



**Ministry for Cities, Environment,
Regions & Transport**

Transport Network Performance Report

July 2026

Introduction

The five major networks for moving people and things are Road, Rail, Aviation, Port and Public Transport.

In the last year, [2024/25](#), each week New Zealanders, on average, completed around 22 trips and spent about 5 hours and 40 minutes travelling. Car trips accounted for 81% of all trips, while walking trips accounted for 14%. Around 30% of people used public transport in the preceding year. More than three million passengers fly within, into, or out of New Zealand every month. Our ports handle around two million containers, or more than three million TEU ^[1], each year and move millions of tonnes of freight around the country by road, rail, and ship each month.

This report outlines the measures of how our networks are performing. Across five networks, the measures indicate:

1. Demand: How many people are being moved? How much freight is being moved?
2. Supply: How many services are there?
3. Reliability: How much can users trust or their freight will get to a destination in the expected time?
4. Safety: How much risk is faced while travelling or transporting goods?
5. User experience: What people think about network use overall?

Performance is a multi-dimensional and nuanced concept. This report highlights some measures but does not attempt to assess performance or its underlying drivers. The Ministry of Transport became part of the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport on 1 July 2026. The Ministry recommends that readers identify and use further contextual information to make judgments. Definitions are provided at the end of this report.

This report will be published quarterly.

The Ministry thanks the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA), KiwiRail, Maritime NZ, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), airlines, airports, and ports for sharing the data that made this report possible. The data is available [here](#).

The Ministry will continue to evolve this report. We welcome feedback which should be directed to the Ministry's Insights and Analytics (Transport) team (MoTAnalytics@transport.govt.nz).

[1] Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (TEU)

Of note, this number assumes that Ports of Auckland (POAL) throughput remains approximately the same as before 2025 Quarter 3. This estimate is necessary because the Freight Information Gathering System (FIGS) no longer reports POAL TEU data in the [Port Container Handling dashboard](#) or the [Containers extended dashboard](#). ↗

The road network

Moving people and freight by car and truck

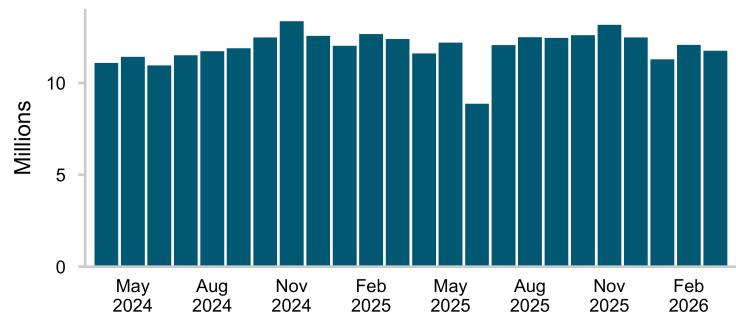
Demand

Light state highway traffic

In Q1 2026 the average daily number of light vehicles on state highways was approximately 11.7 million, a decrease of 5.3% compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

The June 2025 figures appear to be only partially complete; some count sites may have gone offline.

Daily average number



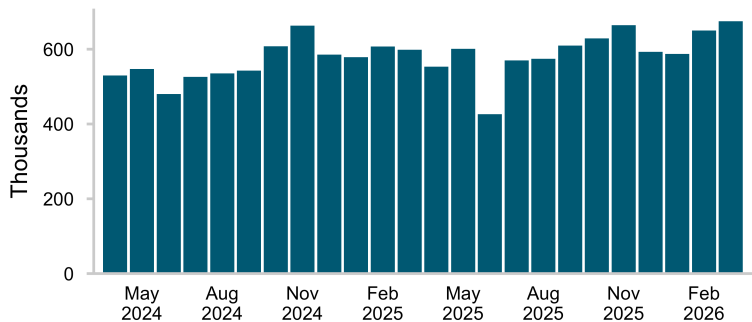
Demand

Heavy state highway traffic

In Q1 2026 the average daily number of heavy vehicles on state highways was approximately 637,300, an increase of 7.2% compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

The June 2025 figures appear to be only partially complete; some count sites may have gone offline.

