

Transport Network Performance Report

January 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, the data is published in more granularity at source alongside more detailed definitions.

The road network

Moving people and freight by car and truck

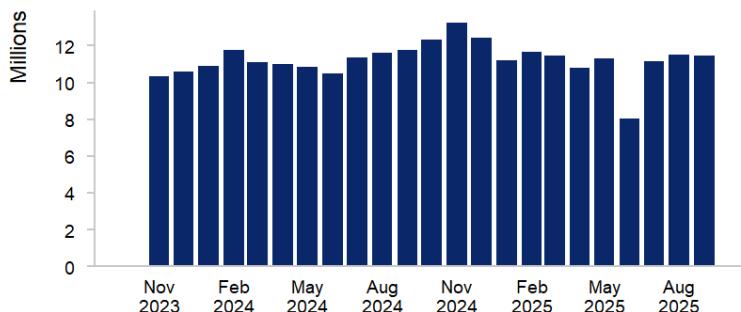
Light state highway traffic

The average daily number of light vehicles on state highways was approximately 11.4 million over the last year, around 300,000 higher than the previous year.

January to October 2023 has been omitted due to data gaps impacting validity.

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

Daily average number of light vehicles counted



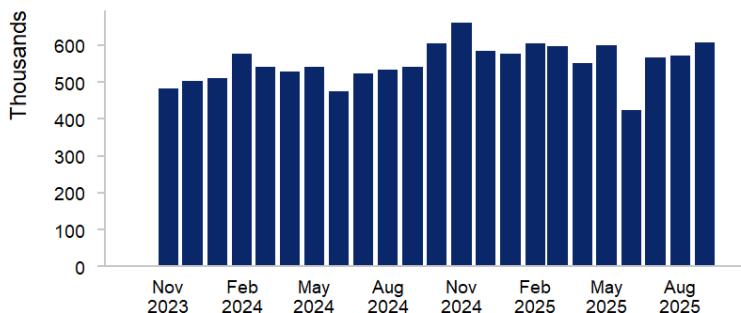
Heavy state highway traffic

The average daily number of heavy vehicles on state highways was around 579,000 over the last year, around 55,000 higher than the previous year.

January to October 2023 has been omitted due to data gaps impacting validity.

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

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

Supply

Reliability

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

Reliability

The road network

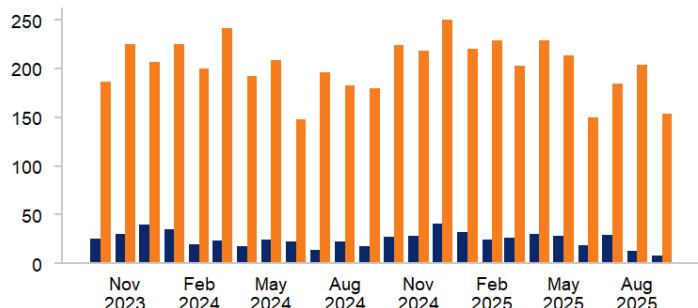
Moving people and freight by car and truck

Deaths Serious injuries

Deaths and serious injuries

Total DSIs in the year to September 2025 were 100 higher than the previous year, with 305 deaths and 2,478 serious injuries.

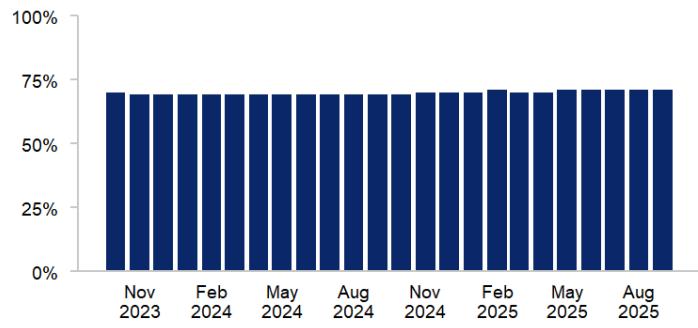
Number of deaths and serious injuries



User experience

Around 70% of respondents were very satisfied with their journey experience in private vehicles.

