Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport

# Transport Network Performance Report

October 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 confident can users be that their freight will arrive at its destination at 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 (transport.analytics@mcert.govt.nz).

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[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

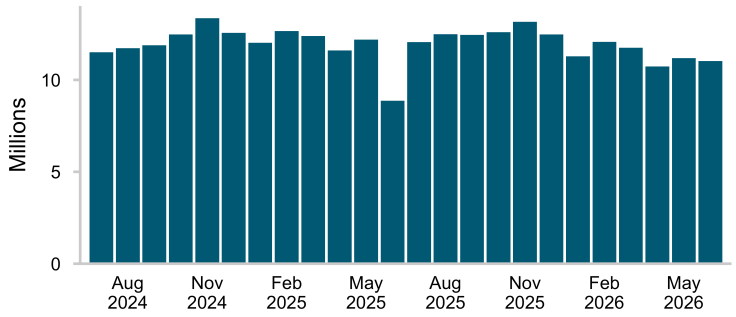
Moving people and freight by car and truck

Demand

## Light state highway traffic

Traffic counts for June 2025 are incomplete due to a data gap in the NZTA Traffic Monitoring System. As a result, the monthly average for June 2025 is understated. Traffic counts for Q2 2026 are therefore not directly comparable with those for Q2 2025.

Daily average number

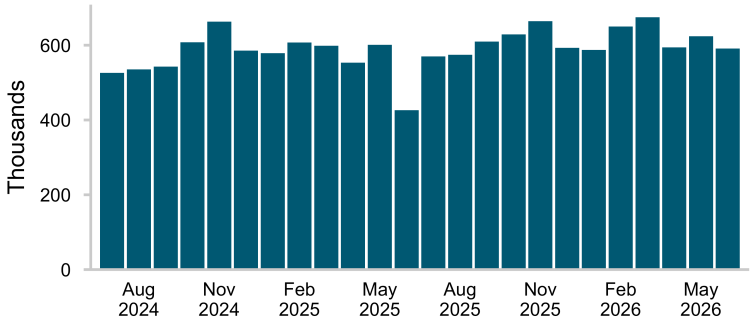



Demand

## Heavy state highway traffic

Traffic counts for June 2025 are incomplete due to a data gap in the NZTA Traffic Monitoring System. As a result, the monthly average for June 2025 is understated. Traffic counts for Q2 2026 are therefore not directly comparable with those for Q2 2025.

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

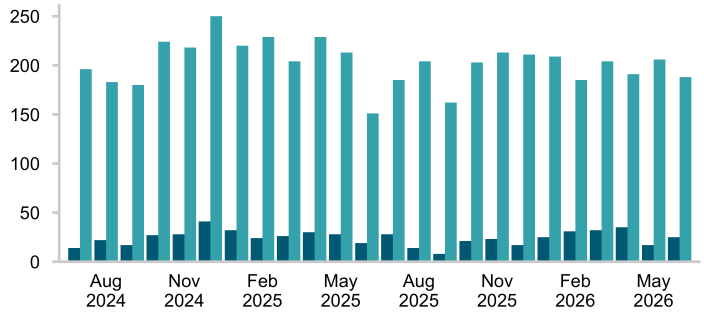
Moving people and freight by car and truck

Safety

## Deaths and serious injuries

Deaths and serious injuries decreased by eight (1.2%) in Q2 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Number of deaths and serious injuries