Daily average number



Supply

Supply

We do not currently have any appropriate and frequent measures of road supply.

Reliability

Reliability

We do not currently have any appropriate and frequent measures of road reliability.

The road network

Moving people and freight by car and truck

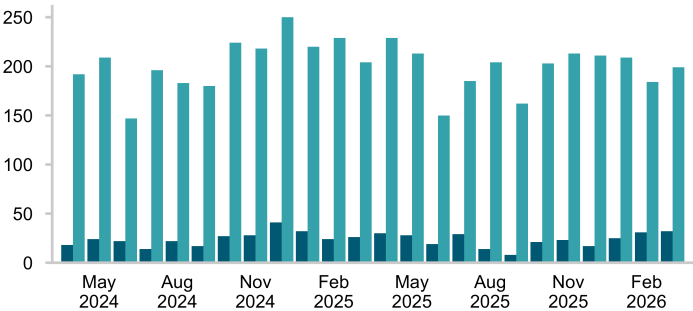
Deaths Serious injuries

Safety

Deaths and serious injuries

Deaths and serious injuries decreased by 55 (7.5%) in Q1 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Number of deaths and serious injuries

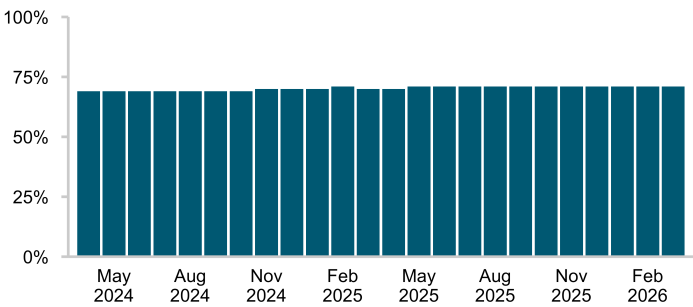


User experience

User experience

Around 71% of respondents were very satisfied with their journey experience in private vehicles, similar to 2025.

Percentage of survey respondents rating their private vehicle journey as excellent



The public transport network

Moving people by bus, train, and ferry

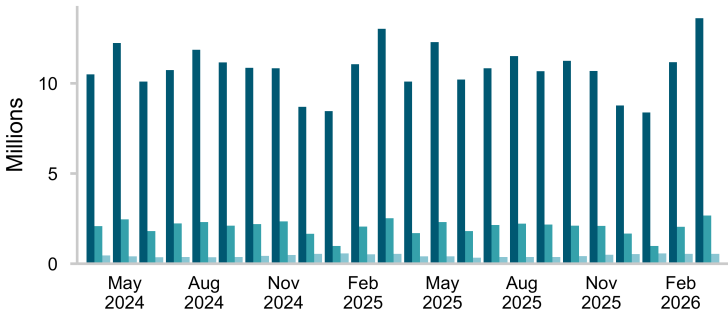
Bus Train Ferry

Demand

Boardings

In Q1 2026 monthly boardings grew across all modes: bus (1.9%, 11.1 million), train (2.4%, 1.9 million), ferry (0.7%, 0.6 million) compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Number of passenger boardings on public transport

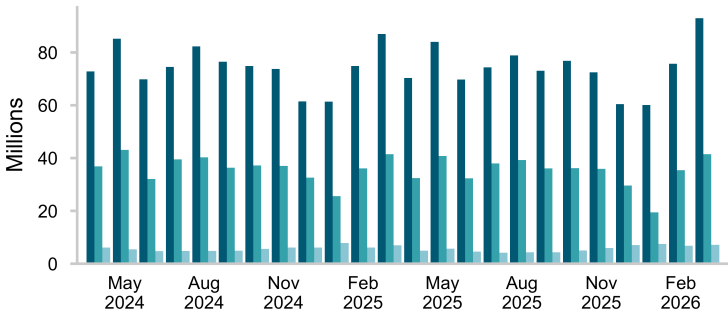


Demand

Passenger kilometres

Passenger kilometres saw mixed results, with buses up (2.5%, 76.3 million), trains down (6.6%, 32.1 million), and ferries up (2.1%, 7.1 million) in Q1 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Number of kilometres travelled by passengers, millions

