

PRESS RELEASE

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November 2020 / Traffic / Preliminary

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Asia Pacific Airlines November 2020 Traffic Results

Air cargo markets continue on recovery path, passenger demand still severely depressed

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary November 2020 traffic figures released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) highlighted the lack of progress in the revival of international travel with demand still held back by ongoing border restrictions amid a resurgence in COVID-19 infections in various countries. Meanwhile, air cargo markets were a silver lining for the region's carriers, supported by recovery in global manufacturing activity.

Only 1.4 million international passengers were carried by Asia Pacific airlines in November, a mere 4.6% of the 30.8 million recorded in the same month of 2019. Offered seat capacity was comparatively higher at 12.5% of levels in the previous corresponding period. Reflecting the challenging operating conditions, the region's carriers recorded an average international passenger load factor of just 30% for the month, far below the 80% achieved in November 2019.

International trade flows continued to rebound in November, buoyed by an acceleration in new export orders. As a result, cargo volumes carried by the region's airlines increased for the third consecutive month, although demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) was still down 11.3% year-on-year. Airlines increased capacity by deploying converted passenger aircraft and maximising dedicated freighter utilisation, helping to ease capacity shortages as reflected in the 6.7 percentage point increase in the international freight load factor to average 69.5% for the month.

Commenting on the results, AAPA Director General Mr. Subhas Menon, said, “Whilst the recovery in global economic activity has broadened across sectors, international travel remains crippled by border closures affecting 60% of Asia Pacific destinations. The recent escalation in COVID-19 cases and emergence of variant strains, have resulted in the re-imposition of stricter travel restrictions by several States.”

Mr. Menon added, “The near-term outlook for the airline industry remains extremely challenging. Governments need to move ahead with plans to implement harmonised testing protocols as a part of a multi-layered and risk-based approach towards safely restoring air travel, at the same time as vaccinations are rolled out across the world.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY
International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Nov-20	Nov-19	% Change	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2019	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	1,417	30,834	- 95.4%	67,874	349,740	- 80.6%
RPK (Million)	5,171	111,428	- 95.4%	265,600	1,277,975	- 79.2%
ASK (Million)	17,392	139,384	- 87.5%	426,893	1,580,828	- 73.0%
Passenger Load Factor	29.7%	79.9%	- 50.2 pp	62.2%	80.8%	- 18.6 pp
FTK (Million)	5,710	6,437	- 11.3%	54,367	65,015	- 16.4%
FATK (Million)	8,219	10,255	- 19.9%	82,521	109,477	- 24.6%
Freight Load Factor	69.5%	62.8%	+ 6.7 pp	65.9%	59.4%	+ 6.5 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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