

Recreational Vessel Census June 2015

About this Publication

This publication presents the results of a census taken of recreational vessels registered in Queensland on 30 June 2015. The data presented in this publication was extracted from the Department of Transport and Main Roads TRAILS Registration System (the register) on 6 July 2015.

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 2014 and 2010.

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 2015 there were 253,144 recreational vessels (boats and PWC) listed on the register by 240,139 different registrants (people or organisations). This equates to approximately 1 registered recreational vessel for every 20 people resident in Queensland.

There were 231,349 recreational boats which were registered by 220,417 registrants. The majority of registrants (95%) had registered a single boat while another 4% of registrants had registered two boats.

There were also 21,795 PWC registered to 19,772 registrants. The majority of registrants (91%) had registered a single PWC while another 7.8% of registrants had registered two PWC. The remaining 1% of registrants had registered a total of 3.5% of all registered PWC (764).

It is of interest to note that 4292 registrants had registered at least one boat and at least one PWC. In total these registrants registered 5551 boats and 5019 PWC. The majority (71%) registered a single boat and a single PWC.

During the twelve months ending 30 June 2015, 18,138 boat registrations were added to the register, 16,628 were removed from the register, while 19,682 were transferred from one registrant to another. Based on these figures Queensland's flotilla of registered recreational boats has a decommissioning rate of approximately 6.7% per annum.

Over this same period 3510 PWC registrations were added to the register, 2107 were removed from the register while 2689 were transferred from one registrant to another. Based on these figures Queensland's flotilla of registered recreational PWC have a decommissioning rate of approximately 9.7% per annum.

Together these transactions resulted in the number of recreational boats and PWC on the register increasing by 0.7% and 6.9% respectively.

The most popular type of recreational boat is the open runabout which accounts for 66.5% of the recreational boat flotilla.

The majority of recreational boats (72%) are no more than 5 metres in length. This percentage increases to 97% for recreational boats which are no more than 10 metres in length.

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.

Estimating the age of the flotilla presents some difficulty as 23% 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, 46% were manufactured between 1996 and 2010 leaving 11% which were manufactured within the last five years. The average age of a registered recreational boat is 15.2 years with a median age of 12 years.

In contrast with recreational boats only 2.8% of PWC have been registered without the year of manufacture being recorded.

The majority of PWC (61%) were manufactured between 2006 and 2009 while 28% of PWC were manufactured within the last 5 years. The average age of a registered recreational PWC is 9.5 years with a median age of 7 years.

Ninety 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 33% of all recreational PWC. Generation X/Y (people born between 1967 and 1986) registered 35% of the recreational boats and 49% of all recreational PWC.

The average age of those registering recreational vessels was 52 years for boats and 44 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). Forty-eight per cent of registrants obtained their RMDL no later than the year 2000 while 40% obtained their RMDL between 2001 and 2015.

Twelve per cent of PWC have been registered to a registrant who does not hold a Personal Water Craft Licence (PWCL). Nineteen per cent were issued a PWCL in 2005, the first year in which PWCL were issued, while 45% were issued a PWCL during the last 5 years.

There were only 4292 registrants who registered both a boat (5551 boats) and a PWC (5019 PWC). The majority of these registrants (2985) registered a single boat and a single PWC.

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 registrants by cabin type (selected particulars)

