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Aviation

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# Important notice to readers

The Tenth Session of the Statistics Division of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) recommended significant changes to the statistical reporting arrangements for member states. These changes were adopted by the ICAO Council and a new edition of the Reference Manual on the ICAO Statistics Program was published in late 2013.

The changes outlined in the Reference Manual included the introduction of a new ICAO Classification of Civil Aviation Activities. The classification separates flying activity into either *commercial air transport services or general aviation*; where commercial air transport services are classified as either scheduled or non-scheduled services and general aviation is classified as non-commercial business aviation, aerial work, pleasure flying, instructional flying or other flying.

These changes were discussed in *General Aviation Activity 2011* and readers were invited to provide feedback. All comments were considered, with the following changes introduced to this publication:

- BITRE has adopted the new ICAO Classification of Civil Aviation Activities, incorporating additional detail to better reflect Australian conditions.
- While the results of the General Aviation Activity Survey are presented in this publication, statistics are also presented for commercial air transport activity (including Regular Public Transport). The title of this publication was therefore changed from General Aviation Activity to Australian Aircraft Activity from the 2014 publication.

BITRE are currently analysing the impact these changes may have had on aggregates

# Explanatory Notes

## Australian aviation statistics publications

In order to provide a complete, integrated statistical summary of all Australian aviation, BITRE conducts a range of surveys covering the full spectrum of flying activity.

Monthly surveys of airlines are conducted to compile estimates of:

- Passengers carried to, from and within Australia by Australian and foreign-registered airlines.
- Cargo carried to, from and within Australia by Australian and foreign-registered airlines.
- Changes to airfares charged on competitive Australian domestic routes.
- The on time performance of domestic airlines.
- Aircraft movements and flying activity by airlines.

Originally, the scope of these monthly airline surveys was limited to scheduled regular public transport (RPT) flights, but in 2011 the scope was expanded to include large charter flights that are similar in scale to RPT flights. The monthly surveys of charter activity compile estimates of:

- Passengers carried within Australia on charter flights.
- Cargo carried within Australia on charter flights.
- Aircraft movements and flying activity by charter operators.

To provide a complete statistical summary of Australian aviation, BITRE compiles an annual survey of Australian registered aircraft undertaking On Demand Commercial Air Transport and General Aviation activity. The annual “General Aviation Survey” compiles estimates of:

- Aircraft movements and flying activity by Australian-registered aircraft not reported in the monthly surveys.

The results of these surveys are published in activity-specific reports:

- The monthly *International Airline Activity* report provides a summary of international passenger and cargo air travel to and from Australia. The report also provides an estimate of the movement of passengers between Australian airports by foreign-registered airlines. Statistics published in this report are compiled from the results of monthly surveys of international airlines that operate to/from Australia.
- The monthly *Domestic Aviation Activity* report provides a summary of domestic passenger and cargo air travel within Australia. This publication also provides statistics on the movement of passengers through regional airports and summary statistics for the movement of passengers on large charter flights. Statistics published in this report are compiled from the results of monthly surveys of domestic airlines and aviation charter companies that operate in Australia.

- The monthly *Domestic On Time Performance* report provides measures of the on time performance of key domestic airlines on competitive routes. Statistics published in this report are compiled from the results of monthly surveys of key domestic airlines operating in Australia.
- The monthly *Domestic Air Fare Indexes* release is a web-based report providing an index-based measure of changes in air fares on competitive routes over time. Statistics published in this report are compiled from information published on domestic airlines' websites for specific routes identified as competitive in the Domestic Aviation Activity report.
- The annual *Australian Aircraft Activity* report (this publication) provides statistics on the flying activity of all Australian-registered aircraft. Key measures are the number of hours flown and the number of landings, classified by the type of flying activity and aircraft type. Statistics published in this report are compiled by merging the results of the annual General Aviation Activity Survey with the results of the monthly surveys of airlines.

## Data sources

Survey questionnaires were despatched to owners or operators of all aircraft listed on the Australian Civil Aircraft Register, other than aircraft operated by major airlines already surveyed in the monthly airline surveys. Responses were received for 79 per cent of aircraft in scope of the Survey. For aircraft where a response was not received, careful estimates were substituted, based on the average of responses by similar aircraft.

Not all aircraft in Australia are listed on the Australian Civil Aircraft Register. Owners of ultralight aircraft, gliders, weight shift aircraft and gyrocopters may instead be registered with their respective associations. Statistics for these aircraft types have been supplied courtesy of Recreational Aviation Australia, the Gliding Federation of Australia, the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia and the Australian Sport Rotorcraft Association.

BITRE statistical surveys are conducted under the authority of Air Navigation Regulation 2016 Part 2. BITRE wishes to thank aircraft owners and operators for their assistance with these statistical collections.

## Please note

Landings include touch-and-go landings and alighting on water.

Location statistics provided in this report refer to the location where the aircraft is most frequently based. For some operations, this may be a significant distance away from where aircraft activity may occur.

Aircraft make is generally the manufacturer. However, in cases where there have been changes to the company's name, structure or ownership with little change to the line of aircraft produced, common names (or the most recent name) may be used or retained.

Where figures have been rounded, differences may occur between the sums of component items and totals



## *Symbols and other usages*

na	Not applicable.
r	Revised.
-	Greater than zero but less than 50.
..	Not available for confidentiality or other reasons.

## *Abbreviations*

ASRA	Australian Sport Rotorcraft Association
BITRE	Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CAT	Commercial Air Transport
C of A	Certificate of Airworthiness
GA	General Aviation
GFA	Gliding Federation of Australia
HGFA	Hang Gliding Federation of Australia
RA-Aus	Recreational Aviation Australia
RPT	Regular Public Transport

