

Key points:

- In January 2026 there was a total of 1,085k international passenger movements in the month, a 2% increase compared to the same month in 2025. Excluding transits, international passenger movements for the month of January 2026 also increased by 2% on the prior year. International seat capacity increased 4% on the same month last year resulting in average load factors of 85%, a 1.4 percentage point decrease;
- Reviewing nationalities for non-transit international passengers shows New Zealand nationals increased by 2% on prior year whilst Australian nationals decreased by 2% year on year. Chinese nationals decreased by 6% partly due to the later timing of Chinese New Year this year compared to last year. North & South American nationals combined increased by 7% whilst UK and European nationals increased by 8%;
- Passenger volume and airline seat capacity on short-haul international routes increased by 2% and 5% respectively producing load factors of 85%, a 2.5 percentage point decrease on prior year. Passenger movements and seat capacity on long-haul international routes both increased by 3% resulting in static year on year load factors of 86%;
- Domestic passenger movements decreased by 1% in the month of January 2026 when compared to the same month in the prior year, with seat capacity increasing 4%, resulting in a 3.7 percentage point reduction in load factors to 83%. Passenger numbers on the domestic trunk routes grew 1% compared to the year prior with 7% more seat capacity with load factors reducing by 5.2 percentage points to 83%. Regional passenger numbers and seat capacity both declined by 5% with load factors of 83%; and
- Queenstown Airport international passenger numbers in January 2026 increased 10% on the year prior and domestic passengers increased 1% on the same month last year.

Passenger Movements

International passengers	1,031,455	2%	5,944,918	3%	9,769,752	2%
Transit movements	53,908	2%	413,136	-8%	648,266	-14%
Total international passengers	1,085,363	2%	6,358,054	2%	10,418,018	1%
Domestic passengers	696,646	-1%	5,064,507	2%	8,514,704	0%
Total passengers	1,782,009	1%	11,422,561	2%	18,932,722	1%

International aircraft movements	5,433	8%	32,777	5%	53,625	2%
Domestic aircraft movements	8,735	-1%	61,644	0%	105,167	0%
Total aircraft movements	14,168	2%	94,421	2%	158,792	1%

International MCTOW	529,834	4%	3,171,002	3%	5,235,206	1%
Domestic MCTOW	180,596	5%	1,293,511	3%	2,185,810	2%
Total MCTOW	710,430	4%	4,464,513	3%	7,421,016	1%

Passenger Movements

International passengers	111,625	10%	682,908	11%	1,011,344	10%
Domestic passengers	164,064	1%	1,051,319	6%	1,717,093	3%
Total passengers	275,689	4%	1,734,227	8%	2,728,437	6%
International aircraft movements	736	4%	4,565	6%	6,885	6%
Domestic aircraft movements	1,164	-1%	7,432	0%	12,294	-1%
Total aircraft movements	1,900	1%	11,997	2%	19,179	1%

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