

## PRESS RELEASE

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November 2021 / Traffic / Preliminary

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### **Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results - November 2021**

*International passenger demand improves while air cargo markets record further growth*

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** – Preliminary November 2021 traffic figures released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed notable improvement in international air passenger demand as some regional governments began to relax the strict border restrictions imposed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the emergence of the highly infectious Omicron variant in late November has since raised uncertainty over recovery prospects.

Overall volumes remain significantly depressed as the 1.6 million international passengers carried by the region's airlines in November was just 5.2% of the corresponding pre-pandemic month in 2019. Measured in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK), international passenger demand averaged 7.1% of 2019 levels, indicating relative strength of longer haul markets. Available seat capacity was 16.6% of the same month in 2019, with the international passenger load factor averaging 34.1% for the month.

With COVID-19 cases stabilising amidst rising vaccination rates across the region, improving manufacturing conditions and strong year-end export orders resulted in another month of robust growth in international air cargo markets.

For the region's airlines, international air cargo demand, in freight tonne kilometre (FTK) terms, grew by 16.5% year-on-year in November, staying above volumes recorded in the pre-pandemic months of 2019. The international freight load factor remained elevated, averaging 73.2% for the month, after accounting for an 11.8% year-on-year expansion in offered freight capacity.

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Commenting on the results, Mr. Subhas Menon, AAPA Director General said, “For the first eleven months of the year, international passenger volumes were 4% of the same period in 2019. Although overall traffic volumes remain significantly depressed compared to pre-pandemic levels, the recent relaxation of some border restrictions and establishment of vaccinated travel lanes are welcome moves towards the restoration of international air travel in the region.”

“Meanwhile, the resilience of the cargo sector continues to be an important lifeline for the region’s airlines during this pandemic. On the other hand, oil prices have risen significantly, with jet fuel prices averaging US\$92 per barrel in November, almost double of the corresponding month in 2020, adding to the challenges airlines face in a bid to restore profitability.”

Mr. Menon concluded, “Overall, full restoration of international air travel remains some way off. The abrupt re-imposition of travel restrictions by many governments in the face of the rising spread of the Omicron variant threatens to hold back the long-awaited revival of Asia’s travel and tourism industry. Collaboration and coordination of industry stakeholders across borders are critical to the safe and sustained resumption of international air travel, without which, the recovery journey will likely be volatile and uneven.”

**TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY**

*International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines*

<b>International</b>	<b>Nov-21</b>	<b>Nov-20</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2021</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2020</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Passengers (Thousand)	1,600	1,068	+ 49.8%	14,079	68,829	- 79.5%
RPK (Million)	7,916	4,761	+ 66.3%	64,337	266,451	- 75.9%
ASK (Million)	23,197	17,027	+ 36.2%	211,689	427,831	- 50.5%
Passenger Load Factor	34.1%	28.0%	+ 6.1 pp	30.4%	62.3%	- 31.9 pp
FTK (Million)	6,685	5,738	+ 16.5%	65,655	54,434	+ 20.6%
FATK (Million)	9,136	8,175	+ 11.8%	88,251	82,050	+ 7.6%
Freight Load Factor	73.2%	70.2%	+ 3.0 pp	74.4%	66.3%	+ 8.1 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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