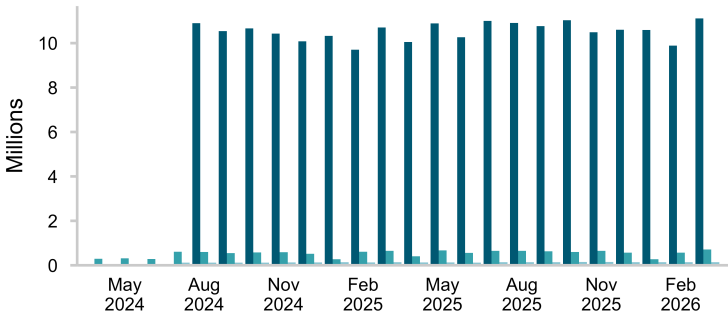


Supply

Vehicle kilometres

Vehicle service kilometres are consistent month-on-month, with buses averaging 10.5 million km per month, trains averaging 0.5 million km per month, and ferries averaging 0.1 million km per month. Trains and ferries have larger capacity than buses and so travel a disproportionately small distance.

Kilometres travelled by vehicles during scheduled services

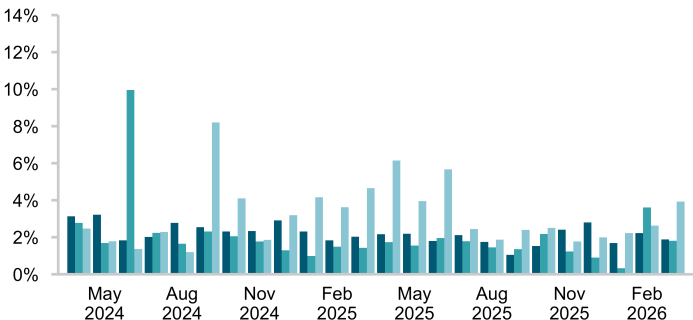


Reliability

Cancellations

Cancellation rates saw mixed results, with buses decreased (1.9%), trains increased (1.9%), and ferries decreased (2.9%) in Q1 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Percentage of scheduled trips cancelled



The public transport network

Moving people by bus, train, and ferry

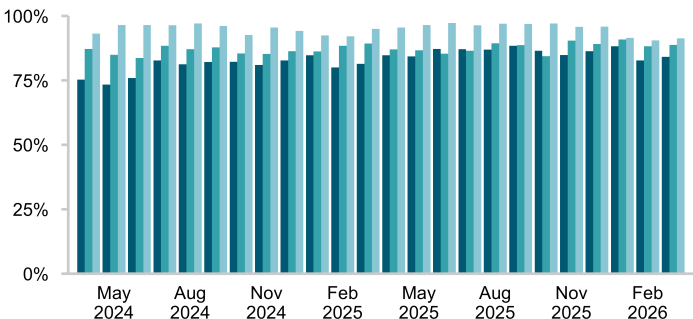
Bus Train Ferry

Reliability

Punctuality

In Q1 2026 punctuality improved for buses (up 3pp) and trains (up 1.3pp) and declined for ferries (down 2.1pp) compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Percentage of scheduled services departing and arriving on time

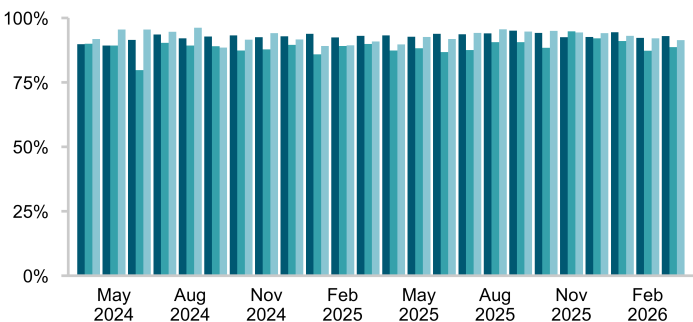


Reliability

On time departures

In Q1 2026 on-time departures improved for trains (up 0.7pp) and ferries (up 2.4pp) and remained stable for buses compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Percentage of scheduled services departing on time



