Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Transport

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics

## Air transport service trends in regional Australia (2013 Update)

This information sheet provides a summary of key trends in regional aviation Australia from 1984 to 2012. It is a brief update to Report 130, *Air transport services in regional Australia (2011 update).*

At a Glance

- Between 2010 and 2012, total passenger movements at regional airports[1] increased from 22.5 million to 24.4 million (Figure 1), continuing the long term trend growth. Over the most recent five year period, the total passenger movements at regional airports continues to exhibit a higher average annual growth rate than airports in major cities, growing at 4.6 per cent versus 3.5 per cent respectively.

- The number of regional airports has increased from 148 airports in 2010 to 151 airports in 2011 and 171 airports in 2012, reversing the long term downward trend since 2010 (Figure 2). The increase mostly reflects a recent rise in the number of airports with regular air services in very remote Australia (Table 1).

- In 2012, there were more than 9 million passengers going through airports in each of inner and outer regional Australia (Figure 3). Both regional areas have experienced average annual growth rates of 3.3 per cent and 4.4 per cent respectively, over the period of 2007 to 2012. The trend for passenger movements at airports in remote Australia also shows an average annual growth rate of 4.3 per cent, while the average annual growth rate in very remote Australia was the highest at 10.2 per cent over the same period (Figure 4).

- New data continue to show that most of the growth in passenger numbers on regional air routes was from the increase of revenue passengers travelling on air routes between major cities and regional areas. Air travel between major cities and regional areas accounts for more than 90 per cent of the entire regional aviation market.

- Overall, the number of air routes between regional areas remains higher than the number of air routes between major cities and regional areas. In 2012, there were 176 active air routes between regional areas and major cities, whilst there were close to 300 active air routes between regional areas.

---

1. Passenger movements at regional airports included passengers travelling between airports in major cities and regional areas, and also passengers travelling between airports in regional areas.

