

PRESS RELEASE

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September 2019 / Traffic / Preliminary

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Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results – September 2019

*Moderate growth in air passenger markets and weak air cargo demand
as global economy slows*

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Preliminary traffic figures for the month of September released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed continued moderate growth in international air passenger numbers, whilst air cargo demand declined reflecting stagnant international trade activity.

The region's airlines carried 29.1 million international passengers in September, an increase of 3.0% compared to the same month last year. Measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK), demand grew by 3.4% whilst available seat capacity expanded by 4.4%, leading to a 0.7 percentage point decline in the average international passenger load factor to 78.6% for the month.

Meanwhile, international air cargo traffic in freight tonne kilometres terms (FTK) fell by 6.5% year-on-year in September on the back of continued weakness in external demand. Combined with the marginal 0.3% decline in offered freight capacity, the average international freight load factor dropped by 4.0 percentage points to 60.4% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "During the first nine months of the year, Asian airlines in aggregate carried 281 million international passengers, 4.3% more than the same period last year. The moderation in growth, compared to the higher rates sustained over recent years, reflects an increasingly challenging economic environment."

"Meanwhile, unresolved trade frictions have undermined business confidence and disrupted global supply chains. Asian airlines saw overall demand for air cargo fall by 5.8% during the first nine months of the year, with the outlook remaining subdued in the near term."

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Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman said, “Operating conditions are challenging for Asian carriers, which face intense competitive pressures against a backdrop of moderating economic sentiment. Nevertheless, airlines are carefully managing capacity expansion, exercising cost discipline, and streamlining operations in a bid to maintain profitability.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY
International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Sep-19	Sep-18	% Change	Jan-Sep 2019	Jan-Sep 2018	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	29,101	28,241	+ 3.0%	280,727	269,213	+ 4.3%
RPK (Million)	110,363	106,710	+ 3.4%	1,036,347	994,724	+ 4.2%
ASK (Million)	140,472	134,535	+ 4.4%	1,279,083	1,229,404	+ 4.0%
Passenger Load Factor	78.6%	79.3%	- 0.7 pp	81.0%	80.9%	+ 0.1 pp
FTK (Million)	5,921	6,333	- 6.5%	52,281	55,479	- 5.8%
FATK (Million)	9,809	9,839	- 0.3%	89,081	87,868	+ 1.4%
Freight Load Factor	60.4%	64.4%	- 4.0 pp	58.7%	63.1%	- 4.4 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

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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 1,623 million passengers and 23 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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