

## Recreational vessel census June 2013

### About This Publication

This publication presents the results of a census taken of recreational vessels registered in Queensland on 30 June 2013. The data presented in this publication was extracted from the Department of Transport and Main Roads TRAILS Registration System (the register) on 8 July 2013.

The publication provides data and statistics on registered recreational vessel attributes including vessel type, vessel length, vessel age, engine output and the maritime region in which vessels are registered.

For purposes of comparison, data are provided at 30 June for the years 2013, 2012 and 2008.

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 2013 there were 245,390 recreational vessels (boats and PWC) listed on the register; approximately 1 vessel for every 19 people resident in the State.

Since 30 June 2012 the number of registered vessels on the register increased by 1.7% reducing the 5 year average growth rate to 2%. Across the states five maritime regions the growth rate was weakest in the Brisbane region (1.3%) and strongest in the Gladstone region (2.5%).

Approximately 9% (21,451 vessels) of the vessels on the register have been added since the last census in June 2012. Over the same period 17,277 vessels (7%) have been removed from the register while 21,871 (9%) have been transferred from one registrant to another. Based upon these figures Queensland registered recreational vessels have a decommissioning rate of approximately 6.6% per year.

Since 30 June 2012 the number of recreational boats (that is vessels other than PWC) on the register increased by 1.25% over the past 12 months reducing the 5 year average growth rate to 1.46%.

The distribution of the length of boats on the register has remained relatively unchanged with 70% of boats being less than 5 metres in length and 96% of them being less than 10 metres in length.

Similarly the distribution of the recorded power output of the main engine fitted to boats has also remained relatively unchanged. In this case 44% of engines produce less than 25kW, 67% less than 50kW, 83% less than 100kW and 98 % less than 300kW of power.

While Open Runabouts remain the most popular type of boat accounting for 67% of registered boats, the number of registered Quarter (cuddy) Cabin Cruisers has been increasing over the past 5 years (5.5%) while the numbers of Full and Half Cabin Cruisers have been relatively stable.

The largest growth rates among the various types of registered boats involved those described as Centre Consoles, Bow Riders and Sports/Ski boats. While these boats now only account for 6.2%, 3.6% and 3.0% of registered boats they have increased in numbers by between 4.4% and 6.0% over the past 12 months and by an average of between 6.4% and 7.9% over the past 5 years.

The number of personal watercraft (PWC, or jet skis) on the register increased by 7.9% over the past 12 months reducing the 5 year average growth rate from 11.8% at the last census to 10.5 %. Nevertheless the number of PWC on the register is increasing faster than any other type of vessel and now account for 7.7% of all registered recreational vessels.

In additions to these registered vessels, there are presently 22,081 boat trailers registered for private use with which no registered vessel can be associated. This figure, while only indicative, can perhaps serve as a minimum estimate of the number of recreational vessels currently in use which do not require registration (for example unpowered boats).

## Information

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, email [msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au).

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of vessels can be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website [www.msq.qld.gov.au](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au) and from the following Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices:

Airlie Beach	(07) 4946 2200
Bundaberg	(07) 4131 8500
Cairns	(07) 4052 7400
Gladstone	(07) 4973 1200
Hervey Bay	(07) 4194 9600
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Mooloolaba	(07) 5477 8425
Pinkenba	(07) 3860 3500
Southport	(07) 5539 7300
Townsville	(07) 4726 3400

