

PRESS RELEASE

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Association of Asia Pacific Airlines

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Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results – September 2016

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

Collectively, the region's airlines carried 23.5 million international passengers in September, representing a 7.0% increase compared to the same month last year. Spurred by continued growth in both long haul and regional markets, demand in revenue passenger kilometre (RPK) terms increased by 7.6%, faster than the 6.7% expansion in available seat capacity. As a result, the average international passenger load factor edged 0.6 percentage points higher to 77.9% for the month.

In spite of the prevailing weakness in trade conditions, air cargo markets experienced further improvement in September, as reflected in the 5.3% growth in demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK). The average international freight load factor increased marginally, by 0.5 percentage points to 63.0% for the month, after accounting for a 4.4% expansion in offered freight capacity.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "Air passenger demand continues to grow healthily, as the past nine months saw a firm 6.5% increase in the number of international air passengers carried by Asian airlines to reach a combined total of 220 million."

Mr. Herdman added, "Air cargo volumes aggregated for the first nine months of the year match those of the same period last year, reflecting the modest upswing in demand in recent months, bolstered by higher shipments of electronics designated for product launches."

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Looking ahead, Herdman concluded, “Whilst air passenger numbers continue to demonstrate resilience, Asian carriers face challenges in the form of intense competition and cost pressures, as crude oil prices have risen from historical lows. In addition, the lack of impetus for a revival in global trade activity may present some headwinds to sustained growth in air cargo markets.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Sep-16	Sep-15	% Change	Jan-Sep 2016	Jan-Sep 2015	% Change
Passengers (000)	23,473	21,946	+ 7.0%	219,773	206,274	+ 6.5%
RPK (mn.)	87,437	81,282	+ 7.6%	798,885	746,836	+ 7.0%
ASK (mn.)	112,177	105,087	+ 6.7%	1,013,768	948,520	+ 6.9%
Passenger Load Factor	77.9%	77.3%	+ 0.6 pp	78.8%	78.7%	+ 0.1 pp
FTK (mn.)	5,593	5,309	+ 5.3%	47,993	48,008	0.0%
FATK (mn.)	8,876	8,499	+ 4.4%	78,449	75,930	+ 3.3%
Freight Load Factor	63.0%	62.5%	+ 0.5 pp	61.2%	63.2%	- 2.0 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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