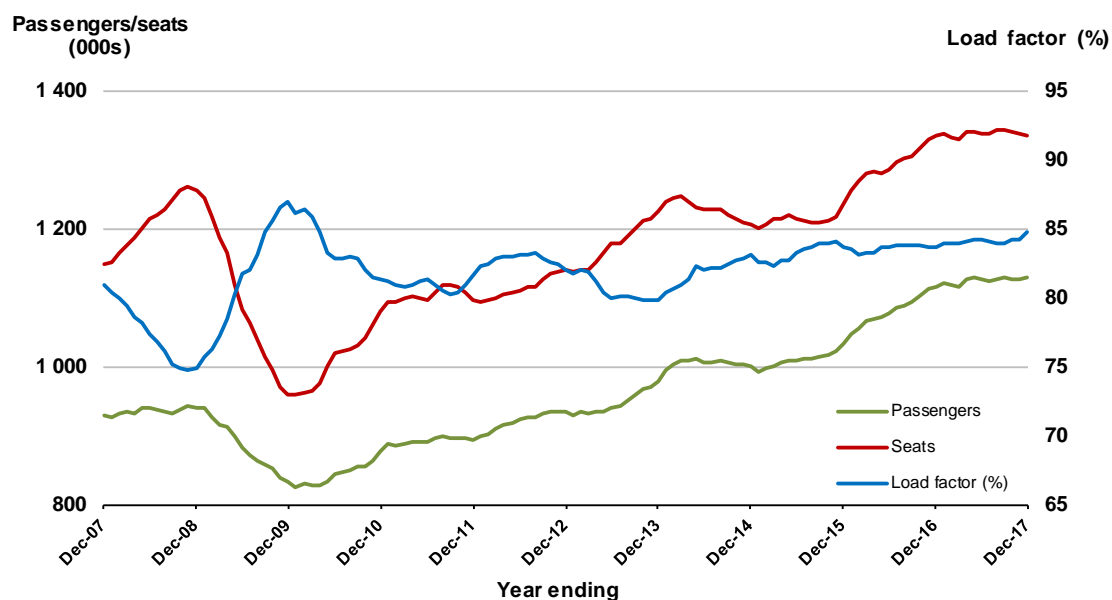
14. Brisbane - Perth

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	984.1	969.1	-1.5
Seats (000s)	1 229.4	1 183.7	-3.7
Load factor %	80.0	81.9	1.8 *
Aircraft trips	5 772	5 911	2.4

* percentage point difference
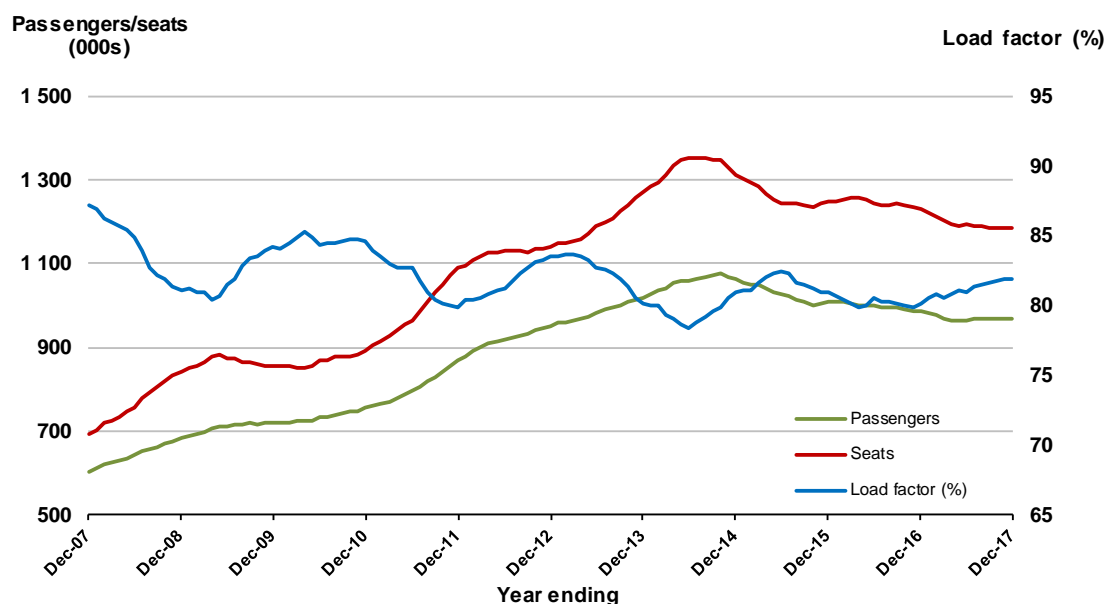
15. Brisbane - Townsville

