



Transport
for NSW

NSW Intrastate Regional Aviation Statistics

Contents

1	About the Data.....	3
2	Notes about the data	4
2.1	Route related events.....	4
2.2	Non-route related events	5
3	Dataset description.....	7

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1 About the Data

The data featured here are patronage statistics for all intrastate air services that fly to and from Sydney. This data is collected quarterly under the Air Transport Regulation 2016.

The patronage data dates back to 1996/97.

2 Notes about the data

This section summarises the events in the industry that may be relevant in the understanding and interpretation of this dataset:

2.1 Route related events

May 2000	Horizon Airlines withdraws from the Deniliquin-Sydney route.
January 2001	Yanda Airlines withdraws from Coonabarabran-Sydney, Gunnedah-Sydney, Maitland-Sydney, Scone-Sydney and Singleton-Sydney.
May 2001	Country Connection Airlines withdraws from Cootamundra-Sydney, Cowra-Sydney, Forbes-Sydney, Young-Sydney and West Wyalong-Sydney.
June 2001	QantasLink withdraws from the Kempsey-Sydney route.
July 2003	Horizon Airlines entered Grafton-Sydney and Kempsey-Sydney.
October 2003	MacAir Airlines takes over from Horizon Airlines on Grafton-Sydney, Kempsey-Sydney, Taree-Sydney, Williamtown-Sydney and Cooma-Sydney.
February 2004	Big Sky Express entered Inverell-Sydney, Gunnedah-Sydney and Coonabarabran-Sydney.
March 2004	MacAir Airlines withdraws from the Kempsey-Sydney route.
July 2004	MacAir Airlines withdraws from Grafton-Sydney and Taree-Sydney and is replaced by Big Sky Express on both routes.
September 2004	Regional Express (REX) entered the Armidale-Sydney route.
February 2005	Big Sky Express withdraws from the Coonabarabran-Sydney route.
April 2005	Aeropelican relocated all services from Newcastle-Belmont to Newcastle-Williamtown Airport.
May 2005	REX entered the West Wyalong-Sydney route.
June 2005	REX entered the Cooma-Sydney route.
July 2005	QantasLink withdraws from the Ballina-Sydney route. Jetstar enters the Ballina-Sydney route.
July 2006	REX withdraws from the Armidale-Sydney route
November 2006	Big Sky Express withdraws from Grafton-Sydney, Taree-Sydney, Inverell-Sydney and Gunnedah-Sydney.
February 2007	REX entered Grafton-Sydney and Taree-Sydney. Aeropelican Air Services entered the Inverell-Sydney route.
November 2007	REX withdraws from the Cooma-Sydney route.
February 2008	Virgin Blue entered Port Macquarie-Sydney and Albury-Sydney.
March 2008	QantasLink withdraws from the Newcastle-Sydney route.

December 2008	Air Link withdraws from Bourke-Sydney, Cobar-Sydney, Coonamble-Sydney, Mudgee-Sydney, Lightning Ridge-Sydney and Walgett-Sydney.
March 2009	Aeropelican Air Services withdraws from the Inverell-Sydney route. QantasLink withdraws from the Narrabri-Sydney route, and is replaced by Aeropelican Air Services.
October 2009	Aeropelican Air Services entered the Mudgee-Sydney route.
June 2010	Aeropelican Air Services entered the Cooma-Sydney route.
September 2010	Brindabella Airlines entered the Cobar-Sydney route.
October 2011	REX entered the Newcastle-Sydney route. Aeropelican moved to a winter only (June-October) Cooma-Sydney operation.
November 2011	Virgin Australia entered the Port Macquarie-Sydney route.
December 2012	Brindabella entered the Orange-Sydney route.
February 2013	Tiger Airways entered the Coffs Harbour-Sydney route.
March 2013	Brindabella Airlines replaced QantasLink on the Moree-Sydney route.
July 2013	Brindabella Airlines withdraws from the Orange-Sydney route.
December 2013	Brindabella Airlines withdraws from Moree-Sydney, Narrabri-Sydney, Mudgee-Sydney, Cobar-Sydney and Cooma-Sydney. QantasLink entered the Moree-Sydney route.
February 2014	Vincent Aviation entered the Narrabri-Sydney route.
March 2014	REX entered the Armidale-Sydney route.
May 2014	Vincent Aviation withdrew from the Narrabri-Sydney route.
May 2015	Virgin Australia entered the Tamworth-Sydney route.
June 2015	FlyPelican entered the Mudgee-Sydney route, and the Newcastle-Sydney route.
August 2015	Air Link entered the Cobar-Dubbo route.
December 2015	FlyPelican entered the Newcastle-Ballina route.
March 2016	REX entered the Cooma-Sydney route.
July 2016	FlyPelican entered Newcastle-Dubbo route.
October 2016	FlyPelican entered the Newcastle-Coffs Harbour route.

2.2 Non-route related events

August 2002	Regional Express (REX) formed through the merger of Hazelton Airlines and Kendell Airlines.
May 2011	Virgin Blue re-branded as Virgin Australia.
September 2011	Aeropelican Air Services and Brindabella Airlines merged after Aeropelican Air Services' parent company (Business Air Holdings Pty Ltd) acquires Brindabella Airlines.
July 2013	Tiger Airways re-branded as Tigerair.
May 2015	Order gazetted deregulating the Mudgee-Sydney route.

July 2015	Order gazetted deregulating the Cooma-Sydney route.
	Order gazetted deregulating the Narrabri-Sydney route.
August 2015	Order gazetted deregulating the Cobar-Sydney route.

3 Dataset description

Data set name

NSW Intrastate Regional Aviation Statistics

Scope

Sydney-linked intrastate air services in New South Wales

Frequency

Quarterly

Reference period

September 1996 – most recent

Data producer

Transport for NSW

Unit(s) of measurement

Passengers

Key Variables/Indicators

- Route to and from Sydney
- Quarter mm/yy