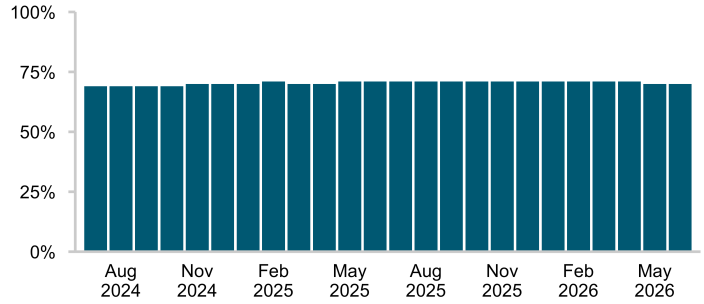



User experience

## User experience

Around 70% 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

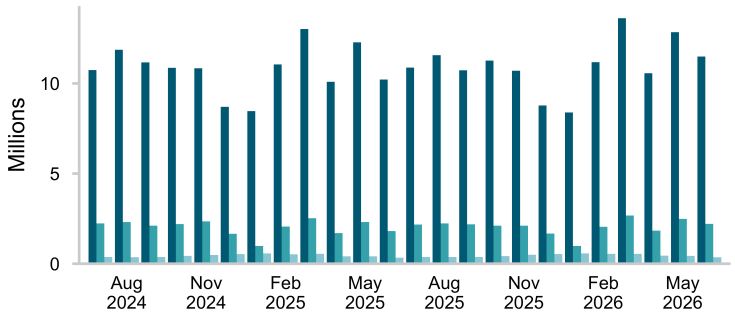
Moving people by bus, train, and ferry

Demand

## Boardings

In Q2 2026 monthly boardings grew across all modes: bus 11.6 million (+7.1%), train 2.2 million (+12.2%), ferry 0.4 million (+7.9%) compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Number of passenger boardings on public transport

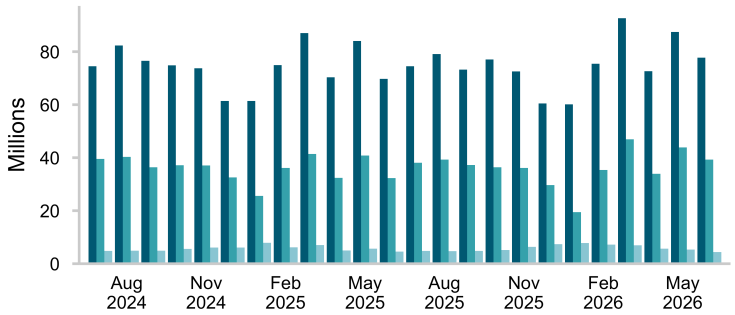



Demand

## Passenger kilometres

Passenger kilometres saw increases across all modes: buses 79.3 million (+6.1%), trains 39 million (+10.9%), ferries 5.1 million (+1.2%).

Number of kilometres travelled by passengers, millions

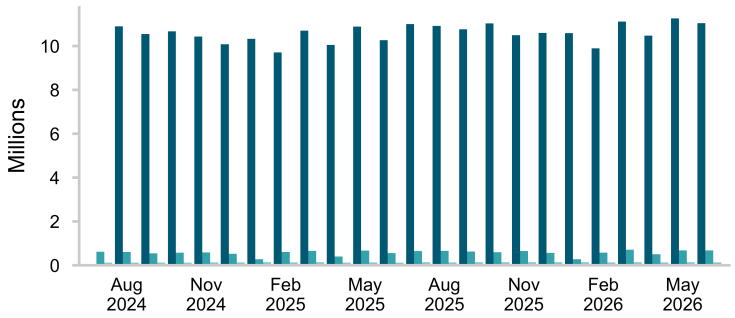



Supply

## Vehicle kilometres

Vehicle service kilometres are consistent month-on-month, with buses averaging 10.9 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

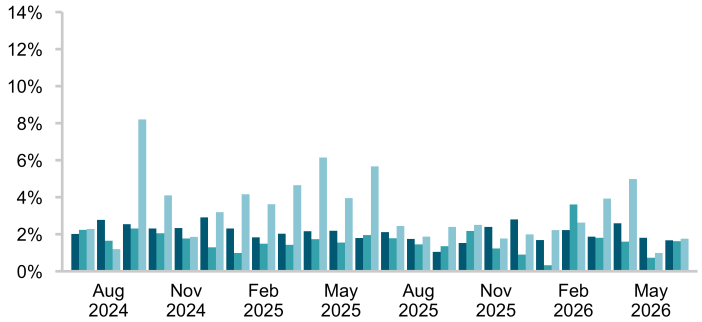



Reliability

## Cancellations

Cancellation rates saw mixed results, with buses stable (2.0%), trains decreased (1.3%), and ferries decreased (2.6%) in Q2 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Percentage of scheduled trips cancelled