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	9871	13011	4268	6372	6865	4389	78637	17050	140463
Gladstone	2273	4243	1337	919	2909	1221	32252	2010	47164
Mackay	1147	1805	551	426	1299	481	13216	881	19806
Townsville	938	2011	603	469	2509	485	15941	919	23875
Cairns	1042	1952	736	530	2107	654	13819	932	21772
Ex Qld	12	8		1	3	2	35	3	64
Vessel Length									
Length <= 3 m	2	20	8	9	29	63	3503	4784	8418
3 m < Length <= 5 m	100	5704	1749	1909	9180	2033	141014	16988	178677
5 m < Length <= 7.5 m	2669	15671	5426	6626	6157	5016	9092	23	50680
7.5 m < Length <= 10 m	5010	1385	283	162	234	80	233		7387
10 m < Length <= 15 m	6445	237	28	6	82	36	53		6887
15 m < Length <= 20 m	893	11	1	3	8	3	3		922
20 m < Length <= 25 m	128			1	1		1		131
25 m < Length	36	2		1	1	1	1		42
Engine Type									
inboard	10927	2542	568	3399	368	4477	3019	21173	46473
Outboard	4353	20488	6927	5318	15324	2734	150879	622	206645
Other	3					21	2		26
Carriage of Sails									
Without Sails	9596	22473	7409	8698	15567	7232	153384	21795	246154
With Sails	5687	557	86	19	125		516		6990
Year of Manufacture									
Not Recorded	3119	7644					41981	202	52946
Year <=1995	5703	6620	1813	472	2437	2790	28370	845	49050
1995< Year <=2010	5740	7509	4850	7206	10367	3745	65889	13391	118697
Year = 2011	203	336	162	291	562	184	3763	1206	6707
Year = 2012	163	319	184	289	682	194	4305	1565	7701
Year = 2013	166	266	219	221	740	153	4373	2263	8401
Year = 2014	142	267	207	190	685	133	4043	1865	7532
Year = 2015	47	69	60	48	219	33	1176	458	2110
Total	15283	23030	7495	8717	15692	7232	153900	21795	253144

Table 2: Number of recreational vessel registrants by cabin type (selected particulars)

Vessel Type	Full Cabin Cruiser	Half Cabin Cruiser	Quarter Cabin Cruiser	Bow Rider	Centre Console	Sport Ski Boat	Open Run About	PWC	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Gender of Registrant									
Female	1697	1927	534	927	960	744	12582	2666	22037
Male	12864	20672	6865	7638	14327	6329	138491	18486	225672
Organisation	631	258	93	144	394	151	1653	620	3944
Undefined	91	173	3	8	11	8	1174	23	1491
Age of Registrant									
Oldest Generation 1891–1926	26	50	7	1	5	1	385		475
Lucky Generation 1926–1946	2780	2600	538	487	1122	177	20454	356	28514
Baby Boom 1946–1966	8848	10732	3336	3730	6863	2353	69793	7265	112920
Generation X & Y 1966–1986	2778	8419	3248	4049	6413	3909	52463	10661	91940
I Generation 1986–2006	126	797	271	297	884	632	8004	2870	13881
Organisation	631	258	93	144	394	151	1653	620	3944
Not Recorded	94	174	2	9	11	9	1148	23	1470
Year of issue Recreational Marine Drivers Licence									
No License Issued	2840	2519	723	842	1628	703	20139	1969	31363
Not Recorded	42	49	18	9	39	6	388	25	576
1962 to 1980	1741	2363	541	350	1286	305	16545	461	23592
1981 to 2000	4883	8629	2751	2580	6143	2688	57512	5388	90574
2001 to 2015	5777	9470	3462	4936	6596	3530	59316	13952	107039
Total	15283	23030	7495	8717	15692	7232	153900	21795	253144
Year of issue Personal Water Craft License									
No License Issued	13065	20134	6406	6454	13795	5140	138749	2658	206401
2005	994	1054	404	722	681	759	5828	4110	14552
2006 to 2010	617	843	344	683	613	606	4297	5149	13152
2011 to 2015	607	999	341	858	603	727	5026	9878	19039
Total									
Total	15283	23030	7495	8717	15692	7232	153900	21795	253144

Table 3: Number of recreational vessel registrants by maritime region (selected particulars)

