



Fact Sheet 3 - GA Fleet size estimate

The size of the GA fleet ranges depending upon the parameters for measurement. As a consequence, varying figures can be the source of some confusion.

The CAA General Aviation Strategic Review (GASR), which commenced in 2006, incorporated a study regarding the value of GA¹. This study concluded that there were almost 21,500 GA aircraft in the UK. However, this figure included many aircraft that are inactive for the purposes of that study.

Aircraft that can be described as active and based in the UK must appear on the CAA Register with current valid Certificates of Airworthiness, Permits etc, or be gliders that are currently active and include Foreign Registered Aircraft. The British Gliding Association (BGA) also advises there are an estimated 2,300 gliders that are currently active (which compares with a total of possibly over 5,000 gliders).

The following table is based upon the 2008 PhD thesis¹ which relies upon 2005 data. It can be concluded that there are an estimated 15,500 active GA aircraft (including gliders) in the UK.

Total on CAA Register	17,761
Less Commercial Transport (CAT)	916
GA	16,845
plus Foreign Registered Aircraft	1,092
plus Active Gliders	2,300
plus Not Registered ²	1,267
<i>Total GA</i>	<i>21,504</i>
Less UK GA Overseas	663
GA UK Based	20,841

less Inactive	4,000
less Not Registered ²	1,267
Total Active	15,574
SAY	15,500

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1. T Lober, 2008 – ‘The effectiveness of national strategic guidelines at a local level: a case study of the UK general aviation industry.’ PhD Thesis, Bartlett School of Planning, University College London, London University.
2. Air Britain.

General Aviation Awareness Council

This is one of a series of Fact Sheets available from the GAAC.