## 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 vessels by maritime region (selected characteristics)**

Year	Brisbane*	Gladstone	Mackay	Townsville	Cairns	Ex Qld	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
<b>Vessel Type</b>							
Full Cabin Cruiser	9,933	2280	1056	901	1024	180	15,374
Half Cabin Cruiser	13,283	4364	1792	2069	1931	65	23,504
Quarter Cabin Cruiser	3,948	1306	521	559	677	19	7030
Open Runabout	76,650	32,216	12,798	15,912	13,644	342	151,562
PWC/ Jet-Ski	14,369	1885	778	882	792	68	18,774
Bow Rider	5,994	875	398	462	493	24	8246
Centre Console	6,165	2574	1170	2258	1825	47	14,039
Sports/Ski Boat	4,173	1134	461	471	608	14	6861
<b>Vessel Length</b>							
Length < 5 m	93,863	35,128	13,705	17,312	14,215	418	174,641
5 m <= Length < 7.5 m	30,514	9266	4127	5220	5706	142	54,975
7.5 m <= Length < 10 m	4,567	1112	556	514	509	50	7308
10 m <= Length < 15 m	4,752	1036	500	418	494	115	7315
15 m <= Length < 20 m	687	81	71	48	61	27	975
20 m <= Length < 25 m	91	8	12		7	7	125
25 m <= Length	41	3	3	2	2		51
<b>Engine Type</b>							
Inboard	30,049	5434	2438	2260	2667	284	43,132
Outboard	104,458	41,194	16,534	21,252	18,320	475	202,233
Other	8	6	2	2	7		25
<b>Sails</b>							
Without Sails	130,310	45,499	18,468	23,063	20,350	670	238,360
With Sails	4,205	1135	506	451	644	89	7030
<b>Year of Manufacture</b>							
Year <= 1995	26,875	9859	3282	4206	4348	151	48,721
1995 < Year <= 2000	12,808	4308	1636	2358	2233	70	23,413
2000 < Year <= 2005	26,660	8725	3891	4381	4070	173	47,900
2005 < Year <= 2010	28,419	8403	3705	4451	3795	154	48,927
2011	3,939	1095	635	606	454	15	6744
2012	4,287	1133	726	650	501	12	7309
2013	1,406	427	194	209	143	2	2381
Not Recorded	30,121	12684	4905	6653	5450	182	59,995
<b>All Recreational Vessels</b>	134,515	46,634	18,974	23,514	20,994	759	245,390

\*Note: The Brisbane Maritime Region now includes Gold Coast

**Table 2: 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.
<b>Full Cabin Cruiser</b>							
2008	10,137	2097	1133	875	905	214	15,361
2012	9,957	2298	1073	894	1015	171	15,408
2013	9,933	2280	1056	901	1024	180	15,374
<b>Half Cabin Cruiser</b>							
2008	14,365	4179	1572	1906	1829	67	23,918
2012	13,580	4299	1755	2058	1947	73	23,712
2013	13,283	4364	1792	2069	1931	65	23,504
<b>Quarter Cabin Cruiser</b>							
2008	3,285	901	364	345	478	15	5388
2012	3,857	1240	523	552	651	17	6840
2013	3,948	1306	521	559	677	19	7030
<b>Open Runabout</b>							
2008	75,250	29,751	11,600	15,197	13,330	322	145,450
2012	76,424	31,657	12,502	15,777	13,474	342	150,176
2013	76,650	32,216	12,798	15,912	13,644	342	151,562
<b>PWC/ Jet-Ski</b>							
2008	8,904	986	462	569	433	42	11,396
2012	13,356	1666	729	858	723	66	17,398
2013	14,369	1885	778	882	792	68	18,774
<b>Bow Rider</b>							
2008	4,505	581	293	311	333	19	6042
2012	5,753	827	377	440	481	23	7901
2013	5,994	875	398	462	493	24	8246
<b>Centre Console</b>							
2008	4,474	1776	874	1537	1250	26	9937
2012	5,823	2424	1140	2098	1713	45	13,243
2013	6,165	2574	1170	2258	1825	47	14,039
<b>Sports/Ski Boat</b>							
2008	3,066	653	263	264	432	17	4695
2012	4,007	1064	438	435	578	16	6538
2013	4,173	1134	461	471	608	14	6861
<b>All Recreational Vessels</b>							
2008	123,986	40,924	16,561	21,004	18,990	722	222,187
2012	132,757	45,475	18,537	23,112	20,582	753	241,216
2013	134,515	46,634	18,974	23,514	20,994	759	245,390