# The public transport network

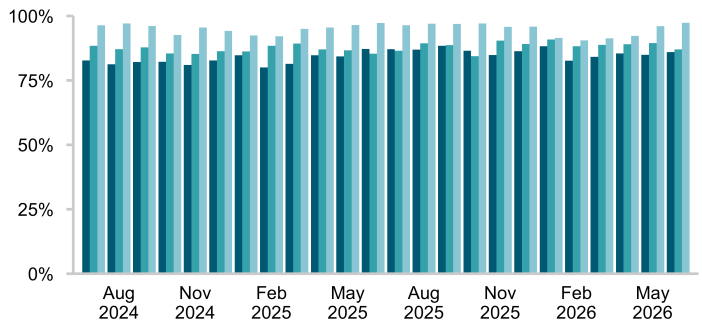
Moving people by bus, train, and ferry

Reliability

## Punctuality

In Q2 2026 punctuality improved for trains (up 2.1pp) and declined for ferries (down 1.2pp) and remained stable for buses compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Percentage of scheduled services departing and arriving on time

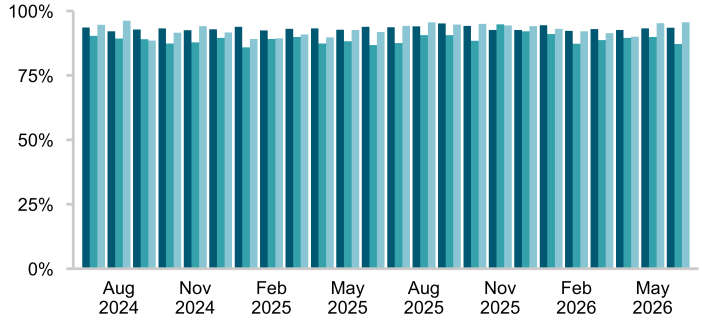



Reliability

## On time departures

In Q2 2026 on-time departures improved for trains (up 1.4pp) and ferries (up 2.2pp) and remained stable for buses compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Percentage of scheduled services departing on time




Safety

## Serious incidents

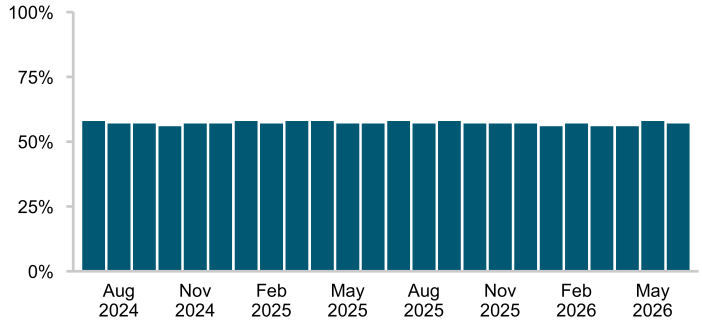
This data has started to be collected regularly and has a range of quality issues and regional inconsistencies. NZTA aim to improve this over time, and it will subsequently be included in this report.

User experience

## User experience

The percentage of survey respondents that felt ‘very satisfied’ with their public transport experience has 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

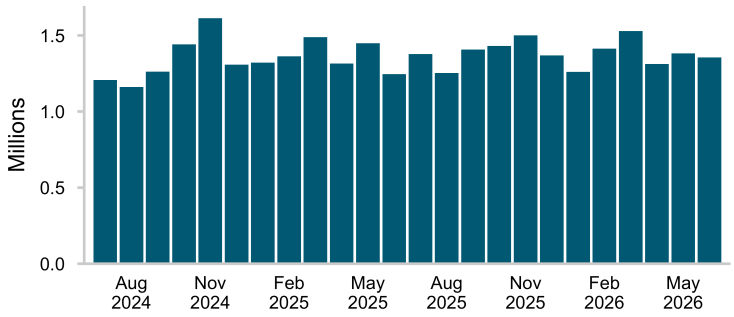
Moving freight by train

Demand

## Freight lifted

Rail freight lifted increased by 1% comparing the data to same quarter in the previous year, averaging 1.4 million tonnes per month in Q2 2026. There is some seasonal fluctuation.

Tonnes of freight lifted onto trains

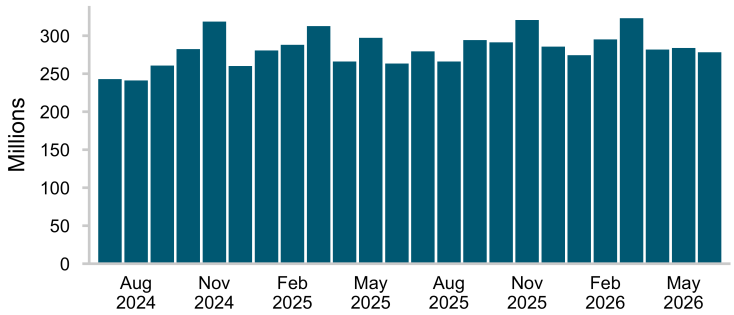



Supply

## Freight moved

Rail freight moved grew by 2.1% comparing the data from the latest quarter to same quarter in the previous year, averaging 281 million net tonne kilometres per month in Q2 2026.