Figure 1   Passenger movements at regional airports and airports in major cities, 1984 to 2012
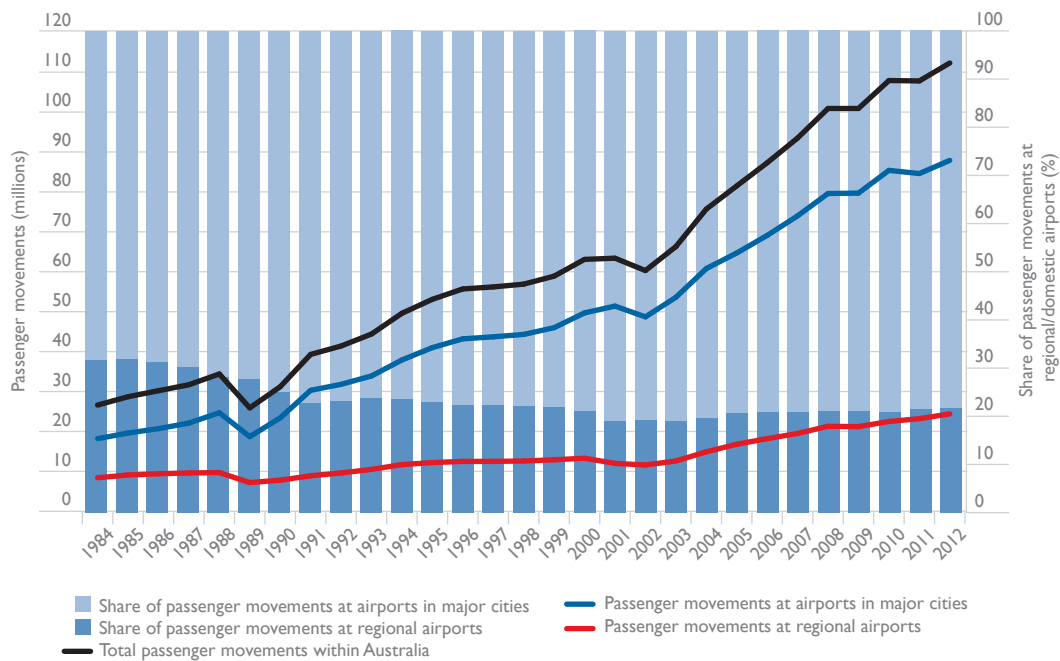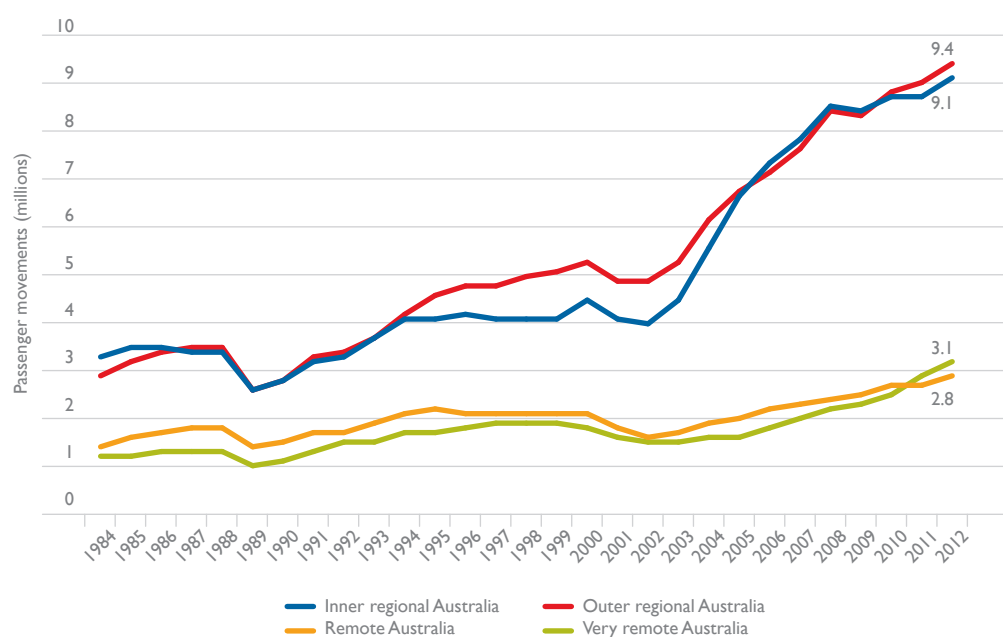

Source: BITRE time series estimates for regional aviation in Australia, 2013.

