Independent Airlines.—In addition to the two major Canadian air carriers—Trans-Canada Air Lines and Canadian Pacific Air Lines Limited—there are four domestic air carriers licensed to operate scheduled commercial air services in Canada, namely, Maritime Central Airways Limited, Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Quebecair, Inc., Rimouski, Que.; TransAir Limited, Winnipeg, Man.; and Pacific Western Airlines Limited, Vancouver, B.C.

Licensed Canadian air carriers operating in Canada as at Mar. 31, 1960 held valid operating certificates covering 43 scheduled, 128 flying training, and 908 other non-scheduled and specialty services. These non-scheduled services, in addition to providing effective access to sections of Canada that are inaccessible by other means of transportation, act as feeder lines to the scheduled airlines. They also include such specialty services as recreational flying, aerial photography and surveying, aerial pest control, aerial advertising and aerial patrol.

Maritime Central Airways Limited.—Maritime Central Airways operates in the Atlantic Provinces, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Eastern Arctic, serving Charlottetown and Summerside in Prince Edward Island; Moncton in New Brunswick; New Glasgow and Halifax in Nova Scotia; Stephenville, Gander and St. John's in Newfoundland; Goose Bay and Saglek in Labrador; Frobisher in the Northwest Territories; the Magdalen Islands and the French Islands of St. Pierre-Miquelon in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The Airways fleet includes one Super Viscount 805, two DC-4's, four C-46's, four DC-3's and two Beechcraft. The company operates daily scheduled flights throughout the Atlantic Provinces and an extensive contract freight service between the Atlantic Provinces and the Canadian Eastern Arctic; the latter service accounts for a large part of the company's revenue.

Quebecair, Inc.—Quebecair, a privately owned commercial airline with headquarters at Rimouski, serves various points in the Province of Quebec including Montreal, Quebec, Rivière du Loup, Rimouski, Mont Joli, Matane, Sept Îles, Wabush, Schefferville, Gagnon, Baie Comeau and Forestville. No point served is more than five flying hours from Montreal.

The company began operations in 1946 under the name of Rimouski Aviation Syndicate and was incorporated under the name of Rimouski Airlines in 1947. At the beginning of 1954, the newly created Rimouski Airlines bought out Gulf Aviation and formed Quebecair. Since then, passenger service has multiplied six times, air mail carried fourteen times and freight carried sixteen times. The number of passengers flown in 1960 was 119,266 and the amount of freight carried totalled 3,952,987 lb.

The Quebecair fleet consists of five DC-3's, three F-27's, two C-540's and one C-46 cargo aircraft. While the well-known DC-3 is a piston-powered aircraft, both the F-27 and the C-540 have turbo-prop engines. The former accommodates 36 passengers and the latter 52 and both types are equipped with weather radar and pressurization systems.

Pacific Western Airlines Limited.—Pacific Western Airlines Limited, with head office at Vancouver International Airport, is one of the largest independent air carriers in Canada. Total route miles in the system is close to 7,200 and services operated include scheduled mainline, local regular unit toll and charter flights in Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories including the Arctic Islands, and British Columbia.

Regularly scheduled mainline services are operated by Pacific Western northbound from Edmonton to Peace River, McMurray, Uranium City, Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, Fort Vermilion, Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Wrigley, Norman Wells and Inuvik. Regular local services are flown from Inuvik to Aklavik; from Yellowknife to Cambridge Bay; and from Inuvik to Aklavik to Fort McPherson to Arctic Red River. Local services also originate from Norman Wells to Fort Good Hope, Fort Norman, Wrigley and Fort Simpson; from Yellowknife to Rocher River, Port Radium, Coppermine and Bathurst; and from Hay River to Providence.