

BALPA – 2013 Membership Survey

METHODOLOGY NOTE

ComRes interviewed 500 BALPA members by telephone between 27th August and 6th September 2013. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

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To register for Pollwatch, a monthly newsletter update on the polls, please email: pollwatch@comres.co.uk

BALPA Membership Survey 2013
CATI Fieldwork Dates: 27th August - 6th September 2013

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1
Q1. What, if anything, do you see as being the biggest SINGLE threat to aviation safety?
Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age			Length of service				Seat position (Senior)			Company		
	Total	Male	Female	Up to 35	36-45	46+	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16+ years	Captain	First Officer	Other	British Airways	Easyjet	Other
Base	500	479	21	122	173	205	101	159	122	118	241	224	35	159	104	237
Flight time limitations/fatigue	244 49%	235 49%	9 43%	63 52%	88 51%	93 45%	49 49%	88 55%	58 48%	49 42%	115 48%	112 50%	17 49%	78 49%	61 59%	105 44%
Cost cutting/commercial pressure	81 16%	76 16%	5 24%	15 12%	26 15%	40 20%	15 15%	23 14%	22 18%	21 18%	41 17%	35 16%	5 14%	25 16%	17 16%	39 16%
Lack of/inadequate training	20 4%	19 4%	1 5%	3 2%	6 3%	11 5%	1 1%	5 3%	6 5%	8 7%	14 6%	5 2%	1 3%	8 5%	2 2%	10 4%
Low cost airlines	18 4%	18 4%	-	3 2%	7 4%	8 4%	5 5%	2 1%	6 5%	5 4%	7 3%	8 4%	3 9%	4 3%	-	14 6%
Zero hour contracts/ casual contracts	18 4%	18 4%	-	8 7%	6 3%	4 2%	7 7%	4 3%	5 4%	2 2%	7 3%	9 4%	2 6%	1 1%	7 7%	10 4%
Terrorism	14 3%	13 3%	1 5%	6 5%	3 2%	5 2%	4 4%	5 3%	1 1%	4 3%	6 2%	7 3%	1 3%	5 3%	3 3%	6 3%
Increased automation	8 2%	8 2%	-	3 2%	2 1%	3 1%	1 1%	5 3%	2 2%	-	2 1%	6 3%	-	3 2%	2 2%	3 1%
Decline in terms and conditions (non specific)	7 1%	7 1%	-	3 2%	2 1%	2 1%	1 1%	3 2%	2 2%	1 1%	3 1%	2 1%	2 6%	3 2%	2 2%	2 1%
Lack of regulation/poor regulation	6 1%	6 1%	-	-	4 2%	2 1%	-	2 1%	2 2%	2 2%	3 1%	3 1%	-	2 1%	1 1%	3 1%
Pilots/lack of experience	6 1%	6 1%	-	1 1%	2 1%	3 1%	2 2%	3 2%	-	1 1%	4 2%	1 *	1 3%	-	4 4%	2 1%
Pilot/human error	6 1%	4 1%	2 10%	2 2%	1 1%	3 1%	2 2%	-	1 1%	3 3%	3 1%	3 1%	-	4 3%	-	2 1%
Complacency	5 1%	5 1%	-	1 1%	2 1%	2 1%	1 1%	2 1%	-	2 2%	2 1%	2 1%	1 3%	2 1%	-	3 1%
Pay to fly schemes	5 1%	4 1%	1 5%	3 2%	2 1%	-	2 2%	2 1%	1 1%	-	3 1%	2 1%	-	-	-	5 2%
Fuel policy/planes carry less/insufficient fuel	4 1%	3 1%	1 5%	1 1%	1 1%	2 1%	1 1%	1 1%	1 1%	1 1%	1 *	3 1%	-	-	-	4 2%
Security (lack of)	4 1%	4 1%	-	1 1%	1 1%	2 1%	1 1%	1 1%	-	2 2%	2 1%	2 1%	-	3 2%	-	1 *
Time constraints/ pressures/prevent thorough/correct procedures	4 1%	4 1%	-	-	4 2%	-	-	1 1%	2 2%	1 1%	3 1%	1 *	-	3 2%	1 1%	-
Poor decisions/ behaviour from management	4 1%	4 1%	-	-	-	4 2%	-	-	1 1%	3 3%	4 2%	-	-	1 1%	1 1%	2 1%

