

PRESS RELEASE

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Association of Asia Pacific Airlines
(Reg.No.587)
Level 27-1, Menara Prestige
1 Jalan Pinang
50450 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA
Tel +603 2162 1888
Fax +603 2162 6888
www.aapairlines.org

Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results - March 2015

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary traffic figures for the month of March released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed further growth in both international passenger and air cargo markets.

Boosted by leisure travel towards the end of the Lunar New Year period in the region, the region's carriers achieved a strong 11.3% increase in the number of international passengers carried to a combined total of 23.3 million in March. In revenue passenger kilometre (RPK) terms, international passenger demand registered a corresponding 11.1% growth, exceeding the 7.3% expansion in available seat capacity to result in a 2.7 percentage point increase in the average international passenger load factor to 78.4% for the month.

International air cargo demand, as measured in freight tonne kilometre (FTK) terms, recorded growth of 1.7% in March, in contrast to the much higher rates of growth recorded in the first two months of the year. The average international freight load factor edged 0.4 percentage points lower to 68.3%, on a 2.4% increase in offered freight capacity.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "Overall, for the first quarter of 2015, we saw an encouraging 9.4% increase in the number of international passengers carried by Asia Pacific airlines to an aggregate total of 67.7 million, substantially higher than the 4.9% growth achieved in the previous year. During the same period, Asian airlines saw international air cargo demand grow by 8.4%, partly boosted by the dispute affecting maritime shipments at US West Coast ports."

Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman added, "The demand environment remains positive in the coming months, with lower oil prices supporting global economic growth and availability of affordable airfares in both business and leisure travel markets."

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Mr. Herdman concluded, "In aggregate, the region's airlines were operating at close to break even in 2014, despite recording solid growth in both passenger numbers and cargo volumes, as yields remained under competitive pressure. Notwithstanding the positive outlook for future growth in demand, Asian airlines are still facing highly competitive market conditions across all sectors of the industry. Airlines remain very focused on carefully managing costs, whilst optimising their route networks to better serve faster growing markets. For many airlines, restoring profitability is the key to sustaining continued investment for the future."

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Mar-15	Mar-14	% Change	Jan-Mar 2015	Jan-Mar 2014	% Change
Passengers (000)	23,344	20,975	+ 11.3%	67,705	61,908	+ 9.4%
RPK (mn.)	82,696	74,427	+ 11.1%	242,501	223,711	+ 8.4%
ASK (mn.)	105,469	98,291	+ 7.3%	310,491	290,300	+ 7.0%
Passenger Load Factor	78.4%	75.7%	+ 2.7 pp	78.1%	77.1%	+ 1.0 pp
FTK (mn.)	5,928	5,831	+ 1.7%	16,012	14,766	+ 8.4%
FATK (mn.)	8,685	8,483	+ 2.4%	24,588	23,181	+ 6.1%
Freight Load Factor	68.3%	68.7%	- 0.4 pp	65.1%	63.7%	+ 1.4 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.

For further information, please contact:

Office of the Director General

Tel +603 2162 1888 Fax +603 2162 6888

Email: odg@aapa.org.my

Website: www.aapairlines.org

Twitter: [@aapairlines](https://twitter.com/aapairlines)