

PRESS RELEASE

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August 2020 / Traffic / Preliminary

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Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results - August 2020

Both passenger and cargo markets continue to recede in the face of border closures

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary August 2020 traffic figures released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed that international passenger demand stayed severely depressed as a result of ongoing border restrictions, with little indication of recovery in sight for the remainder of the year unless coordinated actions are taken to restore global connectivity.

Asia Pacific airlines carried only 1 million international passengers in August, or just 3% of the 34 million passengers carried in the same month of 2019. Offered seat capacity was relatively higher at 9.6% of the levels operated last year. The average international passenger load factor was 35.8% for the month.

International air cargo demand in August, as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK), registered a 19.3% decline year-on-year, reflecting the ongoing weakness of global trade flows. Freighter operations remained active but significant cuts in the numbers of passenger flights led to a 33.4% year-on-year overall decline in offered freight capacity. As a result, the average international freight load factor increased by 12.3 percentage points to 70.6% for the month.

Commenting on the results, AAPA Director General Mr. Subhas Menon, said, "There is no international air travel market to speak of, as the border restrictions severely inhibit international air travel. Abrupt re-impositions of border closures by some countries due to a resurgence in COVID-19 cases have further shrunk passenger demand. Travellers, airlines and airports are struggling to make sense of the patchy, sweeping and unharmonized approaches to border regulations being imposed by various countries."

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Mr. Menon added, “The latest traffic results underscore the need for governments to review existing restrictions and implement harmonised protocols based on objective risk assessments. Uncoordinated measures and abrupt changes to protocols only serve to diminish travel confidence, with wider repercussions that impact consumers and businesses far beyond the aviation industry.”

Mr. Menon concluded, “AAPA calls for an urgent review of border closures and blanket quarantine requirements, particularly for travel between countries where the prevalence of the virus is low and contained. A more coherent and evidence-based approach to cross border measures and processes, including testing and quarantine, would pave the way to restore global mobility in a safe and sensible way. The Association remains committed to working with governments and industry stakeholders to safely reopen international travel corridors in line with evolving ICAO CART recommendations.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Aug-20	Aug-19	% Change	Jan-Aug 2020	Jan-Aug 2019	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	1,008	33,592	- 97.0%	63,270	257,589	- 75.4%
RPK (Million)	5,151	124,253	- 95.9%	249,614	938,914	- 73.4%
ASK (Million)	14,368	150,027	- 90.4%	377,700	1,153,502	- 67.3%
Passenger Load Factor	35.8%	82.8%	- 47.0 pp	66.1%	81.4%	- 15.3 pp
FTK (Million)	4,759	5,894	- 19.3%	38,391	46,264	- 17.0%
FATK (Million)	6,738	10,111	- 33.4%	59,840	78,976	- 24.2%
Freight Load Factor	70.6%	58.3%	+ 12.3 pp	64.2%	58.6%	+ 5.6 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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