

Transport Network Performance Report

April 2026

Introduction

The core function of our transport networks is getting people and things from A to B.

[Each year](#), people in New Zealand spend around 1,600 million hours travelling and travel about 56,000 million km. 81 percent of all our travel time is in cars or vans. 31 percent of people in New Zealand use public transport. Over 3 million people fly around or in and out of New Zealand every month. We import and export around 2 million containers each year and move millions of tonnes of freight around our country by road, rail, and ship each month.

The measures in this Transport Network Performance Report outline how our networks are doing on this core function. 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 you trust that you or your freight will get from A to B in the time you expect?
4. Safety: How much risk do you face while travelling or transporting goods?
5. User experience: What do you think about it overall?

This report will be published quarterly.

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 recommends that readers identify and use further contextual information to make judgements. Suggested reading is provided at the end of this report.

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.

Definitions are provided at the end of this report. In some cases, data is published in greater detail at the source, alongside more detailed definitions. Data presented in this report may differ from figures published in previous reports due to subsequent updates or revisions made by data providers.

The road network

Moving people and freight by car and truck

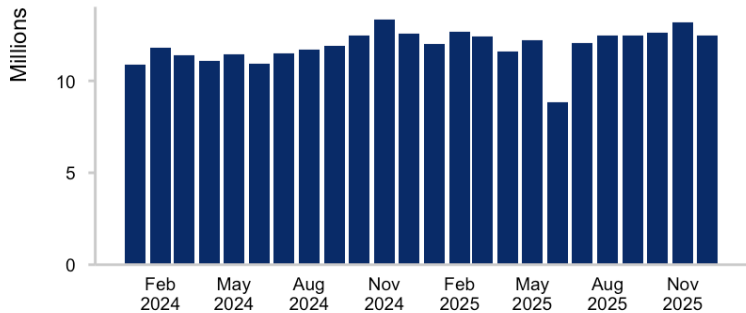
Demand

Light state highway traffic

The average daily number of light vehicles on state highways was approximately 12.1 million over the last year, an increase of 2.8% in 2025 compared to 2024.

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

Daily average number of light vehicles counted



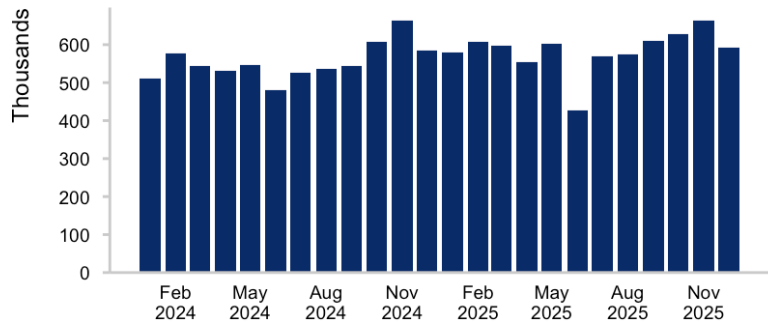
Demand

Heavy state highway traffic

The average daily number of heavy vehicles on state highways was approximately 583,800 over the last year, an increase of 5.3% in 2025 compared to 2024.

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

Daily average number of heavy vehicles counted



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

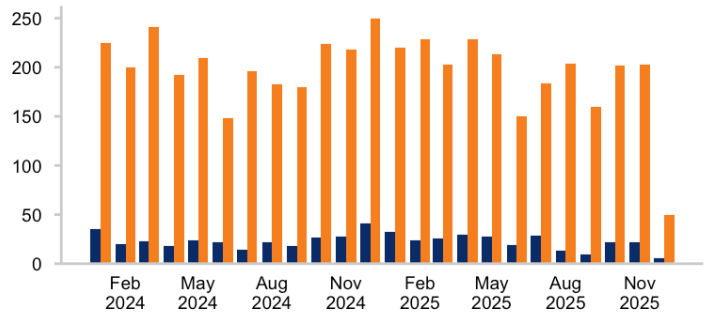
■ Deaths ■ Serious injuries

Safety

Deaths and serious injuries

Deaths and serious injuries decreased by 251 (9.1%) in 2025 compared to 2024.