Safety

Serious incidents

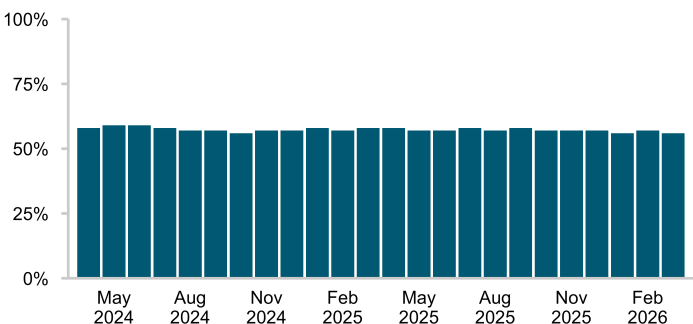
This data has started to be collected regularly and has a range of quality issues and regional inconsistencies. NZTA aim to improve this over time, and it will subsequently be included in this report.

User experience

User experience

The percentage of survey respondents that felt 'very satisfied' with their public transport experience has declined slightly from around 58% to 56% over the last two years.

Percentage of survey respondents who gave 8+ out of 10 for their overall journey experience across public transport modes



The rail freight network

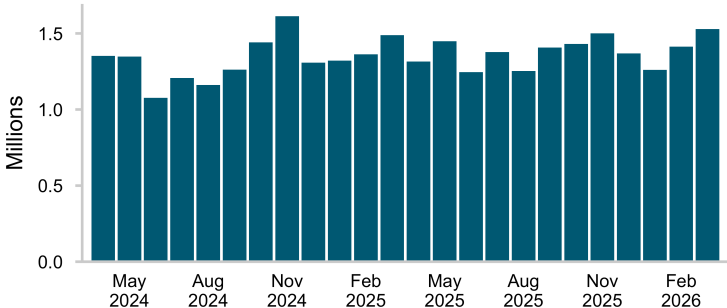
Moving freight by train

Demand

Freight lifted

Rail freight lifted increased by 0.7% comparing the data to same quarter in the previous year, averaging 1.4 million tonnes per month in Q1 2026. There is some seasonal fluctuation.

Tonnes of freight lifted onto trains

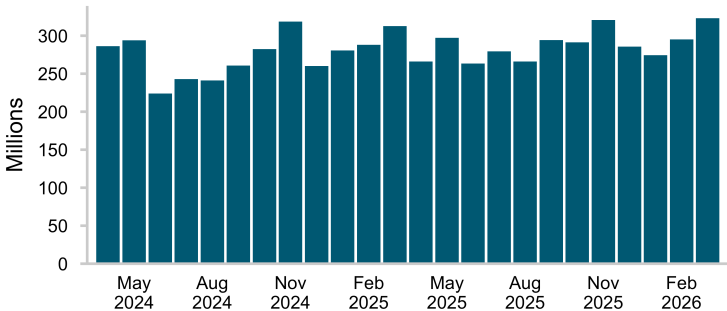


Supply

Freight moved

Rail freight moved grew by 1.2% comparing the data from the latest quarter to same quarter in the previous year, averaging 297 million net tonne kilometres per month in Q1 2026.

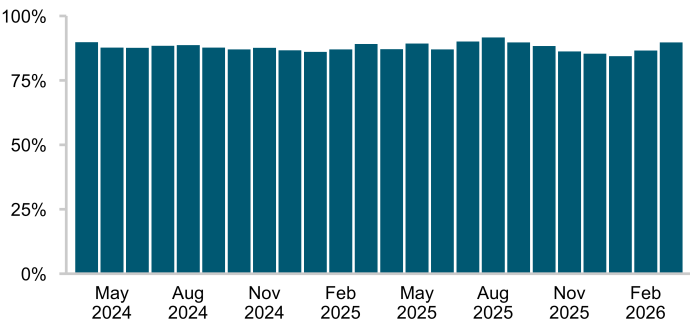
Net-tonne kilometres of freight moved by trains



Reliability

On time departures

Rail services have been departing as scheduled, 86.9% of the time in Q1 2026, down 0.5pp on the same quarter in previous year.

