

PRESS RELEASE

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Asia Pacific Airlines May 2025 Traffic Results

Air traffic grows amidst geopolitical volatility

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary May 2025 traffic figures released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed continued growth in international passenger demand, supported by robust leisure traffic across the region. Air cargo markets also posted further gains, although the pace of growth moderated due to weaker export activity from key manufacturing economies.

The region's carriers registered a 10.4% year-on-year increase in the number of international passengers carried, reaching a combined total of 31.2 million for the month. In revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) terms, demand rose by 11.3%, surpassing the 9.5% expansion in available seat capacity. Consequently, the average international passenger load factor increased by 1.3 percentage points to 80.7%.

Meanwhile, international air cargo demand, measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK), grew by 3.0% year-on-year in May. Weaker export volumes on the US – China route, partly due to the removal of tax-free exemptions for low-value goods, were offset by increased shipments to other markets. Offered freight capacity rose by 1.3% year-on-year, resulting in a 1.0 percentage point increase in the average international freight load factor to 62.8% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Subhas Menon, AAPA Director General, said, "Air travel demand in the Asia Pacific region continued to see sustained growth, on the back of strong leisure and business traffic. Overall, during the first five months of the year, Asia Pacific airlines carried a total of 158 million international passengers, a 12% increase over the same period the previous year. In the air cargo markets, international freight demand

continued /-

registered 4.5% growth, supported by front-loading of shipments and rerouting of goods to other gateways amidst mounting economic headwinds.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Menon said, “Continued improvements in air connectivity are expected to support growth in travel demand. Nevertheless, Asia Pacific carriers face an increasingly challenging operating environment, shaped by rising trade and geopolitical tensions, persistent supply chain constraints, and more frequent overflight diversions due to airspace closures in conflict zones. In addition, fuel prices may remain volatile if the Middle East conflict prolongs. Meanwhile, air cargo markets are expected to come under pressure from weakening export orders, although shifts in trade routes could help mitigate some of the impact. Overall, the region’s carriers are well-placed to adapt to evolving market conditions, supported by strong regional economies that are expanding in tandem with their aviation markets.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	May-25	May-24	% Change	Jan-May 2025	Jan-May 2024	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	31,214	28,261	+ 10.4%	157,986	141,294	+ 11.8%
RPK (Million)	112,182	100,766	+ 11.3%	567,649	500,543	+ 13.4%
ASK (Million)	139,018	126,959	+ 9.5%	692,195	617,893	+ 12.0%
Passenger Load Factor	80.7%	79.4%	+ 1.3 pp	82.0%	81.0%	+ 1.0 pp
FTK (Million)	6,420	6,231	+ 3.0%	30,945	29,605	+ 4.5%
FATK (Million)	10,217	10,085	+ 1.3%	51,511	48,804	+ 5.5%
Freight Load Factor	62.8%	61.8%	+ 1.0 pp	60.1%	60.7%	- 0.6 pp

Effective January 2025, the dataset comprises aggregated traffic data from the following 37 Asia Pacific based carriers: 3K, 5J, 6E, 7C, 9C, AI, AK, BI, BR, CA, CI, CK, CX, CZ, D7, GA, HO, HU, IX, JL, JQ, KC, KE, KZ, MH, MU, NH, NZ, 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

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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