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	Total	Male	Female	Up to 35	36-45	46+	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16+ years	Captain	First Officer	Other	British Airways	Easyjet	Other
Base	500	479	21	122	173	205	101	159	122	118	241	224	35	159	104	237
Falling standards generally	3 1%	3 1%	-	1 1%	1 1%	1 *	1 1%	-	2 2%	-	2 1%	1 *	-	-	-	3 1%
Increased cost of training for pilots/airlines contribute less	3 1%	2 *	1 5%	1 1%	-	2 1%	-	1 1%	1 1%	1 1%	2 1%	1 *	-	-	1 1%	2 1%
Security (too much)	2 *	2 *	-	-	2 1%	-	-	2 1%	-	-	-	2 1%	-	1 1%	-	1 *
Low pay rates	2 *	2 *	-	1 1%	1 1%	-	-	1 1%	1 1%	-	-	2 1%	-	1 1%	-	1 *
Congested air space	2 *	2 *	-	-	-	2 1%	-	-	-	2 2%	2 1%	-	-	2 1%	-	-
Poor engineering/maintenance of aircraft/not air worthy	2 *	2 *	-	-	1 1%	1 *	1 1%	1 1%	-	-	1 *	1 *	-	-	-	2 1%
Rostering issues/to frequent changes/insufficient gaps between shifts	2 *	2 *	-	1 1%	-	1 *	-	1 1%	1 1%	-	-	2 1%	-	2 1%	-	-
Pressure to work more hours/when fatigued/ill/unfit to fly	2 *	2 *	-	2 2%	-	-	2 2%	-	-	-	-	2 1%	-	1 1%	1 1%	-
Staff morale	1 *	1 *	-	-	1 1%	-	-	1 1%	-	-	-	1 *	-	-	-	1 *
Lack of professionalism	1 *	1 *	-	-	1 1%	-	-	-	-	1 1%	-	1 *	-	1 1%	-	-
Other	17 3%	17 4%	-	3 2%	4 2%	10 5%	3 3%	4 3%	4 3%	6 5%	8 3%	8 4%	1 3%	6 4%	1 1%	10 4%
Nothing	1 *	1 *	-	-	1 1%	-	-	-	-	1 1%	1 *	-	-	-	-	1 *
Don't Know	8 2	8 2%	-	-	4 2%	4 2%	2 2%	1 1%	3 2%	2 2%	5 2%	2 1%	1 3%	3 2%	-	5 2%

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Absolutes/col percents

Table 2

Q2. During the past six months, how often, if at all, have you felt that your abilities have been compromised by tiredness during a flight?

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age			Length of service				Seat position (Senior)			Company		
	Total	Male	Female	Up to 35	36-45	46+	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16+ years	Captain	First Officer	Other	British Airways	Easyjet	Other
Base	500	479	21	122	173	205	101	159	122	118	241	224	35	159	104	237
About once a week	69 14%	66 14%	3 14%	18 15%	24 14%	27 13%	11 11%	29 18%	19 16%	10 8%	33 14%	32 14%	4 11%	18 11%	26 25%	25 11%
About once a month	144 29%	141 29%	3 14%	34 28%	45 26%	65 32%	28 28%	50 31%	30 25%	36 31%	80 33%	59 26%	5 14%	46 29%	37 36%	61 26%
A few times	147 29%	142 30%	5 24%	32 26%	53 31%	62 30%	28 28%	43 27%	40 33%	36 31%	65 27%	68 30%	14 40%	49 31%	28 27%	70 30%
Only once	59 12%	56 12%	3 14%	14 11%	23 13%	22 11%	12 12%	19 12%	13 11%	15 13%	27 11%	29 13%	3 9%	23 14%	5 5%	31 13%
Never	81 16%	74 15%	7 33%	24 20%	28 16%	29 14%	22 22%	18 11%	20 16%	21 18%	36 15%	36 16%	9 26%	23 14%	8 8%	50 21%
NET: At least monthly	213 43%	207 43%	6 29%	52 43%	69 40%	92 45%	39 39%	79 50%	49 40%	46 39%	113 47%	91 41%	9 26%	64 40%	63 61%	86 36%
NET: Ever	419 84%	405 85%	14 67%	98 80%	145 84%	176 86%	79 78%	141 89%	102 84%	97 82%	205 85%	188 84%	26 74%	136 86%	96 92%	187 79%

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Absolutes/col percents

Table 3

Q3. Have you ever fallen asleep (including micro-naps) while flying in 2 crew operations?**Base: All respondents**