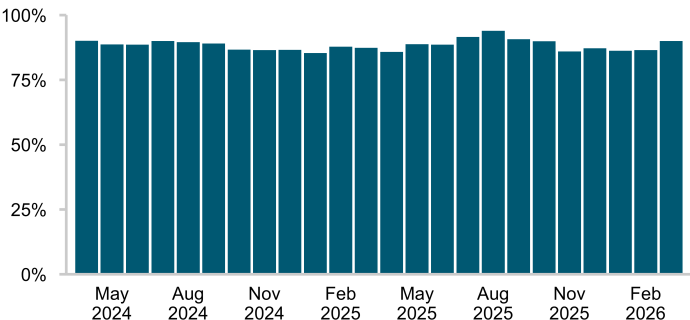


Reliability

On time arrivals

Rail services have been arriving as scheduled, 87.6% of the time in Q1 2026, up 0.7pp on the same quarter in previous year.

Percentage of rail services arriving on time



The rail freight network

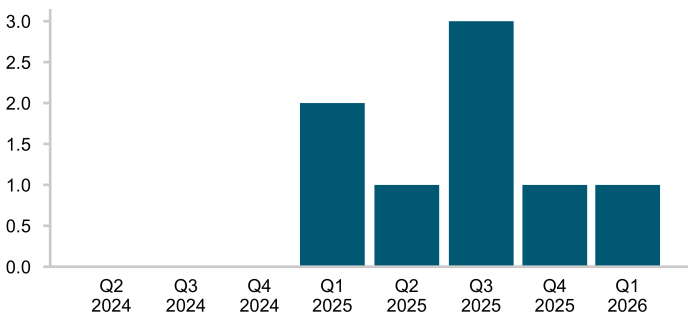
Moving freight by train

Safety

Deaths and serious injuries

There were seven deaths and serious injuries in 2025. In the current year there was one death or serious injury.

Number of deaths and serious injuries



User experience

Customer satisfaction

We do not currently have any appropriate and frequent measures of rail freight customer satisfaction.

The port network

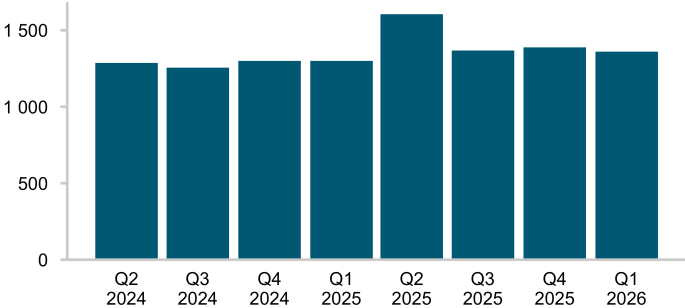
Moving freight from ships to road and rail, and back

Demand

Port visits

Ship visits increased by 4.7% in Q1 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Number non-cruise ships using the ports



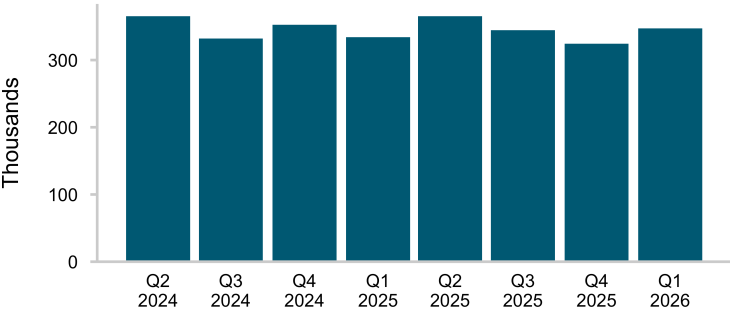
Supply

Containers handled

Containers handled increased by 3.9% in Q1 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

To maintain a fully comparable time series, Ports of Auckland is excluded because the Freight Information Gathering System has not reported data for the port since Q3 2025.