Net-tonne kilometres of freight moved by trains

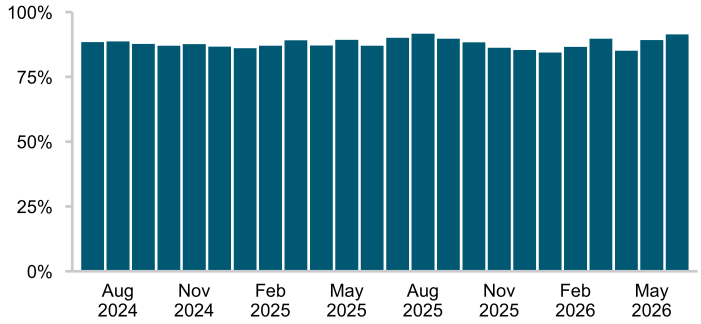



Reliability

## On time departures

Rail services have been departing as scheduled, 88.6% of the time in Q2 2026, up 0.8pp on the same quarter in previous year.

Percentage of rail services departing on time

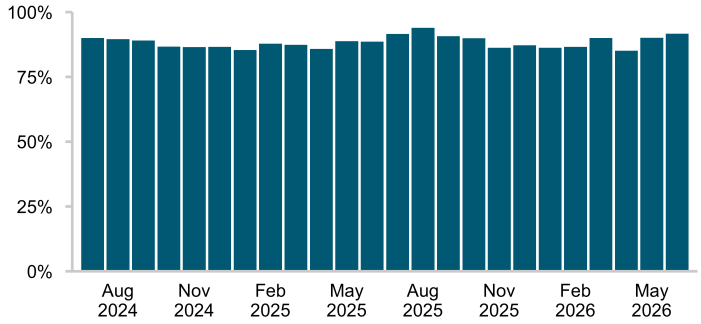



Reliability

## On time arrivals

Rail services have been arriving as scheduled, 88.6% of the time in Q2 2026, up 0.9pp on the same quarter in previous year.

Percentage of rail services arriving on time



# The rail freight network

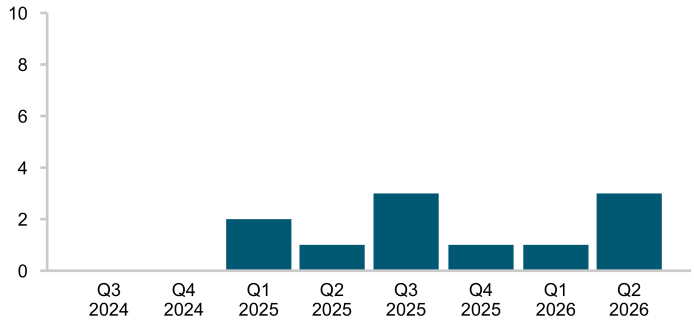
Moving freight by train

## Safety

### Deaths and serious injuries

There were seven deaths and serious injuries in 2025. In the first half of 2026 there were four deaths and serious injuries.

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

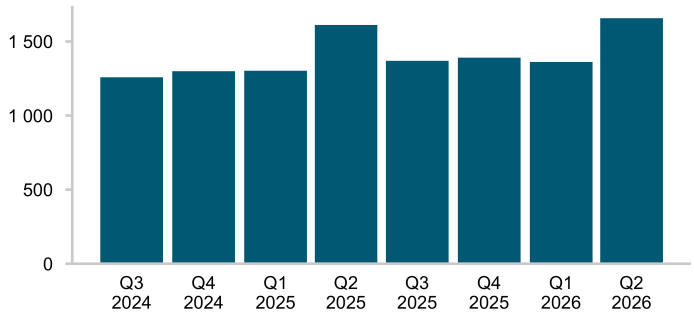
Moving freight from ships to road and rail, and back

## Demand

### Port visits

Ship visits increased by 2.9% in Q2 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Number non-cruise ships using the ports



