

PRESS RELEASE

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Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Growth Moderated in 2019 *Passenger demand remained stable whilst cargo volumes fell amid global economic slowdown*

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary traffic figures for the full calendar year 2019 released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed international air passenger markets had moderated against a backdrop of a slowdown in the global economy, alongside uncertainties surrounding trade negotiations.

In aggregate, the region's airlines registered a 4.2% increase in the number of international passengers carried to a combined 375.5 million in 2019. Measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK), demand grew by 4.1%, reflecting the relative strength of both short and long haul travel markets. After accounting for a 3.7% increase in available seat capacity, the average international passenger load factor edged 0.3 percentage points higher to 80.9% for the year.

On the other hand, international air cargo demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) fell by 5.1% in 2019, following the 1.6% decline registered in the previous year. Offered freight capacity grew by 1.3%, resulting in a 3.9 percentage point drop in the average international freight load factor to 59.5% for the year.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "Asian airlines saw combined international passenger numbers increase by a relatively moderate 4.2% for the year, compared with the stronger annual growth rates seen in preceding years. Whilst increased geopolitical and trade tensions may have affected business confidence levels and overall traffic demand, new routes and frequencies providing more options to travellers as well as attractive air fares continued to drive passenger numbers higher in 2019, supported by ongoing regional economic expansion."

"Meanwhile, air cargo markets experienced a very challenging 2019, with the 5.1% drop in demand marking the steepest fall since the global financial crisis. Declines in new export orders throughout the course of the year led to lower demand for air shipments."

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“Overall, in 2019, Asian airlines faced an intensely competitive operating environment, with downward pressure on yields and profitability, only partially alleviated by the 7.2% fall in global jet fuel prices to an average of US\$79 per barrel for the year.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman said, “The general outlook for 2020 was already clouded by uncertainty over prospects for the global economy and still unresolved trade disputes. The recent 2019-nCoV coronavirus outbreak has now been categorised by the World Health Organization as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The related imposition of travel restrictions and widespread public concern has led to significant falls in demand for air travel on routes to/from and within China, and corresponding adjustments to airline schedules. Airlines continue to closely monitor further developments, and are operating in accordance with established standards and practices developed in conjunction with public health authorities regarding outbreaks of communicable diseases.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Dec-19	Dec-18	% Change	Jan-Dec 2019	Jan-Dec 2018	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	33,332	32,190	+ 3.5%	375,481	360,467	+ 4.2%
RPK (Million)	123,338	118,519	+ 4.1%	1,384,881	1,329,894	+ 4.1%
ASK (Million)	150,209	146,231	+ 2.7%	1,711,350	1,649,909	+ 3.7%
Passenger Load Factor	82.1%	81.0%	+ 1.1 pp	80.9%	80.6%	+ 0.3 pp
FTK (Million)	6,193	6,394	- 3.1%	71,294	75,114	- 5.1%
FATK (Million)	10,408	10,280	+ 1.2%	119,921	118,405	+ 1.3%
Freight Load Factor	59.5%	62.2%	- 2.7 pp	59.5%	63.4%	- 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

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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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