

## PRESS RELEASE

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September 2022 / Traffic / Preliminary

**Association of Asia Pacific Airlines**  
(Reg. No.587)  
36th Floor, Menara Maxis  
Kuala Lumpur City Centre  
50088 Kuala Lumpur  
MALAYSIA  
Tel: +603 2615 0188  
Fax: +603 2615 0088  
[www.aapairlines.org](http://www.aapairlines.org)

### **Asia Pacific Airlines September 2022 Traffic Results**

*Passenger demand robust while weakness in cargo markets persists*

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** – Preliminary September 2022 traffic figures released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed international passenger demand sustained its strong upward momentum despite a worsening global economic outlook. The significant easing of border restrictions across most of the region's economies continued to unleash a robust return of business and leisure travellers.

In September, the number of international passengers carried by the region's airlines surged to 11.7 million, from the 1.4 million registered in the previous corresponding period, bringing volumes to average 39% of the same month in 2019. Demand in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) terms increased by 575.1% year-on-year, reflecting the strength of regional travel markets. After accounting for a 189.6% expansion in available seat capacity, the average international passenger load factor jumped by 44.6 percentage points to 78.0% for the month, just 0.6 percentage points shy of corresponding pre-pandemic 2019 levels.

On the other hand, international air cargo markets remained under pressure, as export activity was hampered by depressed business and consumer confidence levels amid a deterioration in global macroeconomic conditions.

As a result, international air cargo demand as measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK) recorded a double-digit decline of 10.4% year-on-year in September. Meanwhile, offered freight capacity continued to expand, by 5.9% for the month, leading to a 11.6 percentage point fall in the average international freight load factor to 64.0%.

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Commenting on the results, Mr. Subhas Menon, AAPA Director General said, “Asian airlines are seeing encouraging recovery in international travel demand and achieving load factors close to pre-pandemic levels. Overall, the number of international passengers carried grew by 448.7% during the first nine months of the year, compared with the same period in 2021.”

Mr. Menon added, “On the other hand, a 4.4% decline in air cargo demand was registered in the same period. The outlook for the cargo market remains subdued in the near term. Overall, the region’s airlines continue to face a challenging operating environment, with operating costs under pressure as a result of high fuel prices and weak local currencies.”

Mr. Menon concluded, “The resilience of the industry is shining through. The healthy upswing in passenger markets this year provides an encouraging backdrop to the 66<sup>th</sup> AAPA Assembly of Presidents meeting in Bangkok, where Asia Pacific airlines’ leaders will meet in person for the first time since the onset of the pandemic. Topics to be discussed include sustainability, the state of the industry, future growth opportunities and various regulatory challenges.”

**TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY**

*International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines*

<b>International</b>	<b>Sep-22</b>	<b>Sep-21</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Jan-Sep 2022</b>	<b>Jan-Sep 2021</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Passengers (Thousand)	11,694	1,361	+ 759.2%	63,539	11,580	+ 448.7%
RPK (Million)	46,886	6,945	+ 575.1%	268,646	51,638	+ 420.2%
ASK (Million)	60,141	20,764	+ 189.6%	386,089	171,353	+ 125.3%
Passenger Load Factor	78.0%	33.4%	+ 44.6 pp	69.6%	30.1%	+ 39.5 pp
FTK (Million)	5,406	6,036	- 10.4%	50,050	52,354	- 4.4%
FATK (Million)	8,449	7,981	+ 5.9%	73,979	70,419	+ 5.1%
Freight Load Factor	64.0%	75.6%	- 11.6 pp	67.7%	74.3%	- 6.6 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 represent over one-third of global passenger and air cargo traffic, and thus play a leading role in the ongoing development of global aviation.

For further information, please contact:

Office of the Director General  
Tel: +603 2615 0188  
Fax: +603 2615 0088  
Email: [odg@aapa.org.my](mailto:odg@aapa.org.my)  
Website: [www.aapairlines.org](http://www.aapairlines.org)  
Twitter: [@aapairlines](https://twitter.com/aapairlines)

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