Percentage of survey respondents rating their private vehicle journey as excellent



The public transport network

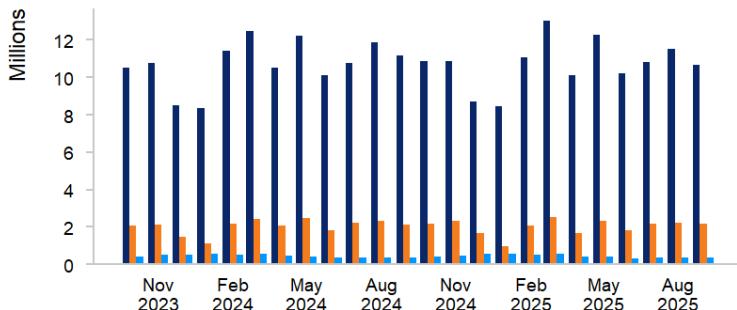
Moving people by bus, train, and ferry

Bus Train Ferry

Boardings

Monthly bus boardings remained steady at 10.7 million, while rail and ferry boardings saw slight declines of 1.3% (2 million) and 0.8% (0.5 million) respectively.

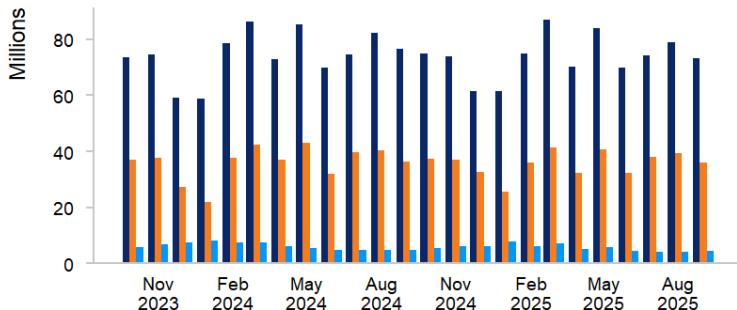
Number of passenger boardings on public transport



Passenger kilometres

Passenger kilometres decreased across all modes, with buses down 0.9%, trains down 0.8%, and ferries down 10.3%.

Number of kilometres travelled by passengers, millions

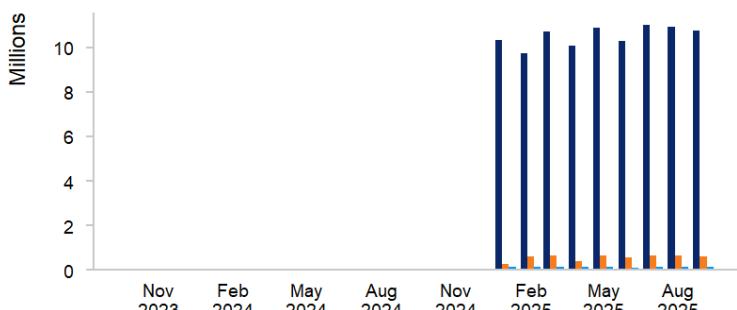


Vehicle kilometres

Vehicle service kilometres are consistent month on month, with buses travelling the furthest of the modes. Trains and ferries have larger capacity than buses and so travel a disproportionately small distance.

Monthly reporting began in January 2025.

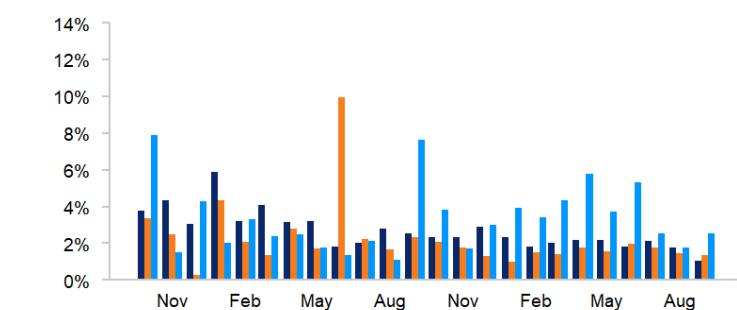
Kilometres travelled by vehicles during scheduled services



Cancellations

Monthly cancellation rates improved for buses (averaging 2.1%) and trains (averaging 1.6%), while ferry cancellations increased slightly, averaging 3.5%.