Number of deaths and serious injuries

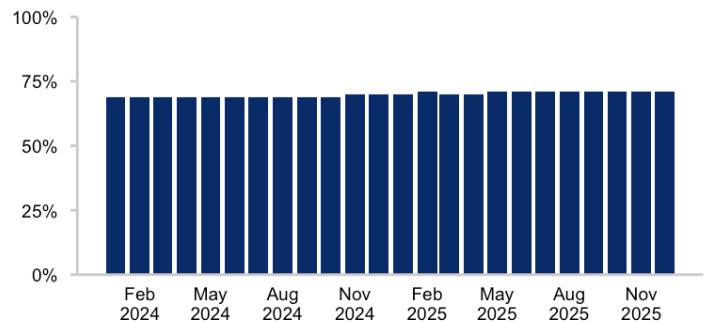


User experience

User experience

Around 71% of respondents were very satisfied with their journey experience in private vehicles, similar to 2024.

Percentage of survey respondents rating their private vehicle journey as excellent



The public transport network

Moving people by bus, train, and ferry

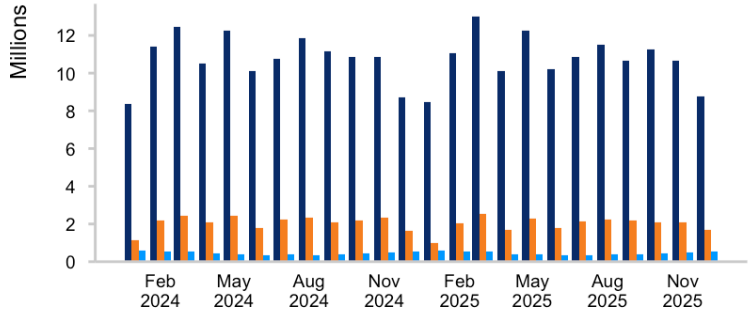
■ Bus ■ Train ■ Ferry

Demand

Boardings

Monthly boardings declined across all modes: bus (0.3%, 10.7 million), train (4.6%, 2 million), ferry (1.6%, 0.4 million).

Number of passenger boardings on public transport

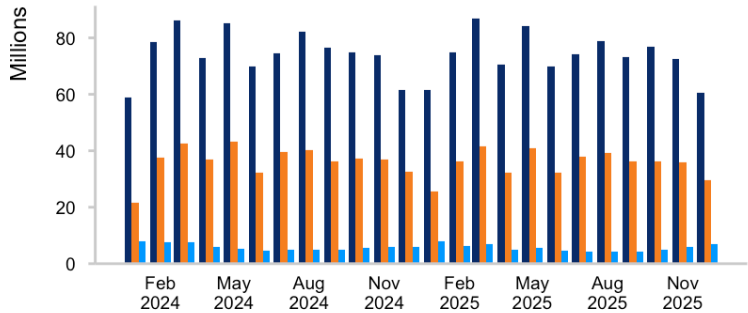


Demand

Passenger kilometres

Passenger kilometres saw slight declines across all modes: buses (1.3%, 73.6 million), trains (3.1%, 35.3 million), ferries (6.7%, 5.6 million).

