

Recreational Vessel Census June 2014

About this Publication

This publication presents the results of a census taken of recreational vessels registered in Queensland on 30 June 2014. The data presented in this publication was extracted from the Department of Transport and Main Roads TRAILS Registration System (the register) on July 15 2014.

Tables of statistics are included which give selected details of the vessels. These include the maritime region in which the vessels were registered, the length of the vessel, the vessel types, the engine output, the year of manufacture and the age, gender and license status of those who have registered the vessels.

For purposes of comparison, data are also provided at 30 June for the years 2013 and 2009.

The calculation of the growth rates and decommissioning rates mentioned in this report have been made using the formulas described in the Australian Bureau of Statistics 9309.0 - Motor Vehicle Census, Australia using data presented in the attached tables and previous additions of this report.

Key Points

At 30 June 2014 there were 250,231 recreational vessels (boats and PWC) listed on the register by 217,686 different registrants (people or organisations). This equates to approximately 1 registered recreational vessel for every 19 people resident in Queensland.

There were 229,839 recreational boats which were registered by 203,228 registrants. The majority of registrants (89%) had registered a single boat while another 10% of registrants had registered two boats. The remaining 1% of registrants had registered a total of 8,583 or 4% of all registered boats.

There were also 20,392 PWC registered to 18,474 registrants. The majority of registrants (91.4%) had registered a single PWC while another 7.6% of registrants had registered two PWC. The remaining 1% of registrants had registered a total of 690 or 3% of all registered PWC.

It is of interest to note that 4,016 registrants had registered at least one boat and at least one PWC. In total these registrants registered 5,122 boats and 4,654 PWC. The majority (71%) registered a single boat and a single PWC.

During the twelve months ending 30 June 2014, 19,391 boat registrations were added to the register, 16,171 were removed from the register while 19,773 were transferred from one registrant to another. Based on these figures Queensland's flotilla of registered recreational boats has a decommissioning rate of approximately 6.6% per annum.

Over this same period 3,472 PWC registrations were added to the register, 1,852 were removed from the register while 2,541 were transferred from one registrant to another. Based on these figures Queensland's flotilla of registered recreational PWC have a decommissioning rate of approximately 8.3% per annum.

Together these transactions resulted in the number of recreational boats and PWC on the register increasing by 1.4% and 8.6% respectively.

The Brisbane Maritime Region, which includes the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast management areas, accommodates 51% of the recreational boats and 71% of the PWC registered in Queensland. This region reported the strongest growth in the number of PWC on the register (9.8%).

The Gladstone Maritime Region which accommodates 20% of the recreational boats and 10% of the recreational PWC registered in Queensland reported the strongest growth in the number of recreational boats on register (1.7%).

The most popular type of recreational boat is the open runabout which accounts for 67% of the recreational boat

flotilla. Over the past twelve months the number of open runabouts increased by 1.8%.

The majority of recreational boats (72%) are no more than 5 metres in length. This percentage increases to 96% for recreational boats which are no more than 10 metres in length.

Over the past twelve months the number of boats no more than 5 metres in length increased by 1.46%, those greater than 5 metres and no more than 10 metres increased by 1.43% while those more than 10 metres in length increased by only 0.7%.

The engine output figures need to be interpreted with some caution as they are likely to indicate the power of the motor fitted to a recreational boat at the time it was first registered.

The majority of recreational boats (82%) are fitted with outboard motors. Seventy-three per cent are fitted with an engine producing more than 10 and no more than 100 kilowatts.

The most commonly fitted engines (57%) produce more than 25 and no more than 50 kilowatts. The number of vessels fitted with engines within this range increased by 2.7% over the past twelve months.

Estimating the age of the flotilla presents some difficulty as 24% of registered recreational boats were registered without the year of manufacture being recorded.

Nevertheless the extant records indicate that 21% of recreational boats were manufactured before 1996, 43.5% were manufactured between 1996 and 2009 leaving 11% which were manufactured within the last five years. The average age of a registered recreational boat is 14 years with a median age of 11 years.