Percentage of scheduled trips cancelled



The public transport network

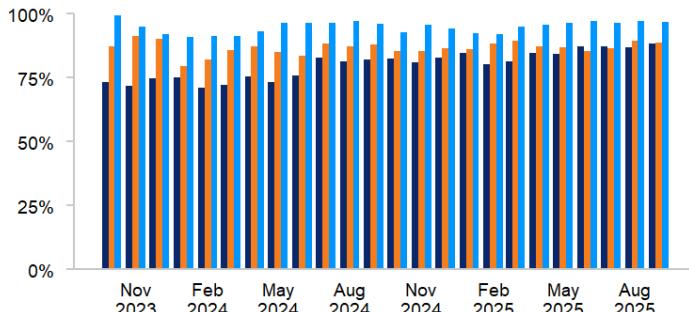
Moving people by bus, train, and ferry

Bus Train Ferry

Punctuality

Punctuality improved across all modes year-on-year, reaching averaging 84% for buses (+8.5pp), 95% for ferries (+0.5pp), and 87% for trains (+0.8pp).

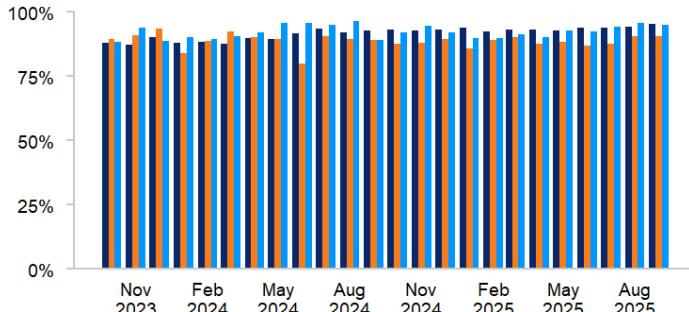
Percentage of scheduled services departing and arriving on time



On time departures

Reliability improved for buses (up 3.6pp to average 93.4%) and ferries (up 0.5pp to average 92.4%), but declined slightly for trains (down 0.5pp to average 88.4%).

Percentage of scheduled services departing on time



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.

Reliability

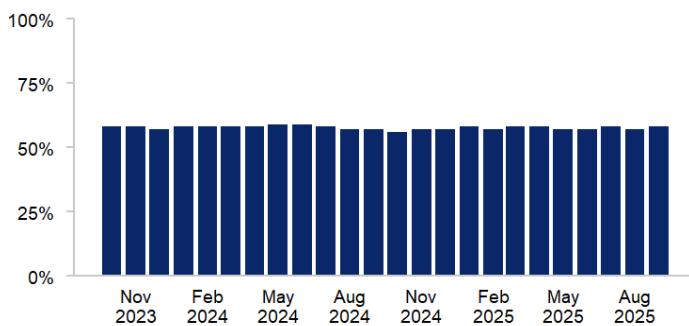
Safety

User experience

User experience

The percentage of survey respondents that felt 'very satisfied' with their public transport experience has declined slightly from around 59% 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



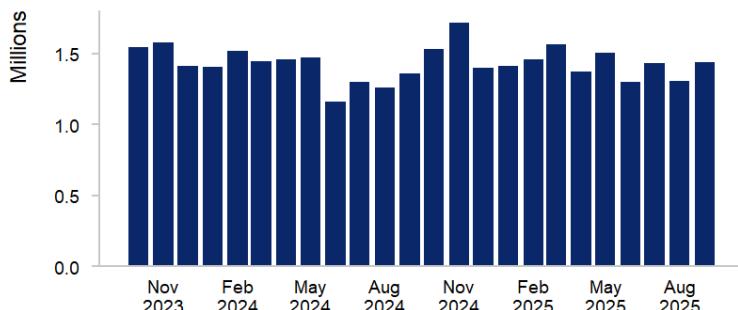
The rail freight network

Moving freight by train

Freight lifted

Rail freight lifted increased by 3.2% year-on-year to averaging 1.5 million tonnes per month. There is some seasonal fluctuation.

