

PRESS RELEASE

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Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results – August 2019

Moderate growth in air passenger demand; further weakness in air cargo markets

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Preliminary traffic figures for the month of August released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) recorded moderate growth in international air passenger markets, in contrast with further reductions in air cargo demand against a backdrop of diminishing business confidence levels and significant declines in international trade volumes.

Overall, Asia Pacific airlines carried a combined 32.6 million international passengers in August, 2.3% more than the same month last year. In revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) terms, demand grew by 3.1% year-on-year. The average international passenger load factor eased 0.2 percentage points lower to 82.8% for the month, after accounting for a 3.4% expansion in available seat capacity.

In contrast to air passenger markets, air cargo demand in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) fell by 6.4% year-on-year in August. Subdued demand conditions, with businesses remaining cautious on their inventories, contributed to the persistent weakness. Combined with a 1.1% increase in offered freight capacity, the average international freight load factor fell by 4.7 percentage points to 58.3% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, “The first eight months of the year saw Asian airlines carry a combined 251 million international passengers, representing a sustained 4.3 % increase in demand for international air travel, but growth rates are moderating as consumers become more cautious about the economic outlook.”

“Meanwhile, air cargo demand declined by 5.9% during the first eight months of the year, with business confidence deteriorating further in August against a backdrop of heightened global trade tensions. Consumer goods markets continued to expand, but demand for intermediate goods fell further, contributing to the decline in air shipments.”

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Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman said, "Whilst the long term outlook for air travel remains broadly positive, Asian airlines continue to face a challenging business environment."

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY
International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Aug-19	Aug-18	% Change	Jan-Aug 2019	Jan-Aug 2018	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	32,564	31,843	+ 2.3%	251,447	240,972	+ 4.3%
RPK (Million)	121,931	118,229	+ 3.1%	925,377	888,014	+ 4.2%
ASK (Million)	147,207	142,433	+ 3.4%	1,137,761	1,094,869	+ 3.9%
Passenger Load Factor	82.8%	83.0%	- 0.2 pp	81.3%	81.1%	+ 0.2 pp
FTK (Million)	5,800	6,194	- 6.4%	46,239	49,146	- 5.9%
FATK (Million)	9,942	9,829	+ 1.1%	79,076	78,029	+ 1.3%
Freight Load Factor	58.3%	63.0%	- 4.7 pp	58.5%	63.0%	- 4.5 pp

Effective January 2019, the dataset comprises aggregated traffic data from the following 39 Asia Pacific based carriers: 3K, 5J, 6E, 9C, 9W, AI, AK, BI, BR, CA, CI, CK, CX, CZ, D7, GA, HO, HU, IX, JL, JQ, KA, KC, KE, KZ, MH, MU, NH, NZ, OZ, PG, PR, QF, SG, SQ, TG, TR, 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 1,623 million passengers and 23 million tonnes of cargo, representing over one-third of global passenger and air cargo traffic, and thus play a leading role in the ongoing development of global aviation.

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