In contrast with recreational boats only 1% of PWC have been registered without the year of manufacture being recorded.

The majority of PWC (63%) were manufactured between 2006 and 2009 while 32% of PWC were manufactured within the last 5 years. The average age of a registered recreational PWC is 7 years with a median age of 6 years.

Eighty-nine per cent of recreational boats and 85% of PWC were registered to males.

Baby Boomers (people born between 1947 and 1966) registered 46% of all recreational boats and 34% of all recreational PWC. Generation X/Y (people born between 1967 and 1986) registered 34% of the recreational boats and 48% of all recreational PWC.

The average age of those registering recreational vessels was 52 years for boats and 42 years for PWC.

Thirteen per cent of recreational boats have been registered to a registrant who does not hold a recreational marine driver licence (RMDL); many of these will be organisations. Forty-eight per cent of registrants obtained their RMDL no later than the year 2000 while 13% obtained their RMDL during the last 5 years.

Twelve per cent of PWC have been registered to a registrant who does not hold a Personal Water Craft Licence (PWCL). Twenty-one per cent were issued a PWCL in 2005, the first year in which PWCL were issued while 46 % were issued a PWCL during the last 5 years. It is interesting to note that 40% of PWC are registered to persons who were issued a RMDL prior to 2005.

Disclaimer

The data sources used in the compilation of this report are subject to an ongoing process of data validation and consequently the numbers and calculations presented are subject to revision.

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Table 1: Number of recreational vessel by vessel type

	Full Cabin Cruiser	Half Cabin Cruiser	Quarter Cabin Cruiser	Bow Rider	Centre Console	Sport/Ski Boat	Open Runabout	PWC	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Maritime Region									
Brisbane	9866	13194	4122	6227	6537	4308	77889	15782	137925
Gladstone	2283	4343	1318	908	2777	1194	32699	1988	47510
Mackay	1043	1801	537	386	1226	469	12930	805	19197
Townsville	883	2019	569	469	2390	490	15787	883	23490
Cairns	1053	1955	713	509	1955	616	13656	856	21313
Ex Qld	178	62	18	24	50	18	368	78	796
Vessel Length									
Length <= 3 m							3617	4809	8426
3 m < Length <= 5 m	106	5963	1699	1892	8781	2023	140278	15560	176302
5 m < Length <= 7.5 m	2684	15744	5259	6448	5829	4889	9136		49989
7.5 m < Length <= 10 m	5061	1384	280	161	210	80	238		7414
10 m < Length <= 15 m	6401	253	27		77	37	55		6850
15 m < Length <= 20 m	896								896
20 m < Length <= 25 m	117								117
25 m < Length	39								39
Not Recorded	2	30	12	22	38	66	5	23	198
Engine Type									
Outboard	4333	20786	6718	5222	14596	2703	150280	580	205218
Inboard	10970	2588	559	3301	339	4372	3047	19812	44988
Other	3					20	2		25
Carriage of Sails									
With Sails	5685	591	86	19	115		519		7015
Without Sails	9621	22783	7191	8504	14820	7095	152810	20392	243216
Year of Manufacture									
Year <=1995	5654	6651	1816	471	2384	2763	28587	962	49288
1995 < Year <=2009	5559	7098	4587	6904	9632	3531	62432	12756	112499
Year = 2010	213	449	277	312	723	243	3974	1126	7317
Year = 2011	205	335	156	287	562	182	3788	1197	6712
Year = 2012	155	310	180	285	682	192	4308	1583	7695
Year = 2013	156	249	204	201	713	147	4230	2089	7989
Year = 2014	48	80	55	63	239	36	1414	447	2382
Not Recorded	3316	8202	2			1	44596	232	56349
Total									
Total	15306	23374	7277	8523	14935	7095	153329	20392	250231

Table 2: Number of vessel by registrant (Age, Gender, and Licensing)