Number of kilometres travelled by passengers, millions

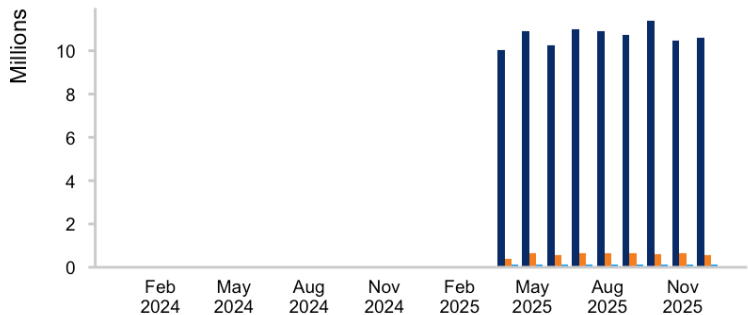


Supply

Vehicle kilometres

Vehicle service kilometres are consistent month on month, with buses averaging 10.7 million km per month, trains averaging 0.6 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

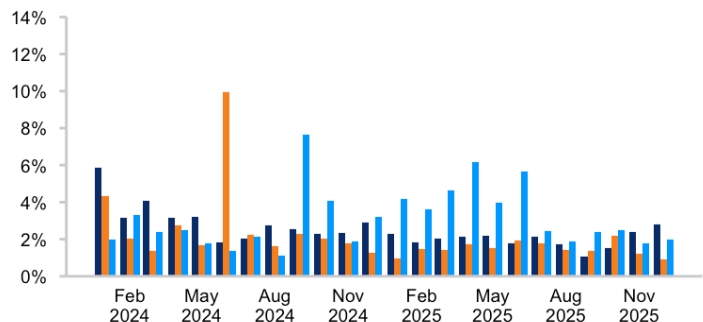


Reliability

Cancellations

Cancellation rates saw mixed results, with buses decreased (2.0%), trains decreased (1.5%), and ferries increased (3.4%) in 2025 compared to 2024.

Percentage of scheduled trips cancelled



The public transport network

Moving people by bus, train, and ferry

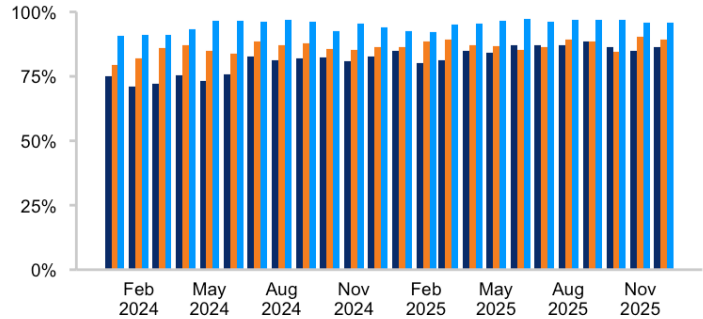
■ Bus ■ Train ■ Ferry

Reliability

Punctuality

Punctuality improved across all modes year-on-year, reporting for buses (up 7.3pp to average 85.2%), trains (up 2.3pp to average 87.6%) and ferries (up 1.4pp to average 95.6%).

Percentage of scheduled services departing and arriving on time

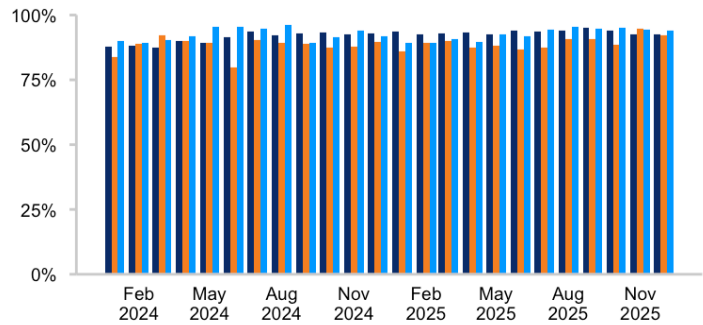


Reliability

On time departures

On-time departures improved for buses (up 2.5pp to average 93.4%) and trains (up 1.2pp to average 89.3%) and remained stable for ferries.

