

WORLD MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 2006

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
ARGENTINA	251	268	253	242	252	264	186	174	182	230	249	223
AUSTRALIA	3349	3240	3139	3089	2976	2785	2725	2673	2606	2637	2575	2444
AUSTRIA	3986	4028	3990	3965	3928	3817	3790	3692	3690	3687	3598	3481
BELGIUM	1580	1571	1557	1570	1591	1530	1520	1472	1916	1877	1850	1760
CANADA	1292	1257	1319	1321	1313	1290	1350	1297	1232	1134	1103	1101
CHINA									120	117	50	48
COLUMBIA												30
CROATIA									270	272	149	150
CZECH REPLB	3385	3531	3540	3591	3190	3142	3114	3206	3246	3249	3196	3121
DENMARK	2036	2005	1984	1927	1950	1892	1875	1841	1766	1756	1783	1738
FINLAND	2533	2442	2670	2474	2602	2814	2600	2548	2493	2442	2446	2329
FRANCE	13809	13256	12554	11813	11100	11510	12020	12155	13582	12829	12471	12375
GERMANY	37592	37624	36724	36768	36687	36414	35852	35650	35236	34642	33196	32229
GREECE	50	50	49	49	51	52	53	60	60	83	82	85
HUNGARY	1881	1881	1881	1664	1664	1628	1637	1643	1602	1450	1001	1063
ICELAND	100	97	96	96	101	80	70	68	49	55	57	55
ISRAEL	204	193	189	190	190	183	184	175	180	176	170	175
IRELAND	75	78	79	81	85	94	98	111	118	111	119	112
ITALY	2135	2105	2120	2135	2125	2110	2122	2129	2129	1749	1641	1742
JAPAN	719	705	697	686	675	663	684	670	643	640	670	630
KENYA									7	9	8	13
KOREA									10	9	8	8
LUXEMBURG									49	35	35	38
LITHUANIA				471	469	472	494	510	526	532	540	527
NTHRLNDS	4024	4090	4046	4125	4079	4065	4088	3816	3617	3952	3949	3857
N. ZEALAND	1109	1047	1017	987	889	867	901	917	919	893	875	861
NORWAY	1707	1618	1701	1599	1574	1550	1578	1760	1760	1513	1528	1437
PAKISTAN				23	25	28	29	28	27	25	24	27
POLAND	2422	2697	2808	3062	2902	2892	3048	3058	3058	2996	2587	2362
PORTUGAL									64	64	62	58
RUSSIA	369	369	369	326	326	326	357	360	360	349	350	333
SERBIA/MONTENEGRO									143	130	127	120
SLOVAK REPLB	962	945	925	846	774	736	699	729	675	652	680	624
SLOVENIA	915	898	885	874	861	872	924	949	949	598	579	624
STH AFRICA	655	651	641	688	728	579	597	613	635	598	628	590
SPAIN	467	478	490	493	498	496	435	436	560	561	550	526
SWEDEN	3322	3088	3249	3013	3025	2700	2950	2700	2912	2776	2600	2600
SWTZRLND	3574	3654	3647	3666	3680	3145	3040	2977	2871	3154	2995	3018
UNTD KNGDM	9757	9409	9225	9225	9164	8802	8848	9166	8341	8242	8105	8079
U.S.A.	23252	22764	22565	22464	22025	21997	21960	21826	20950	20980	21369	20899
	127512	126039	124409	123523	121499	119795	119828	119409	119553	117204	114005	111492

COMMENTARY

There has been yet another decrease in world glider pilot numbers of 2,513 (2.2%) for the year ended 2006. (The previous year 2005, the membership loss was 2.11% thus indicating that the decline is consistent). Over the past 12 years the number of pilots has fallen by 12.56% (from 127, 512 in 1995 to 111,492 in 2006.) I said last year that the decline was alarming, and there is no reason to change that comment.

Sourcing membership numbers from each country is a monumental task and unfortunately many I.G.C. delegates are not as co-operative as one would expect them to be. This year I attempted to secure the world average age of pilots, which would be a significant indicator on how

the sport is developing or otherwise, but I had to give up as the majority of member countries could not supply those details. I would urge the Bureau to make it a condition of membership that these and like statistics are available each year. Having this information would better enable I.G.C. to address this major problem. I should be able to report average time in the sport, number of junior pilots, number of female pilots etc. etc. I will try again for the 2007 year, but will ask the I.G.C. president to write to delegates now and alert them that these statistics will be sort in November 2007 for the 2007 year.

The following notes should be read in association with the membership table. A determined effort has been made to achieve figures as accurate as possible. Further new data supplied this year has again allowed me to correct some errors in previous years.

ARGENTINA: Has had very consistent member numbers but experienced a 10.4% drop in 2006.

AUSTRALIA: A 6% fall in 2006. Their membership loss since 1995 is 27.02% - considerably greater than the world average of 12.56%

AUSTRIA: At 3481, their 2006 loss amounts to 3.25% - this is greater than the world average.

CANADA: No change for the year under review

CHINA: We could not get the latest figures from China despite repeated requests. We applied the world average decline to the previous year's figures. Inconsequential to the over all picture.

COLUMBIA: Appears on the table for the first time.

CROATIA: No change.

CZECH REPUBLIC: Down 2.4%, just above the world average.

DENMARK: Down 2.5%, just above the world average.

FINLAND: Down 6.6%, double the world average.

FRANCE: Down 2.06%, but below the world average.

GERMANY: Down 3.69% - well above the world average. Their decline since 1995 amounts to 17.5% - which is 40% greater than the world average loss.

GREECE: An increase of 3 members only for the year.

HUNGARY: An exception - increase of 6.1% for the year.

ICELAND: We could not get the latest figures from Iceland despite repeated requests. We applied the world average decline to the previous year's figures. Inconsequential to the over all picture.

ISRAEL: Increase of 5 members for the year - up 2.9%

IRELAND: Increase of 7 members for the year - up 5.8%

ITALY: Another exception - up 101 members, 6.1% for the year. .

JAPAN: Down 5.97%.

LITHUANIA: Up 2.4%

NETHERLANDS: Down 2.3% - world average

NEW ZEALAND: Loss of 14 members - 1.6%. Below world average.

NORWAY: Down a disastrous 11.97% for the year.

POLAND: Loss of 225 members resulting in a decrease of 8.69%.

RUSSIA: Down 17 members - 4.85%

SLOVAK REPUBLIC: Down 8.2%

SLOVENIA: Another exception Up 7.7% The best result for 2006

STH AFRICA: Down 6%

SPAIN: Down 4.3%

SWEDEN: Their figures are suspect. We were provided with 2600 for 2005 and 2600 for 2006.

SWITZERLAND: Against the trend. Up 23 members. Up 7.6% Second best for 2006.

UNITED KINGDOM: Loss of 3.2%

U.S.A. This is the most difficult country to secure any consistent meaningful data from. In 2005, and by agreement with the SSA's former C.E.O., I agreed to use the FAA's number of licensed glider pilots to achieve consistency. For some unknown reason, the figures were unavailable for 2006 so I was obliged to apply the world average decline percentage to their 2005 figure. Not ideal I know, but the only alternative I had. I am following up on this situation.

JOHN ROAKE FOR I.G.C.