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## COMMERCIAL SPACE OPERATIONS FACT SHEET



- The first FAA-licensed commercial space operation was in 1989. It took 32 years to reach 500 and then just four years for the next 500.
- The first FAA license authorizing commercial human space flight was issued in 2004 and the first reentry license was issued in 2010.
- Overall, the FAA has issued licenses to 31 different commercial space operators that launched from or reentered the U.S., four other countries, and international waters.
- No public injuries or fatalities have occurred during any FAA-licensed or permitted commercial space launch and reentry operation.
- For additional statistics view the [FAA Commercial Space Data dashboard](#) and the [FAA 10-year commercial space forecast](#).

### Commercial Space Transportation Regulations

- An FAA license is required for any launch or reentry, or the operation of any launch or reentry site, by U.S. citizens anywhere in the world, or by any individual or entity within the U.S. Key components of a license evaluation include reviews on policy, payload, safety, airspace integration, financial responsibility and environmental impacts.
- A [Part 450 Aerospace Rulemaking Committee](#) is in progress to update the commercial launch and

reentry license rule to foster more clarity, flexibility, efficiency, and innovation. The FAA expects the committee to issue a recommendations report in fall 2025.

- A [Part 460 Aerospace Rulemaking Committee](#) submitted a recommendations report in April 2025 that examined a possible future commercial-human-space-flight-occupant safety framework. The FAA will post the report after a comprehensive internal review.
- A [Part 440 Aerospace Rulemaking Committee](#) submitted a [recommendations report](#) in March 2024 that focused on financial responsibility during commercial space operations. The FAA is considering the recommendations as part of a potential rulemaking.

### Integrating Space Operations into the U.S. National Airspace System

- The FAA is responsible for the safe and efficient integration of all space operations into the U.S. airspace system and uses [objective factors](#) to optimize the airspace for all users. [Watch](#) to learn more.
- In 2024, about 86 percent of all space operations in U.S. airspace transmitted vehicle flight data - such as position, altitude, and speed - to the FAA via the [Space Data Integrator tool](#). This helps inform decision-making on airspace safety and efficiency.
- The FAA integrates into U.S. airspace FAA-licensed and permitted commercial space operations as well as non-licensed operations conducted by the U.S. military, NASA and other federal agencies.

