

# Table 1042. Airports, Aircraft, and Airmen: 1980 to 2006

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

Item	1980	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006
Airports, total <sup>1</sup>	15,161	17,490	18,224	19,281	19,581	19,820	19,854	19,990
Public	4,814	5,589	5,415	5,317	5,286	5,288	5,270	5,233
Percent—with lighted runways	66.2	71.4	74.3	75.9	76.2	76.3	76.8	77.2
With paved runways	72.3	70.7	73.3	74.3	74.5	74.5	74.8	75.2
Private	10,347	11,901	12,809	13,964	14,295	14,532	14,584	14,757
Percent—with lighted runways	15.2	7.0	6.4	7.2	8.6	9.0	9.2	9.5
With paved runways	13.3	31.5	33.0	32.0	32.7	32.8	33.2	33.3
Certificated <sup>2</sup>	730	680	667	651	628	599	575	604
Civil	(X)	(X)	572	563	555	542	(NA)	(NA)
Civil military	(X)	(X)	95	88	73	57	(NA)	(NA)
General aviation	14,431	16,810	17,557	18,630	18,953	19,221	19,279	19,379
Active air carrier fleet <sup>3</sup>	3,805	6,083	7,411	8,055	8,176	8,186	8,225	(NA)
Fixed wing	3,803	6,072	7,293	8,016	8,144	8,150	8,182	(NA)
Helicopter	2	11	118	39	32	36	43	(NA)
General aviation fleet <sup>4</sup>	211,043	198,000	188,089	217,533	209,708	219,426	224,352	221,943
Fixed-wing	200,094	184,500	162,342	183,276	176,624	182,867	185,373	182,186
Turbojet	2,992	4,100	4,559	7,001	7,997	9,298	9,823	10,379
Turboprop	4,089	5,300	4,995	5,762	7,689	8,379	7,942	8,063
Piston	193,013	175,200	152,788	170,513	160,938	165,189	167,608	163,743
Rotocraft	6,001	6,900	5,830	7,150	6,525	7,821	8,728	9,159
Other	4,945	6,600	4,741	6,700	6,008	5,939	6,454	6,277
Gliders	(X)	(X)	2,182	2,041	2,002	2,116	2,074	1,975
Lighter than air	(X)	(X)	2,559	4,660	4,006	3,823	4,380	4,303
Experimental	(X)	(X)	15,176	20,407	20,550	22,800	23,627	23,047
Airman certificates held: <sup>5</sup>								
Pilot, total	827,071	702,659	639,184	625,581	625,011	618,633	609,737	597,109
Women	52,902	40,515	38,032	36,757	37,694	37,243	36,584	36,101
Student	199,833	128,663	101,279	93,064	87,296	87,910	87,213	84,866
Recreational	(X)	87	232	340	310	291	278	239
Airplane:								
Private	357,479	299,111	261,399	251,561	241,045	235,994	228,619	219,233
Commercial	183,442	149,666	133,980	121,858	123,990	122,592	120,614	117,610
Air transport	69,569	107,732	123,877	141,596	143,504	142,160	141,992	141,935
Rotocraft only <sup>6</sup>	6,030	9,567	7,183	7,775	7,916	8,586	9,518	10,690
Glider only	7,039	7,833	11,234	9,387	20,950	21,100	21,369	21,597
Flight instructor certificates	60,440	63,775	77,613	80,931	87,816	89,596	90,555	91,343
Instrument ratings	260,462	297,073	298,798	311,944	315,413	313,546	311,828	309,333
Nonpilot <sup>7</sup>	368,356	492,237	651,341	547,453	509,835	515,293	644,016	656,227
Mechanic	250,157	344,282	405,294	344,434	313,032	317,111	320,293	323,097
Repairmen	(X)	(X)	61,233	38,208	37,248	39,231	40,030	40,329
Parachute rigger	9,547	10,094	11,824	10,477	7,883	8,011	8,150	8,252
Ground instructor	61,550	66,882	96,165	72,326	72,692	73,735	74,378	74,849
Dispatcher	6,799	11,002	15,642	16,340	16,955	17,493	18,079	18,610
Flight navigator	1,936	1,290	916	570	382	336	298	264
Flight engineer	38,367	58,687	60,267	65,098	61,643	59,376	57,756	55,952

NA Not available. X Not applicable. <sup>1</sup> Existing airports, heliports, seaplane bases, etc. recorded with FAA. Includes military airports with joint civil and military use. 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 30 passengers. <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). <sup>4</sup> Beginning 1995, excludes commuters. Source: U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. See Internet site <[http://www.faa.gov/data\\_statistics/](http://www.faa.gov/data_statistics/)>. Prior years in the *Statistical Handbook of Aviation*, annual. <sup>5</sup> Data for 1980 are for helicopters only. <sup>6</sup> All certificates on record. No medical examination required.

Source: Except as noted, U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *National Transportation Statistics, annual*. See <[http://www.bts.gov/publications/national\\_transportation\\_statistics/](http://www.bts.gov/publications/national_transportation_statistics/)>.