

PRESS RELEASE

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July 2021 / Traffic / Preliminary

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Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results - July 2021

Passenger volumes remain weak, in contrast to robust cargo demand

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary July 2021 traffic figures released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed the continuation of yet another month of extremely weak international passenger volumes, amid an unrelenting rise in COVID-19 infections across Asia and elsewhere.

The number of international passengers carried by the region's airlines totalled 1.5 million in July, representing only 4.6% of the 33 million that flew in the corresponding month of 2019. The international passenger load factor averaged 31.8%, a sharp decline from the 82.6% achieved in July 2019, whilst available seat capacity for the month was 13.5% of pre-pandemic levels.

With strong external demand and congestion at major shipping ports boosting demand for shipments by air, Asia Pacific airlines recorded a 26.8% year-on-year increase in international air cargo demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) in July, slightly above the volumes recorded in July 2019. The average international freight load factor climbed by 6.2 percentage points to 76.2% for the month, after accounting for a 16.4% year-on-year increase in offered freight capacity.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Subhas Menon, AAPA Director General said, "More than a year into the pandemic, strict border restrictions and quarantine measures continue to have a devastating impact on international air travel. By contrast, air cargo remains the single bright spot for the region's airlines, with strong external demand boosting cargo revenue. However, this remains largely insufficient in mitigating the drastic fall in passenger volumes."

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Mr. Menon added, “Progress in vaccination roll-outs across the region remains slow as many countries still face challenges in procuring supplies and suffer from resource constraints. Some governments have announced phased reopening plans, which include setting pathways to resuming international travel, based on risk-based assessments and traveller vaccination status. For air travel to restart meaningfully in the region, more governments will need to take similar steps towards relaxing border restrictions, preferably in coordination with counterparts.”

Mr. Menon concluded, “The outlook for air travel is dependent on further progress with vaccinations across Asia and globally. Crucially, greater collaboration amongst governments on harmonised cross-border measures is necessary, in line with ICAO and WHO recommendations.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Jul-21	Jul-20	% Change	Jan-Jul 2021	Jan-Jul 2020	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	1,546	853	+ 81.2%	8,752	65,030	- 86.5%
RPK (Million)	6,403	4,452	+ 43.8%	36,587	247,429	- 85.2%
ASK (Million)	20,114	12,159	+ 65.4%	127,071	365,968	- 65.3%
Passenger Load Factor	31.8%	36.6%	- 4.8 pp	28.8%	67.6%	- 38.8 pp
FTK (Million)	6,144	4,846	+ 26.8%	40,320	33,626	+ 19.9%
FATK (Million)	8,061	6,923	+ 16.4%	54,513	52,823	+ 3.2%
Freight Load Factor	76.2%	70.0%	+ 6.2 pp	74.0%	63.7%	+ 10.3 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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