	Gender			Age			Length of service				Seat position (Senior)			Company		
	Total	Male	Female	Up to 35	36-45	46+	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16+ years	Captain	First Officer	Other	British Airways	Easyjet	Other
Base	500	479	21	122	173	205	101	159	122	118	241	224	35	159	104	237
Yes	278 56%	270 56%	8 38%	50 41%	101 58%	127 62%	39 39%	92 58%	71 58%	76 64%	138 57%	114 51%	26 74%	100 63%	61 59%	117 49%
No	219 44%	206 43%	13 62%	72 59%	71 41%	76 37%	62 61%	67 42%	51 42%	39 33%	102 42%	109 49%	8 23%	56 35%	43 41%	120 51%
Refused	1 *	1 *	-	-	-	1 *	-	-	-	1 1%	-	1 *	-	1 1%	-	-
Don't know / Not applicable	2 *	2 *	-	-	1 1%	1 *	-	-	-	2 2%	1 *	-	1 3%	2 1%	-	-

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Absolutes/col percents

Table 4

Q4. While flying in 2 crew operations, have you ever woken up to find the other pilot asleep?**Base: All ever fallen asleep while flying in 2 crew operations**

	Gender			Age			Length of service				Seat position (Senior)			Company		
	Total	Male	Female	Up to 35	36-45	46+	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16+ years	Captain	First Officer	Other	British Airways	Easyjet	Other
Base	278	270	8	50	101	127	39	92	71	76	138	114	26	100	61	117
Yes	81 29%	81 30%	-	14 28%	26 26%	41 32%	9 23%	26 28%	18 25%	28 37%	37 27%	36 32%	8 31%	38 38%	11 18%	32 27%
No	197 71%	189 70%	8 100%	36 72%	75 74%	86 68%	30 77%	66 72%	53 75%	48 63%	101 73%	78 68%	18 69%	62 62%	50 82%	85 73%

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Absolutes/col percents

Table 5
Q5. If you felt fatigued, would you feel comfortable refusing to fly or not?
Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age			Length of service				Seat position (Senior)			Company		
	Total	Male	Female	Up to 35	36-45	46+	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16+ years	Captain	First Officer	Other	British Airways	Easyjet	Other
Base	500	479	21	122	173	205	101	159	122	118	241	224	35	159	104	237
NET: Yes	354 71%	341 71%	13 62%	95 78%	119 69%	140 68%	77 76%	118 74%	81 66%	78 66%	175 73%	155 69%	24 69%	86 54%	91 88%	177 75%
Yes, I would feel comfortable refusing, without reservation	100 20%	97 20%	3 14%	29 24%	22 13%	49 24%	18 18%	32 20%	26 21%	24 20%	50 21%	40 18%	10 29%	13 8%	28 27%	59 25%
Yes, I would feel comfortable refusing, but with some reservation	254 51%	244 51%	10 48%	66 54%	97 56%	91 44%	59 58%	86 54%	55 45%	54 46%	125 52%	115 51%	14 40%	73 46%	63 61%	118 50%
No, I would not feel comfortable refusing to fly	145 29%	137 29%	8 38%	27 22%	54 31%	64 31%	24 24%	40 25%	41 34%	40 34%	65 27%	69 31%	11 31%	73 46%	12 12%	60 25%
Not sure	1 *	1 *	-	-	-	1 *	-	1 1%	-	-	1 *	-	-	-	1 1%	-

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Table 6

Q6. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree that your company has a culture that enables you to freely report fatigue hazards and fatigue-related events?