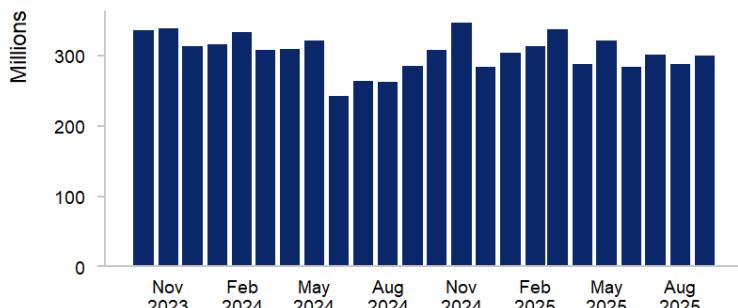
Tonnes of freight lifted onto trains



Freight moved

Rail freight moved grew by 1.3% over the year, averaging 306 million net tonne kilometres in the last year.

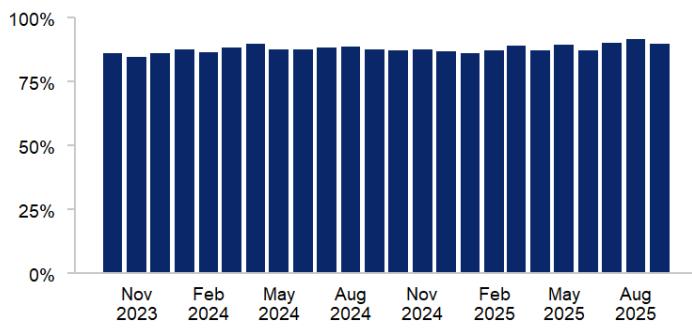
Net-tonne kilometres of freight moved by trains



On time departures

Rail services have been punctual about 88% of the time over the last year, up 0.8pp on the previous year.

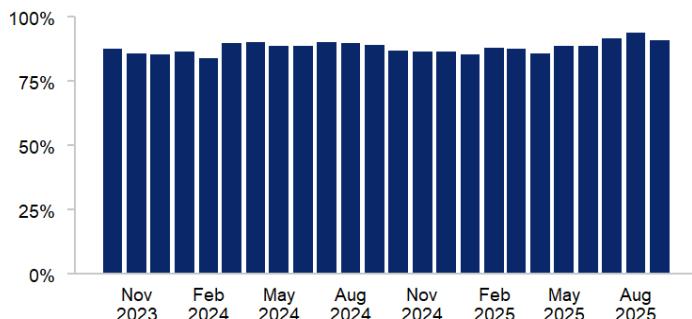
Percentage of rail services departing on time



On time arrivals

Rail services have been arriving on time about 88% of the time over the last year, up 0.4pp on the previous year.

Percentage of rail services arriving on time



The rail freight network

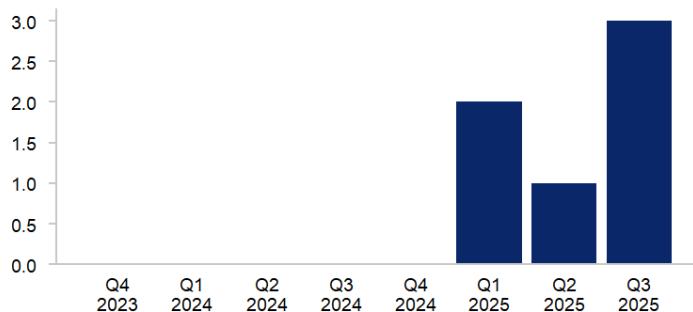
Moving freight by train

Safety

Deaths and serious injuries

There were six deaths and serious injuries (DSIs) during rail freight operations over the last year, and no other DSIs over the previous two-year period.

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.

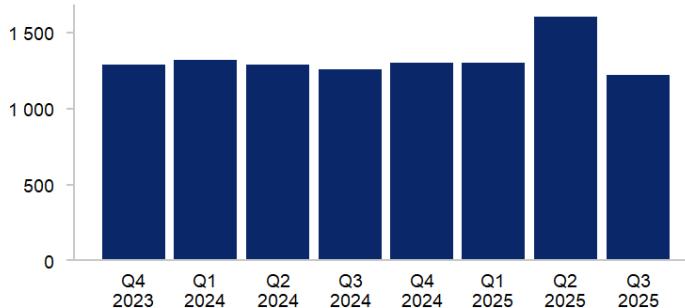
The port network

Moving freight from ships to road and rail, and back

Port visits

Port visits rose by 5.3% year-on-year, totaling 5,427 in the last year.