Number of containers loaded and unloaded from ships



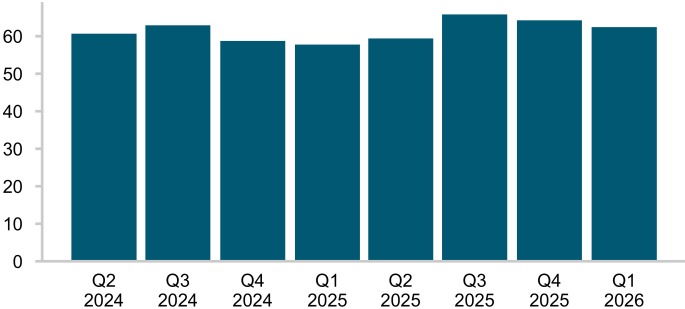
Reliability

Ship rate

Container movement productivity increased by 8% in Q1 2026 compared to same quarter in the last year, averaging 62.4 moves per hour.

To maintain a fully comparable time series, Ports of Auckland is excluded because the Freight Information Gathering System has not reported data for the port since Q3 2025.

Number of containers moved on and off ship per hour



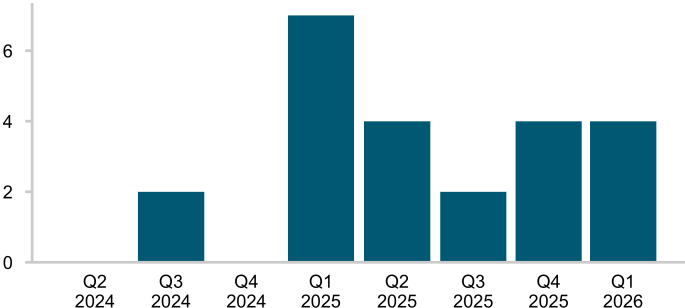
Safety

Deaths and serious injuries

There were 17 deaths and serious injuries in 2025. In the current year there were four deaths and serious injuries.

Reporting processes changed in July 2024 so prior data is not presented.

Number of notified deaths and serious harm injuries in ports and harbours



The port network

Moving freight from ships to road and rail, and back

User experience

Customer satisfaction

We do not currently have any appropriate and frequent measures of port customer satisfaction.

The passenger aviation network

Moving people by air

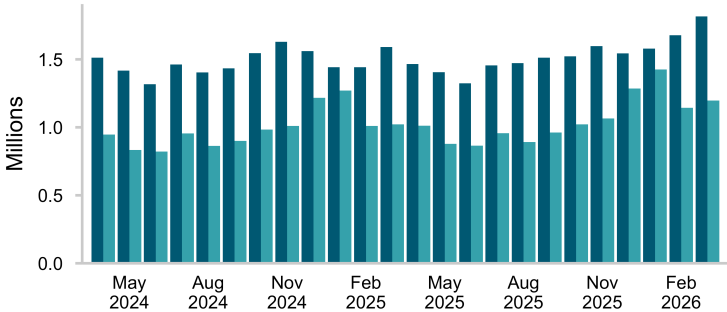
Domestic International

Demand

Boardings

Domestic boardings increased by 198,885 (13.3%) in Q1 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year. International boardings increased by 154,592 (14%) in Q1 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Number of passengers arriving at and departing major airports



Supply

Flights

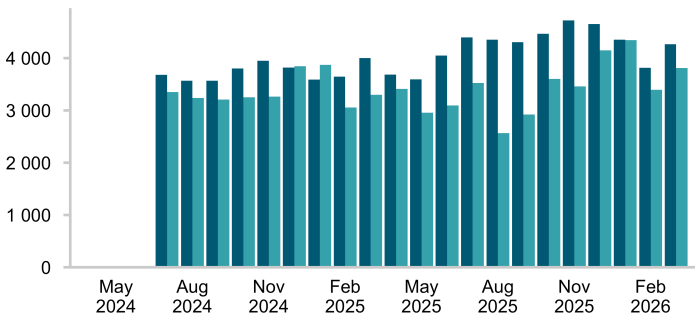
Average monthly flights on competitive routes:

- Domestic 4,146 flights (up 10.7%),
- Trans-Tasman 3,851 flights (up 13%),

in the last quarter, Q1 2026, compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

This data has only been reported to the Ministry from July 2024 for major airlines.