Percentage of scheduled services departing on time



Safety

Serious incidents

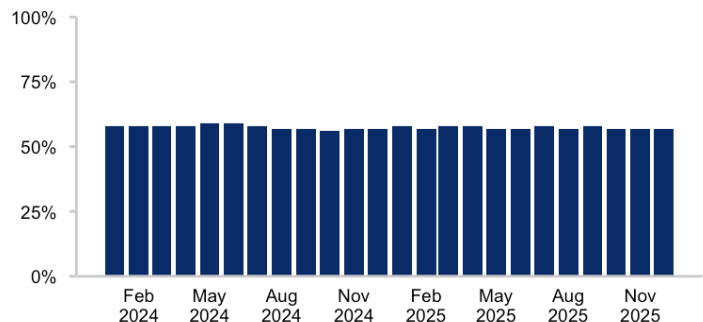
This data has only recently started to be collected regularly and has a range of quality issues and regional inconsistencies. NZTA aim to improve this over time, and it will subsequently be included in this report.

User experience

User experience

The percentage of survey respondents that felt 'very satisfied' with their public transport experience has remained stable from around 58% to 57% 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

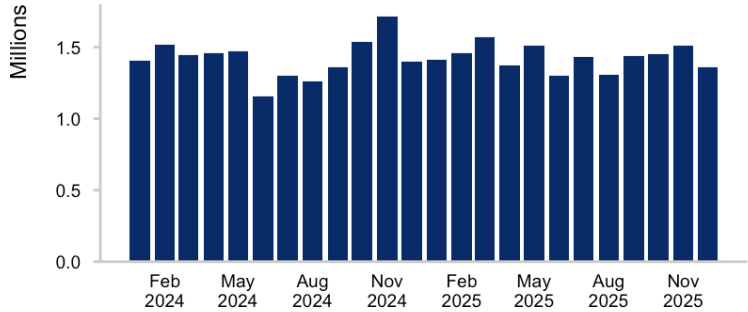
Moving freight by train

Demand

Freight lifted

Rail freight lifted increased by 0.6% year-on-year, averaging 1 million tonnes per month. There is some seasonal fluctuation.

Tonnes of freight lifted onto trains

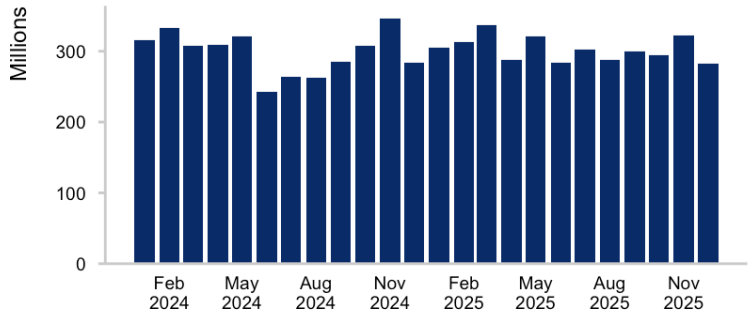


Supply

Freight moved

Rail freight moved grew by 1.6% over the year, averaging 303 million net tonne kilometres in the last year.

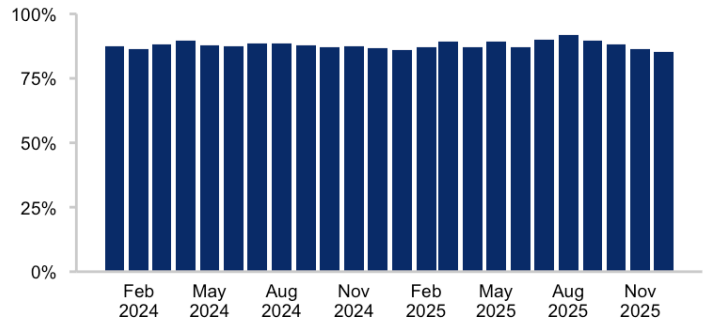
Net-tonne kilometres of freight moved by trains



Reliability

On time departures

Rail services have been departing on time 88.1% of the time over the last year, up 0.3pp on the previous year.