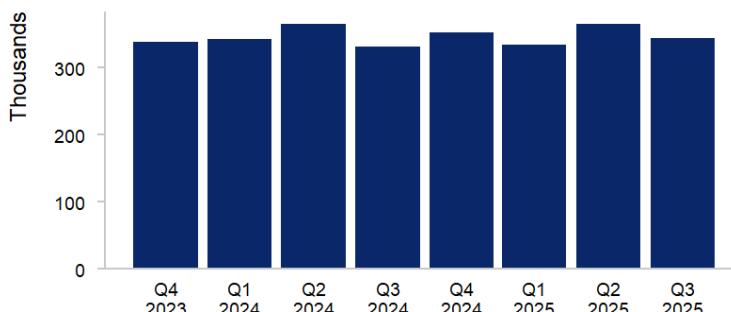
Number of non-cruise ships using the ports



Containers handled

Container volumes increased by 1.3% year-on-year, totaling 1.4 million in the last year.

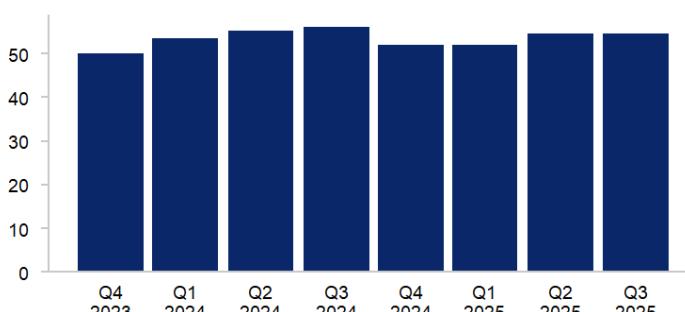
Number of containers loaded and unloaded from ships



Ship rate

Average container movement productivity decreased by 0.8% compared to the previous year, averaging 53.2 moves per hour over the last year.

Number of containers moved on and off ship per hour

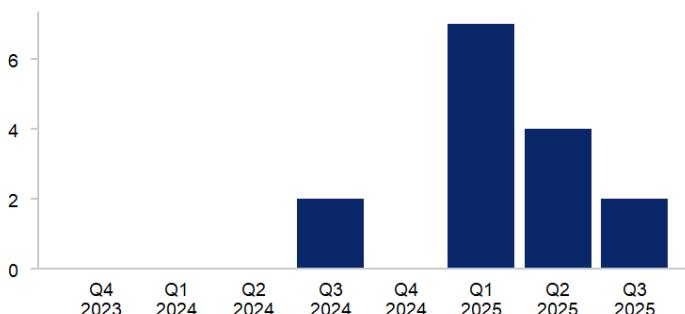


Deaths and serious injuries

There were 13 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

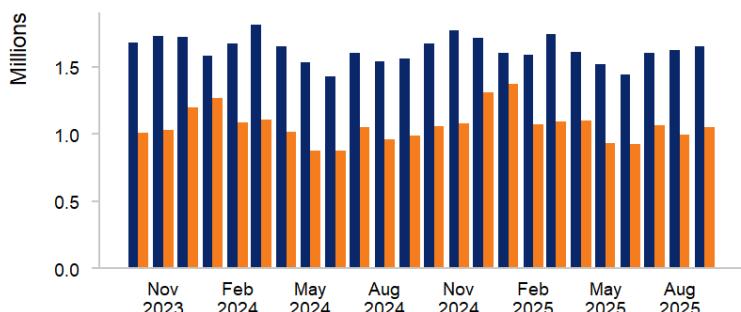
Moving people by air

■ Domestic ■ International

Boardings

Domestic boardings remained stable at 1.7 million (+0.1%), while international boardings rose by 4.8% to 1.1 million.