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	976.6	960.2	-1.7
Seats (000s)	1 313.8	1 251.2	-4.8
Load factor %	74.3	76.7	2.4 *
Aircraft trips	8 966	8 857	-1.2

* percentage point difference
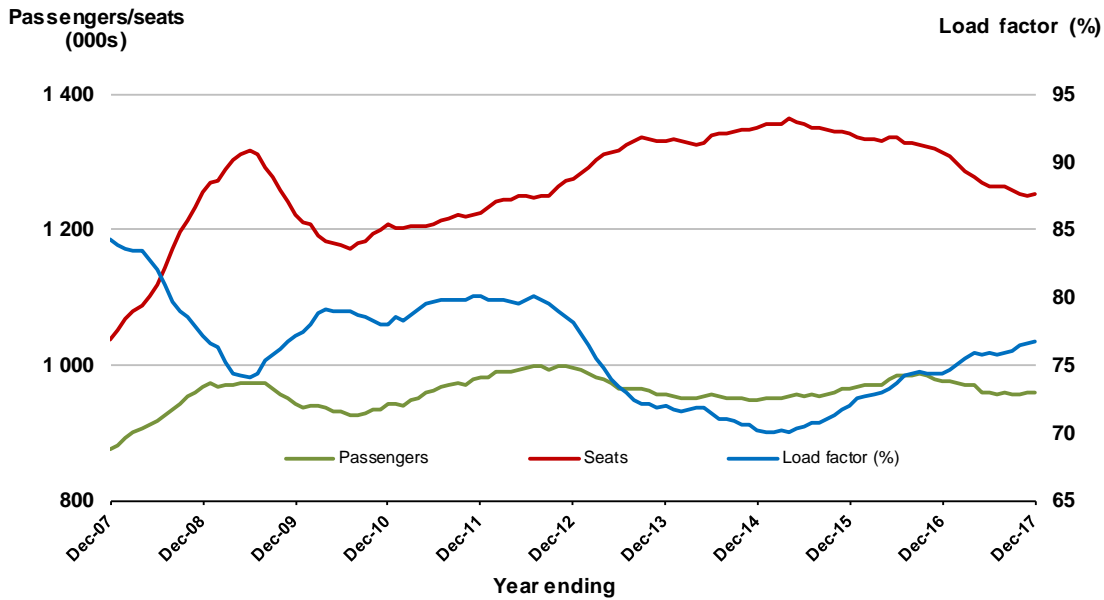
16. Canberra - Sydney

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	959.4	949.2	-1.1
Seats (000s)	1 362.1	1 297.1	-4.8
Load factor %	70.4	73.2	2.7 *
Aircraft trips	17 080	16 208	-5.1

* percentage point difference
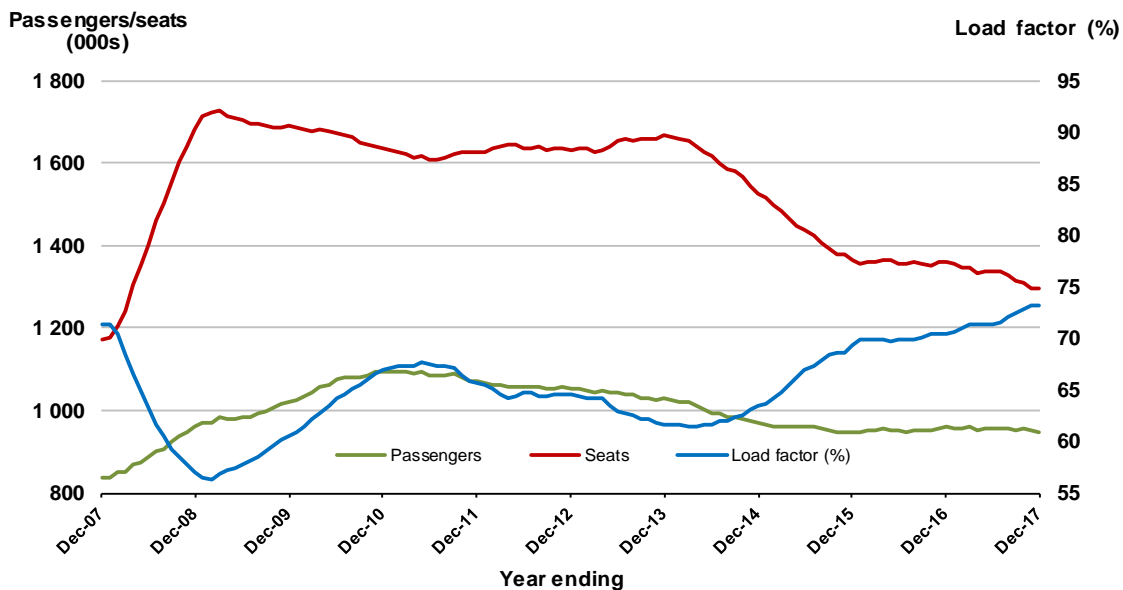
17. Launceston - Melbourne