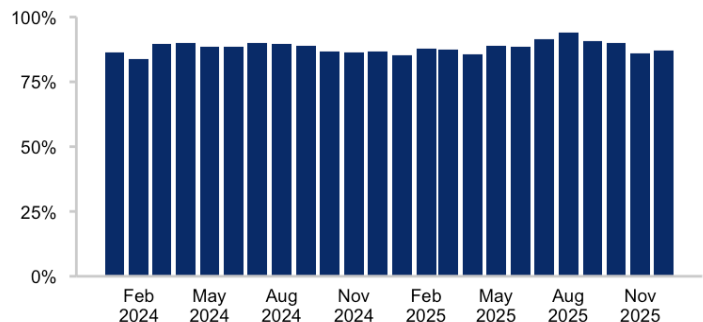


Reliability

On time arrivals

Rail services have been arriving on time 88.6% of the time over the last year, up 0.6pp on the previous year.

Percentage of rail services arriving on time



The rail freight network

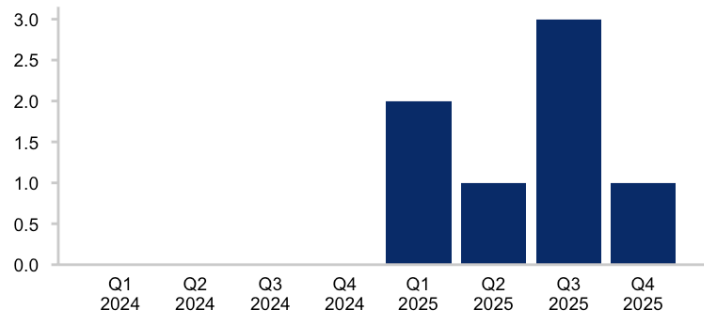
Moving freight by train

Safety

Deaths and serious injuries

There were seven deaths and serious injuries in the last year.

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

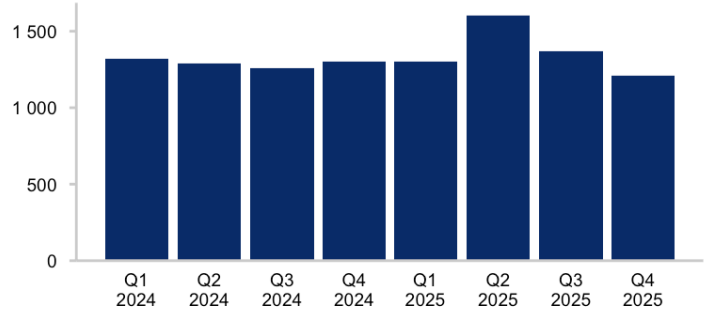
Moving freight from ships to road and rail, and back

Demand

Port visits

Ship visits increased by 6.1% in 2025 compared to 2024.

Number of non-cruise ships using the ports

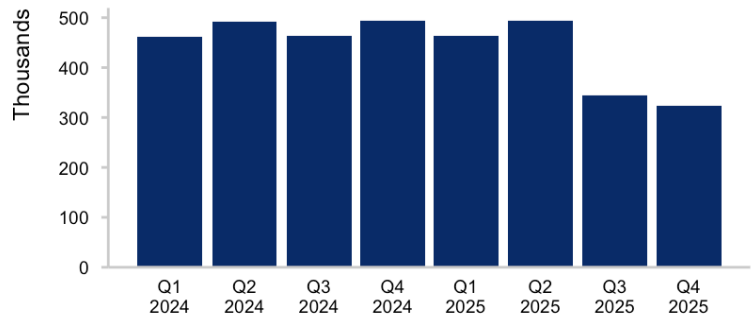


Supply

Containers handled

Container volumes decreased by 15.1% year-on-year, averaging 0.4 million containers per quarter.