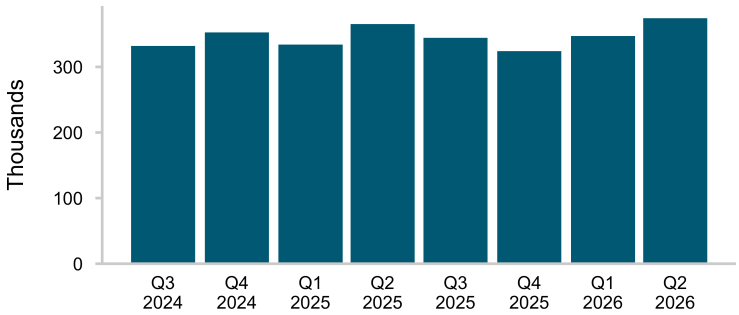

## Supply

### Containers handled

Containers handled increased by 2.5% in Q2 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



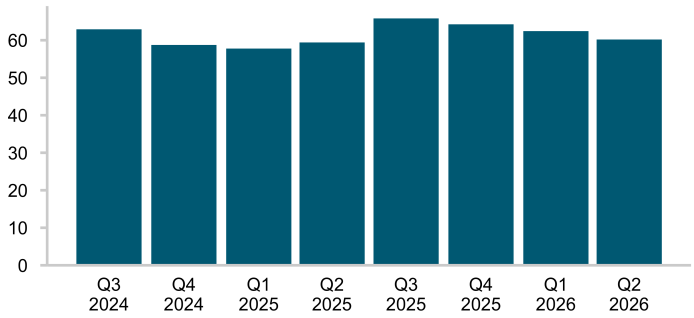

## Reliability

### Ship rate

Container movement productivity increased by 1.3% in Q2 2026 compared to same quarter in the last year, averaging 60.2 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



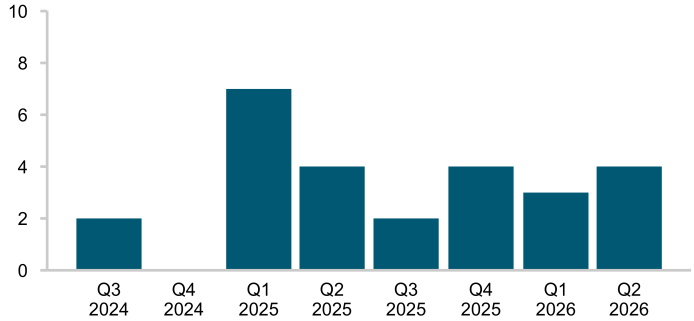

## Safety

### Deaths and serious injuries

There were 17 deaths and serious injuries in 2025. In the first half of 2026 there were seven 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

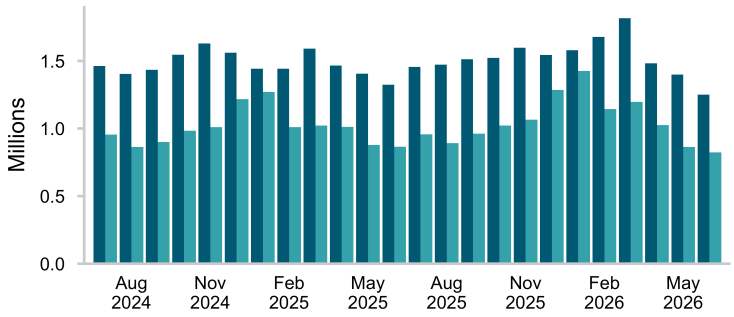
Domestic International

Demand

## Boardings

Domestic boardings decreased by 20,994 (1.5%) in Q2 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year. Trans-Tasman boardings was unchanged in Q2 2026 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Number of passengers arriving at and departing major airports




Supply

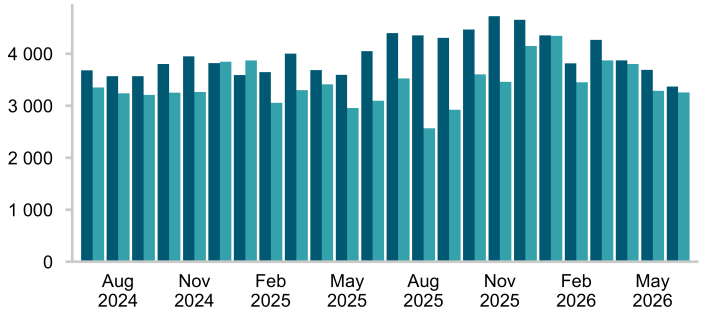
## Flights

Average monthly flights on competitive routes:

- Domestic 3,644 flights (down 3.5%),
- Trans-Tasman 3,449 flights (up 9.3%),

in the last quarter, Q2 2026, compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Number of flights flown by major airlines on reported routes

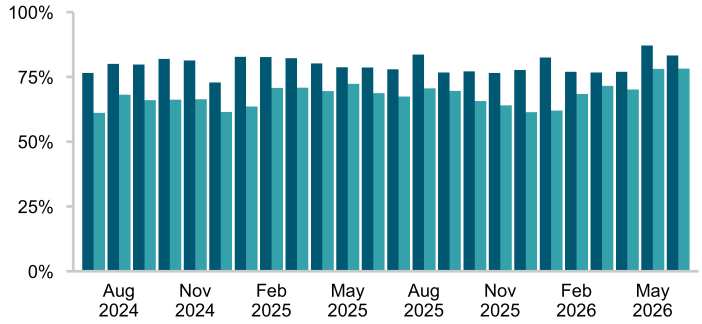



Reliability

## On time departures

Domestic flights are more punctual than Trans-Tasman flights: 82% compared to 75% on competitive routes in the last quarter, Q2 2026.

Percentage of flights departing on time on reported routes

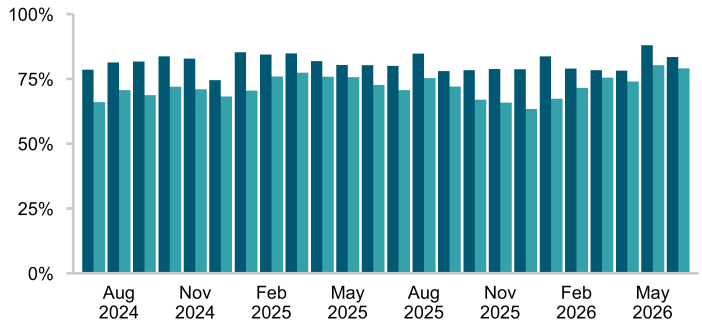



Reliability

## On time arrivals

Domestic flights arrive as scheduled more than Trans-Tasman flights: 83% compared to 78% on competitive routes in the last quarter, Q2 2026.

Percentage of flights arriving on time on reported routes



# The passenger aviation network

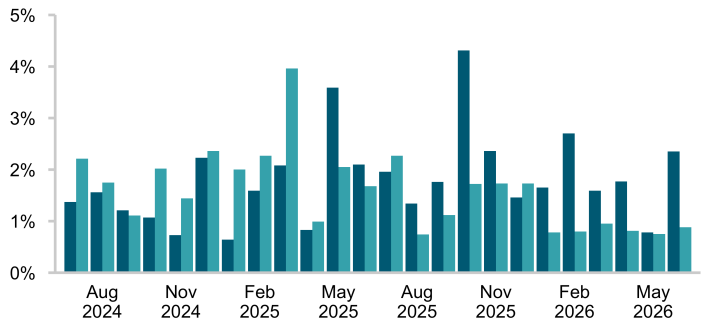
Moving people by air

## Reliability

### Cancellations

Cancellations for domestic and Trans-Tasman flights have hovered between 0.8% and 2.4% each month on competitive routes in latest quarter, Q2 2026.

Percentage of scheduled competitive flights not flown on reported routes

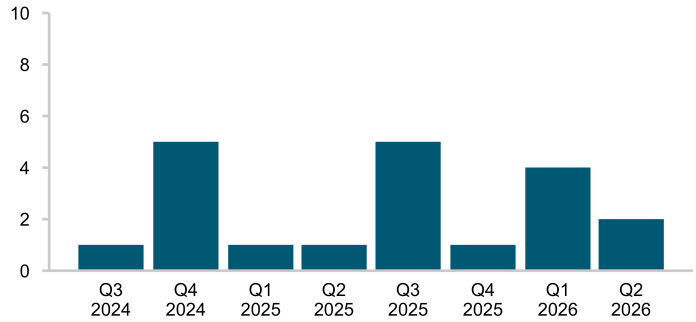



## Safety

### Deaths and injuries

The number of deaths and injuries reported in New Zealand associated with the operation of commercial passenger flights was higher by one (2 cases) in Q2 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.