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	918.0	923.2	0.6
Seats (000s)	1 159.9	1 158.8	-0.1
Load factor %	79.1	79.7	0.5 *
Aircraft trips	8 866	8 921	0.6

* percentage point difference
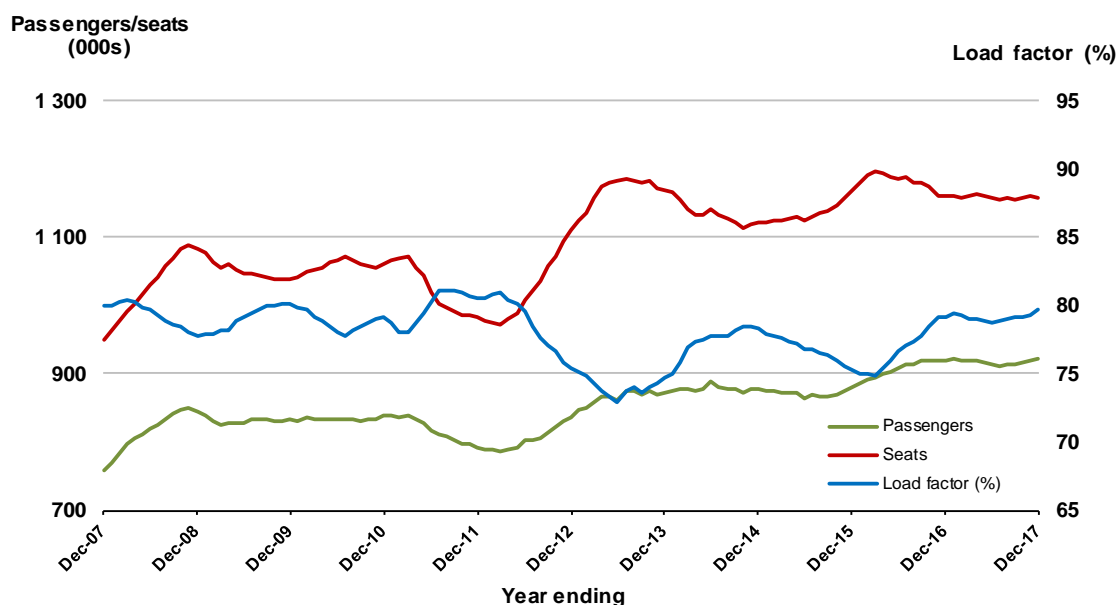
18. Adelaide - Brisbane

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	830.3	849.6	2.3
Seats (000s)	1 108.5	1 109.0	0.0
Load factor %	74.9	76.6	1.7 *
Aircraft trips	6 784	6 710	-1.1

