

PRESS RELEASE

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Asia Pacific Airlines June 2023 Traffic Results *Strong passenger demand, weak cargo markets*

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary June 2023 traffic figures released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed that the recovery in international passenger markets remains robust, as travel demand continued to grow despite inflationary pressures and the weakness in regional currencies.

Asia Pacific airlines carried 23.2 million international passengers in the month of June, representing a 159.3% year-on-year increase compared to the same month last year. In terms of revenue passenger kilometres (RPK), traffic surged by 131.1%, whilst seat capacity increased by 120.9%. As such, the international passenger load factor of 82.2% in June was 3.6 percentage points higher than the corresponding month in 2022. Overall passenger traffic averaged 72.5% of 2019 levels for the month, with demand climbing alongside the expansion in flight frequencies and route networks.

Meanwhile, global trade activity was muted with the ongoing declines in new export orders. The easing in container shipping rates relative to air freight rates further discouraged demand for air shipments.

Against this background, air cargo demand, as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK), declined by 8.1% year-on-year in June. By comparison, offered capacity edged 0.7% higher, leading to a 5.9 percentage point fall in the average international freight load factor to 60.7% for the month.

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Commenting on the results, Mr. Subhas Menon, AAPA Director General said, “In the first half of the year, the number of international passengers carried by Asian airlines quadrupled to a combined total of 120 million, boosted by the upsurge in leisure and business travel demand, as the region’s economies emerge strongly from the pandemic.”

“During the same period, the region’s carriers posted a 10% decline in air cargo demand. A myriad of factors, including a post-pandemic shift in spending from goods to services and higher merchandise prices, weighed on global air cargo markets.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Menon said, “The outlook for air travel remains positive, buoyed by the ongoing restoration of flights and networks. The travel and tourism sector is rebounding strongly and contributing to the global economy. Asian airlines, together with other aviation stakeholders, are working together to ensure that air travellers have a smooth and safe travel experience over the upcoming peak summer holiday season.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Jun-23	Jun-22	% Change	Jan-Jun 2023	Jan-Jun 2022	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	23,182	8,939	+ 159.3%	119,864	29,997	+ 299.6%
RPK (Million)	84,668	36,633	+ 131.1%	446,801	131,036	+ 241.0%
ASK (Million)	102,945	46,592	+ 120.9%	551,169	210,595	+ 161.7%
Passenger Load Factor	82.2%	78.6%	+ 3.6 pp	81.1%	62.2%	+ 18.9 pp
FTK (Million)	5,286	5,755	- 8.1%	30,257	33,562	- 9.8%
FATK (Million)	8,704	8,647	+ 0.7%	49,447	48,689	+ 1.6%
Freight Load Factor	60.7%	66.6%	- 5.9 pp	61.2%	68.9%	- 7.7 pp

Effective January 2020, the dataset comprises aggregated traffic data from the following 40 Asia Pacific based carriers: 3K, 5J, 6E, 7C, 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 represent 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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