Number of containers loaded and unloaded from ships

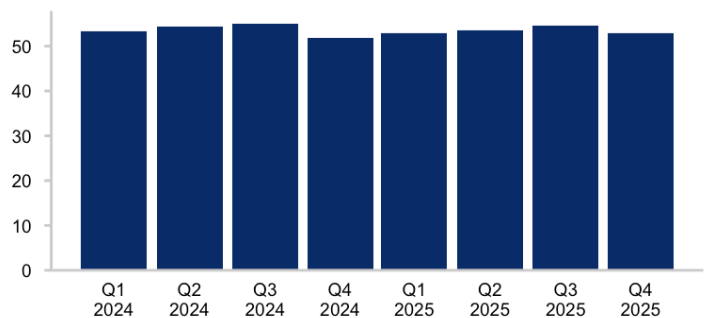


Reliability

Ship rate

Container movement productivity decreased by 0.5% compared to the previous year, averaging 53.4 moves per hour.

Number of containers moved on and off ship per hour



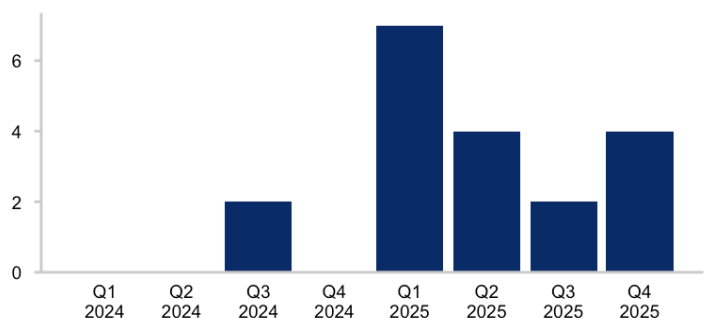
Safety

Deaths and serious injuries

There were 17 deaths and serious injuries in the last year.

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

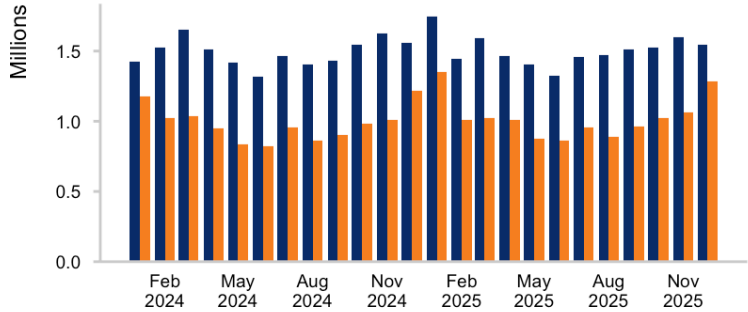
■ Domestic ■ International

Demand

Boardings

Domestic boardings increased by 16,385 (1.1%) in 2025 compared to 2024. International boardings increased by 46,309 (4.7%) in 2025 compared to 2024.

Number of passengers arriving at and departing major airports



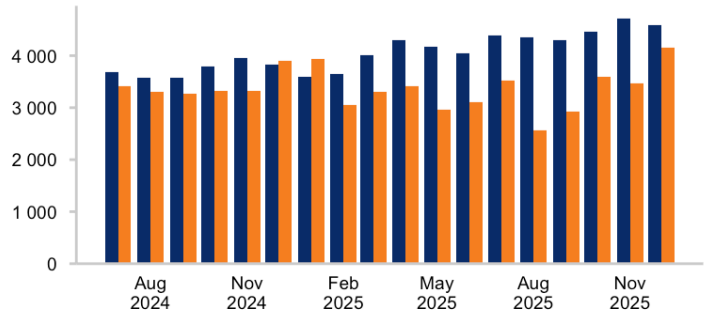
Supply

Flights

Major airlines operated on average 4,215 domestic and 3,311 Trans-Tasman flights on competitive routes each month.

