

## PRESS RELEASE

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January 2019 / Traffic / Preliminary

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### **Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results – January 2019**

*Strong start to year with solid passenger demand, cargo markets continue to weaken*

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** – Preliminary traffic figures for the month of January released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed robust growth in international air passenger demand. However, international air cargo markets weakened further, with global new export orders contracting on the back of slowing demand for foreign goods.

Overall, the region's airlines carried a combined 32.2 million international passengers in January, 8.0% more than the same month last year. Reflecting robust regional and long haul travel demand, traffic as measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) grew by 8.1%. Available seat capacity expanded by 5.9%, resulting in a 1.7 percentage point increase in the average international passenger load factor to 82.1% for the month.

On the other hand, international air cargo markets continued to soften, with demand in freight tonne kilometre (FTK) terms falling by 3.8% year-on-year in January. Concerns over slower growth in major economies and unresolved trade tensions are affecting air cargo demand. Meanwhile, the expansion in offered freight capacity continued to outpace demand growth, with January's 2.8% increase in offered freight capacity resulting in a 3.9 percentage point decline in the average international freight load factor to 56.6% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "Against a backdrop of increasing concerns about the global economy, the continued firm growth in passenger traffic was a welcome start to the year for the region's carriers, which also saw demand sustained by travel ahead of the Lunar New Year celebrations in Asia. During the same period, however, expected increases in air cargo shipments were absent, as evidenced in the decline in air cargo volumes."

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Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman concluded, “Overall, the travel demand outlook is broadly positive for the coming year. Underlying global economic conditions remain relatively firm, with major economies leaning towards more accommodative policies to support demand. The region’s airlines are closely monitoring developments and potential changes in operating conditions, whilst carefully managing costs with the aim of sustaining profitability.”

**TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY**  
*International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines*

<b>International</b>	<b>Jan-19</b>	<b>Jan-18</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Passengers (Thousand)	32,163	29,773	+ 8.0%
RPK (Million)	120,375	111,337	+ 8.1%
ASK (Million)	146,669	138,556	+ 5.9%
Passenger Load Factor	82.1%	80.4%	+ 1.7 pp
FTK (Million)	5,737	5,966	- 3.8%
FATK (Million)	10,144	9,864	+ 2.8%
Freight Load Factor	56.6%	60.5%	- 3.9 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

**ENDS**

**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 1,486 million passengers and 22 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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