

# Table 1083. Airports, Aircraft, and Airmen: 1980 to 2009

[As of December 31 or for years ending December 31]

Item	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009
<b>Airports, total</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>15,161</b>	<b>17,490</b>	<b>18,224</b>	<b>19,281</b>	<b>19,854</b>	<b>20,341</b>	<b>19,930</b>	<b>19,750</b>
Public <sup>1</sup>	4,814	5,589	5,415	5,317	5,270	5,221	5,202	5,178
Percent—with lighted runways	66.2	71.4	74.3	75.9	76.8	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
With paved runways	72.3	70.7	73.3	74.3	74.8	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Private	10,347	11,901	12,809	13,964	14,584	14,839	14,451	14,298
Percent—with lighted runways	15.2	7.0	6.4	7.2	9.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
With paved runways	13.3	31.5	33.0	32.0	33.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Certificated <sup>2</sup>	730	680	667	651	575	565	560	559
Civil	(X)	(X)	572	563	575	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Civil military	(X)	(X)	95	88	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
General aviation	14,431	16,810	17,557	18,630	19,279	19,776	19,370	19,191
Active air carrier fleet <sup>3</sup>	3,805	6,083	7,411	8,055	8,225	8,044	7,856	(NA)
Fixed wing	3,803	6,072	7,293	8,016	8,182	7,998	7,808	(NA)
Helicopter	2	11	118	39	43	46	48	(NA)
General aviation fleet <sup>4</sup>	211,043	198,000	188,089	217,533	224,352	231,607	228,663	223,877
Fixed-wing	200,094	184,500	162,342	183,276	185,373	186,806	182,961	177,446
Turbojet	2,992	4,100	4,559	7,001	9,823	10,385	11,042	11,268
Turboprop	4,089	5,300	4,995	5,762	7,942	9,514	8,906	9,055
Piston	193,013	175,200	152,788	170,513	167,608	166,907	163,013	157,123
Rotocraft	6,001	6,900	5,830	7,150	8,728	9,567	9,876	9,984
Other	4,945	6,600	4,741	6,700	6,454	5,940	5,652	5,480
Gliders	(X)	(X)	2,182	2,041	2,074	1,947	1,914	1,808
Lighter than air	(X)	(X)	2,559	4,660	4,380	3,993	3,738	3,672
Experimental	(X)	(X)	15,176	20,407	23,627	23,228	23,364	24,419
Airman certificates held: <sup>5</sup>								
Pilot, total	827,071	702,659	639,184	625,581	609,737	590,349	613,746	594,285
Women	52,902	40,515	38,032	36,757	36,584	35,784	37,981	36,808
Student	199,833	128,663	101,279	93,064	87,213	84,339	80,989	72,280
Recreational	(X)	87	232	340	278	239	252	234
Airplane:								
Private	357,479	299,111	261,399	251,561	228,619	211,096	222,596	211,619
Commercial	183,442	149,666	133,980	121,858	120,614	115,127	124,746	125,738
Air transport	69,569	107,732	123,877	141,596	141,992	143,953	146,838	144,600
Rotocraft only <sup>6</sup>	6,030	9,567	7,183	7,775	9,518	12,290	14,647	15,298
Glider only	7,039	7,833	11,234	9,387	21,369	21,274	21,055	21,268
Flight instructor certificates	60,440	63,775	77,613	80,931	90,555	92,175	93,202	94,863
Instrument ratings	260,462	297,073	298,798	311,944	311,828	309,865	325,247	323,495
Nonpilot <sup>7</sup>	368,356	492,237	651,341	547,453	644,016	666,559	678,181	682,315
Mechanic	250,157	344,282	405,294	344,434	320,293	322,852	326,276	329,027
Repairmen	(X)	(X)	61,233	38,208	40,030	40,277	41,056	41,389
Parachute rigger	9,547	10,094	11,824	10,477	8,150	8,186	8,248	8,362
Ground instructor	61,550	66,882	96,165	72,326	74,378	74,544	74,983	75,461
Dispatcher	6,799	11,002	15,642	16,340	18,079	19,043	19,590	20,132
Flight navigator	1,936	1,290	916	570	298	250	222	181
Flight engineer	38,367	58,687	60,267	65,098	57,756	54,394	53,135	51,022

NA Not available. X Not applicable. <sup>1</sup> Existing airports, heliports, seaplane bases, etc. recorded with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Includes civil and joint-use civil-military airports, heliports, STOL (short takeoff and landing) ports, and seaplane bases in the United States and its territories. Sole-use military airports are included beginning in 2007. Includes U.S. outlying areas. Airport-type definitions: Public—publicly owned and under control of a public agency; private—owned by a private individual or corporation. May or may not be open for public use. <sup>2</sup> Certificated airports serve air-carriers with aircraft seating more than 9 passengers. As of 2005, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) no longer certifies military airports. <sup>3</sup> Air-carrier aircraft are aircraft carrying passengers or cargo for hire under 14 CFR 121 (large aircraft—more than 30 seats) and 14 CFR 135 (small aircraft—30 seats or fewer). Beginning in 1990, the number of aircraft is the monthly average reported in use for the last three months of the year. Prior to 1990, it was the number of aircraft reported in use during December of a given year. <sup>4</sup> 2000 dip in helicopters due to estimating methods. <sup>5</sup> Beginning 1995 excludes commuters. <sup>6</sup> Data for 1980 are for helicopters only. <sup>7</sup> All certificates on record. No medical examination required.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, National Transportation Statistics, annual. See also <[http://www.bts.gov/publications/national\\_transportation\\_statistics/](http://www.bts.gov/publications/national_transportation_statistics/)>. Airmen certificates held: U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, <[http://www.faa.gov/data\\_research/aviation\\_data\\_statistics/civil\\_airmen\\_statistics/](http://www.faa.gov/data_research/aviation_data_statistics/civil_airmen_statistics/)>. Prior to 2000: FAA Statistical Handbook of Aviation, annual.