

## PRESS RELEASE

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

*Moderate growth in air passenger markets, but weak air cargo demand*

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** – Preliminary traffic figures for the month of May released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed moderate growth in international air passenger markets, with sustained regional economic expansion supporting business and leisure travel markets. However, air cargo demand fell further, as export activity continued to slow in the face of challenging business conditions.

A combined total of 30.4 million international passengers were carried by Asia Pacific airlines in May, reflecting a 4.4% increase compared to the same month last year. Demand in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) grew by 4.5% year-on-year, surpassing the 3.6% increase in available seat capacity, resulting in a 0.7 percentage points increase in the average international passenger load factor to reach 78.5% for the month.

The wider imposition of trade tariffs dampened demand and affected global supply chains, leading to declines in new export orders. Consequently, the region's airlines registered a 6.5% fall in air cargo demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) in May. Combined with a marginal 0.3% increase in offered freight capacity, the average international freight load factor fell by 4.3 percentage points to 59.0% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "Sustained expansion in major global and regional economies supported further growth in passenger markets, but air cargo demand is weak as a result of the slowdown in the manufacturing sector and deteriorating business confidence, undermined by the ongoing trade disputes."

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“Overall, during the first five months of the year, Asian airlines carried an aggregate total of 155 million international passengers, 4.8% more than the same period last year. In marked contrast, in the same period Asian airlines saw a 6.2% contraction in air cargo demand.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman said, “Whilst prospects for growth in travel markets remain positive, operating conditions have become increasingly challenging for the region’s carriers. Airlines are grappling with the effects of weaker air cargo demand, volatile oil prices and renewed downward pressure on passenger yields. Nevertheless, the region’s airlines remain focused on improving operational productivity to deliver value added services to customers.”

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

<b>International</b>	<b>May-19</b>	<b>May-18</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Jan-May 2019</b>	<b>Jan-May 2018</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Passengers (Thousand)	30,385	29,096	+ 4.4%	155,102	147,949	+ 4.8%
RPK (Million)	111,381	106,578	+ 4.5%	566,175	541,388	+ 4.6%
ASK (Million)	141,969	137,008	+ 3.6%	703,392	673,556	+ 4.4%
Passenger Load Factor	78.5%	77.8%	+ 0.7 pp	80.5%	80.4%	+ 0.1 pp
FTK (Million)	5,943	6,357	- 6.5%	28,482	30,351	- 6.2%
FATK (Million)	10,068	10,039	+ 0.3%	49,103	48,511	+ 1.2%
Freight Load Factor	59.0%	63.3%	- 4.3 pp	58.0%	62.6%	- 4.6 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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