# Highlights

## Australian Aircraft Fleet

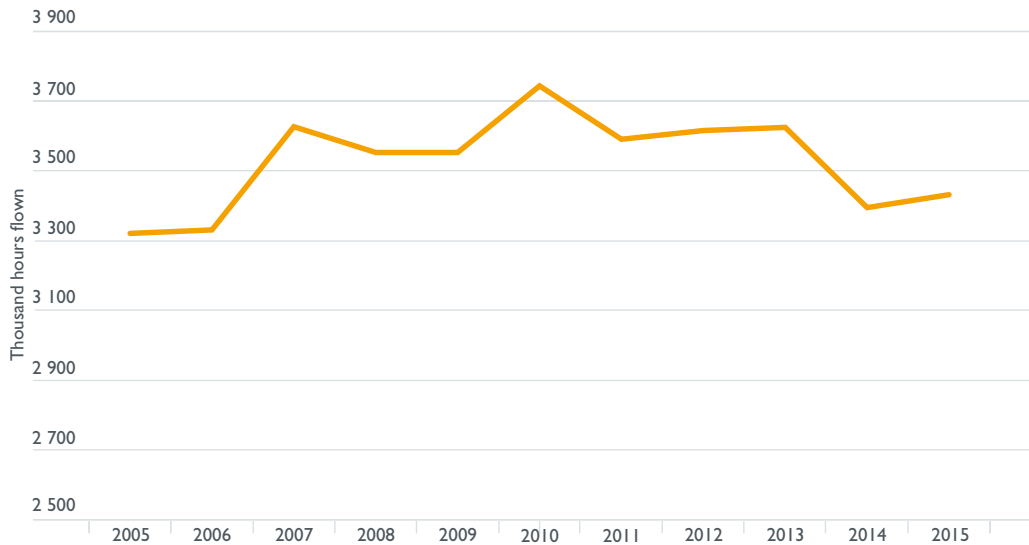
Total hours flown by Australian aircraft was 3.43 million in 2015, an increase of 1.1 per cent compared with the previous year (see Table 1).

Total airline RPT flying hours rose 4.8 per cent in 2015 to 1.46 million hours (see Table 1). Other VH-Registered aircraft flying hours fell 2.0 per cent in 2015 to 1.54 million hours (see Table 1).

The Sports and Recreation Associations registered sector recorded 436 thousand flying hours in 2015, an increase of 0.2 per cent compared to 2014 (see Table 1).

Figure 1 shows the flying hours performed by Australian Aircraft.

**Figure 1** Australian Aircraft Fleet hours flown, (2005–2015)



# The General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered fleet

The total number of hours flown by General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered aircraft for the year ending 31 December 2015 was 3 million. This consisted of 1.89 million hours in Commercial Air Transport and 1.11 million hours in General Aviation (see Table 7).

Commercial Air Transport consists of two sectors, Scheduled and Non-Scheduled. Scheduled Commercial Air Transport recorded 1.46 million hours, while Non-Scheduled recorded 431 thousand hours. Within Scheduled, the largest activity was Domestic, with 1 million hours. While in Non-Scheduled, Passenger transport charters was the largest activity with 303 thousand hours (see Table 7).

General Aviation consists of five different sectors of flying. Aerial Work (441 thousand hours), Own Use Business (136 thousand hours), Instructional flying (306 thousand hours), Sport and pleasure flying (200 thousand hours), and Other flying (27 thousand hours). The largest flying activity in Aerial Work was Agricultural mustering, recording 149 thousand hours. Commercial Instructional flying activity made up the majority of the Instructional flying sector; recording 274 thousand hours. While within the Sport and pleasure flying sector the largest flying activity was Pleasure and personal transport, recording 124 thousand hours (see Table 7).

The total number of landings by General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered aircraft for the year ending 31 December 2015 was 2.70 million. This consisted of 1.29 million landings in Commercial Air Transport and 1.41 million landings in General Aviation (see Table 7).

Figure 2 shows the flying hours performed by VH-registered aircraft by the major industry sectors.

**Figure 2** VH-registered fleet hours flown, by major industry sectors (2015)

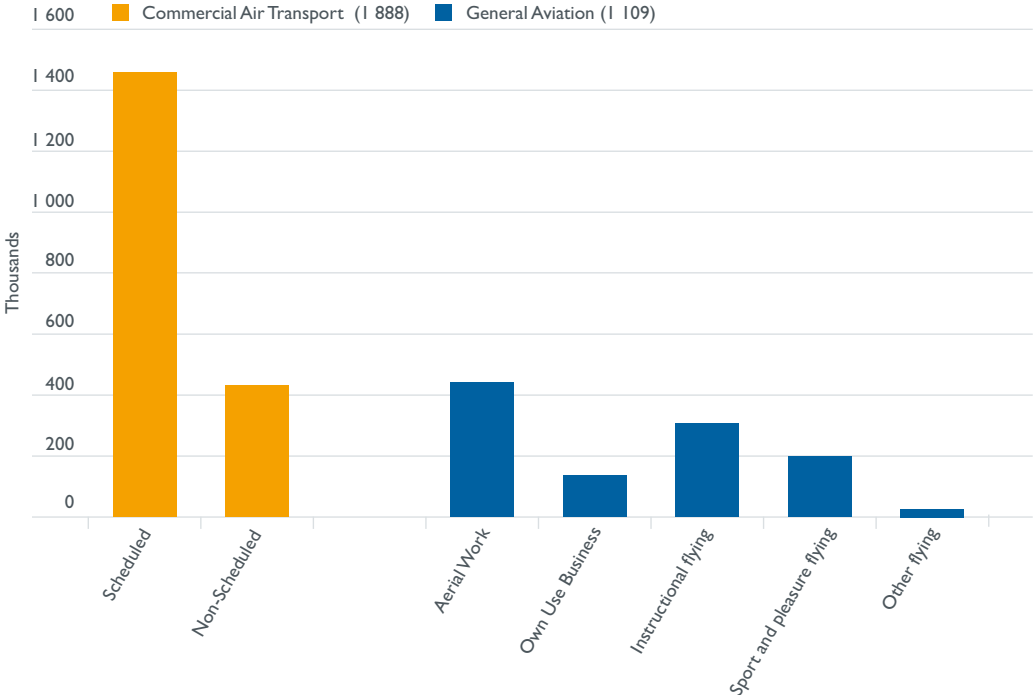
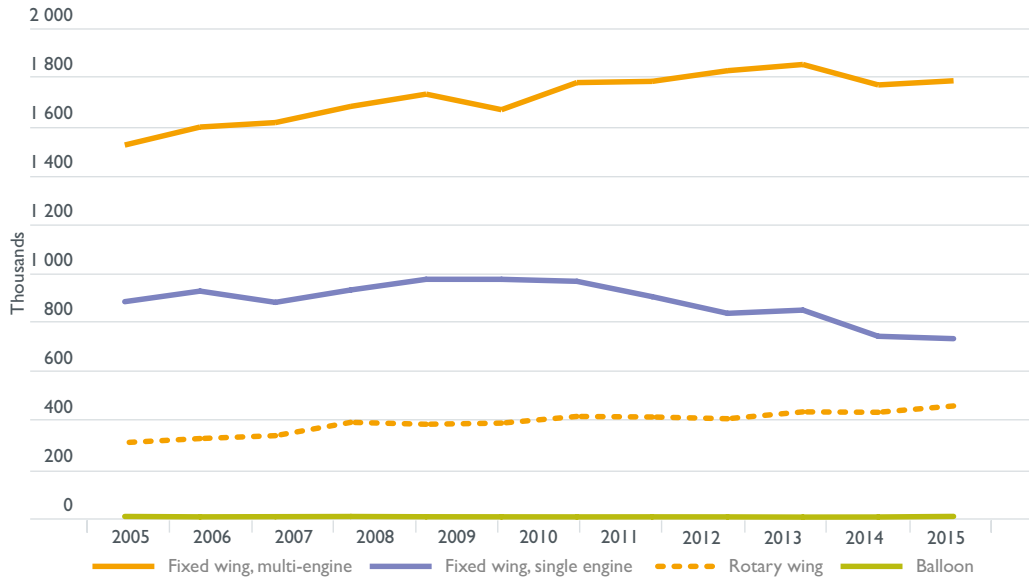