Maritime Region	Brisbane	Gladstone	Mackay	Townsville	Cairns	Ex Qld	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Vessel Type							
Full Cabin Cruiser	9871	2273	1147	938	1042	12	15283
Half Cabin Cruiser	13011	4243	1805	2011	1952	8	23030
Quarter Cabin Cruiser	4268	1337	551	603	736		7495
Bow Rider	6372	919	426	469	530	1	8717
Centre Console	6865	2909	1299	2509	2107	3	15692
Sport/Ski Boat	4389	1221	481	485	654	2	7232
Open Runabout	78637	32252	13216	15941	13819	35	153900
PWC	17050	2010	881	919	932	3	21795
Vessel Length							
Length <= 3 m	6103	1161	416	344	392	2	8418
3 m < Length <= 5 m	96263	35410	14251	17795	14922	36	178677
5 m < Length <= 7.5 m	28147	8454	3924	4753	5387	14	50679
7.5 m < Length <= 10 m	4639	1116	579	511	539	3	7387
10 m < Length <= 15 m	4531	942	515	422	470	8	6888
15 m < Length <= 20 m	653	70	95	46	57	1	922
20 m < Length <= 25 m	97	9	20	1	4		131
25 m < Length	30	2	6	3	1		42
Engine Type							
Inboard	33072	5580	2609	2307	2886	19	46473
Outboard	107381	41579	17195	21566	18879	45	206645
Other	10	5	2	2	7		26
Carriage of Sails							
Without Sails	136207	46075	19262	23409	21146	55	246154
With Sails	4256	1089	544	466	626	9	6990
Year of Manufacture							
Year <=1995	27219	9883	3361	4206	4373	8	49050
1995 < Year <=2010	66747	21176	9327	11092	10332	23	118697
Year = 2011	3951	1056	636	602	461	1	6707
Year = 2012	4473	1245	725	712	546		7701
Year = 2013	5221	1299	638	687	554	2	8401
Year = 2014	4950	1149	520	478	435		7532
Year = 2015	1330	335	143	169	133		2110
Not Recorded	26572	11021	4456	5929	4938	30	52946
Total	140463	47164	19806	23875	21772	64	253144

Table 4: Number of recreational vessel registrants by maritime region (selected particulars)

Maritime Region	Brisbane	Gladstone	Mackay	Townsville	Cairns	Ex Qld	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Gender of Registrant							
Female	12680	4037	1593	1908	1817	2	22037
Male	124362	42501	17856	21471	19439	43	225672
Organisation	2743	392	247	242	317	3	3944
Undefined	678	234	110	254	199	16	1491
Age of Registrant							
Oldest Generation 1891–1926	283	93	16	49	34		475
Lucky Generation 1926–1946	15966	6229	1783	2378	2151	7	28514
Baby Boom 1946–1966	62496	21810	8394	10388	9807	25	112920
Generation X & Y 1966–1986	50877	15796	7997	9088	8173	9	91940
I Generation 1986–2006	7429	2620	1260	1477	1093	2	13881
Not Recorded	669	224	109	253	197	18	1470
Organisation	2743	392	247	242	317	3	3944
Year of issue Recreational Marine Drivers Licence							
No License Issued	17710	5629	2350	2761	2861	52	31363
Not Recorded	309	111	43	58	55		576
1962 to 1980	11161	5250	2188	3022	1969	2	23592
1981 to 2000	46763	17753	7556	9575	8924	3	90574
2001 to 2015	64520	18421	7669	8459	7963	7	107039
Year of issue Personal Water Craft License							
No License Issued	106399	41455	17603	21433	19448	63	206401
2005	10265	1967	849	771	699	1	14552
2006 to 2010	9517	1566	579	752	738	0	13152
2011 to 2015	14282	2176	775	919	887	0	19039
Total	140463	47164	19806	23875	21772	64	253144

Table 5: Number of recreational vessel registrants by vessel length (selected particulars)

Vessel Length Metres	<= 3	> 3 & <= 5	> 5 & <= 7.5	> 7.5 & <= 10	> 10 & <= 15	> 15	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Vessel Type							
Full Cabin Cruiser	2	100	2669	5010	6445	1057	15283
Half Cabin Cruiser	20	5704	15671	1385	237	13	23030
Quarter Cabin Cruiser	8	1749	5426	283	28	1	7495
Bow Rider	9	1909	6626	162	6	5	8717
Centre Console	29	9180	6157	234	82	10	15692
Sport/Ski Boat	63	2033	5016	80	36	4	7232
Open Runabout	3503	141014	9092	233	53	5	153900
PWC	4784	16988	22		1		21795
Maritime Region							
Brisbane	6103	96263	28147	4639	4531	780	140463
Gladstone	1161	35410	8454	1116	942	81	47164
Mackay	416	14251	3924	579	515	121	19806
Townsville	344	17795	4753	511	422	50	23875
Cairns	392	14922	5387	539	470	62	21772
Ex Qld	2	36	14	3	8	1	64
Engine Type							
Inboard	4758	19254	10835	4552	6024	1050	46473
Outboard	3660	159419	39825	2833	863	45	206645
Other		4	19	2	1		26
Carriage of Sails							
Without Sails	8396	178170	49413	5421	3886	868	246154
With Sails	22	507	1266	1966	3002	227	6990
Year of Manufacture							
Year <=1995	1977	32588	9039	2440	2678	328	49050
1995 < Year <=2010	4588	81142	26553	3140	2730	544	118697
Year = 2011	155	5065	1259	103	86	39	6707
Year = 2012	159	6067	1285	95	59	36	7701
Year = 2013	258	6727	1213	88	84	31	8401
Year = 2014	415	5764	1186	78	65	24	7532
Year = 2015	92	1623	338	30	17	10	2110
Not Recorded	774	39701	9806	1413	1169	83	52946
Total	8418	178677	50679	7387	6888	1095	253144

Table 6: Number of recreational vessel registrants by vessel length (selected particulars)

Vessel Length Metres	<= 3	> 3 & <= 5	> 5 & <= 7.5	> 7.5 & <= 10	> 10 & <= 15	> 15	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.		no.
Gender of Registrant							
Female	951	15082	4229	787	869	119	22037
Male	7226	160297	45367	6332	5680	770	225672
Organisation	194	2191	825	229	304	201	3944
Undefined	47	1107	258	39	35	5	1491
Age of Registrant							
Oldest Generation 1891–1926	13	382	56	12	8	4	475
Lucky Generation 1926–1946	652	21214	4009	1107	1319	213	28514
Baby Boom 1946–1966	3074	78532	22476	4097	4215	526	112920
Generation X & Y 1966–1986	3459	64559	21006	1815	960	141	91940
I Generation 1986–2006	976	10716	2052	91	42	4	13881
Not Recorded	50	1083	255	36	40	6	1470
Organisation	194	2191	825	229	304	201	3944
Year of issue Recreational Marine Drivers Licence							
No License Issued	1357	21968	5146	1133	1363	396	31363
Not Recorded	10	418	107	17	17	7	576
1962 to 1980	415	17255	4235	768	809	110	23592
1981 to 2000	2481	63388	19722	2564	2114	305	90574
2001 to 2015	4155	75648	21469	2905	2585	277	107039
Year of issue Personal Water Craft License							
No License Issued	3826	147713	42031	6121	5865	845	206401
2005	1483	8729	3261	496	462	121	14552
2006 to 2010	1207	8639	2570	384	279	73	13152
2011 to 2015	1902	13596	2817	386	282	56	19039
Total	8418	178677	50679	7387	6888	1095	253144

Table 7: Number of recreational vessel registrations by maritime region (selected years)

Year	Brisbane	Gladstone	Mackay	Townsville	Cairns	Ex Qld	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Full Cabin Cruiser							
2010	10031	2211	1124	912	969	198	15445
2014	9866	2283	1043	883	1053	178	15306
2015	9871	2273	1147	938	1042	12	15283
Half Cabin Cruiser							
2010	14053	4263	1667	1983	1866	59	23891
2014	13194	4343	1801	2019	1955	62	23374
2015	13011	4243	1805	2011	1952	8	23030
Quarter Cabin Cruiser							
2010	3637	1115	460	447	592	18	6269
2014	4122	1318	537	569	713	18	7277
2015	4268	1337	551	603	736		7495
Open Runabout							
2010	76209	30770	11889	15409	13519	336	148132
2014	77889	32699	12930	15787	13656	368	153329
2015	78637	32252	13216	15941	13819	35	153900
PWC/ Jet-Ski							
2010	11695	1386	601	781	570	65	15098
2014	15782	1988	805	883	856	78	20392
2015	17050	2010	881	919	932	3	21795
Bow Rider							
2010	5247	699	338	398	418	18	7118
2014	6227	908	386	469	509	24	8523
2015	6372	919	426	469	530	1	8717
Centre Console							
2010	5277	2131	996	1863	1499	36	11802
2014	6537	2777	1226	2390	1955	50	14935
2015	6865	2909	1299	2509	2107	3	15692
Sports/Ski Boat							
2010	3678	867	363	350	529	11	5798
2014	4308	1194	469	490	616	18	7095
2015	4389	1221	481	485	654	2	7232
Total							
2010	129827	43442	17438	22143	19962	741	233553
2014	137925	47510	19197	23490	21313	796	250231
2015	140463	47164	19806	23875	21772	64	253144

Table 8 : Number of recreational vessel registrations by vessel length (selected years)

Vessel by Length*				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
Length	Jun-09	Jun-14	Jun-15	10/15	14/15	10/15
Length <= 3 m	3929	3617	3634	-7.51	0.47	-1.55
3 m < Length <= 5 m	153171	160742	161689	5.56	0.59	1.09
5 m < Length <= 7.5 m	46110	49989	50657	9.86	1.34	1.90
7.5 m < Length <= 10 m	7388	7414	7387	-0.01	-0.36	0.00
10 m < Length <= 15 m	6739	6850	6887	2.20	0.54	0.44
15 m < Length <= 20 m	803	896	922	14.82	2.90	2.80
20 m < Length <= 25 m	99	117	131	32.32	11.97	5.76
25 m < Length	39	39	42	7.69	7.69	1.49
Not Recorded	177	175				
Total	218455	229839	231349	5.90	0.66	1.15
*Excludes PWC						

Table 9 : Number of recreational vessel registrations by main engine power (selected years)

Vessels by Engine Power*				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
Kilowatts	Jun-10	Jun-14	Jun-15	10/15	14/15	10/15
0 < KWP <= 5	9293	8879	8776	-5.6	-1.2	-1.1
5 < KWP <=10	15607	14310	13836	-11.3	-3.3	-2.4
10 < KWP <=25	73766	78049	78289	6.1	0.3	1.2
25 < KWP <=50	48464	52632	53697	10.8	2.0	2.1
50 < KWP <=100	35721	37271	37646	5.4	1.0	1.1
100 < KWP <=150	18819	20243	20486	8.9	1.2	1.7
150 < KWP <=300	12472	14297	14482	16.1	1.3	3.0
300 < KWP <=500	834	935	968	16.1	3.5	3.0
500 < KWP	1670	1865	1905	14.1	2.1	2.7
Not Recorded	1809	1358	1264			
Total	218455	229839	231349	5.9	0.7	1.2
*Excludes PWC						

Table 10 : Number of recreational vessel registrations by cabin type (selected years)

Vessels by Maritime Region				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
Description	Jun-10	Jun-14	Jun-15	10/15	14/15	10/15
Full Cabin Cruiser	15445	15306	15283	-1.0	-0.15	-0.2
Half Cabin Cruiser	23891	23374	23030	-3.6	-1.47	-0.7
Quarter Cabin Cruiser	6269	7277	7495	19.6	3.00	3.6
Bow Rider	7118	8523	8717	22.5	2.28	4.1
Centre Console	11802	14935	15692	33.0	5.07	5.9
Sport/Ski Boat	5798	7095	7232	24.7	1.93	4.5
Open Runabout	148132	153329	153900	3.9	0.37	0.8
Boats	218455	229839	231349	5.9	0.66	1.2
PWC	15098	20392	21795	44.4	6.88	7.6
Total	233553	250231	253144	8.4	1.16	1.6

Table 11 : Number of recreational vessel registrations by maritime regions (selected years)

Vessels by Maritime Region				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
	Jun-10	Jun-14	Jun-15	10/15	14/15	10/15
Brisbane	129827	137925	140463	8.2	1.84	1.6
Gladstone	43442	47510	47164	8.6	-0.73	1.7
Mackay	17438	19197	19806	13.6	3.17	2.6
Townsville	22143	23490	23875	7.8	1.6	1.5
Cairns	19962	21313	21772	9.1	2.2	1.8
Ex Qld	741	796	64			
Total	233553	250231	253144	8.4	1.2	1.62

Table 12 : Number of New, Discontinued and Transferred Registrations (selected years)

Year	New Registrations	Discontinued Registrations	Transferred Registrations	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.
Boats				
2010	18857	15638	19660	218455
2014	19392	16171	19773	229839
2015	18138	16628	19682	231349
PWC				
2010	2880	1414	1869	15098
2014	3472	1852	2541	20392
2015	3510	2107	2689	21795