

PRESS RELEASE

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Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results - June 2021

Business confidence lifts cargo volumes, but tighter border restrictions suppress travel demand

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary June 2021 traffic figures released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed that international passenger demand remained suppressed by ongoing tight border restrictions. Across the Asia Pacific region, many countries recorded a surge in COVID-19 transmissions caused by new variants, with limited vaccine supplies hampering vaccination progress.

The region's airlines carried only 1.4 million international passengers in June, just 4.4% of the 32 million carried in the corresponding month in 2019. With available seat capacity at 12.9% of pre-pandemic levels, the average international passenger load factor of 31% recorded in June was a 51 percentage point drop from that of the corresponding month in 2019, underscoring the significant challenges faced by airlines in the passenger segment, which normally accounts for a significant portion of total airline revenue.

Meanwhile, air cargo markets remained resilient, supported by improved business confidence in the advanced economies, in particular, the United States and Europe. Accordingly, international air cargo demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) grew by 25.7% year-on-year, with volumes matching the same month in 2019. Offered freight capacity saw an 11.7% year-on-year increase, leading to an 8.2 percentage point jump in the average international freight load factor to 73.3% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Subhas Menon, AAPA Director General said, "The already dire situation has recently been compounded by new COVID-19 infections across the region due to the Delta variant, with ongoing border restrictions holding back any meaningful restart in international travel markets. Air cargo traffic growth, supported by **continued** /-

strong demand for both intermediate and consumer goods from the major advanced economies, remains the saving grace. “

Mr. Menon added, “Many Asian economies are facing renewed challenges in bringing the pandemic under control and in progressing vaccination roll-outs. Prospects for an early recovery for Asian airlines are dim unless cohesive action is taken by governments to accelerate vaccination roll-outs and reopen borders safely based on ICAO and WHO guidelines.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Jun-21	Jun-20	% Change	Jan-Jun 2021	Jan-Jun 2020	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	1,399	584	+ 139.6%	7,250	64,178	- 88.7%
RPK (Million)	5,684	3,734	+ 52.2%	30,676	242,977	- 87.4%
ASK (Million)	18,353	9,320	+ 96.9%	107,422	353,809	- 69.6%
Passenger Load Factor	31.0%	40.1%	- 9.1 pp	28.6%	68.7%	- 40.1 pp
FTK (Million)	5,912	4,704	+ 25.7%	34,208	28,780	+ 18.9%
FATK (Million)	8,070	7,224	+ 11.7%	46,618	45,900	+ 1.6%
Freight Load Factor	73.3%	65.1%	+ 8.2 pp	73.4%	62.7%	+ 10.7 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 represent 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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