

PRESS RELEASE

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Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results - February 2015

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Prior to announcing updated traffic figures, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General expressed condolences to all those affected by the loss of Germanwings flight 4U9525 on 24 March 2015: “Flying is extraordinarily safe, and part of everyday modern life, but this only deepens the sense of shock we all experience following any major accident. With heavy hearts, our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of all the passengers and crew members who lost their lives in this tragedy.”

Turning to the preliminary traffic figures for the month of February released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA), the data showed strong growth in both international air passenger and air cargo markets.

An aggregate total of 21.8 million international passengers flew on the region’s carriers in February, a firm 11.9% increase compared to the same month last year, boosted by strong leisure travel demand during the Chinese New Year festive period. Measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK), international passenger demand increased by 9.9%, underscoring particularly robust growth in regional travel markets. Traffic growth exceeded the 8.0% expansion in available seat capacity, resulting in a 1.3 percentage point increase in the average international passenger load factor to 78.1% for the month, in contrast to the general trend of slightly weaker load factors seen over the past year.

International air cargo demand, as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) registered a hefty 20.5% jump in February, outpacing a 12.6% increase in offered freight capacity, which resulted in a 4.2 percentage points increase in the average international freight load factor, to 65.2%.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, “The timing of the Chinese New Year holiday period affects the monthly comparisons, but taken together, the first two months of the year saw an 8.2% increase in the number of international passengers carried by Asia Pacific airlines to a combined total of 44.3 million, buoyed by healthy demand to major holiday destinations in the region.”

“Air freight demand achieved an impressive 12.8% increase during the same two month period, with robust demand for Asian exports, particularly to North America where the recent port dispute affected some maritime shipping operations.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman concluded, “The demand outlook for Asian carriers remains broadly positive, supported by the benefits of lower oil prices. Nevertheless, Asian airlines are having to carefully match capacity growth with actual demand, whilst coping with the effects of increased currency volatility affecting both costs and revenues.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Feb-15	Feb-14	% Change	Jan-Feb 2015	Jan-Feb 2014	% Change
Passengers (000)	21,845	19,515	+ 11.9%	44,308	40,933	+ 8.2%
RPK (mn.)	76,161	69,319	+ 9.9%	159,419	149,284	+ 6.8%
ASK (mn.)	97,552	90,292	+ 8.0%	204,925	192,009	+ 6.7%
Passenger Load Factor	78.1%	76.8%	+ 1.3 pp	77.8%	77.7%	+ 0.1 pp
FTK (mn.)	4,851	4,027	+ 20.5%	9,953	8,826	+ 12.8%
FATK (mn.)	7,435	6,604	+ 12.6%	15,731	14,535	+ 8.2%
Freight Load Factor	65.2%	61.0%	+ 4.2 pp	63.3%	60.7%	+ 2.6 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 1,012 million passengers and 19 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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