* percentage point difference
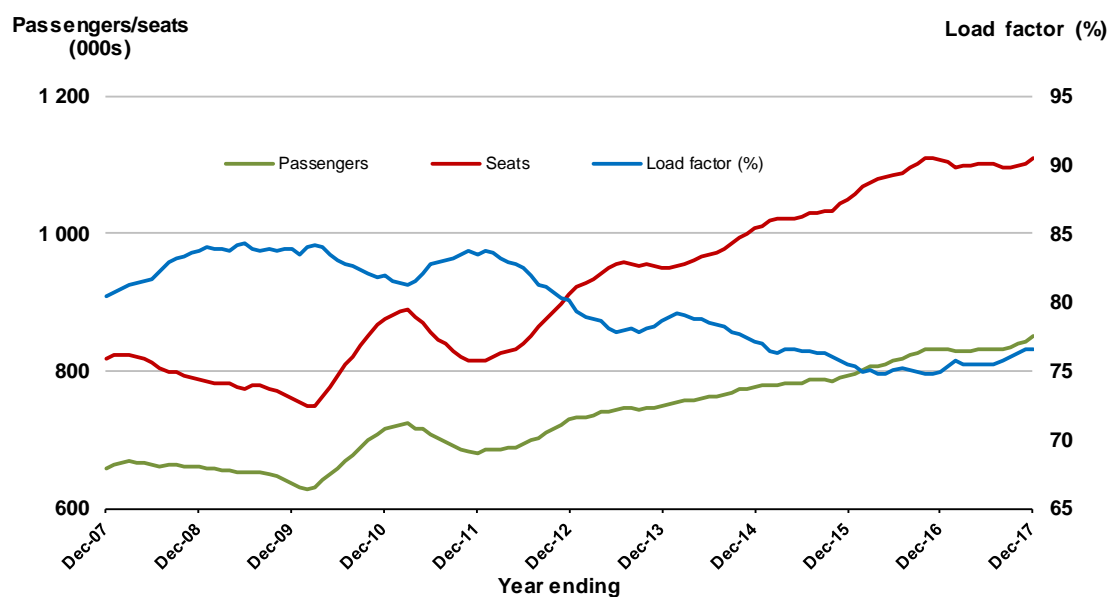
19. Cairns - Melbourne

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	823.4	841.3	2.2
Seats (000s)	986.8	984.8	-0.2
Load factor %	83.4	85.4	2.0 *
Aircraft trips	5 232	5 203	-0.6

* percentage point difference
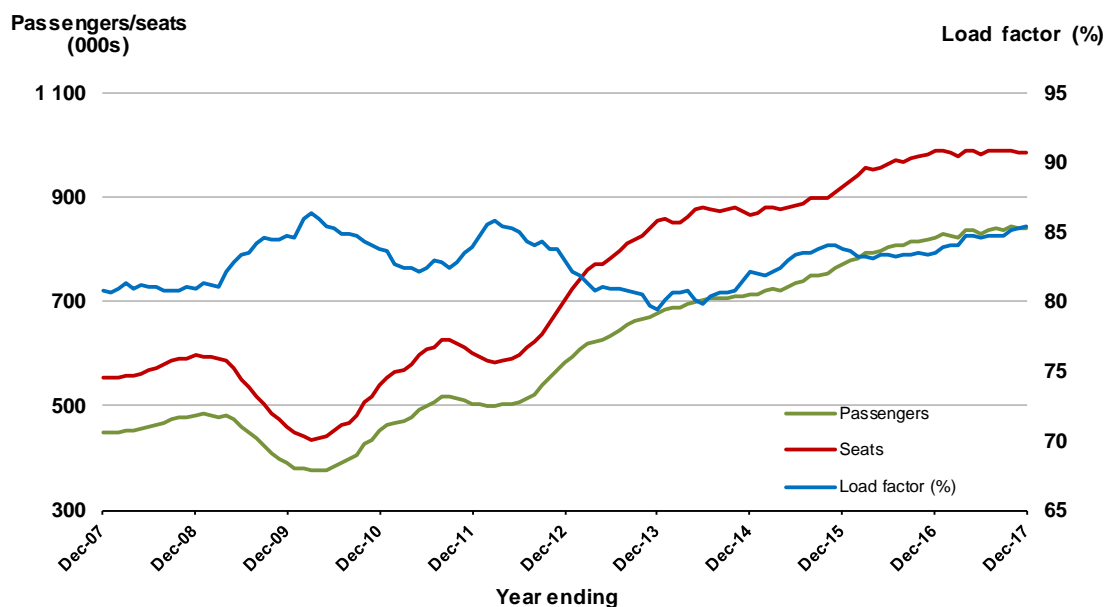
20. Brisbane - Mackay

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	678.5	697.9	2.9
Seats (000s)	913.5	879.9	-3.7
Load factor %	74.3	79.3	5.0 *
Aircraft trips	7 670	7 202	-6.1

