

PRESS RELEASE

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Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results - September 2015

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary traffic figures for the month of September released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed continued growth in international passenger demand, whereas air cargo markets were weak.

In aggregate, Asia Pacific airlines carried 22.0 million international passengers in September, 6.0% more than the same month last year. Measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK), demand increased by 7.4% reflecting broad support on both short and long haul routes. Combined with the 6.2% expansion in available seat capacity, the average international passenger load factor edged 0.8 percentage points higher to 77.2% for the month.

Air cargo markets remained subdued, with demand in freight tonne kilometre (FTK) terms only matching the same month last year. After accounting for a 2.3% increase in offered freight capacity, the average international freight load factor fell by 1.5 percentage points to 62.7% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, “Overall, international air passenger demand has seen robust growth during the past nine months, as reflected in the 8.3% increase in the number of international passengers carried by Asia Pacific airlines to reach a combined total of 206.1 million. Leisure travel markets remained buoyant, driving the continued growth in demand.”

Mr. Herdman added, “Air cargo markets have weakened in recent months following the slowdown in world trade. The region’s carriers experienced a 1.1% year-on-year decline in air cargo demand during the third quarter of 2015, after registering a 4.5% increase during the first half of the year. As a result, air cargo growth for the first nine months narrowed to 2.6% compared to the same period last year.”

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Mr. Herdman concluded, “The operating environment for Asian airlines remains challenging, complicated by the effects of slowing economic growth in emerging markets, and associated exchange rate volatility. However, the continued growth in travel demand and lower oil prices have been a positive factor, helping to keep air fares affordable. Overall, Asia Pacific airlines’ profitability is showing modest improvement in an intensely competitive market.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Sep-15	Sep-14	% Change	Jan-Sep 2015	Jan-Sep 2014	% Change
Passengers (000)	21,986	20,747	+ 6.0%	206,059	190,194	+ 8.3%
RPK (mn.)	81,577	75,991	+ 7.4%	746,741	690,558	+ 8.1%
ASK (mn.)	105,622	99,478	+ 6.2%	948,813	892,744	+ 6.3%
Passenger Load Factor	77.2%	76.4%	+ 0.8 pp	78.7%	77.4%	+ 1.3 pp
FTK (mn.)	5,303	5,304	0.0%	47,936	46,726	+ 2.6%
FATK (mn.)	8,456	8,267	+ 2.3%	75,587	72,657	+ 4.0%
Freight Load Factor	62.7%	64.2%	- 1.5 pp	63.4%	64.3%	- 0.9 pp

- Effective September 2014, the dataset comprises aggregated traffic data from the following 31 Asia Pacific based carriers: 5J, 6E, 9W, AI, AK, BI, BR, CA, CI, CX, CZ, GA, JL, JQ, KA, KC, KE, MH, MU, NH, NZ, OZ, PG, PR, SG, SQ, TG, TR, QF, VA and VN.
- Previous year data adjusted for comparison purposes
- RPK = revenue passenger kilometres
- ASK = available seat kilometres
- FTK = freight tonne kilometres
- FATK = available freight tonne kilometres
- All figures, including estimates for missing data, are provisional

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Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA)

The AAPA is the trade association for scheduled international airlines based in the Asia-Pacific region. The AAPA permanent secretariat is headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with international representation in Brussels and Washington, D.C. Collectively, the region’s airlines carry 1,106 million passengers and 20 million tonnes of cargo, representing one-third of global passenger traffic and two-fifths of global air cargo traffic respectively, and thus play a critically important role in the ongoing development of global aviation.

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