	Full Cabin Cruiser	Half Cabin Cruiser	Quarter Cabin Cruiser	Bow Rider	Centre Console	Sport/Ski Boat	Open Runabout	PWC	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Gender of Registrant									
Female	1707	1976	514	891	918	734	12488	2416	21644
Male	12849	20918	6669	7470	13613	6187	137769	17334	222809
Unspecified	107	205	8	8	16	5	1387	33	1769
Organisation	643	275	86	154	388	169	1685	609	4009
Age of Registrant									
Oldest Generation 1891–1926	31	59	8	2	5	1	463	1	570
Lucky Generation 1927–1946	2938	2836	591	510	1171	177	21619	385	30227
Baby Boom 1947–1966	8853	11060	3349	3789	6697	2452	69932	6939	113071
Generation X/Y 1967–1986	2636	8263	3027	3814	6006	3728	51301	9886	88661
iGeneration 1987–2006	94	675	209	246	652	562	6974	2539	11951
Not Recorded	111	206	7	8	16	6	1355	33	1742
Organisation	643	275	86	154	388	169	1685	609	4009
Year of Issue Recreational Marine Drivers Licence									
No License Issued	2895	2741	683	835	1576	710	20780	1888	32108
Not Recorded	28	29	13	7	28	3	236	13	357
1962 to 1980	1791	2473	558	362	1295	308	16908	465	24160
1981 to 2000	4921	8887	2763	2602	5962	2635	58051	5193	91014
2001 to 2009	4193	6317	2239	3013	4247	2286	38505	6911	67711
2010 to 2014	1478	2927	1021	1704	1827	1153	18849	5922	34881
Year of Issue Personal Water Craft Licence									
No License Issued	13209	20661	6311	6409	13281	5141	139349	2535	206896
2005	1025	1069	389	735	639	764	5809	4231	14661
2006 to 2009	486	672	247	556	442	489	3267	4216	10375
2010 to 2014	586	972	330	823	573	701	4904	9410	18299
Total	15306	23374	7277	8523	14935	7095	153329	20392	250231

Table 3: Number of recreational vessels by type and maritime region (selected years)

Year	Brisbane	Gladstone	Mackay	Townsville	Cairns	Ex Qld	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Full Cabin Cruiser							
2009	10209	2172	1136	886	956	204	15563
2013	9932	2279	1056	900	1025	180	15372
2014	9866	2283	1043	883	1053	178	15306
Half Cabin Cruiser							
2009	14299	4263	1622	1928	1835	60	24007
2013	13288	4361	1792	2069	1931	65	23506
2014	13194	4343	1801	2019	1955	62	23374
Quarter Cabin Cruiser							
2009	3511	1011	422	382	548	13	5887
2013	3949	1306	521	559	677	19	7031
2014	4122	1318	537	569	713	18	7277
Open Runabout							
2009	75600	30392	11715	15361	13436	335	146839
2013	76644	32217	12797	15907	13641	342	151548
2014	77889	32699	12930	15787	13656	368	153329
PWC / Jet-Ski							
2009	10546	1227	574	683	550	52	13632
2013	14367	1885	778	882	792	68	18772
2014	15782	1988	805	883	856	78	20392
Bow Rider							
2009	4950	664	308	375	382	17	6696
2013	5993	875	398	463	493	24	8246
2014	6227	908	386	469	509	24	8523
Centre Console							
2009	4931	1956	968	1695	1377	27	10954
2013	6166	2577	1171	2262	1826	47	14049
2014	6537	2777	1226	2390	1955	50	14935
Sports/Ski Boat							
2009	3398	762	324	308	485	13	5290
2013	4176	1134	461	472	609	14	6866
2014	4308	1194	469	490	616	18	7095
Total							
2009	127444	42447	17069	21618	19569	721	228868
2013	134515	46634	18974	23514	20994	759	245390
2014	137925	47510	19197	23490	21313	796	250231

Table 4: Number of new, discontinued and transferred registrations (selected years)

Year	Newly Registered	Deregistered	Transferred Registrations	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.
Boats				
2009	19985	14678	19049	215236
2013	18417	15616	19557	226618
2014	19392	16171	19773	229839
PWC				
2009	2603	1229	1600	13632
2013	3025	1652	2319	18772
2014	3472	1852	2541	20392

Table 5: Number of recreational vessels by length (selected years)

Vessel by Length*				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
	Jun-09	Jun-13	Jun-14	9/14	13/14	9/14
Length <= 3 m	4167	3594	3617	-13.20	0.64	-2.79
3 m < Length <= 5 m	151023	158399	160742	6.44	1.48	1.26
5 m < Length <= 7.5 m	44747	49161	49989	11.71	1.68	2.24
7.5 m < Length <= 10 m	7377	7435	7414	0.50	-0.28	0.10
10 m < Length <= 15 m	6777	6829	6850	1.08	0.31	0.21
15 m < Length <= 20 m	839	874	896	6.79	2.52	1.32
20 m < Length <= 25 m	99	107	117	18.18	9.35	3.40
25 m < Length	37	40	39	5.41	-2.50	1.06
Not Recorded	170	179	175	2.94	-2.23	0.58
Total	215236	226618	229839	6.78	1.42	1.32
*Excludes PWC						

Table 6: Number of recreational vessels by maritime region (selected years)

Vessels by Maritime Region				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
Description	Jun-09	Jun-13	Jun-14	9/14	13/14	9/14
Brisbane	127444	134515	137925	8.2	2.54	1.6
Gladstone	42447	46634	47510	11.9	1.88	2.3
Mackay	17069	18974	19197	12.5	1.18	2.4
Townsville	21618	23514	23490	8.7	-0.1	1.7
Cairns	19569	20994	21313	8.9	1.5	1.7
Ex Qld	721	759	796	10.4	4.9	2.0
Total	228868	245390	250231	9.3	2.0	1.80

Table 7: Number of recreational vessels by type (selected years)

Vessel by Type				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
Description	Jun-09	Jun-13	Jun-14	9/14	13/14	9/14
Full Cabin Cruiser	15563	15372	15306	-1.65	-0.43	-0.33
Half Cabin Cruiser	24007	23506	23374	-2.64	-0.56	-0.53
Quarter Cabin Cruiser	5887	7031	7277	23.61	3.50	4.33
Bow Rider	6696	8246	8523	27.28	3.36	4.94
Centre Console	10954	14049	14935	36.34	6.31	6.40
Sport/Ski Boat	5290	6866	7095	34.12	3.34	6.05
Open Runabout	146839	151548	153329	4.42	1.18	0.87
PWC/Jet-Ski	13632	18772	20392	49.59	8.63	8.39
Total	228868	245390	250231	9.33	1.97	1.80

Table 8: Number of recreational vessels by main engine power output (selected years)

Vessels by Engine Power*				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
Kilowatts	Jun-09	Jun-13	Jun-14	9/14	13/14	9/14
0 < kw <= 5	9385	8915	8879	-5.4	-0.4	-1.1
5 < kw <=10	15947	14550	14310	-10.3	-1.6	-2.1
10 < kw <=25	72508	77117	78049	7.6	1.2	1.5
25 < kw <=50	47273	51269	52632	11.3	2.7	2.2
50 < kw <=100	35439	36636	37271	5.2	1.7	1.0
100 < kw <=150	18366	19970	20243	10.2	1.4	2.0
150 < kw <=300	11936	13983	14297	19.8	2.2	3.7
300 < kw <=500	820	911	935	14.0	2.6	2.7
500 < kw	1639	1840	1865	13.8	1.4	2.6
Not Recorded	1923	1427	1358	-29.4	-4.8	-6.7
Total	215236	226618	229839	6.78	1.42	1.32
*Excludes PWC						