

PRESS RELEASE

Issue 2020: 15

Thursday, 25 June 2020
For Immediate Release
May 2020 / Traffic / Preliminary

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Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results - May 2020

Air passenger markets remained close to a standstill, whilst air cargo weakened

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary May 2020 traffic figures released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed that the COVID-19 pandemic continued to weigh heavily on international air passenger and cargo markets, with the travel and tourism sectors crippled by widespread lockdowns and travel restrictions.

In aggregate, the region's airlines carried only 785,000 passengers in May, a 97.5% decline compared to the same month last year. The slump in demand, combined with a 92.5% fall in available seat capacity, led to a 50.4 percentage point decline in the average international passenger load factor to just 28.4% for the month.

Meanwhile, air cargo demand, as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK), fell by 19.0% year-on-year. With offered freight capacity decreasing by 20.1% for the month, the average international freight load factor rose just marginally, by 0.9 percentage points to 60.9%, reflecting the capacity crunch experienced in preceding months as a result of the sharp declines in belly-hold space on passenger aircraft.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Subhas Menon, AAPA Director General said, "The plunge in passenger demand in the month of May, and declines in air cargo volumes, underscore the immense challenges that airlines are facing. Overall, the region's carriers transported more passengers and cargo compared to the previous month. But the prognosis for the industry as well as tourism and trade, remains grim."

Looking ahead, Mr. Menon added, “With recent consumer surveys indicating an increasingly cautious stance on air travel, the return to normalcy will likely proceed slowly, reflecting the uncertainty in the outlook, as States remain wary about lifting restrictions and continue to impose onerous conditions on travel.”

Mr. Menon concluded, “We are hopeful that governments will act quickly to coordinate measures based on objective risk assessments that safeguard the health and well-being of the travelling public, for recovery of aviation to begin in earnest. The recently announced Take-off guidance issued by the ICAO Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) provides a comprehensive set of measures which should be adopted consistently across States. CART anticipates that flights will restart in phases, initially between States where containment of the virus is apace, and public health capability, adequate. AAPA remains committed to working closely with industry stakeholders to see the timely, safe and convenient recommencement of air travel in the Asia Pacific region.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	May-20	May-19	% Change	Jan-May 2020	Jan-May 2019	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	785	31,069	- 97.5%	60,739	158,747	- 61.7%
RPK (Million)	3,067	113,167	- 97.3%	234,150	575,046	- 59.3%
ASK (Million)	10,794	143,659	- 92.5%	341,794	712,598	- 52.0%
Passenger Load Factor	28.4%	78.8%	- 50.4 pp	68.5%	80.7%	- 12.2 pp
FTK (Million)	4,860	5,999	- 19.0%	24,258	28,523	- 15.0%
FATK (Million)	7,985	9,990	- 20.1%	38,975	48,804	- 20.1%
Freight Load Factor	60.9%	60.0%	+ 0.9 pp	62.2%	58.4%	+ 3.8 pp

Effective January 2020, the dataset comprises aggregated traffic data from the following 40 Asia Pacific based carriers: 3K, 5J, 6E, 7C, 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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