Figure 3 shows the flying hours performed by VH-registered aircraft by the major categories of aircraft.

**Figure 3** VH-registered fleet hours flown, by category of aircraft (2005–2015)



The general aviation and commercial air transport VH registered fleets include 13 548 aircraft on the Civil Aviation Aircraft Register (Table 3). The number of aircraft registered at 31 December 2015 represents a decrease of 3.1 per cent over the number registered at 31 December 2014 (13 976 aircraft).

The number of fixed wing, single engine aircraft decreased by 2.7 per cent to 8 890, or 65.6 per cent of all registered aircraft in the General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered fleet (see Table 4).

Fixed wing, multi-engine aircraft decreased by 4.3 per cent to 2 261 (16.7 per cent of the total) (see Table 4).

The number of helicopters decreased by 3.9 per cent to 2 011 (14.8 per cent of the total), with the number of single engine helicopters decreasing by 4.6 per cent to 1 762. The number of multi-engine helicopters increased by 1.6 per cent to 249 (see Table 4).

Hot-air balloons and airships increased by 1.3 per cent to 386, or 2.8 per cent of total aircraft (see Table 4).

The Australian General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered fleet contains many older aircraft, with the average age being 33.6 years for fixed wing aircraft, compared to 17.5 years for rotary aircraft and 13.6 years for balloons and airships (see Table 4).

About one in every five (2 923 aircraft) registered General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport VH-registered aircraft reported performing no flying during the year ended 31 December 2015.

From responses to the survey, reasons why the aircraft did not fly were provided for these aircraft. These reasons are summarised in the following table:

**Table A** Reasons for nil flying activity (2015)

Reason for nil activity	Number of aircraft	Percentage of reporting inactive aircraft
Repair / maintenance / restoration	1 367	46.8
Aircraft in storage	355	12.1
Aircraft unserviceable / unairworthy	240	8.2
Aircraft awaiting sale	164	5.6
Sold prior to 1 January 2015	120	4.1
Work or other commitments	109	3.7
Amateur-built aircraft not yet completed	101	3.5
Owner's health issues / deceased	79	2.7
Lack of business / company ceased operating	78	2.7
Financial reasons	57	2.0
Museum or stock aircraft	38	1.3
C of A not yet issued	32	1.1
Operator or owner travelling	27	0.9
Drought	23	0.8
Other	133	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 923</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: This table covers aircraft with zero hours reported and not those with reduced hours for any of the above reasons (for example, drought).

## The Sport and Recreational registered fleet

The sport and recreational registered aircraft fleet in 2015 consisted of 7 539 aircraft who flew a total of 436 thousand hours (see Table 5).

### Ultralight flying

#### Information provided by Recreational Aviation Australia (RA-Aus)

In 2015, ultralight aircraft flew a total of 166 thousand hours, representing a decrease of 3.0 per cent over 2014 (see Table 12).

At the end of December 2015, a total 3 302 aircraft had current registrations issued by Recreational Aviation Australia, an increase of 4.1 per cent over 2014 (3 171 aircraft) (see Table 5).

## *Gliding*

### Information provided by the Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA)

The number of registered gliders in 2015 was 1 244, an increase of 1.6 per cent compared with December 2014. The total number of reported flying hours increased by 3.8 per cent to 115.1 thousand hours in the calendar year 2015 compared with 2014 (see Table 1).

## *Hang gliding*

### Information provided by the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia (HGFA)

The total number of hours flown by hang gliders in 2014–15 was down 2.6 per cent on the previous year to 110.9 thousand hours (see Table 1).

## *Gyroplanes*

### Information provided by the Australian Sport Rotorcraft Association (ASRA)

The number of gyroplanes in 2015 was 302. The total number of estimated hours flown by gyroplanes in 2015 increased by 11.9 per cent to 43.5 thousand hours (see Table 1).

# Tables

**Table 1** Total hours flown by industry sector (1985–2015)

Year	Total scheduled <sup>a</sup>	Other VH-registered aircraft <sup>b</sup>	Ultralight flying <sup>c</sup>	Gliding <sup>d</sup>	Hang Gliding <sup>e</sup>	Gyroplanes <sup>f</sup>	Total
<i>( thousand hours )</i>							
1985	494.8	1 568.1	..	79.9	..	..	2 142.8
1986	518.9	1 558.6	..	..	..	..	2 077.5
1987	556.4	1 597.4	..	79.9	..	..	2 233.7
1988	600.1	1 762.6	..	79.9	..	..	2 442.6
1989	554.9	1 927.6	..	75.4	..	..	2 557.9
1990	613.1	1 930.8	..	72.6	..	..	2 616.4
1991	692.8	1 754.7	..	74.2	63.7	..	2 585.4
1992	750.3	1 651.0	52.4	83.3	73.5	..	2 610.4
1993	781.2	1 703.9	56.8	73.0	86.2	..	2 701.1
1994	838.7	1 715.7	73.0	80.1	77.6	15.0	2 800.1
1995	899.6	1 761.3	72.0	75.9	86.4	14.4	2 909.6
1996	938.5	1 799.0	70.4	69.2	103.2	23.3	3 003.7
1997	969.8	1 839.3	75.1	68.9	102.3	23.3	3 078.7
1998	958.2	1 877.9	67.6	65.4	87.5	33.4	3 090.0
1999	963.5	1 842.2	73.9	63.9	104.6	30.4	3 078.5
2000	1 074.2	1 714.8	74.1	..	106.7	29.7	2 999.5
2001	1 044.3	1 702.9	76.5	..	120.0	37.0	2 980.6
2002	926.0	1 687.7	80.6	..	122.2	32.3	2 848.9
2003	969.0	1 645.9	84.5	..	124.7	28.3	2 852.5
2004	1 090.4	1 645.0	87.1	..	132.0	29.3	2 983.7
2005	1 144.1	1 722.8	92.9	194.7	134.2	32.9	3 321.6
2006	1 156.7	1 695.0	120.2	228.9	103.0	27.9	3 331.6
2007	1 191.6	1 831.8	138.3	343.4	94.5	28.0	3 627.6
2008	1 250.5	1 857.7	156.2	169.9	88.3	30.5	3 553.1
2009	1 241.4	1 807.5	174.3	198.4	96.0	35.6	3 553.2
2010	1 325.7	1 847.7	200.4 <sup>r</sup>	228.7	97.9	44.4	3 744.9 <sup>r</sup>
2011	1 347.4	1 771.4	198.6 <sup>r</sup>	126.9	98.7	48.6	3 591.5 <sup>r</sup>
2012	1 382.1	1 704.9	185.9 <sup>r</sup>	192.0	105.1	46.8	3 616.8 <sup>r</sup>
2013	1 410.7	1 741.8	151.6 <sup>r</sup>	159.4	117.2	44.9	3 625.8 <sup>r</sup>
2014	1 390.4	1 570.5	171.1 <sup>r</sup>	110.9	113.8	38.9	3 395.6 <sup>r</sup>
2015	1 456.9	1 539.5	166.2	115.1	110.9	43.5	3 432.1

**a** Hours flown by Australian (including regional) airlines on domestic and international flight stages in Scheduled operations. From August 2004 RPT freight operations are included.

**b** Includes hours flown in General Aviation as well as Non-Scheduled Commercial Air Transport (Charter)

**c** Year ended 30 June prior to 2011. Calendar year for 2011, 2012, 2013. Data for 2014, 2015 are for year ended 30 June.

**d** Year ended 30 April prior to 2000. No data are available between 2000 and 2004. Data from 2005–2010 are for year ended 30 June. Data from 2011 are for calendar year.

**e** Year ended 30 June.

**f** Year ended 30 June until 2005. From 2006 onwards, calendar year data are provided.

**r** revised

**Table 2** Hours flown and percentage change, by industry sector and flying activity (2013–2015)

Flying Activity	2013		2014 <sup>a</sup>		2015 <sup>a</sup>	
	Hours flown ( thousands )	Percentage change over 2012	Hours flown ( thousands )	Percentage change over 2013	Hours flown ( thousands )	Percentage change over 2014
Scheduled	1 410.7	2.1%	1 390.4	-1.4%	1 456.9	4.8%
Non-scheduled <sup>b</sup>	485.9	-3.2%	399.1	-17.9%	355.7	-10.9%
Private	231.2	-0.6%	155.5	-32.7%	165.4	6.3%
Business	130.8	0.3%	118.8	-9.1%	136.0	14.4%
Test and ferry	23.8	14.6%	38.2	60.3%	26.5	-30.6%
Training	378.9	5.0%	323.9	-14.5%	305.7	-5.6%
Agriculture	79.8	-10.4%	75.9	-4.9%	77.8	2.4%
Survey and photography	50.4	4.7%	39.4	-21.7%	33.7	-14.5%
Pipe and powerline patrol	20.4	1.0%	48.0	135.3%	49.5	3.3%
Mustering	124.9	11.0%	138.9	11.2%	149.1	7.3%
Search and rescue	6.0	-3.3%	10.3	71.7%	10.1	-1.9%
Ambulance	99.8	3.0%	74.5	-25.3%	104.4	40.0%
Towing	5.5	-33.5%	4.8	-13.0%	6.9	44.2%
Other aerial work	104.4	35.5%	143.0	37.0%	118.7	-17.0%
<b>Total Hours Flown</b>	<b>3 152.5</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>2 960.9</b>	<b>-6.1%</b>	<b>2 996.3</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey, Domestic Monthly Survey, and International Monthly Survey.

<sup>a</sup> Activity Classifications based on 2013 categories

<sup>b</sup> Excludes Air Ambulance which was reclassified from General Aviation to Commercial air transport in 2014.



**Table 3** Number of aircraft, landings and hours flown in General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport operations by state or territory (2015) <sup>a</sup>

State or Territory	Number of aircraft		Commercial/Air Transport		General Aviation		Total
	Total	Active <sup>b</sup>	No.Active aircraft <sup>b</sup>	Hours flown (thousands)	No.Active aircraft <sup>b</sup>	Hours flown (thousands)	
Intrastate							
NSW	3628	2669	394	242.9	2447	260.2	503.1
QLD	3214	2427	527	230.5	2249	255.2	485.7
VIC	2710	2025	269	53.2	1921	211.4	264.6
WA	1894	1496	420	207.5	1189	217.8	425.3
SA	864	673	84	26.0	641	92.6	118.6
NT	577	421	201	53.0	309	53.6	106.6
TAS	189	151	36	6.4	132	12.2	18.6
ACT	144	103	18	3.5	88	5.8	9.3
Interstate	246	246	246	662.4			662.4
International	82	82	82	402.3			402.3
Australia	13 548	10 293	2 277	1 887.6	8 976	1 108.7	2 996.3

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey, Domestic Monthly Survey, and International Monthly Survey

<sup>a</sup> VH-registered aircraft only

<sup>b</sup> General Aviation and Commercial Air Transport active aircraft may exceed total active aircraft as some aircraft may operate in both categories

**Table 4 Australian Aircraft Fleet, VH-registered (2015)**

<b>Aircraft make</b>	<b>Number of Aircraft</b>	<b>Average age of aircraft</b> (years)	<b>Hours flown</b> ( thousands )	<b>Landings</b>
<b>Fixed wing, single-engine</b>				
Cessna	3 202	37.9	334.8	455.6
Piper	1 399	41.2	103.0	146.8
Amateur-built	1 299	14.3	32.2	42.7
Beechcraft	338	40.8	13.6	11.5
De Havilland	292	70.9	7.9	19.4
Air Tractor	162	15.8	33.6	65.0
Mooney	150	35.2	7.2	5.2
Cirrus	142	7.8	12.0	10.2
Auster	127	64.8	1.2	1.4
American Champion	94	28.2	10.0	11.6
Other	1 685	34.1	180.5	300.8
Subtotal	8 890	34.8	736.0	1 070.3
<b>Fixed wing, multi-engine</b>				
Piper	406	38.7	57.5	54.5
Cessna	404	35.5	60.7	48.7
Beechcraft	373	33.8	72.3	57.4
Boeing	190	8.2	649.0	260.8
Airbus	123	6.7	489.8	169.6
Bombardier	80	9.2	98.9	92.3
Aero Commander	57	43.5	16.3	22.3
Saab	53	21.7	58.4	67.9
Fairchild	50	27.2	21.5	21.9
Embraer	49	15.4	64.5	40.5
Other	476	28.2	199.5	170.3
Subtotal	2 261	28.7	1 788.6	1 006.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 151</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>2 524.6</b>	<b>2 076.5</b>
<b>Helicopter make</b>				
<b>Rotary wing, single-engine</b>				
Robinson	1 002	11.4	250.2	252.7
Bell	304	35.2	56.2	91.0
Aerospatiale/Eurocopter	164	18.1	38.8	73.2
Amateur built	98	11.7	1.0	2.0
Schweizer	37	14.1	6.5	5.3
Hughes	21	39.3	2.4	3.9
Agusta	21	40.6	1.9	2.1
Enstrom	18	31.1	1.7	0.1
Kawasaki	16	46.9	0.9	0.1

Aircraft make	Number of Aircraft	Average age of aircraft (years)	Hours flown ( thousands )	Landings
McDonnell Douglas	15	27.9	6.3	8.2
Other	66	28.0	9.2	15.5
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 762</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>375.2</b>	<b>454.2</b>
<b>Rotary wing, multi-engine</b>				
Aerospatiale/Eurocopter	61	18.7	20.2	28.5
Bell	56	22.6	19.4	33.5
Agusta	32	8.6	15.0	25.8
Sikorsky	31	19.6	10.8	26.9
Kawasaki	21	24.7	6.6	18.9
Other	48	11.2	14.2	25.8
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>159.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 011</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>461.3</b>	<b>613.6</b>
<b>Balloon or airship make</b>				
Kavanagh	256	10.6	8.1	8.0
Cameron	55	19.1	0.4	0.3
Thunder/Colt	15	61.3	0.2	0.1
Amateur built	35	2.9	0.1	-
Balloon Works	4	62.3	0.1	0.1
Other	21	10.4	1.7	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.2</b>

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey, Domestic Monthly Survey and International Monthly Survey

**Table 5 Australian Aircraft Fleet, Sports and Recreational registered aircraft (2015)**

Aircraft	Number of aircraft	Hours flown ( thousands )
<b>Ultralight <sup>a</sup></b>	3 302	166.2
<b>Gliders</b>	1 244	115.1
<b>Hang gliders</b>	2 691	110.9
<b>Gyroplanes</b>	302	43.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 539</b>	<b>435.7</b>

Note: Includes data from Sport and Recreational Associations

<sup>a</sup> Ultralight hours flown by aircraft make is not available this year from RA-Aus

**Table 6** Number of Aircraft, by Fuel Type and Hours Flown in VH-registered (2015)

Fuel type	Number of aircraft	Total hours flown ( thousands )
<b>Fixed wing, single engine</b>		
Diesel	8	2.0
Avtur	461	139.9
Avgas	8 421	594.1
Subtotal	8 890	736.0
<b>Fixed wing, multi-engine</b>		
Diesel	6	0.7
Avtur	1 065	1 628.6
Avgas	1 190	159.3
Subtotal	2 261	1 788.5
Subtotal (Fixed wing)	11 151	2 524.6
<b>Rotary wing, single engine</b>		
Avtur	536	110.2
Avgas	1 226	265.0
Subtotal	1 762	375.2
<b>Rotary wing, multi-engine</b>		
Avtur	249	86.1
Avgas	249	86.1
Subtotal	2 011	461.3
Subtotal (Rotary wing)		
<b>Balloons and airships</b>		
N/A	386	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 548</b>	<b>2 996.3</b>

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey, Domestic Monthly Survey and International Monthly Survey.

**Table 7** Flying Activity by VH-registered aircraft (2015)

Industry sector and flying activity		Number of Aircraft	Average age of Aircraft	Hours flown	Landings	
			(years)	( thousands )		
<b>Commercial air transport</b>						
Scheduled	International	87	7.0	406.1	71.9	
	Domestic	501	13.7	1 011.0	635.6	
	Freight only	119	31.6	39.8	47.8	
Non-scheduled	Passenger transport charters	1539	25.8	303.3	387.2	
	Air ambulance	154	16.8	104.4	126.7	
	Freight only	10	30.2	9.2	4.5	
	Other commercial air transport	84	27.2	13.9	16.4	
<b>Total Commercial air transport</b>		<b>2 277 <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>1 887.6</b>	<b>1 290.2</b>	
<b>General Aviation</b>						
Aerial work	Agricultural spreading/spraying	487	20.5	67.3	172.5	
	Agricultural mustering	546	17.3	149.1	90.6	
	Agriculture - other	302	20.6	10.5	10.8	
	Construction - sling loads	256	17.5	1.4	1.5	
	Construction - other	6	28.2	0.9	1.0	
	Photography	408	19.9	10.7	9.2	
	Pipeline or powerline surveying	304	20.0	27.1	18.5	
	Other surveying	388	19.3	23.0	12.5	
	Observation and Patrol	76	25.0	22.4	9.0	
	Search and rescue	81	20.9	10.1	12.4	
	Policing	40	13.8	17.5	20.7	
	Firefighting	411	19.6	23.1	21.7	
	Advertising	33	26.7	1.8	0.6	
	Other aerial work	616	22.9	75.9	89.9	
	Own Use Business	Own business travel	2091	28.7	136.0	117.3
	Instructional flying	Instructional flying - commercial	873	23.6	274.0	460.3
Instructional flying - non-commercial		586	27.6	31.7	61.2	
Sport and pleasure flying	Glider towing	54	46.6	5.1	31.7	
	Parachute dropping	1256	41.1	22.1	35.7	
	Aerobatics	153	29.1	3.7	7.0	
	Joyflights/sightseeing charters	340	24.2	29.3	51.2	
	Pleasure and personal transport	3918	34.6	123.5	118.9	
	Community service flights	44	28.5	2.1	1.6	
Other flying	Other sport and pleasure flying	632	26.2	13.9	17.6	
	Test flights	325	24.2	1.9	3.3	
	Ferry flights	503	24.9	7.7	6.9	
	Other flights	332	30.0	16.9	25.3	
<b>Total General Aviation</b>		<b>8 976 <sup>b</sup></b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>1 108.7</b>	<b>1 409.0</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>10 293 <sup>c</sup></b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>2 996.3</b>	<b>2 699.3</b>	

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey, Domestic Monthly Survey, and International Monthly Survey

- a** The sum of all Commercial Air Transport category's aircraft will exceed Total Commercial Air Transport aircraft as some aircraft operate in multiple categories.
- b** The sum of all General Aviation category's aircraft will exceed Total General Aviation aircraft as some aircraft operate in multiple categories.
- c** The sum of Total General Aviation and Total Commercial Air Transport aircraft will exceed Total aircraft as some aircraft operate in both industry sectors.

**Table 8** Hours flown by broad activity type, by state or territory (2015), for VH-registered aircraft

State or Territory	Commercial Air Transport			General Aviation					Total
	Scheduled	Non-scheduled	Aerial Work	Own Use Business	Instructional flying	Sport and pleasure	Other flying		
	( thousands )								
Intrastate									
NSW	163.6	79.2	81.4	40.0	71.5	62.5	4.9	503.1	
QLD	105.2	125.3	121.0	44.0	35.6	42.1	12.5	485.7	
WA	92.6	115.0	114.8	15.3	59.7	25.7	2.3	425.3	
VIC	19.6	33.6	47.2	18.6	93.5	48.3	3.7	264.6	
SA	0.6	25.5	31.4	9.0	38.9	11.7	1.6	118.6	
NT	8.8	44.2	40.3	7.0	1.5	3.6	1.2	106.6	
TAS	1.8	4.6	3.6	1.3	4.0	2.9	0.4	18.6	
ACT	0.1	3.3	1.1	0.8	1.0	3.0	-	9.3	
Interstate	662.4							662.4	
International	402.3							402.3	
Australia	1 456.9	430.7	440.8	136.0	305.7	199.8	26.5	2 996.3	

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey, Domestic Monthly Survey, and International Monthly Survey

**Table 9** Landings by broad activity type, by state or territory (2015), for VH-registered aircraft

State or Territory	Commercial Air Transport			General Aviation				Total
	Scheduled	Non-scheduled	Aerial Work	Own Use Business	Instructional flying	Sport and pleasure	Other flying	
Intrastate								
NSW	178.6	88.5	140.3	36.5	92.4	99.6	7.1	642.9
QLD	73.4	180.5	94.1	37.9	61.2	51.9	16.7	515.6
WA	59.7	130.2	93.0	10.4	106.5	32.4	2.6	434.9
VIC	29.4	59.9	69.3	17.5	160.2	53.5	6.3	396.1
SA	0.8	22.4	32.9	8.1	89.5	15.4	1.2	170.4
NT	11.9	44.4	36.9	5.2	2.3	3.7	1.3	105.7
TAS	2.4	6.5	3.7	1.1	7.6	3.2	0.5	24.9
ACT	0.1	2.5	0.8	0.5	1.8	4.0	-	9.8
Interstate	328.4							328.4
International	70.5							70.5
Australia	755.3	534.9	471.0	117.3	521.5	263.7	35.6	2 699.3

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey, Domestic Monthly Survey, and International Monthly Survey

**Table 10** Hours flown and landings by jet aircraft, turbo-prop aircraft, piston engine aircraft (2015), for VH-registered aircraft

	Jet aircraft		Turbo-prop aircraft		Turbo-shaft aircraft		Piston engine aircraft	
	Hours flown	Landings	Hours flown	Landings	Hours flown	Landings	Hours flown	Landings
Commercial Air Transport	1 237.1	501.1	197.1	214.4	0.0	0.0	22.8	39.8
General Aviation								
Scheduled	51.3	33.0	137.9	136.3	85.5	185.2	156.0	180.5
Non-scheduled	1.9	0.7	95.1	133.2	85.6	125.4	258.1	211.6
Aerial Work	13.3	8.1	12.5	11.2	5.9	7.4	104.2	90.5
Own Use Business	1.5	1.3	3.4	4.1	6.4	13.3	294.4	502.8
Instructional flying	2.3	1.2	11.1	25.6	9.0	14.9	177.4	222.1
Sport and pleasure	0.9	0.6	4.0	4.3	2.7	3.5	18.9	27.1
Other flying								
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 308.3</b>	<b>545.9</b>	<b>460.9</b>	<b>529.1</b>	<b>195.2</b>	<b>349.8</b>	<b>1 031.8</b>	<b>1 274.5</b>

( thousands )

Note: Includes data from General Aviation Activity survey, Domestic Monthly Survey, and International Monthly Survey



**Table 11** Hours flown<sup>a</sup> in Ultralight operations, by state and category of aircraft (2015)

State or Territory	Uncertified aircraft		Commercially manufactured			Amateur-built			Weight shift			Subtotal (Certified aircraft)	Total
	CAO 95.10	CAO 95.25	CAO 95.55	CAO 101.55	CAO 95.55	CAO 101.28	Powered parachutes	Trikes CAO 95.32	CAO 95.55	CAO 101.28	CAO 95.32		
QLD	0.2	1.9	30.7	1.6	11.3	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.2	47.0	47.3
NSW	0.1	0.8	28.4	2.2	8.5	0.9	0.4	2.6	2.6	0.9	0.4	43.8	43.9
VIC	0.3	0.5	22.4	1.4	5.5	0.3	1.0	1.6	1.6	0.3	1.0	32.8	33.1
SA	0.1	0.3	9.8	1.2	4.4	0.2	0.1	1.1	1.1	0.2	0.1	17.1	17.2
WA	0.1	0.2	7.0	0.1	2.1	0.1	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.6	10.8	10.9
TAS	0.1	4.1	1.8	1.0	1.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	9.0	9.0
NT	0.0	0.1	2.1	0.2	0.6	0.0	-	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	3.2	3.2
ACT	0.0	-	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.9	0.9
Unknown	-	-	0.1	-	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.3
Australia	1.0	7.9	102.9	7.8	34.7	2.0	2.5	7.1	7.1	2.0	2.5	164.9	165.9

Note: All statistics courtesy of Recreational Aviation Australia (RA-Aus). These statistics are subject to frequent revision. BITRE recommends caution when using these statistics.

<sup>a</sup> Covers hours flown during the previous 12 months at time of annual renewal of each aircraft's registration.

**Table 12** Hours flown<sup>a</sup> in Ultralight operations, by category of aircraft (2005–2015)

Year	Uncertified aircraft CAO 95.10	Certified aircraft							Subtotal (Certified aircraft)	Total
		Commercially manufactured			Amateur-built		Weight shift			
		CAO 95.25	CAO 95.55	CAO 101.55	CAO 95.55	CAO 101.28	Powered parachutes	Trikes CAO 95.32		
<i>( thousands )</i>										
2005	5.9	16.3	14.3	23.3	23.2	3.5	2.0	4.4	87.0	92.9
2006	5.1	15.3	32.8	25.2	31.1	3.3	3.0	4.5	115.1	120.2
2007	4.0	13.1	55.8	21.3	31.9	3.1	3.4	5.6	134.2	138.3
2008	2.9	11.7	71.2	19.1	36.7	3.5	3.9	7.2	153.3	156.2
2009	2.8	11.6	88.3	16.8	39.7	3.3	4.2	7.5	171.5	174.3
2010	3.0	9.0	111.8	12.3	41.0	3.0	3.5	16.7	197.4	200.4 <sup>r</sup>
2011	2.1	6.4	121.7	9.6	38.5	1.8	2.3	16.2	196.6	198.6 <sup>r</sup>
2012	1.0	6.5	124.6	8.5	33.4	1.0	2.9	8.1	184.9	185.9 <sup>r</sup>
2013	1.0	7.1	88.4	10.5	30.4	1.4	2.3	10.5	150.6	151.6 <sup>r</sup>
2014	2.4	7.7	108.4	7.7	31.6	1.4	2.6	9.3	168.7	171.1 <sup>r</sup>
2015	1.0	7.9	102.9	7.8	34.7	2.0	2.5	7.1	164.9	165.9

Note: All statistics courtesy of Recreational Aviation Australia (RA-Aus). These statistics are subject to frequent revision. BITRE recommends caution when using these statistics

**a** Covers hours flown during the previous 12 months at time of annual renewal of each aircraft’s registration.

**r** Revised

# Survey form



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development**  
 Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics

## General Aviation Activity Survey Year ended 31 December 2015

This information is collected under the authority of Air Navigation Regulation 2016, Part 2, which provides penalties for non-compliance. This survey has been approved by the Australian Government Statistical Clearing House (Approval Number 00560—11).

**Please return the completed form by 30 August 2016.**

For all aircraft operated in the year ending 31 December 2015, please provide aircraft registrations, postcode of aircraft base, and number of hours flown and landings. Flying activity performed entirely outside Australia or its Territories should not be recorded.

Name:	Username:
-------	-----------

		Aircraft Registration (a)							
		Postcode of Aircraft Base (b)							
			Hours	Landings	Hours	Landings	Hours	Landings	
Commercial Air Transport	Scheduled	International							
		Domestic							
		Freight only							
	Non-Scheduled	Passenger transport charters							
		Air ambulance							
		Freight only							
Other commercial air transport									
General Aviation	Aerial Work	Agricultural spreading / spraying							
		Agricultural mustering							
		Agriculture - other							
		Construction - sling loads							
		Construction - other							
		Photography							
		Pipeline or powerline surveying							
		Other surveying							
		Observation and Patrol							
		Search and Rescue							
		Policing							
		Firefighting							
		Advertising							
		Other aerial work							
		Own business travel							
	Sport & pleasure flying	Instructional flying	Instructional flying - commercial						
			Instructional flying - non-commercial						
		Other	Glider towing						
			Parachute dropping						
			Aerobatics						
			Joyflights / sightseeing charters						
			Pleasure and personal transport						
			Community service flights						
			Other sport and pleasure flying						
			Other flying	Test flights					
	Ferry flights								
	Other Flights								

Additional comments:		
Email:	Phone:	Date:

- (a) Aircraft Registration: Pre-printed registrations are based on information supplied by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority. Please add any additional aircraft you operated in 2015 that are not listed. If insufficient room please photocopy form and attach additional sheets.
- (b) Aircraft Base: Please indicate the postcode of the aerodrome or landing area at which the aircraft was most frequently based during 2015. For balloon operations, indicate the postcode of the general area from which most flying was conducted.

## DEFINITIONS

Flying hours should be recorded on the basis of the types of flying in which the aircraft was engaged, as defined below. Total time (including taxi time) is preferred, but airborne time or tacho time is acceptable if total time is not readily available.

Careful estimates are acceptable where exact figures are not readily available. *If your aircraft was inactive for all of 2015, please provide a 'Nil flying' response by entering '0' in the Hours and Landings fields, as this is required for producing accurate estimates of activity.*

### Commercial Air Transport

#### Scheduled

<i>International</i>	Scheduled operations of international airlines operating into/out of Australia.
<i>Domestic RPT</i>	Scheduled operations of domestic airlines operating within Australia.
<i>Freight only</i>	Scheduled operations carrying freight only.

#### Non Scheduled

<i>Passenger transport charters</i>	Flying involving the carriage of passengers by the aircraft operator or his/her employees for hire or reward (but excluding scheduled airline operations).
<i>Air Ambulance</i>	Operations as an aerial ambulance for the transport of ill or injured persons (excluding Angel flights).
<i>Freight only</i>	Flying involving the carriage of cargo by the aircraft operator or his/her employees for hire or reward (but excluding scheduled airline operations).
<i>Other commercial air transport</i>	Includes on-demand charter and all other commercial air transport not classified elsewhere.

### General Aviation

#### Aerial Work

<i>Agricultural spreading / spraying</i>	Flying involving the spreading/spraying of chemicals, seeds, and fertilisers. This includes flights to and from the spread / spray area.
<i>Agricultural mustering</i>	Aerial stock mustering involving the direct use of aircraft for the movement of livestock.
<i>Other agriculture</i>	Other agricultural activity including aerial culling and baiting.
<i>Construction – sling loads</i>	Flying using sling loads for construction purposes.
<i>Construction – other</i>	Includes all flying for construction purposes, excluding sling loads.
<i>Photography</i>	All aerial photographic work.
<i>Pipeline or powerline surveying</i>	Aerial inspection patrols along pipelines or powerlines.
<i>Other Surveying</i>	Flying involving the use of aircraft for surveying not classified elsewhere. Includes geophysical surveys.
<i>Observation and patrol</i>	Flying involving the use of aircraft for aerial observations and patrol. Includes coastal surveillance.
<i>Search and rescue</i>	Includes any search missions, as well as evacuation or rescue work.
<i>Policing</i>	Flying involving the use of aircraft in police operations, includes traffic control, ground support, high-speed car pursuits, observation, air patrol etc.
<i>Fire fighting</i>	Flying involving the use of aircraft to combat fires (e.g. spotting, water bombing etc.). This includes flights to and from the fire area.
<i>Advertising</i>	Includes skywriting and banner towing advertising.
<i>Other Aerial work</i>	Includes aerial spotting (stock, fish, etc.), cloud seeding, etc.

**Own-use business travel** Business flying not through a hire or reward arrangement.

<b>Instructional flying</b>	Flying involving training for the issue or renewal of a licence or rating, aircraft type endorsement or conversion training. Includes solo navigation exercises conducted as part of a course of applied flying training.
<b>Sport and pleasure flying</b>	
<i>Pleasure and personal transport</i>	Flying for private pleasure, or personal transport not associated with a business or profession.
<i>Community service flights</i>	Flights that are provided on a voluntary basis for public benefit. This includes non-emergency flights provided as part of an organised voluntary or charitable activity. This does not include flights where a pilot provides a flight to a friend or family member.
<i>Glider towing</i>	Includes the use of aircraft for glider towing.
<i>Parachute dropping</i>	Flying associated with the dropping of parachutists.
<i>Aerobatics</i>	Aerobatic flight involves manoeuvres intentionally performed by an aircraft involving an abrupt change in its attitude, an abnormal attitude, or an abnormal variation in speed.
<i>Joyflights / sightseeing charters</i>	Flying involving the carriage of passengers for joyflights or sightseeing purposes that take off and land at the same location.
<i>Other sport and pleasure flying</i>	Other sport and pleasure flying not classified elsewhere.
<b>Other flying</b>	
<i>Test</i>	Flying associated with the testing of an aircraft.
<i>Ferry</i>	Flying associated with an aircraft delivery or movement to a location for maintenance, hire or other planned use.
<i>Other flying</i>	Flying not classified elsewhere.

## DIFFICULTIES AND ENQUIRES

The aircraft and operator/owner details included on this form are provided to the Bureau by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority shortly before dispatch of the survey forms. Although the latest available information is used, there will inevitably be a number of short-term discrepancies involving recent changes of operator, ownership or address.

Should any discrepancies occur over the longer term, please advise your local CASA office.

If you have any questions relating to the survey, please contact Aviation Statistics Section on (02) 6274 6135, fax (02) 6274 7727 or email [avstats@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:avstats@infrastructure.gov.au).

# Definitions

Term	Definition
Advertising	Includes skywriting and banner towing advertising.
Aerobatics	Aerobatic flight involves manoeuvres intentionally performed by an aircraft involving an abrupt change in its attitude, an abnormal attitude, or an abnormal variation in speed.
Agricultural mustering	Aerial stock mustering involving the direct use of aircraft for the movement of livestock.
Agricultural spreading / spraying	Flying involving the spreading/spraying of chemicals, seeds, and fertilisers. This includes flights to and from the spread / spray area.
Air Ambulance	Operations as an aerial ambulance for the transport of ill or injured persons (excluding Angel flights).
Commercial Air Transport	An aircraft operation involving the transport of passengers, cargo or mail for remuneration or hire.
Community service flights	Flights that are provided on a voluntary basis for public benefit. This includes non-emergency flights provided as part of an organised voluntary or charitable activity. This does not include flights where a pilot provides a flight to a friend or family member.
Construction – other	Includes all flying for construction purposes, excluding sling loads.
Construction – sling loads	Flying using sling loads for construction purposes.
Domestic RPT	Scheduled operations of domestic airlines operating within Australia.
Ferry	Flying associated with an aircraft delivery or movement to a location for maintenance, hire or other planned use.
Fire fighting	Flying involving the use of aircraft to combat fires (e.g. spotting, water bombing etc.). This includes flights to and from the fire area.
General Aviation	An aircraft operation other than a commercial air transport operation.
Glider towing	Includes the use of aircraft for glider towing.
Instructional flying	Flying involving training for the issue or renewal of a licence or rating, aircraft type endorsement or conversion training. Includes solo navigation exercises conducted as part of a course of applied flying training.

Term	Definition
International	Scheduled operations of international airlines operating into/out of Australia.
Joyflights / sightseeing charters	Flying involving the carriage of passengers for joyflights or sightseeing purposes that take off and land at the same location.
Non- scheduled Freight only	Flying involving the carriage of cargo by the aircraft operator or his/her employees for hire or reward (but excluding scheduled airline operations).
Observation and patrol	Flying involving the use of aircraft for aerial observations and patrol. Includes coastal surveillance.
Other Aerial work	Includes aerial spotting (stock, fish, etc.), cloud seeding, etc.
Other agriculture	Other agricultural activity including aerial culling and baiting.
Other commercial air transport	Includes on-demand charter and all other commercial air transport not classified elsewhere.
Other flying	Flying not classified elsewhere.
Other sport and pleasure flying	Other sport and pleasure flying not classified elsewhere.
Other Surveying	Flying involving the use of aircraft for surveying not classified elsewhere. Includes geophysical surveys.
Own-use business travel	Business flying not through a hire or reward arrangement.
Parachute dropping	Flying associated with the dropping of parachutists.
Passenger transport charters	Flying involving the carriage of passengers by the aircraft operator or his/her employees for hire or reward (but excluding scheduled airline operations).
Photography	All aerial photographic work.
Pipeline or powerline surveying	Aerial inspection patrols along pipelines or powerlines.
Pleasure and personal transport	Flying for private pleasure, or personal transport not associated with a business or profession.
Policing	Flying involving the use of aircraft in police operations, includes traffic control, ground support, high-speed car pursuits, observation, air patrol etc.
Scheduled Freight only	Scheduled operations carrying freight only.
Search and rescue	Includes any search missions, as well as evacuation or rescue work.
Test	Flying associated with the testing of an aircraft.

# Aviation Statistics publications

These publications and data releases are available in electronic format, and can be downloaded free of charge from the Department's website at [www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/aviation/index.aspx](http://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/aviation/index.aspx)

## *Airline On Time Performance*

Produced: Monthly, calendar and financial years.

Contents: Domestic airline on time performance by airline, route and airport.

## *Airport Traffic Data*

Produced: Financial year, monthly for top 20 airports.

Contents: Time series of airport activity for the international, domestic and regional RPT sectors.

## *Australian Aircraft Activity*

Produced: Calendar year.

Contents: Commercial Air Transport and General Aviation flying activity; hours flown and landings by category of operation and aircraft type; numbers of aircraft by type.

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Contents: Data supplied by Australian airlines operating over Australian flight stages; traffic on top competitive city pairs and industry totals.



## Avline

Produced: Financial year.

Contents: Overview of Australian aviation industry including traffic data, air fares, and airport charges.

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Produced: Monthly.

Contents: Time series of fare indexes covering business, full economy, restricted economy and best discount fares.

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