Number of flights flown by major airlines on reported routes



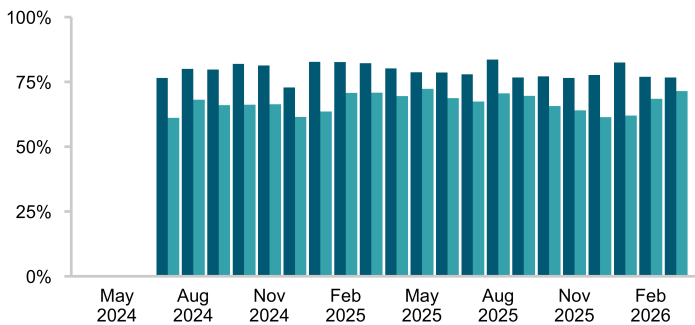
Reliability

On time departures

Domestic flights are more punctual than Trans-Tasman flights: 79% compared to 67% on competitive routes in the last quarter, Q1 2026.

This data has only been reported to the Ministry from July 2024.

Percentage of flights departing on time on reported routes



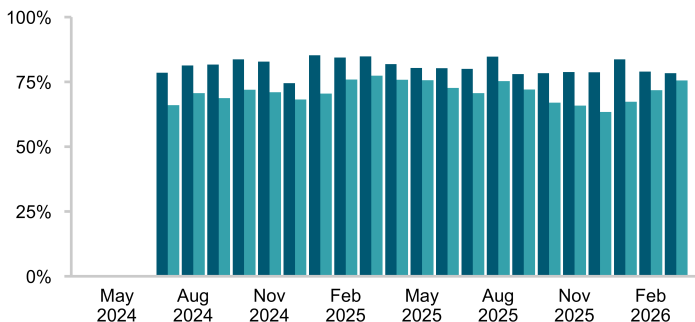
Reliability

On time arrivals

Domestic flights arrive as scheduled more than Trans-Tasman flights: 80% compared to 72% on competitive routes in the last quarter, Q1 2026.

This data has only been reported to the Ministry from July 2024.

Percentage of flights arriving on time on reported routes



The passenger aviation network

Moving people by air

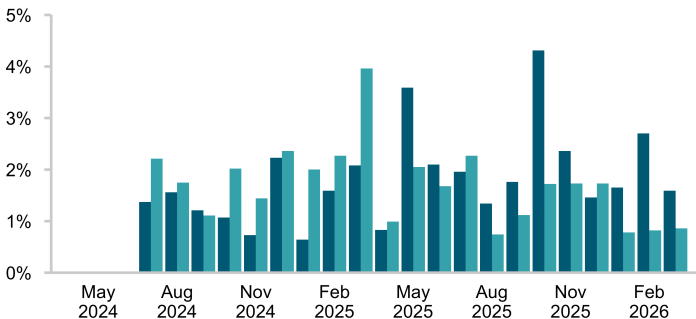
Domestic International

Reliability

Cancellations

Cancellations for domestic and Trans-Tasman flights have hovered between 0.8% and 2.7% each month on competitive routes in latest quarter, Q1 2026.