Number of passengers arriving at and departing major airports

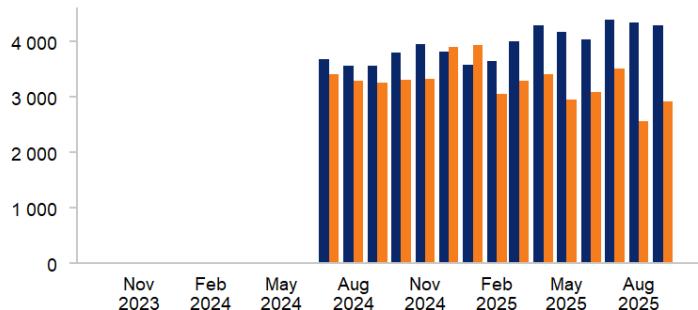


Flights

Major airlines operated on average 4,031 domestic and 3,276 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

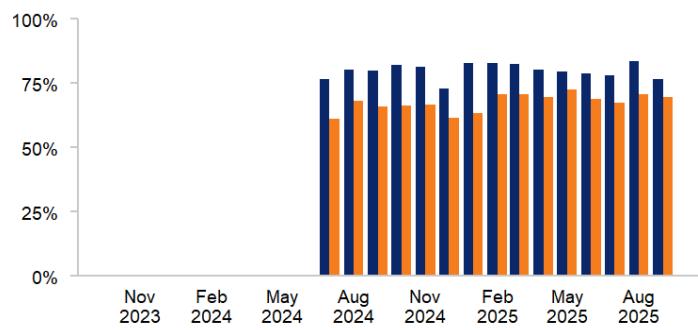


On time departures

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

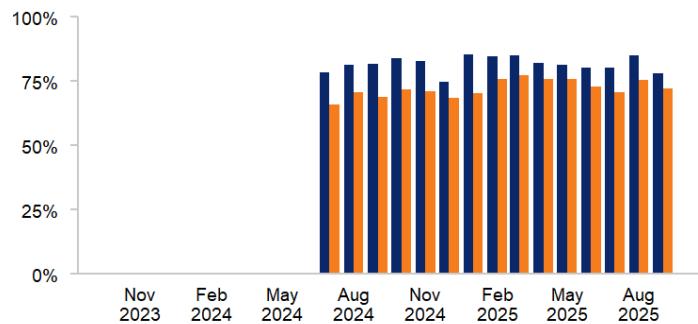


On time arrivals

Domestic flights arrive on time more than trans-Tasman flights: 82% compared to 73% 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

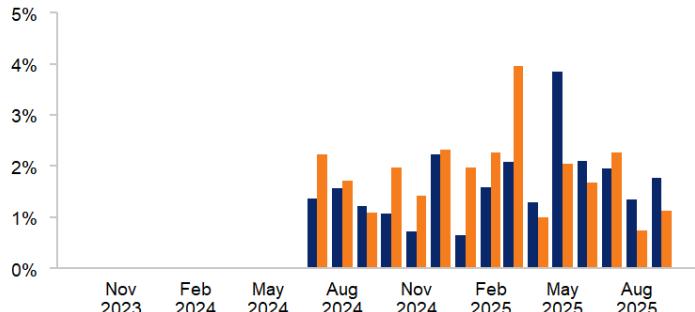
Reliability

Cancellations

Cancellations for domestic and trans-Tasman flights have hovered between 0.7% and 4% each month on competitive routes.

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

Percentage of scheduled competitive flights not flown on reported routes

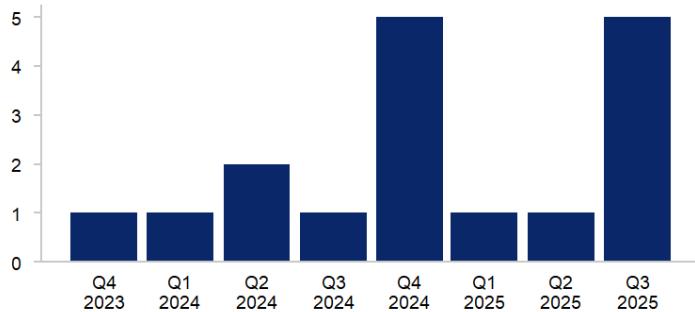


Safety

Deaths and injuries

The number of injuries reported in New Zealand associated with the operation of commercial passenger flights was less than five each quarter. Over the last two years, only one death occurred (in the fourth quarter of 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
	Vechicle 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.