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age			Length of service				Seat position (Senior)			Company		
	Total	Male	Female	Up to 35	36-45	46+	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16+ years	Captain	First Officer	Other	British Airways	Easyjet	Other
Base	500	479	21	122	173	205	101	159	122	118	241	224	35	159	104	237
Strongly agree	(+2) 99 20%	97 20%	2 10%	30 25%	31 18%	38 19%	28 28%	28 18%	20 16%	23 19%	44 18%	48 21%	7 20%	13 8%	17 16%	69 29%
Tend to agree	(+1) 168 34%	161 34%	7 33%	40 33%	52 30%	76 37%	32 32%	52 33%	39 32%	45 38%	84 35%	69 31%	15 43%	45 28%	44 42%	79 33%
Neither agree nor disagree	(0) 78 16%	75 16%	3 14%	18 15%	34 20%	26 13%	18 18%	20 13%	27 22%	13 11%	36 15%	38 17%	4 11%	31 19%	15 14%	32 14%
Tend to disagree	(-1) 89 18%	83 17%	6 29%	17 14%	34 20%	38 19%	11 11%	36 23%	23 19%	19 16%	42 17%	41 18%	6 17%	37 23%	16 15%	36 15%
Strongly disagree	(-2) 65 13%	62 13%	3 14%	17 14%	21 12%	27 13%	12 12%	23 14%	12 10%	18 15%	34 14%	28 13%	3 9%	33 21%	12 12%	20 8%
Don't know	1 *	1 *	-	-	1 1%	-	-	-	1 1%	-	1 *	-	-	-	-	1 *
NET: Agree	267 53%	258 54%	9 43%	70 57%	83 48%	114 56%	60 59%	80 50%	59 48%	68 58%	128 53%	117 52%	22 63%	58 36%	61 59%	148 62%
NET: Disagree	154 31%	145 30%	9 43%	34 28%	55 32%	65 32%	23 23%	59 37%	35 29%	37 31%	76 32%	69 31%	9 26%	70 44%	28 27%	56 24%
Mean	0.29	0.31	-0.05	0.40	0.22	0.29	0.52	0.16	0.26	0.31	0.26	0.30	0.49	-0.20	0.37	0.60
Standard deviation	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.36	1.29	1.32	1.32	1.35	1.23	1.36	1.33	1.33	1.25	1.28	1.25	1.28
Standard error	0.06	0.06	0.28	0.12	0.10	0.09	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.09	0.09	0.21	0.10	0.12	0.08

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Table 7

Q7. If you refused to fly because of fatigue, do you feel your decision would be supported by each of the following, or not ...

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age			Length of service				Seat position (Senior)			Company		
	Total	Male	Female	Up to 35	36-45	46+	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16+ years	Captain	First Officer	Other	British Airways	Easyjet	Other
Base	500	479	21	122	173	205	101	159	122	118	241	224	35	159	104	237
Chief pilot																
Supported	323 65%	311 65%	12 57%	92 75%	118 68%	113 55%	83 82%	97 61%	69 57%	74 63%	152 63%	149 67%	22 63%	88 55%	71 68%	164 69%
Not supported	157 31%	149 31%	8 38%	26 21%	51 29%	80 39%	15 15%	53 33%	48 39%	41 35%	76 32%	70 31%	11 31%	69 43%	26 25%	62 26%
Don't know	20 4%	19 4%	1 5%	4 3%	4 2%	12 6%	3 3%	9 6%	5 4%	3 3%	13 5%	5 2%	2 6%	2 1%	7 7%	11 5%
Director of Flight Operations (DFO)																
Supported	269 54%	258 54%	11 52%	74 61%	95 55%	100 49%	62 61%	80 50%	60 49%	67 57%	128 53%	121 54%	20 57%	79 50%	55 53%	135 57%
Not supported	214 43%	204 43%	10 48%	44 36%	74 43%	96 47%	34 34%	71 45%	60 49%	49 42%	104 43%	97 43%	13 37%	77 48%	43 41%	94 40%
Don't know	17 3%	17 4%	- -	4 3%	4 2%	9 4%	5 5%	8 5%	2 2%	2 2%	9 4%	6 3%	2 6%	3 2%	6 6%	8 3%
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)																
Supported	253 51%	242 51%	11 52%	76 62%	83 48%	94 46%	56 55%	87 55%	56 46%	54 46%	125 52%	110 49%	18 51%	70 44%	71 68%	112 47%
Not supported	204 41%	196 41%	8 38%	39 32%	72 42%	93 45%	39 39%	58 36%	55 45%	52 44%	92 38%	96 43%	16 46%	77 48%	26 25%	101 43%
Don't know	43 9%	41 9%	2 10%	7 6%	18 10%	18 9%	6 6%	14 9%	11 9%	12 10%	24 10%	18 8%	1 3%	12 8%	7 7%	24 10%
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)																
Supported	404 81%	386 81%	18 86%	102 84%	142 82%	160 78%	84 83%	127 80%	97 80%	96 81%	192 80%	184 82%	28 80%	131 82%	81 78%	192 81%
Not supported	81 16%	78 16%	3 14%	18 15%	27 16%	36 18%	13 13%	29 18%	23 19%	16 14%	42 17%	33 15%	6 17%	26 16%	20 19%	35 15%
Don't know	15 3%	15 3%	- -	2 2%	4 2%	9 4%	4 4%	3 2%	2 2%	6 5%	7 3%	7 3%	1 3%	2 1%	3 3%	10 4%