Percentage of scheduled competitive flights not flown on reported routes

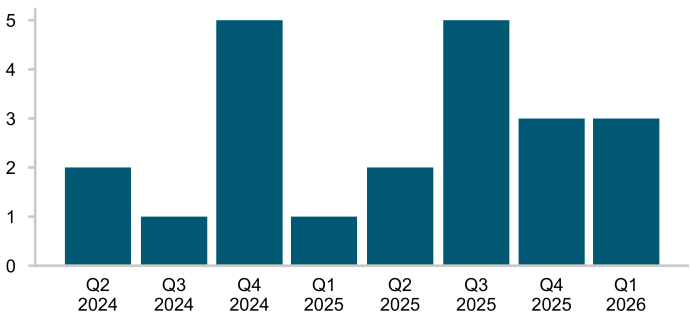


Safety

Deaths and injuries

The number of deaths and injuries reported in New Zealand associated with the operation of commercial passenger flights was higher by two (3 cases) in Q1 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Number of deaths and injuries on commercial flights



User experience

Customer satisfaction

We do not currently have any appropriate and frequent measures of passenger aviation overall journey satisfaction.

Sources and definitions

Network	Measure	Definition	Source
The road network	Light state highway traffic	Average daily number of light vehicles counted at state highway count sites each month	NZTA Open Data
	Heavy state highway traffic	Average daily number of heavy vehicles counted at state highway count sites each month	NZTA Open Data
	Deaths and serious injuries	The number of deaths and serious injuries in road incidents	Crash Analysis System
	User experience	Percentage of survey respondents who gave 8+ out of 10 for their overall journey experience in private vehicles	NZTA Resources
The public transport network	Boardings	Number of passengers boarding public transport	NZTA Resources
	Passenger kilometres	Sum of the distance travelled by passengers on public transport	NZTA Resources
	Vehicle kilometres	Sum of the distance travelled by public transport vehicles	NZTA Resources
	Cancellations	The difference between scheduled and operated trips as a percentage of total scheduled trips	NZTA Resources
	Punctuality	The proportion of operated trips that depart their origin and arrive within five minutes of the scheduled time	NZTA Resources
	On time departures	The proportion of scheduled trips that depart their origin within five minutes of the scheduled time	NZTA Resources
	User experience	Percentage of survey respondents who gave 8+ out of 10 for their overall journey experience in public transport	Directly from NZTA
The rail freight network	Freight lifted	The customer product weight (excluding container tare) for KiwiRail containers and customer product weight (including container tare) for 3rd party containers	FIGS
	Freight moved	The weight of freight lifted times the rail distance travelled	FIGS
	On time departures	The proportion of rail services that departed within 30 minutes of the scheduled time	Supplied by KiwiRail
	On time arrivals	The proportion of rail services that arrived within 30 minutes of the scheduled time	Supplied by KiwiRail
	Deaths and injuries	The number of deaths and serious injuries associated with the operation of rail freight	Supplied by KiwiRail

Sources and definitions

Network	Measure	Definition	Source
The port network	Port visits	The number of ships that visit ports, excluding cruise ships	FIGS
	Containers handled	The number of containers loaded and unloaded from fully cellular container ships at the largest six ports	FIGS
	Ship rate	The number of containers moved on and off a container ship per hour	FIGS
	Deaths and serious injuries	The number of deaths and notified serious harm injuries in the Ports and Harbour reporting sector	Directly from Maritime NZ
The passenger aviation network	Boardings	The number of passengers arriving and departing at Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington, and Queenstown airports	Auckland Christchurch Wellington Queenstown
	Flights	The number of flights flown by major airlines on reported routes	The Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport
	On time departures	The proportion of operated flights that departed within 15 minutes of the scheduled time on reported routes	The Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport
	On time arrivals	The proportion of operated flights that arrived within 15 minutes of the scheduled time on reported routes	The Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport
	Cancellations	The proportion of scheduled flights that were cancelled within 7 days of scheduled departure on reported routes	The Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport
	Deaths and injuries	The number of deaths and injuries related to the operation of aeroplanes operating commercial passenger transport in New Zealand	Civil Aviation Authority

Caveats

The information presented in this report:

- Is collated from a range of sources, which each have their own caveats and data quality notes. Key caveats are noted in this report, but please refer to source for more detail.
- Data presented in this report may differ from figures published in previous reports due to subsequent updates or revisions made by data providers.