

## PRESS RELEASE

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April 2019 / Traffic / Preliminary

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

*Moderate growth in air passenger markets, but further decline in air cargo demand*

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** – Preliminary traffic figures for the month of April released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed continued growth in international air passenger markets, supported by ongoing expansion in the global services sectors. On the other hand, air cargo volumes contracted further, following disruptions to global supply chains amid heightened trade tensions, particularly between the United States and China.

Collectively, Asia Pacific airlines recorded a 3.7% increase in the number of international passengers carried to a combined total of 31.2 million in April, with promotional airfare campaigns lending support to travel markets. Measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK), demand grew by 3.5%, reflecting relative strength in regional travel markets. After accounting for a 4.1% increase in available seat capacity, the average international passenger load factor edged 0.5 percentage points lower to 80.8% for the month.

Air cargo demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) fell by a steep 9.1% year-on-year in April, with further declines in new export orders affecting trade activity. In particular, the fall in air shipment volumes coincided with production declines in the region's technology equipment sectors. Whilst demand fell, offered freight capacity edged 0.4% higher, leading to a 6.0 percentage point drop in the average international freight load factor to 57.3% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "These traffic trends paint a mixed picture. The first four months of the year saw a 4.9% increase in the number of passengers carried by the region's airlines to an aggregate total of 125 million, whereas air cargo markets experienced a 6.3% decline in demand during the same period."

“Growth remained relatively encouraging in air passenger markets, with sustained demand in regional economies. Since the last quarter of 2018, however, air cargo volumes have recorded declines as unresolved disputes and the imposition of trade tariffs led to a marked slowdown in international trade flows.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman said, “The current trade tensions and further erosion in business confidence could undermine growth prospects going forward, even though demand for international air travel is expected to remain relatively firm. The region’s airlines are proactively exploring new opportunities for growth, whilst carefully managing capacity expansion and implementing measures to contain costs in a bid to navigate successfully through the ongoing challenges.”

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

<b>International</b>	<b>Apr-19</b>	<b>Apr-18</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Jan-Apr 2019</b>	<b>Jan-Apr 2018</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Passengers (Thousand)	31,185	30,074	+ 3.7%	124,717	118,854	+ 4.9%
RPK (Million)	112,995	109,176	+ 3.5%	454,794	434,812	+ 4.6%
ASK (Million)	139,764	134,287	+ 4.1%	561,423	536,554	+ 4.6%
Passenger Load Factor	80.8%	81.3%	- 0.5 pp	81.0%	81.0%	+ 0.0 pp
FTK (Million)	5,734	6,309	- 9.1%	22,499	24,009	- 6.3%
FATK (Million)	10,008	9,965	+ 0.4%	39,097	38,539	+ 1.4%
Freight Load Factor	57.3%	63.3%	- 6.0 pp	57.5%	62.3%	- 4.8 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**

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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 1,486 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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