

AOPA GENERAL AVIATION TRENDS

Total Estimated Active Pilot Certificates Held

Yearly data

	Student	Rec	Sport	Private	Commercial	ATP	Other	Total
1929	--			4,162	5,053	--	--	9,215
1930	--			7,433	7,847	--	--	15,280
1931	--			9,226	8,513	--	--	17,739
1932	--			10,297	7,964	330	--	18,591
1933	--			5,771	7,635	554	--	13,960
1934	--			5,789	7,484	676	--	13,949
1935	--			6,707	7,062	736	--	14,505
1936	--			7,622	7,288	842	--	15,752
1937	--			10,206	6,411	1,064	--	17,681
1938	--			13,985	7,839	1,159	--	22,983
1939	--			20,832	11,677	1,197	--	33,706
1940	--			49,507	18,791	1,431	--	69,729
1941	--			93,782	34,578	1,587	--	129,947
1942	--			108,689	55,760	2,177	--	166,626
1943	--			106,951	63,940	2,315	--	173,206
1944	--			111,883	66,449	3,046	--	181,378
1945	--			128,207	162,873	5,815	--	296,895
1946	--			189,156	203,251	7,654	--	400,061
1947	--			244,270	181,912	7,059	--	433,241
1948	--			306,699	176,845	7,762	--	491,306
1949	--			328,380	187,789	9,025	--	525,194
1950	--			--	--	--	--	--
1951	--			371,854	197,900	10,813	--	580,567
1952	--			371,174	191,824	10,893	--	573,891
1953	--			--	--	18,279	--	18,279
1954	71,959			184,595	80,340	12,129	--	349,023
1955	80,494			132,526	72,957	11,774	--	297,751
1956	95,124			96,864	54,542	11,173	--	257,703
1957	98,498			124,799	70,813	13,964	--	308,074
1958	103,456			140,673	93,126	15,840	--	353,095
1959	107,816			139,804	93,815	18,950	--	360,385
1960	99,182			138,869	89,904	18,279	1,828	348,062
1961	93,973			144,312	92,976	19,155	2,444	352,860
1962	94,870			149,405	95,047	20,032	4,617	363,971
1963	105,298			152,209	96,341	20,269	4,583	378,700
1964	120,743			175,574	108,428	21,572	4,724	431,041
1965	139,172			196,393	116,665	22,440	5,100	479,770
1966	165,177			222,427	131,539	23,917	5,697	548,757
1967	181,287			253,312	150,135	25,817	7,380	617,931
1968	209,406			281,728	164,458	28,607	7,496	691,695
1969	203,520			299,491	176,585	31,442	8,990	720,028
1970	195,861			303,779	186,821	34,430	11,838	732,729
1971	186,428			312,656	192,409	35,949	13,567	741,009
1972	181,477			321,413	196,228	37,714	14,037	750,869
1973	181,905			298,921	182,444	38,139	13,198	714,607
1974	180,795			305,848	192,425	41,002	13,658	733,728
1975	176,978			305,863	189,342	42,592	13,412	728,187
1976	188,801			309,005	187,801	45,072	13,567	744,246
1977	203,510			327,424	188,763	50,149	14,086	783,932
1978	204,874			337,644	185,833	55,881	14,601	798,833
1979	210,180			343,276	182,097	63,652	15,462	814,667
1980	199,833			357,479	183,442	69,569	16,748	827,071
1981	179,912			328,562	168,580	70,311	16,817	764,182
1982	156,361			322,094	165,093	73,471	16,236	733,255
1983	147,197			318,643	159,495	75,938	16,731	718,004
1984	150,081			320,086	155,929	79,192	17,088	722,376
1985	146,652			311,086	151,632	82,740	17,430	709,540
1986	150,273			305,736	147,798	87,186	18,125	709,118

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1987	146,016			300,949	143,645	91,287	17,756	699,653
1988	136,913			299,786	143,030	96,968	17,319	694,016
1989	142,544			293,179	144,540	102,087	17,660	700,010
1990	128,663	87		299,111	149,666	107,732	17,400	702,659
1991	120,203	161		293,306	148,365	112,167	17,893	692,095
1992	114,597	187		288,078	146,385	115,855	17,857	682,959
1993	103,583	206		283,700	143,014	117,070	17,496	665,069
1994	96,254	241		284,236	138,728	117,434	17,195	654,088
1995	101,279	232		261,399	133,676	123,877	18,416	638,879
1996	94,947	265		254,002	129,187	127,486	16,374	622,261
1997	96,101	284		247,604	125,300	130,858	16,195	616,342
1998	97,736	305		247,226	122,053	134,612	16,366	618,298
1999	97,359	343		258,749	124,261	137,642	17,118	635,472
2000	93,064	340		251,561	121,858	141,596	17,162	625,581
2001	86,731	316		243,823	120,502	144,702	16,200	612,274
2002	85,991	317		245,230	125,920	144,708	29,596	631,762
2003	87,296	310		241,045	123,990	143,504	28,866	625,011
2004	87,910	291		235,994	122,592	142,160	29,686	618,633
2005	87,213	278	134	228,619	120,614	141,992	30,887	609,737
2006	84,866	239	939	219,233	117,610	141,935	32,287	597,109
2007	84,339	242	2,031	228,475	128,540	146,722	33,658	624,007

Last updated 1/2008

Note:

Other includes helicopter (only) and glider (only).

In March 2001, the FAA Registry changed the definition of "Other" pilot category.

Source: FAA - Administrator's Fact Book