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

Number of flights flown by major airlines on reported routes



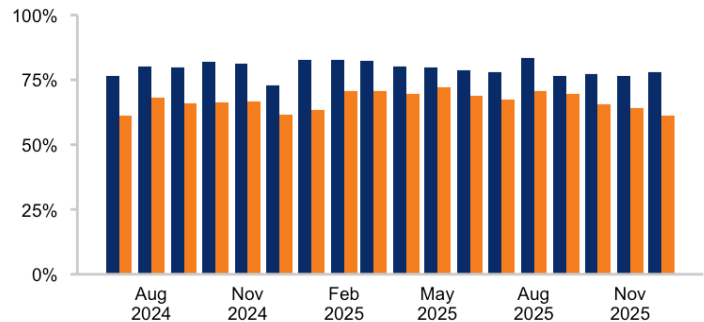
Reliability

On time departures

Domestic flights are more punctual than Trans-Tasman flights: 80% compared to 68% on competitive routes.

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

Percentage of flights departing on time on reported routes



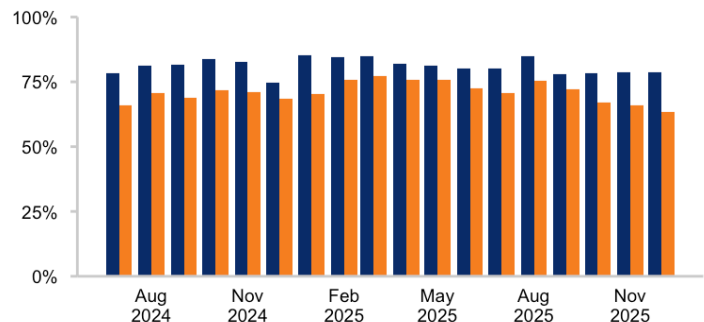
Reliability

On time arrivals

Domestic flights arrive on time more than Trans-Tasman flights: 81% compared to 72% on competitive routes.

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

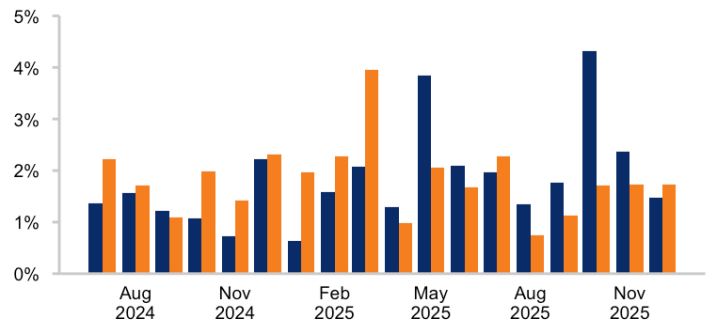
■ Domestic ■ International

Reliability

Cancellations

Cancellations for domestic and Trans-Tasman flights have hovered between 0.6% and 4.3% each month on competitive routes.

Percentage of scheduled competitive flights not flown on reported routes

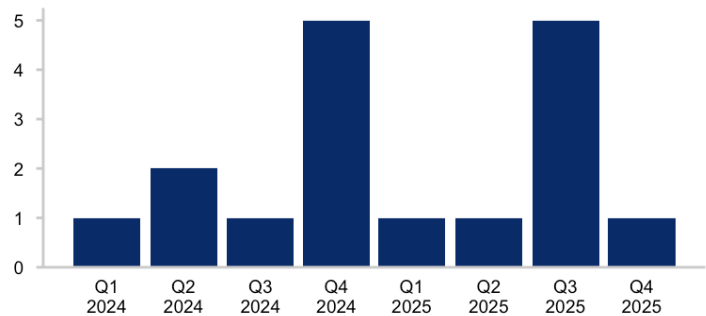


Safety

Deaths and injuries

The number of deaths and injuries reported in New Zealand associated with the operation of commercial passenger flights was lower by one (8 cases) in 2025 compared to 2024.

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	Ministry of Transport
	On time departures	The proportion of operated flights that departed within 15 minutes of the scheduled time on reported routes	Ministry of Transport
	On time arrivals	The proportion of operated flights that arrived within 15 minutes of the scheduled time on reported routes	Ministry of Transport
	Cancellations	The proportion of scheduled flights that were cancelled within 7 days of scheduled departure on reported routes	Ministry of 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.
- Is accurate to the best of our knowledge.