\*Note: The Brisbane Maritime Region now includes Gold Coast

**Table 3: Number of recreational vessels by length (selected years)**

Vessel by Length*				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
Length	Jun-08	Jun-12	Jun-13	2008/2013	2012/2013	2008/2013
Length < 5m	146,891	154,008	155,887	6.12	1.22	1.20
5m =< Length < 7.5m	48,565	54,092	54,955	13.16	1.60	2.50
7.5m =< Length < 10m	7107	7303	7308	2.83	0.07	0.56
10m =< Length < 15m	7101	7271	7315	3.01	0.61	0.60
15m =< Length < 20m	948	977	975	2.85	-0.20	0.56
20m =< Length < 25m	107	116	125	16.82	7.76	3.16
25m =< Length	72	51	51	-29.17	0.00	-6.66
<b>Total</b>	210,791	223,818	226,616	7.51	1.25	1.46

\*Excludes PWC

**Table 4: Number of recreational vessels by maritime region (selected years)**

Vessels by Maritime Region				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
Maritime Region	Jun-08	Jun-12	Jun-13	2008/2013	2012/2013	2008/2013
Brisbane	123,986	132,757	134,515	8.5	1.3	1.64
Gladstone	40,924	45,475	46,634	14.0	2.5	2.6
Mackay	16,561	18,537	18,974	14.6	2.4	2.8
Townsville	21,004	23,112	23,514	12.0	1.7	2.3
Cairns	18,990	20,582	20,994	10.6	2.0	2.0
Ex Qld	722	753	759	5.1	0.8	1.0
<b>Total</b>	222,187	241,216	245,390	10.4	1.7	2.0

\*Note: The Brisbane Maritime Region now includes Gold Coast

**Table 5: Number of new, discontinued and transferred vessel registrations (selected years)**

	Newly Registered	Deregistered	Transferred Registrations	Total
Jun-08	24,725	15,082	21,799	222,187
Jun-12	20,804	16,654	20,863	241,216
Jun-13	21,451	17,277	21,871	245,390

Note: The figures in this table are not a count or recorded from transactions. They are estimates derived from the recorded number of registrations in each of the relevant years

**Table 6 : Number of recreational vessels by type (selected years)**

Vessel by Type				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
Vessel Type	Jun-08	Jun-12	Jun-13	2008/2013	2012/2013	2008/2013
Full Cabin Cruiser	15,361	15,408	15,374	0.1	-0.2	0.0
Half Cabin Cruiser	23,918	23,712	23,504	-1.7	-0.9	-0.3
Quarter Cabin Cruiser	5388	6840	7030	30.5	2.8	5.5
Open Runabout	145,450	150,176	151,562	4.2	0.9	0.8
PWC/ Jet-Ski	11,396	17,398	18,774	64.7	7.9	10.5
Bow Rider	6042	7901	8246	36.5	4.4	6.4
Centre Console	9937	13,243	14,039	41.3	6.0	7.2
Sports/Ski Boat	4695	6538	6861	46.1	4.9	7.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,187</b>	<b>241,216</b>	<b>245,390</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>

**Table 7: Number of recreational vessels by main engine power output (selected years)**

Vessels by Main Engine Power*				Percentage Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Growth
Kilowatts	Jun-08	Jun-12	Jun-13	2008/2013	2012/2013	2008/2013
0 < kW <= 5	9474	9045	8915	-5.9	-1.4	-1.2
5 < kW <=10	16,252	14,888	14,550	-10.5	-2.3	-2.2
10 < kW <=25	70,723	75,919	77,117	9.0	1.6	1.7
25 < kW <=50	45,954	50,252	51,268	11.6	2.0	2.2
50 < kW <=100	35,294	36,361	36,636	3.8	0.8	0.7
100 < kW <=150	17,609	19,683	19,970	13.4	1.5	2.5
150 < kW <=300	11,289	13,508	13,982	23.9	3.5	4.4
300 < kW <=500	760	878	911	19.9	3.8	3.7
500 < kW	1358	1764	1841	35.6	4.4	6.3
Not Recorded	2078	1520	1426	-31.4	-6.2	-7.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>210,791</b>	<b>223,818</b>	<b>226,616</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>
*Excludes PWC						