Figure 2   Passenger movements at regional airports and number of regional airports served, 1984 to 2012
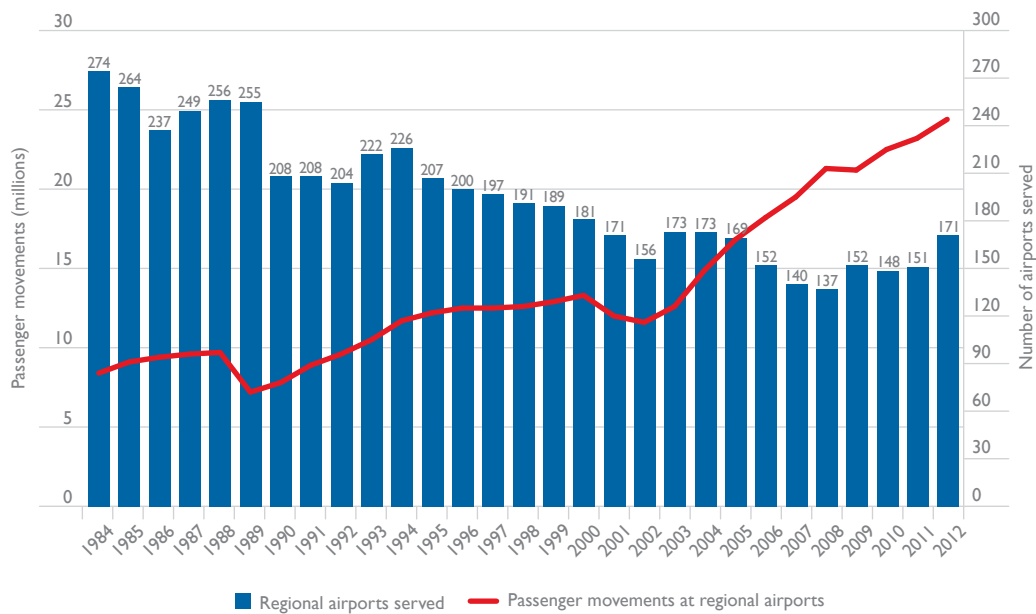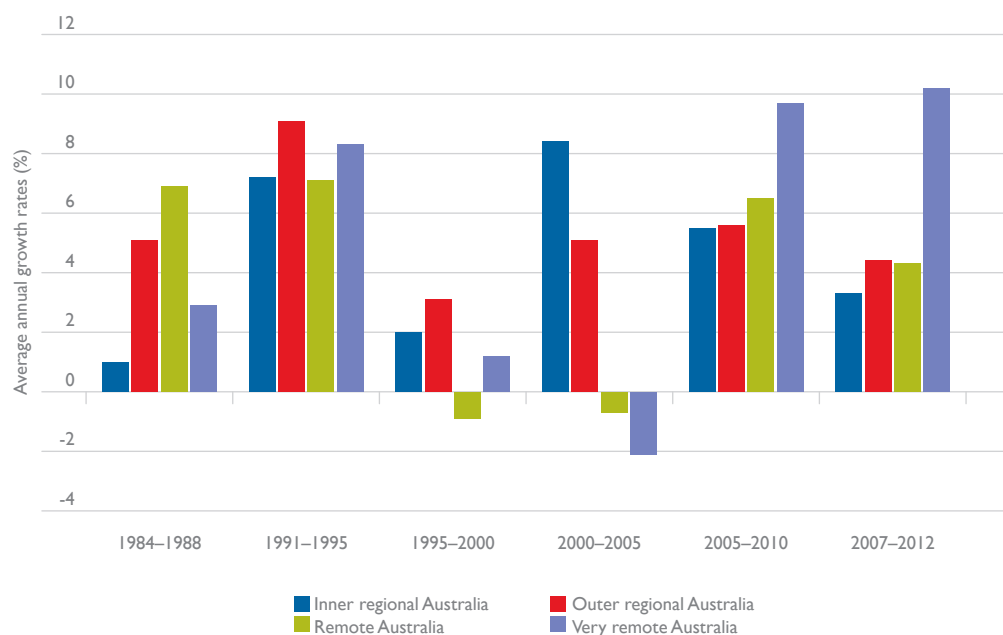

Source: BITRE time series estimates for regional aviation in Australia, 2013.

Figure 3   Passenger movements at regional airports By ASCG Remoteness Classification, 1984 to 2012

Source: BITRE time series estimates for regional aviation in Australia, 2013.

Figure 4   Annual average growth rates of passenger movements at regional airports, by ASGC Area Remoteness Classification, 1984 to 2012

Source: BITRE time series estimates for regional aviation in Australia, 2013.

Table 1   Number of regional airports served by ASGC Remoteness Classification

ASGC Remoteness Classification 2006	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Inner regional Australia	43	38	40	37	29	24	25	25	27	26
Outer regional Australia	47	43	36	36	31	27	28	27	27	28
Remote Australia	38	32	31	22	21	19	17	15	15	16
Very remote Australia	136	95	100	86	88	67	82	81	82	101

Source: BITRE time series estimates for regional aviation in Australia, 2013.

Use of the Coat of Arms

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet sets the terms under which the Coat of Arms is used. Please refer to the Department's Commonwealth Coat of Arms and Government Branding web page http://www.dpmc.gov.au/guidelines/index.cfm#brand and in particular, the Guidelines on the use of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms publication.

Contact us

This publication is available in PDF format. All other rights are reserved, including in relation to any Departmental logos or trade marks which may exist. For enquiries regarding the licence and any use of this publication, please contact: