Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics

STATISTICAL REPORT

Aviation
Domestic aviation activity
2019

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Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE), 2020, Domestic aviation activity, Statistical Report, BITRE, Canberra ACT.

FOREWORD

This report provides an overview of domestic (including charter) commercial aviation activity in Australia for the year ending 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 year ending December 2019 there were 64 such routes.

Information on both the total network and the Regular Public Transport (RPT) network for the year ending December 2019 is presented on page 2.

Detailed information on the 64 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

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HIGHLIGHTS

There were 64.11 million passengers carried on Australian domestic commercial aviation (including charter operations) in the year ending December 2019, an increase of 0.9 per cent compared with the year ending December 2018. In the year ending December 2019 there were 683.5 thousands aircraft trips, an increase of 1.5 per cent compared to the previous year.

61.36 million passengers were carried on RPT flights in the year ending December 2019, an increase of 0.5 compared with the year ending December 2018.

RPT revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs) performed were 71.48 billion, an increase of 0.3 per cent compared with the year ending December 2018.

Capacity, measured by available seat kilometres (ASKs), increased by 0.1 per cent compared with the year ending December 2018, to a total of 88.51 billion.

The industry wide load factor (RPKs/ASKs) increased from 80.6 per cent in the year ending December 2018 to 80.8 per cent in the year ending December 2019, the highest annual load factor recorded by BITRE for the Australian domestic RPT aviation industry. Load factors on individual routes increased on 36 of the 64 published routes.

In the year ending December 2019, Melbourne – Sydney remained Australia's busiest RPT route with 9.18 million passengers, a decrease of 0.6 per cent compared with the previous year. It was followed by Brisbane – Sydney with 4.82 million passengers (down 0.1 per cent) and Brisbane – Melbourne with 3.61 million passengers (up 1.1 per cent).

The greatest percentage increase in RPT passenger numbers, compared to the year ending December 2018, was on the Newman – Perth route (up 13.7 per cent). There were large increases on a number of other routes, including Adelaide – Alice Springs (up 11.0 per cent), Brisbane – Mount Isa (up 8.7 per cent) and Brisbane – Hamilton Island (up 6.5 per cent).

RPT routes with traffic decreases in the year ending December 2019, compared with the year ending December 2018, included Proserpine – Sydney (down 15.4 per cent), Darwin – Perth (down 10.4 per cent) and Brisbane – Darwin (down 5.8 per cent).

In the year ending December 2019, Sydney remained Australia's busiest domestic airport with 27.58 million passenger movements, followed by Melbourne with 26.00 million passenger movements and Brisbane with 17.58 million passenger movements.

Total cargo movements at Australian airports on domestic RPT flights were 462.7 thousand tonnes in the year ending December 2019, a decrease of 2.3 per cent compared to the year ending December 2018.

In the year ending December 2019, the number of domestic aviation passengers travelling through regional airports was 25.00 million, 0.3 per cent higher than for the year ending December 2018. Out of the top 50 regional airports, the strongest growth was at Griffith airport, up 17.9 per cent on year ending December 2018, while the largest decrease was recorded at Toowoomba Wellcamp airport, down 12.2 per cent compared to the previous year.

Fixed-wing charter operators carried 2.75 million passengers in the year ending December 2019, an increase of 11.2 per cent compared with the year ending December 2018.

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)
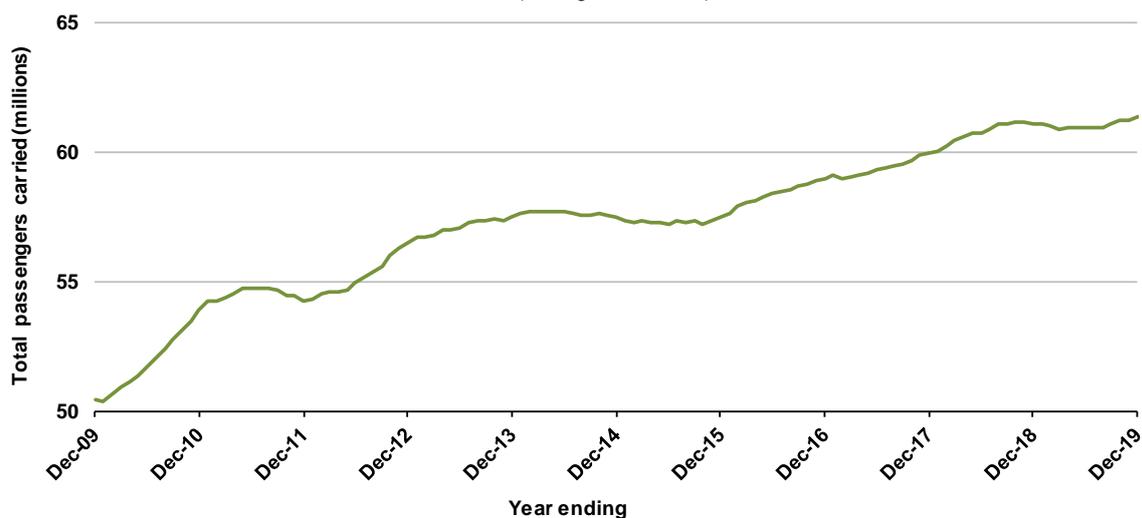
RPT Network utilisation
(moving annual totals)
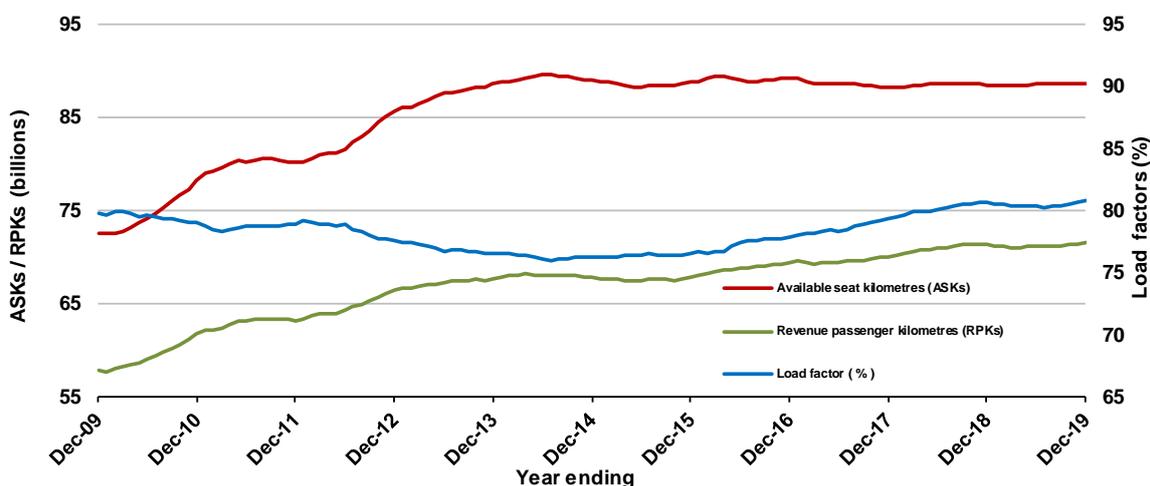
TOP COMPETITIVE ROUTES

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	278.2	0.0
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: Available seats (000s) — annual activity

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	10 794.3	10 775.5	-0.2
2	Brisbane - Sydney	5 774.0	5 795.5	0.4
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	4 338.7	4 313.2	-0.6
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	3 141.1	3 139.9	0.0
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	3 083.6	3 125.9	1.4
6	Gold Coast - Melbourne	2 349.9	2 384.0	1.5
7	Melbourne - Perth	2 475.5	2 470.7	-0.2
8	Adelaide - Sydney	2 304.8	2 240.8	-2.8
9	Perth - Sydney	2 046.2	1 995.7	-2.5
10	Hobart - Melbourne	2 086.7	2 084.6	-0.1
11	Brisbane - Cairns	1 513.1	1 537.2	1.6
12	Canberra - Melbourne	1 753.8	1 746.0	-0.4
13	Cairns - Sydney	1 354.4	1 285.9	-5.1
14	Brisbane - Townsville	1 274.8	1 300.3	2.0
15	Brisbane - Perth	1 139.9	1 134.7	-0.5
16	Launceston - Melbourne	1 191.2	1 206.6	1.3
17	Canberra - Sydney	1 283.7	1 241.3	-3.3
18	Adelaide - Brisbane	1 082.1	1 112.6	2.8
19	Cairns - Melbourne	1 011.5	1 005.1	-0.6
20	Brisbane - Mackay	948.5	1 004.9	5.9
21	Hobart - Sydney	855.9	888.1	3.8
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	767.1	803.0	4.7
23	Brisbane - Canberra	872.0	891.3	2.2
24	Adelaide - Perth	829.8	855.4	3.1
25	Brisbane - Newcastle	792.5	804.0	1.4
26	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	636.2	639.1	0.5
27	Brisbane - Rockhampton	649.9	670.4	3.2
28	Melbourne - Newcastle	597.1	576.7	-3.4
29	Karratha - Perth	682.3	728.8	6.8
30	Ballina - Sydney	522.7	516.1	-1.3
31	Perth - Port Hedland	540.3	601.2	11.3
32	Brisbane - Darwin	468.7	447.2	-4.6
33	Newman - Perth	541.1	585.7	8.2
34	Broome - Perth	427.8	431.9	1.0
35	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	472.3	444.9	-5.8
36	Darwin - Melbourne	390.9	377.9	-3.3
37	Darwin - Sydney	425.1	399.2	-6.1
38	Launceston - Sydney	333.5	344.2	3.2
39	Kalgoorlie - Perth	463.1	490.7	6.0
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	304.4	318.5	4.6
41	Brisbane - Gladstone	362.9	372.7	2.7
42	Brisbane - Hobart	273.7	289.8	5.9
43	Melbourne - Mildura	346.1	350.0	1.1
44	Albury - Sydney	319.4	327.6	2.6
45	Adelaide - Gold Coast	264.1	257.5	-2.5
46	Hamilton Island - Sydney	300.0	290.2	-3.3
47	Brisbane - Emerald	272.1	299.6	10.1
48	Ayers Rock - Sydney	250.4	251.7	0.5
49	Adelaide - Canberra	286.4	294.0	2.7
50	Port Macquarie - Sydney	240.1	263.1	9.6

(continued)

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

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
51	Dubbo - Sydney	257.2	270.0	5.0
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	259.9	270.4	4.0
53	Sydney - Tamworth	267.2	267.9	0.3
54	Darwin - Perth	265.5	251.8	-5.2
55	Sydney - Townsville	211.0	214.7	1.7
56	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	283.4	286.1	1.0
57	Brisbane - Bundaberg	233.8	225.1	-3.7
58	Adelaide - Alice Springs	184.1	194.9	5.9
59	Cairns - Townsville	249.9	246.3	-1.4
60	Brisbane - Mount Isa	175.3	193.8	10.6
61	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	171.3	182.4	6.5
62	Armidale - Sydney	178.9	182.5	2.0
63	Proserpine - Sydney	162.8	138.4	-15.0
64	Alice Springs - Darwin	213.4	252.2	18.2
	Total domestic network	**77 333.9**	**77 693.1**	**0.5**

Table 3: Load factors (%) — annual activity

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	85.6	85.2	-0.4
2	Brisbane - Sydney	83.6	83.2	-0.4
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	82.3	83.7	1.4
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	86.7	87.1	0.4
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	81.0	81.2	0.2
6	Gold Coast - Melbourne	87.6	89.0	1.4
7	Melbourne - Perth	85.4	85.4	0.0
8	Adelaide - Sydney	82.7	83.8	1.1
9	Perth - Sydney	83.9	84.8	0.9
10	Hobart - Melbourne	79.2	80.1	0.9
11	Brisbane - Cairns	87.2	84.1	-3.2
12	Canberra - Melbourne	67.0	67.9	0.8
13	Cairns - Sydney	83.6	83.8	0.2
14	Brisbane - Townsville	78.1	78.3	0.2
15	Brisbane - Perth	83.9	84.7	0.7
16	Launceston - Melbourne	80.2	79.5	-0.7
17	Canberra - Sydney	74.2	75.0	0.8
18	Adelaide - Brisbane	78.2	78.7	0.4
19	Cairns - Melbourne	84.3	85.2	0.8
20	Brisbane - Mackay	78.4	77.2	-1.2
21	Hobart - Sydney	82.4	82.1	-0.4
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	82.0	82.8	0.8
23	Brisbane - Canberra	73.8	74.1	0.3
24	Adelaide - Perth	76.6	76.8	0.2
25	Brisbane - Newcastle	73.5	75.2	1.7
26	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	85.7	87.3	1.7
27	Brisbane - Rockhampton	79.1	80.5	1.4
28	Melbourne - Newcastle	82.1	83.8	1.7
29	Karratha - Perth	64.6	64.0	-0.6
30	Ballina - Sydney	83.4	84.0	0.6
31	Perth - Port Hedland	67.1	63.0	-4.1
32	Brisbane - Darwin	80.3	79.3	-1.0
33	Newman - Perth	56.5	59.3	2.8
34	Broome - Perth	79.2	76.1	-3.1
35	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	72.0	73.4	1.4
36	Darwin - Melbourne	78.6	82.3	3.7
37	Darwin - Sydney	73.1	77.5	4.4
38	Launceston - Sydney	86.3	85.6	-0.7
39	Kalgoorlie - Perth	60.1	56.7	-3.4
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	82.3	80.7	-1.6
41	Brisbane - Gladstone	69.7	66.5	-3.2
42	Brisbane - Hobart	83.7	83.3	-0.4
43	Melbourne - Mildura	65.3	66.1	0.8
44	Albury - Sydney	70.9	70.3	-0.6
45	Adelaide - Gold Coast	83.5	83.6	0.1
46	Hamilton Island - Sydney	68.2	73.5	5.3
47	Brisbane - Emerald	71.7	67.3	-4.5
48	Ayers Rock - Sydney	77.8	77.9	0.1
49	Adelaide - Canberra	68.1	66.5	-1.7
50	Port Macquarie - Sydney	77.8	72.6	-5.3

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

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
51	Dubbo - Sydney	73.4	67.4	-6.0
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	69.8	66.8	-2.9
53	Sydney - Tamworth	65.5	65.1	-0.5
54	Darwin - Perth	73.2	69.2	-4.0
55	Sydney - Townsville	80.1	80.8	0.7
56	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	59.8	60.2	0.4
57	Brisbane - Bundaberg	69.6	68.3	-1.4
58	Adelaide - Alice Springs	70.8	74.2	3.4
59	Cairns - Townsville	59.8	58.1	-1.6
60	Brisbane - Mount Isa	74.0	72.8	-1.3
61	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	72.6	72.6	0.0
62	Armidale - Sydney	68.1	68.5	0.4
63	Proserpine - Sydney	82.2	81.8	-0.4
64	Alice Springs - Darwin	51.4	43.5	-7.9
	Total domestic network	**80.6**	**80.8**	**0.2**

Table 4: Aircraft trips [a] — annual activity

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
1	Melbourne - Sydney	59 882	60 424	0.9
2	Brisbane - Sydney	35 029	35 347	0.9
3	Brisbane - Melbourne	25 501	25 420	-0.3
4	Gold Coast - Sydney	17 838	17 972	0.8
5	Adelaide - Melbourne	19 056	19 019	-0.2
6	Gold Coast - Melbourne	12 433	12 597	1.3
7	Melbourne - Perth	11 731	12 274	4.6
8	Adelaide - Sydney	13 877	13 216	-4.8
9	Perth - Sydney	9 085	9 006	-0.9
10	Hobart - Melbourne	11 680	11 401	-2.4
11	Brisbane - Cairns	9 875	10 577	7.1
12	Canberra - Melbourne	11 236	11 056	-1.6
13	Cairns - Sydney	7 315	6 595	-9.8
14	Brisbane - Townsville	8 758	8 723	-0.4
15	Brisbane - Perth	6 022	6 116	1.6
16	Launceston - Melbourne	8 964	9 018	0.6
17	Canberra - Sydney	16 132	16 292	1.0
18	Adelaide - Brisbane	6 669	6 492	-2.7
19	Cairns - Melbourne	5 238	5 127	-2.1
20	Brisbane - Mackay	7 264	7 775	7.0
21	Hobart - Sydney	5 142	5 515	7.3
22	Sunshine Coast - Sydney	4 607	4 933	7.1
23	Brisbane - Canberra	6 346	6 502	2.5
24	Adelaide - Perth	5 574	5 647	1.3
25	Brisbane - Newcastle	5 317	5 852	10.1
26	Melbourne - Sunshine Coast	3 587	3 565	-0.6
27	Brisbane - Rockhampton	7 913	7 955	0.5
28	Melbourne - Newcastle	3 326	3 180	-4.4
29	Karratha - Perth	5 960	5 947	-0.2
30	Ballina - Sydney	3 347	3 292	-1.6
31	Perth - Port Hedland	4 415	4 628	4.8
32	Brisbane - Darwin	2 883	2 753	-4.5
33	Newman - Perth	4 020	4 223	5.0
34	Broome - Perth	3 759	3 716	-1.1
35	Coffs Harbour - Sydney	4 666	4 786	2.6
36	Darwin - Melbourne	2 127	2 070	-2.7
37	Darwin - Sydney	2 507	2 288	-8.7
38	Launceston - Sydney	1 928	1 911	-0.9
39	Kalgoorlie - Perth	3 661	3 927	7.3
40	Brisbane - Proserpine	1 716	1 789	4.3
41	Brisbane - Gladstone	4 754	4 937	3.8
42	Brisbane - Hobart	1 558	1 642	5.4
43	Melbourne - Mildura	4 715	4 783	1.4
44	Albury - Sydney	5 754	5 998	4.2
45	Adelaide - Gold Coast	1 487	1 440	-3.2
46	Hamilton Island - Sydney	1 852	1 793	-3.2
47	Brisbane - Emerald	3 650	4 417	21.0
48	Ayers Rock - Sydney	1 405	1 413	0.6
49	Adelaide - Canberra	1 709	1 766	3.3
50	Port Macquarie - Sydney	3 778	3 994	5.7

(continued)

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

	City-Pair	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
51	Dubbo - Sydney	5 388	5 831	8.2
52	Sydney - Wagga Wagga	5 085	5 330	4.8
53	Sydney - Tamworth	4 021	4 214	4.8
54	Darwin - Perth	1 578	1 458	-7.6
55	Sydney - Townsville	1 259	1 215	-3.5
56	Adelaide - Port Lincoln	7 258	7 421	2.2
57	Brisbane - Bundaberg	3 324	3 573	7.5
58	Adelaide - Alice Springs	1 334	1 428	7.0
59	Cairns - Townsville	4 004	3 840	-4.1
60	Brisbane - Mount Isa	1 872	1 678	-10.4
61	Brisbane - Hamilton Island	1 322	1 440	8.9
62	Armidale - Sydney	4 261	4 325	1.5
63	Proserpine - Sydney	901	762	-15.4
64	Alice Springs - Darwin	1 865	1 718	-7.9
	Total domestic network	**629 501**	**636 030**	**1.0**

(a) Includes RPT Cargo flights.
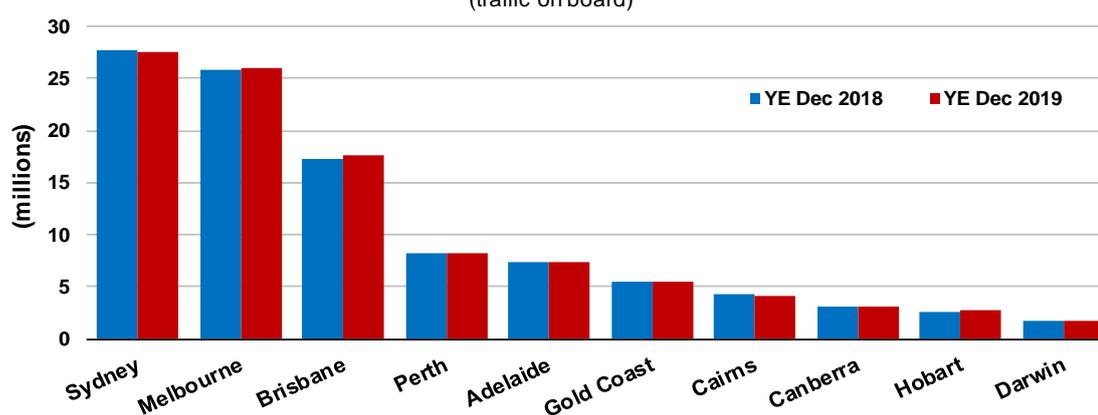
TOP TEN AIRPORTS – PASSENGER MOVEMENTS

Table 5: 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	22.7
2	Melbourne	25 874.8	25 996.6	0.5	21.2
3	Brisbane	17 364.7	17 584.5	1.3	14.2
4	Perth	8 222.5	8 286.2	0.8	6.7
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	3.5
8	Canberra	3 153.9	3 154.4	0.0	2.6
9	Hobart	2 676.6	2 781.7	3.9	2.2
10	Darwin	1 744.4	1 694.4	-2.9	1.4
	Total top ten airports	**103 865.8**	**104 187.8**	**0.3**	**85.0**
	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.
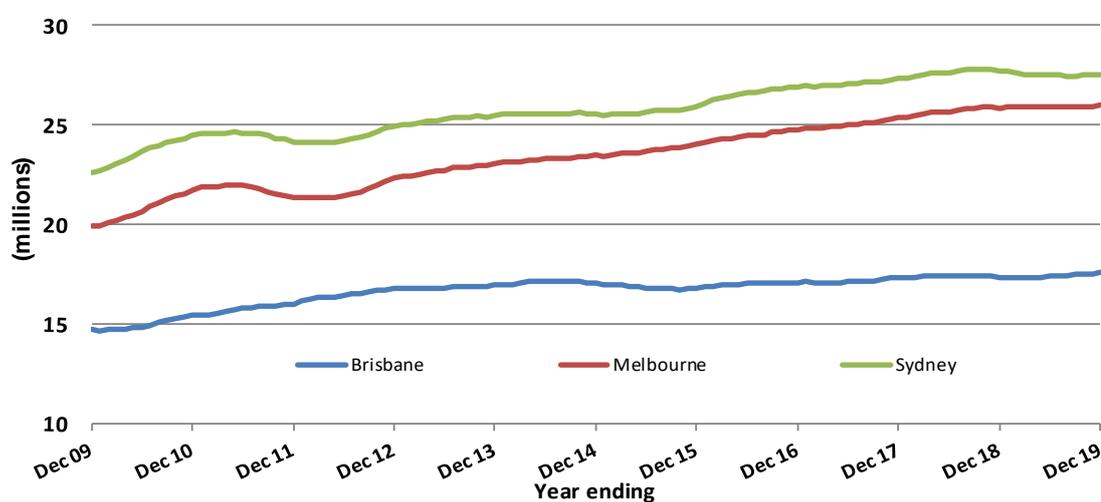
Top ten airports, RPT passenger movements
(traffic on board)

Top three airports, domestic passenger movements
(moving annual totals - traffic on board)
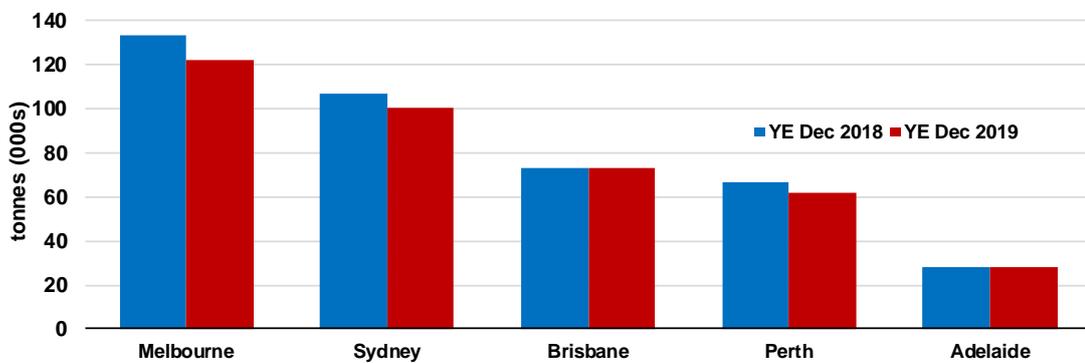
TOP FIVE AIRPORTS – CARGO MOVEMENTS

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

	Airport	YE Dec 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**

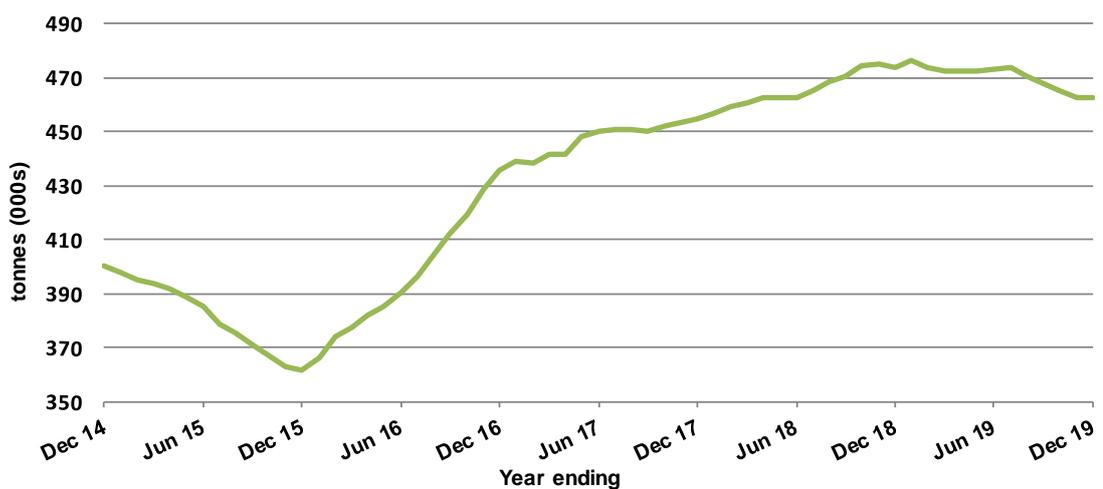Note: Airport cargo tonnes are the sum of cargo tonnes on arrivals and departures at each airport.

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

Total domestic network - cargo movements
(moving annual totals - traffic on board)

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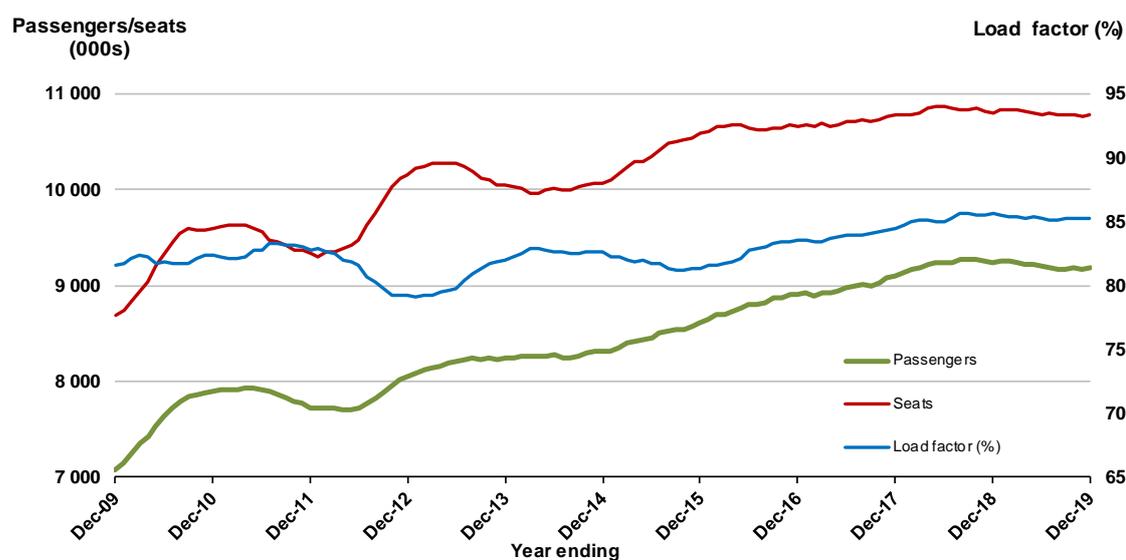
TOP TWENTY ROUTES

1. Melbourne - Sydney

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

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

13
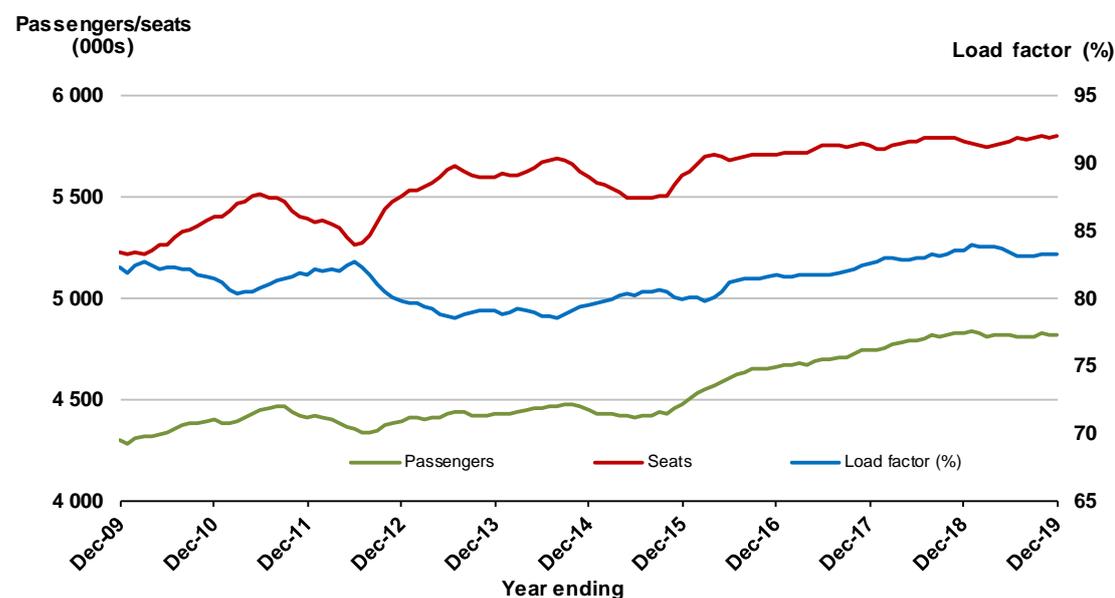
3. Brisbane - Melbourne

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
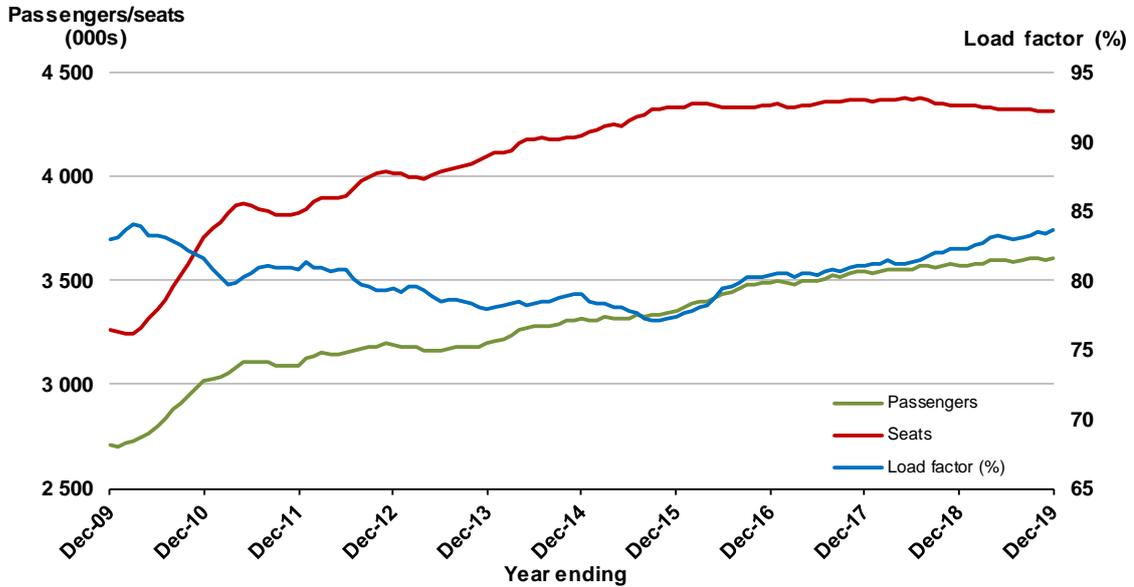
4. Gold Coast - Sydney

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
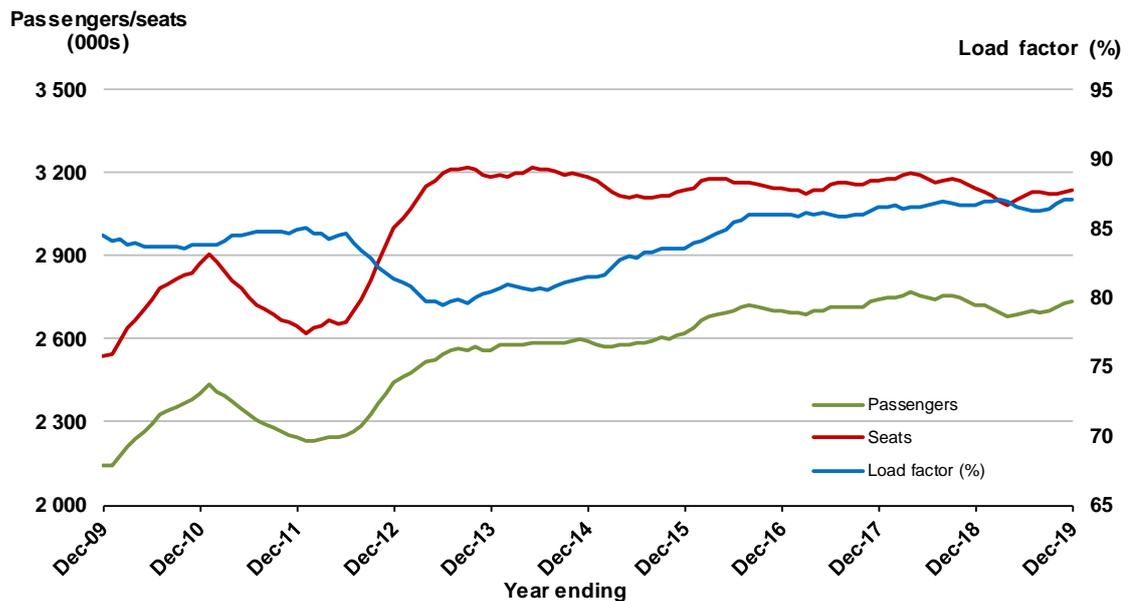
5. Adelaide - Melbourne

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
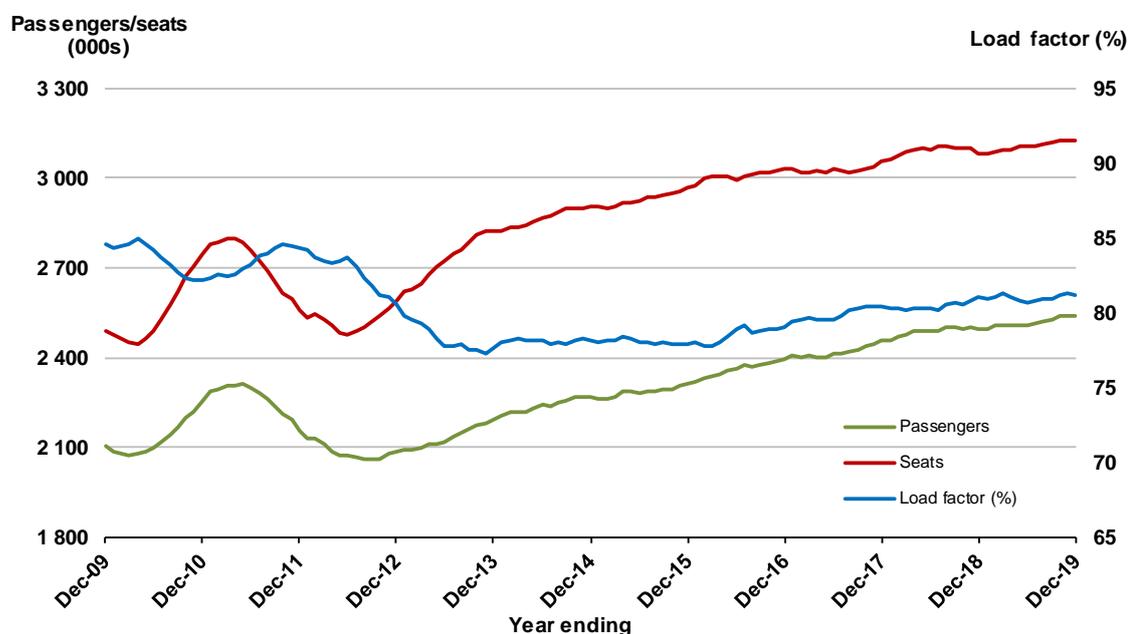
6. Gold Coast - Melbourne

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

15
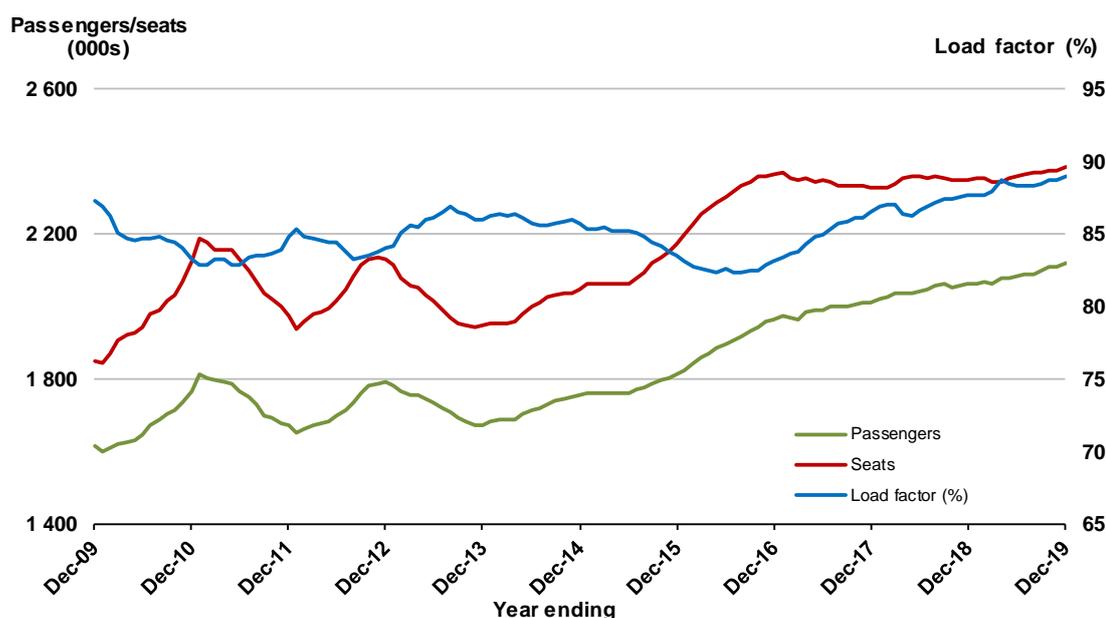
7. Melbourne - Perth

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
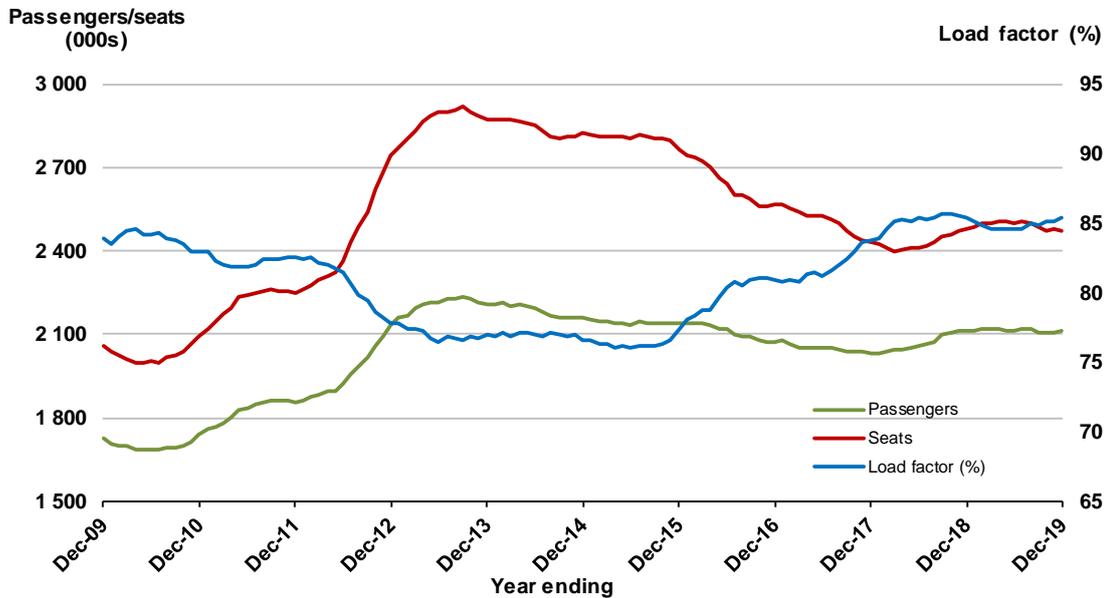
8. Adelaide - Sydney

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
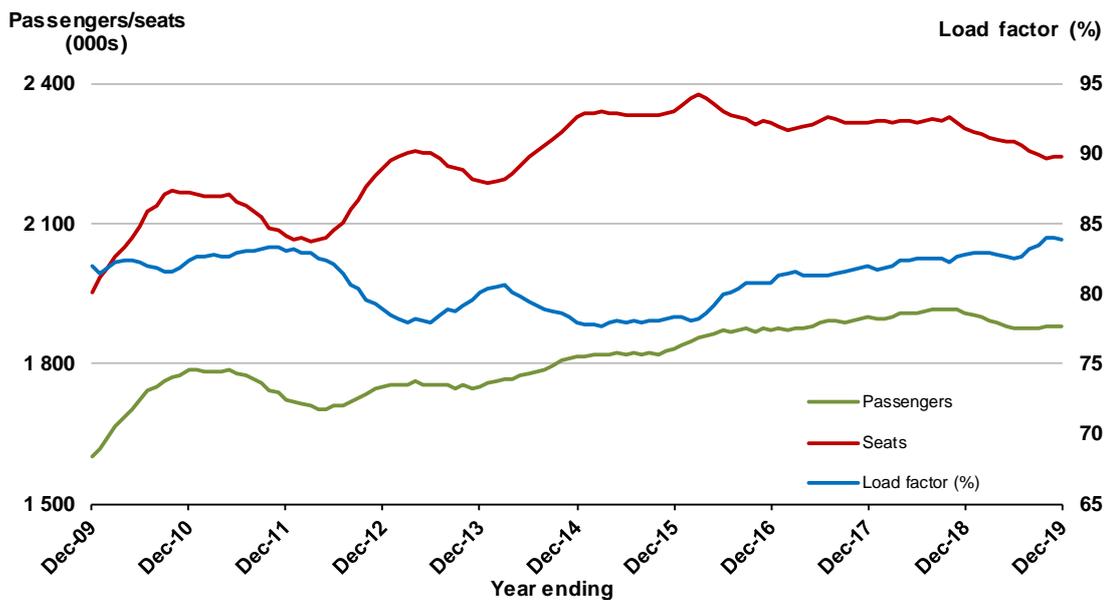
9. Perth - Sydney

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
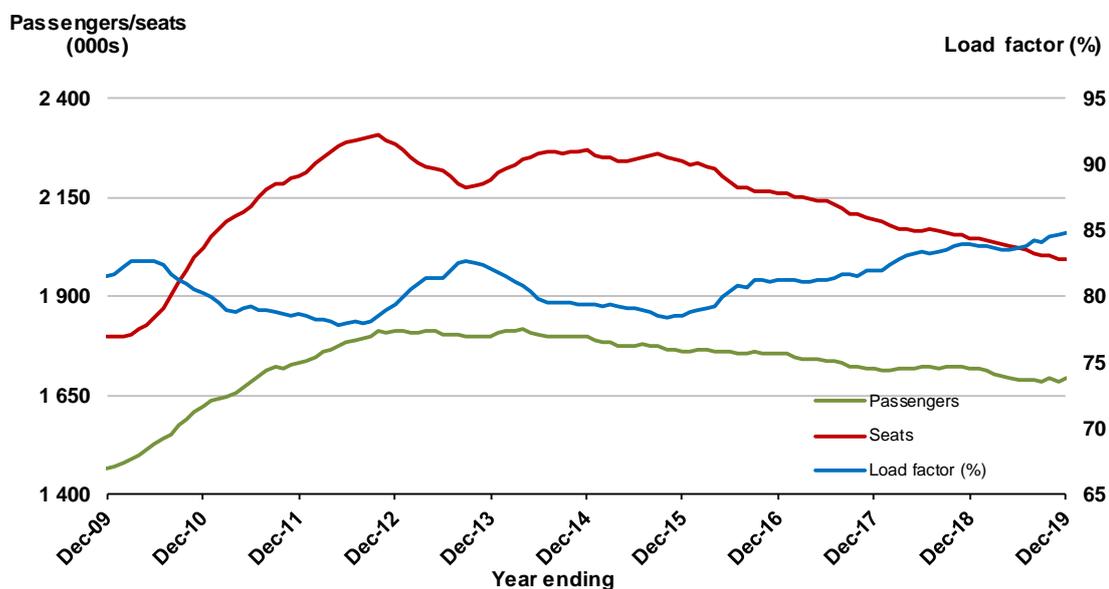
10. Hobart - Melbourne

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
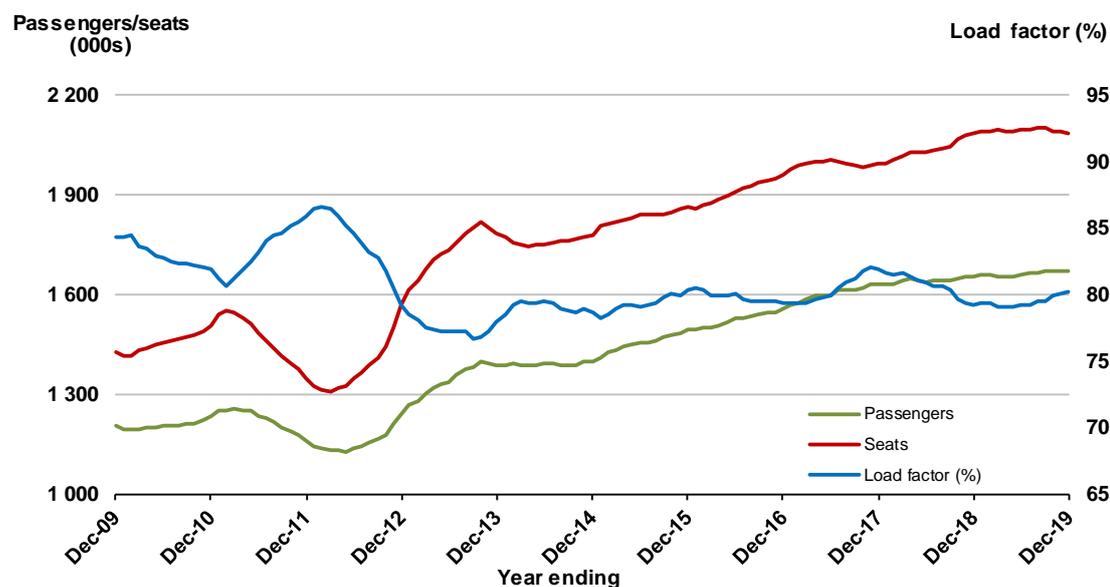
11. Brisbane - Cairns

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 320.1	1 292.7	-2.1
Seats (000s)	1 513.1	1 537.2	1.6
Load factor %	87.2	84.1	-3.2 *
Aircraft trips	9 875	10 577	7.1

* percentage point difference
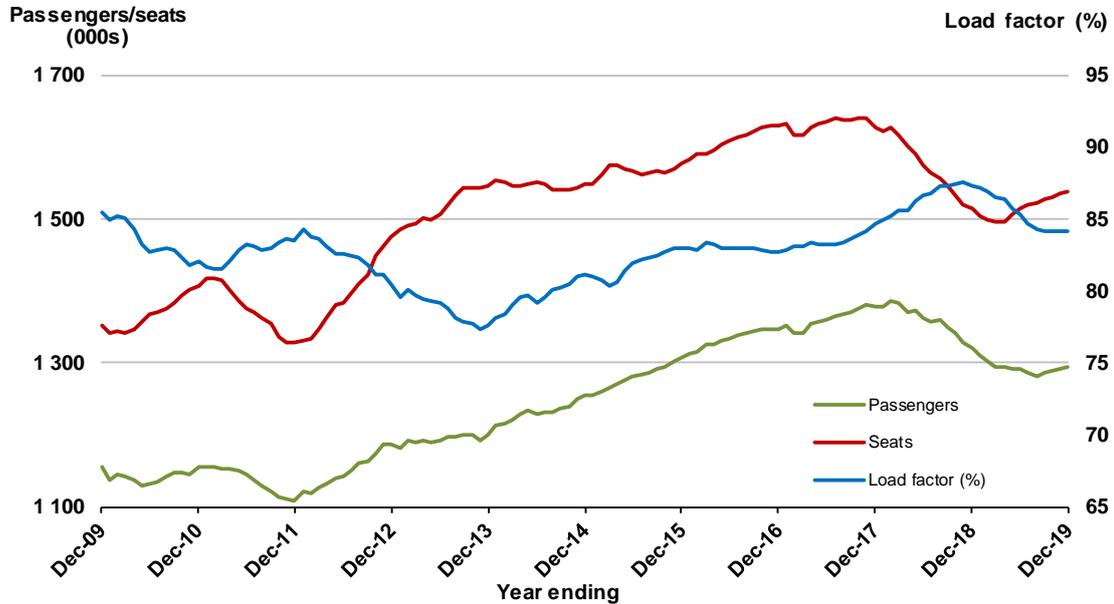
12. Canberra - Melbourne

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 175.5	1 184.8	0.8
Seats (000s)	1 753.8	1 746.0	-0.4
Load factor %	67.0	67.9	0.8 *
Aircraft trips	11 236	11 056	-1.6

* percentage point difference
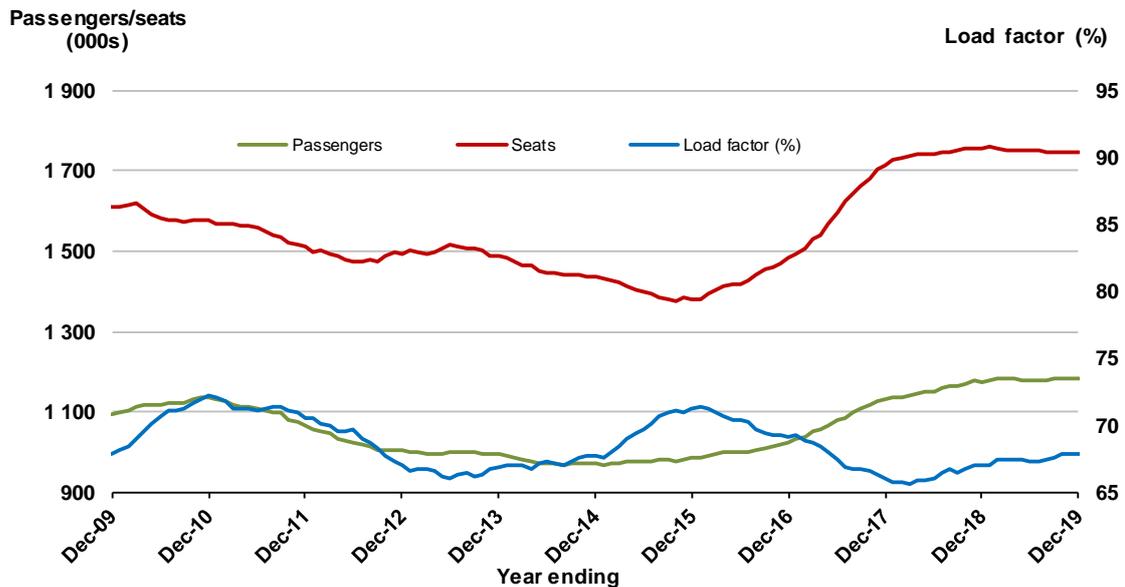
13. Cairns - Sydney

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	1 132.7	1 078.1	-4.8
Seats (000s)	1 354.4	1 285.9	-5.1
Load factor %	83.6	83.8	0.2 *
Aircraft trips	7 315	6 595	-9.8

* percentage point difference
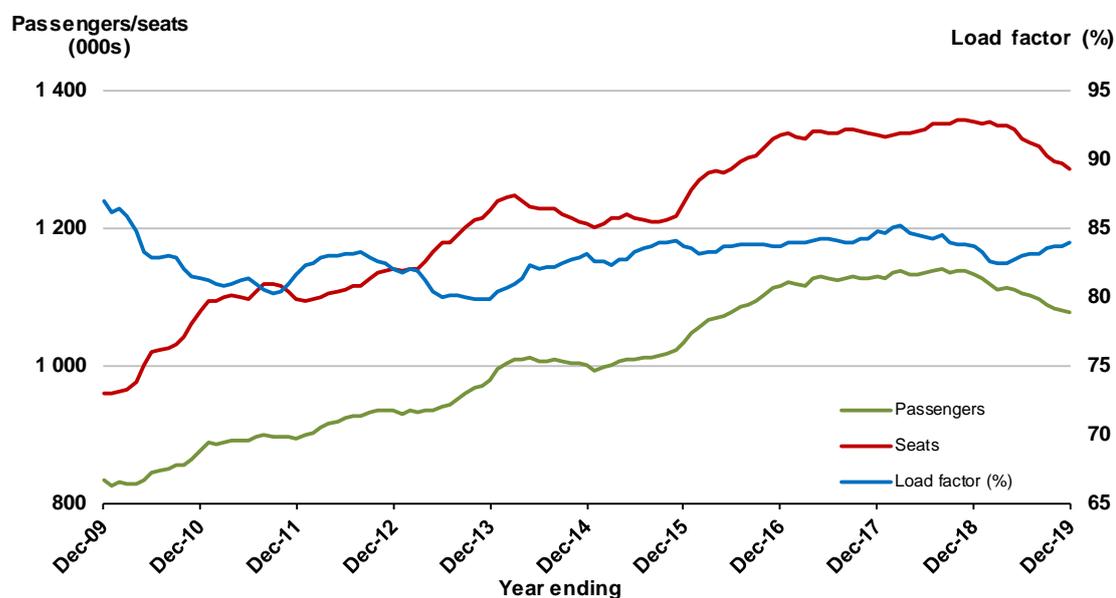
14. Brisbane - Townsville

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	996.0	1 018.1	2.2
Seats (000s)	1 274.8	1 300.3	2.0
Load factor %	78.1	78.3	0.2 *
Aircraft trips	8 758	8 723	-0.4

* percentage point difference

19
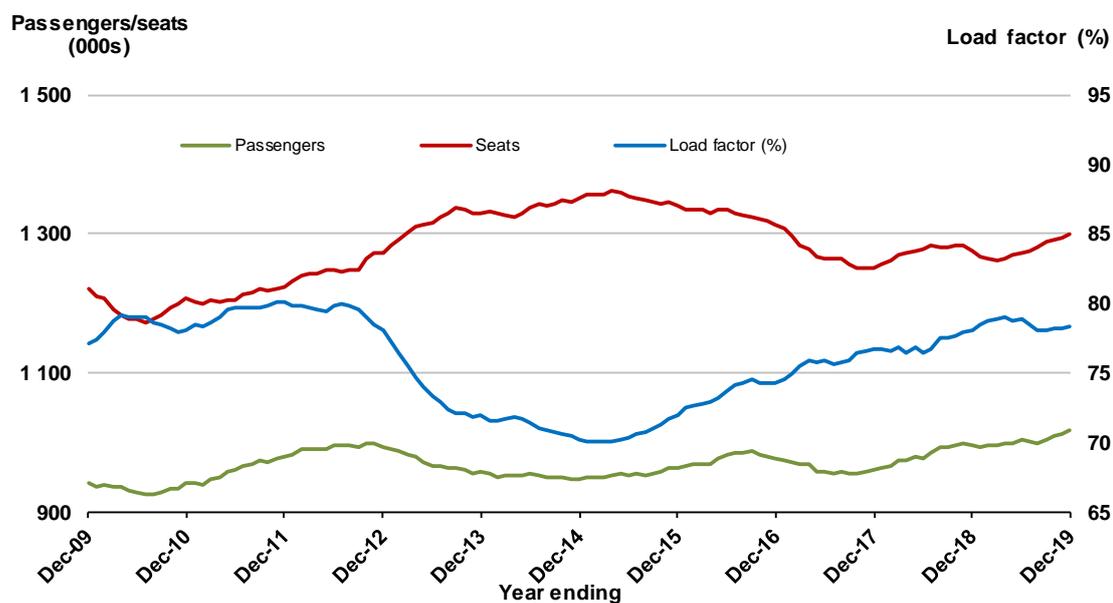
15. Brisbane - Perth

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	956.8	960.6	0.4
Seats (000s)	1 139.9	1 134.7	-0.5
Load factor %	83.9	84.7	0.7 *
Aircraft trips	6 022	6 116	1.6

* percentage point difference
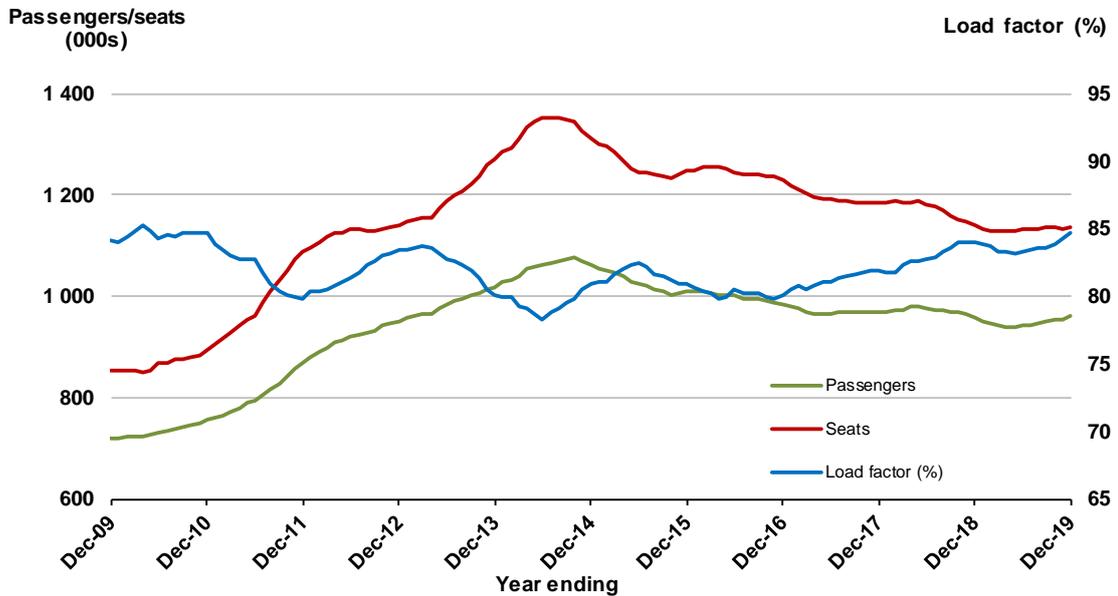
16. Launceston - Melbourne

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	955.4	959.2	0.4
Seats (000s)	1 191.2	1 206.6	1.3
Load factor %	80.2	79.5	-0.7 *
Aircraft trips	8 964	9 018	0.6

* percentage point difference
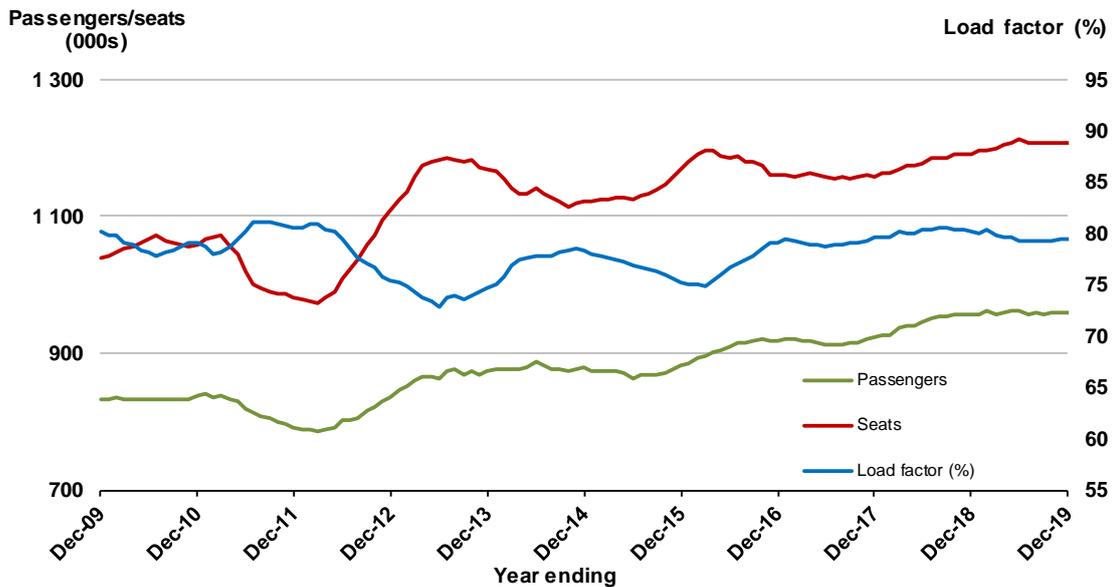
17. Canberra - Sydney

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	953.0	931.4	-2.3
Seats (000s)	1 283.7	1 241.3	-3.3
Load factor %	74.2	75.0	0.8 *
Aircraft trips	16 132	16 292	1.0

* percentage point difference
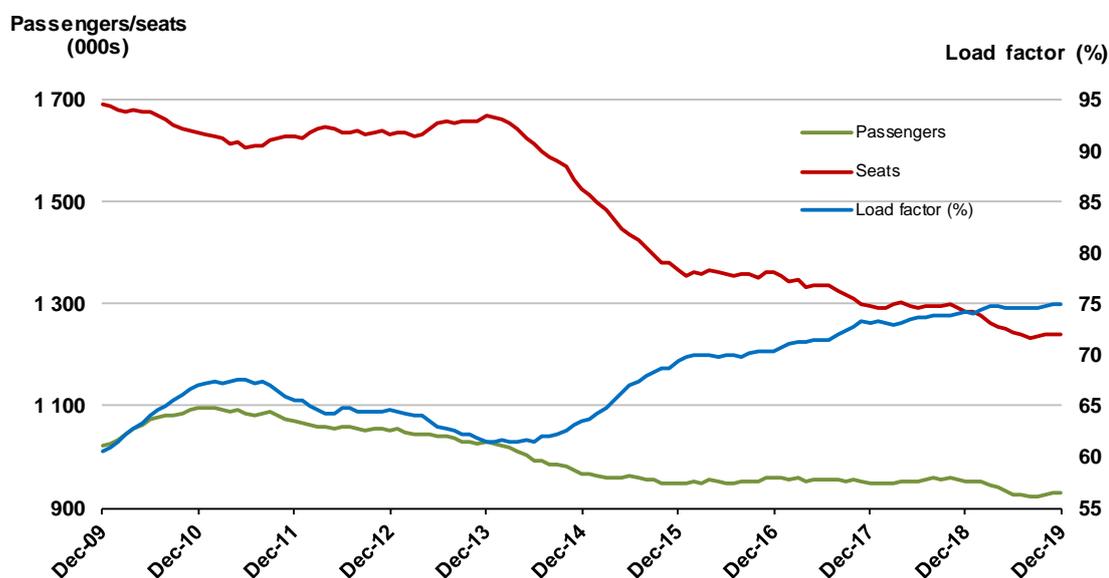
18. Adelaide - Brisbane

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	846.5	875.3	3.4
Seats (000s)	1 082.1	1 112.6	2.8
Load factor %	78.2	78.7	0.4 *
Aircraft trips	6 669	6 492	-2.7

* percentage point difference
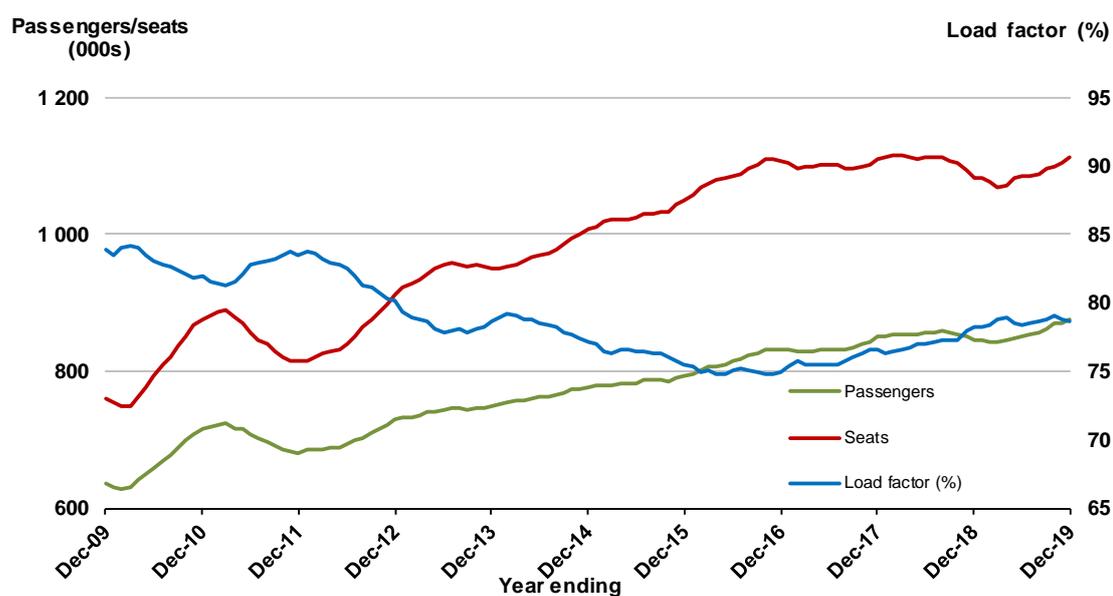
19. Cairns - Melbourne

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	854.5	855.9	0.2
Seats (000s)	1 011.5	1 005.1	-0.6
Load factor %	84.3	85.2	0.8 *
Aircraft trips	5 238	5 127	-2.1

* percentage point difference
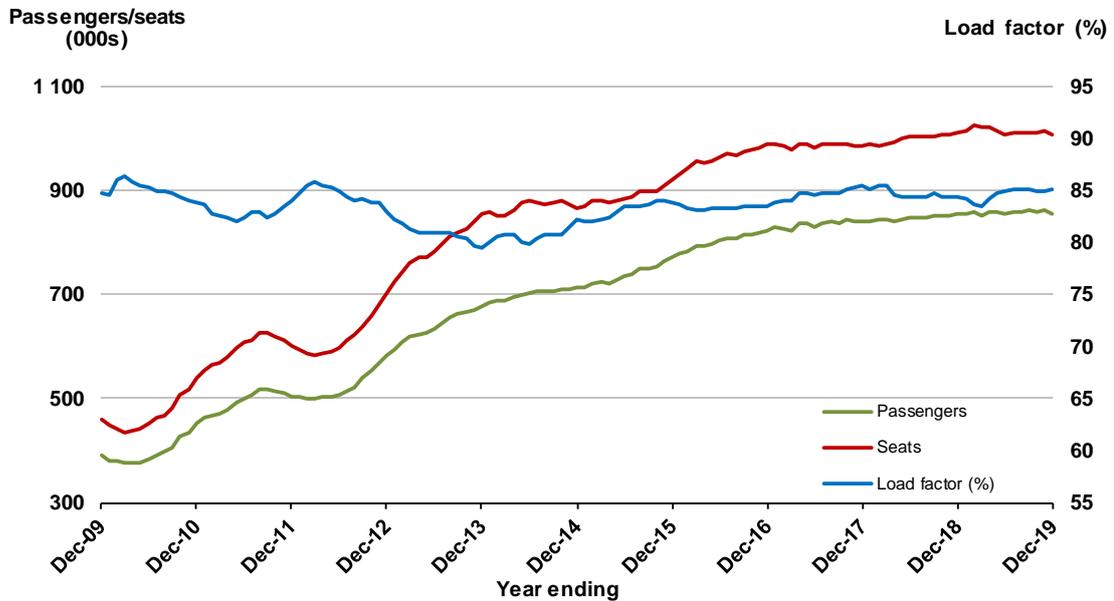
20. Brisbane - Mackay

Moving annual data

	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Passengers carried (000s)	743.3	775.6	4.3
Seats (000s)	948.5	1 004.9	5.9
Load factor %	78.4	77.2	-1.2 *
Aircraft trips	7 264	7 775	7.0

* percentage point difference
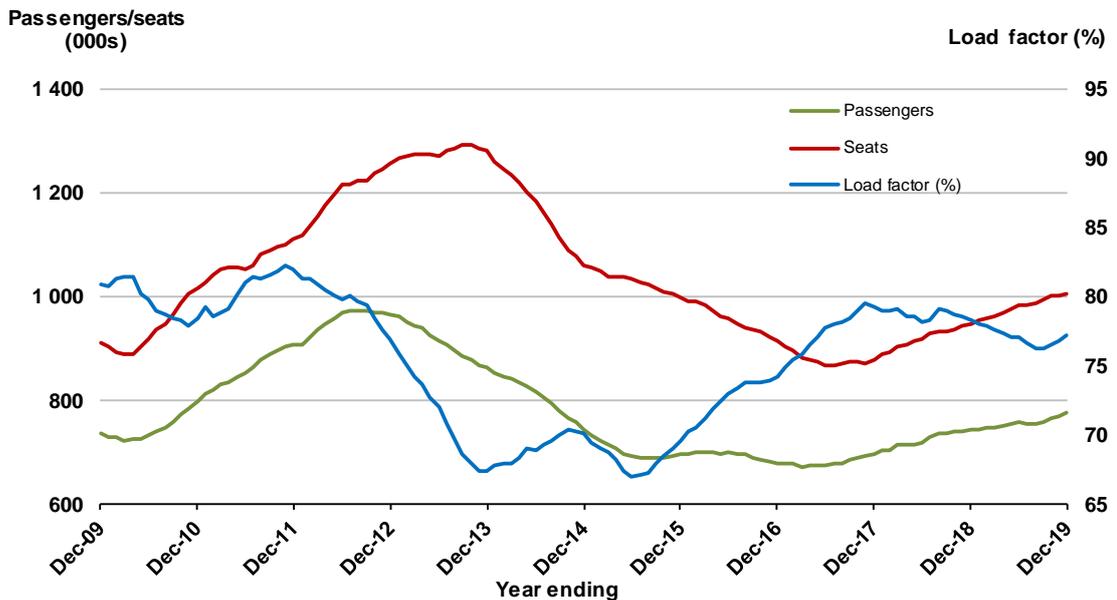
TOP FIFTY REGIONAL AIRPORTS

Table 7: 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 8: Charter passengers carried and aircraft trips - annual activity

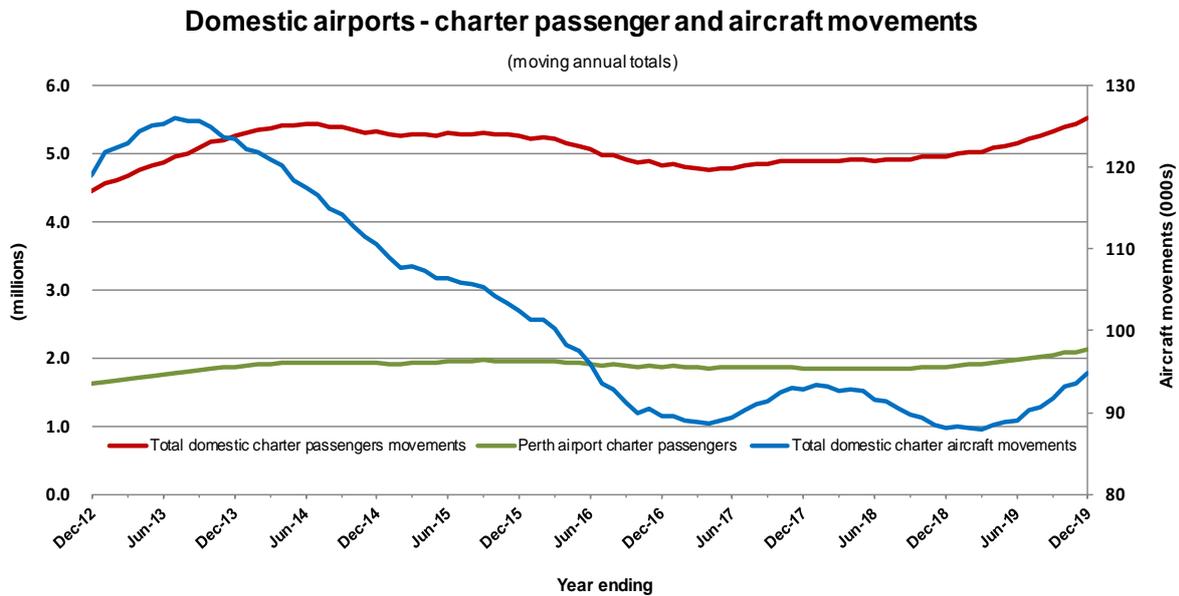|	YE Dec 2018	YE Dec 2019	% Change
Total domestic charter passengers	2 476 879	2 754 764	11.2
Total domestic charter aircraft trips	44 090	47 435	7.6

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

Table 9: Domestic airports - charter activity - annual activity

	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
(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