* percentage point difference
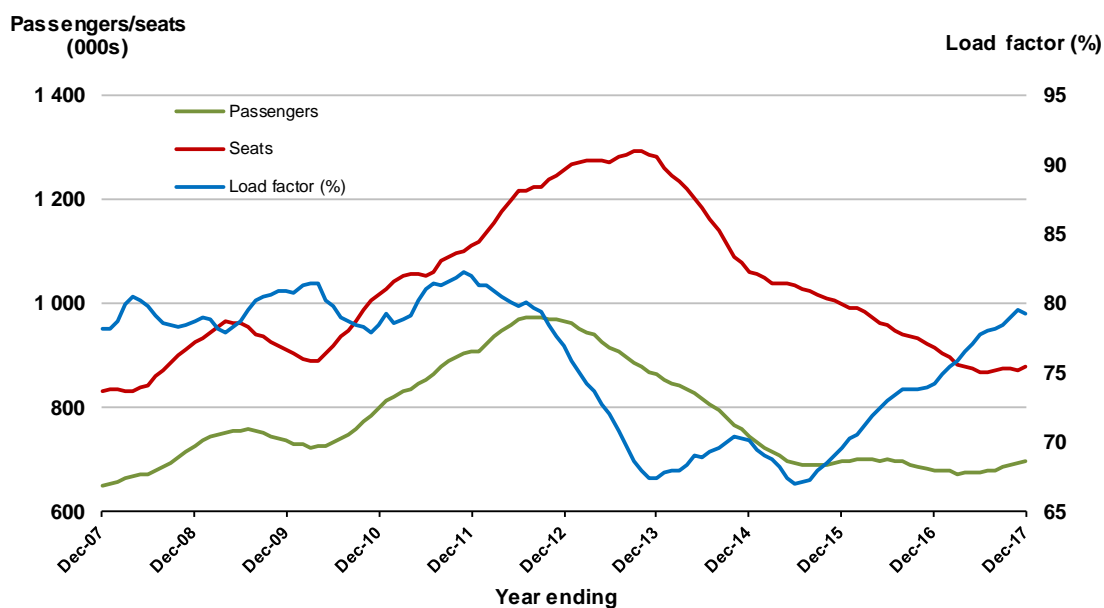
TOP FIFTY REGIONAL AIRPORTS

Table 7: Top fifty regional airports (000s) — passenger movements, annual

	Airport	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
1	Cairns	4 243.4	4 312.1	1.6
2	Hobart	2 378.1	2 510.3	5.6
3	Darwin	1 803.4	1 802.4	-0.1
4	Townsville	1 535.0	1 590.5	3.6
5	Launceston	1 332.4	1 341.8	0.7
6	Newcastle	1 235.7	1 289.8	4.4
7	Mackay	790.0	786.4	-0.5
8	Alice Springs	612.2	618.5	1.0
9	Rockhampton	584.7	557.1	-4.7
10	Ballina	487.9	509.7	4.5
11	Karratha	494.9	439.2	-11.3
12	Proserpine	342.8	425.6	24.1
13	Hamilton Island	550.0	423.6	-23.0
14	Coffs Harbour	396.2	416.1	5.0
15	Broome	372.6	388.5	4.3
16	Ayers Rock	359.4	366.0	1.8
17	Port Hedland	356.4	347.6	-2.5
18	Newman	309.4	285.9	-7.6
19	Gladstone	331.7	282.3	-14.9
20	Albury	254.4	269.8	6.0
21	Mildura	246.5	255.4	3.6
22	Kalgoorlie	240.2	252.1	4.9
23	Dubbo	208.1	237.3	14.0
24	Port Macquarie	226.3	228.1	0.8
25	Wagga Wagga	215.0	225.1	4.7
26	Mount Isa	188.3	200.7	6.6
27	Tamworth	178.6	198.3	11.1
28	Emerald	199.3	197.8	-0.7
29	Bundaberg	173.1	174.1	0.6
30	Hervey Bay	170.3	174.0	2.2
31	Port Lincoln	179.0	171.7	-4.1
32	Paraburdoo	164.2	166.5	1.4
33	Toowoomba Wellcamp	120.7	152.0	25.9
34	Devonport	147.8	147.6	-0.1
35	Armidale	129.3	133.0	2.9
36	Moranbah	117.7	115.6	-1.8
37	Geraldton	117.9	112.1	-4.9
38	Kununurra	107.4	104.6	-2.6
39	Thursday Island	100.3	100.4	0.1
40	Gove	81.6	84.2	3.1
41	Roma	87.9	83.8	-4.7
42	Learmonth	84.6	82.6	-2.4
43	Mount Gambier	76.1	80.3	5.6
44	Weipa	77.9	78.1	0.3
45	Griffith	69.4	73.7	6.2
46	Olympic Dam	51.1	69.6	36.3
47	Merimbula	63.2	65.5	3.6
48	Whyalla	62.8	64.8	3.3
49	Orange	52.6	64.1	21.9
50	Broken Hill	53.4	61.6	15.3
	Total top 50 regional airports	**22 761.4**	**23 117.6**	**1.6**
	Total regional airports	**24 065.8**	**24 467.8**	**1.7**
	Total domestic network	**117 936.9**	**119 957.7**	**1.7**

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

DOMESTIC CHARTER ACTIVITY

Table 8: Charter passengers carried and aircraft trips - annual activity

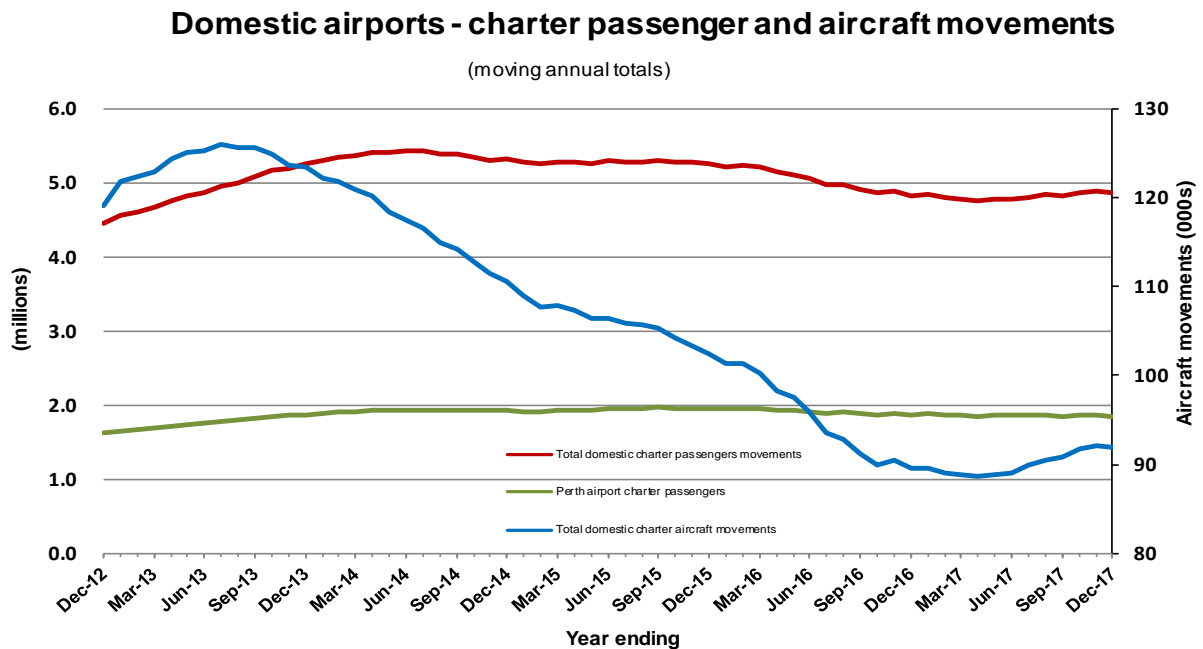|	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Total domestic charter passengers	2 414 385	2 432 371	0.7
Total domestic charter aircraft trips	44 797	45 981	2.6

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

Table 9: Domestic airports - charter activity - annual activity

	YE Dec 2016	YE Dec 2017	% Change
Total domestic charter passenger movements	4 828 770	4 864 742	0.7
Total domestic charter aircraft movements	89 594	91 962	2.6
Perth airport charter passenger movements	1 873 595	1 844 952	-1.5
Perth airport charter aircraft movements	31 529	31 229	-1.0

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.

Domestic airports - charter passenger and aircraft movements
(moving annual totals)

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 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