

PRESS RELEASE

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Asia Pacific Airlines Traffic Results – February 2017

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Preliminary traffic figures for the month of February released today by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) showed continued growth in international air passenger demand, whilst the pace of expansion in air cargo markets quickened, with solid increases in demand.

An aggregate total of 24.2 million international passengers flew on the region's carriers in February, a 2.2% increase compared to the same month last year. In revenue passenger kilometre (RPK) terms, demand grew by 3.9%, reflecting relative strength on long-haul markets. Combined with a modest 1.2% expansion in available seat capacity, the average international passenger load factor strengthened by 2.1 percentage points to 80.2% for the month.

Measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTK), international air cargo demand of the region's carriers registered a double-digit growth of 11.3% compared to the same month last year, underpinned by strong growth in new export orders and an acceleration in international trade activity. Growth in demand out-paced the 1.2% expansion in offered freight capacity by a comfortable margin, resulting in a 5.4 percentage point increase in the average international freight load factor to reach 60.1% for the month.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Andrew Herdman, AAPA Director General said, "Notwithstanding the distortion in growth comparisons due to the earlier timing of this year's Lunar New Year festive period, combined figures for the first two months of the year show an encouraging 5.1% increase in the number of passengers carried by the region's carriers to a combined total of 51 million."

Mr. Herdman added, "During the same period, air cargo demand registered a healthy 7.6% increase, with a boost in demand for air cargo shipments of intermediate and finished goods."

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Looking ahead, Mr. Herdman continued, “High levels of business and consumer confidence across most major markets underpins continued optimism for further growth in both air passenger and cargo demand. However, intense market competition, rising fuel and other costs will continue to put pressure on yields. As such, the region’s carriers remain vigilant in seeking further opportunities to enhance growth and increase operational efficiency.”

TRAFFIC UPDATE – PRELIMINARY

International Scheduled Services of Asia Pacific Airlines

International	Feb-17	Feb-16	% Change	Jan-Feb 2017	Jan-Feb 2016	% Change
Passengers (Thousand)	24,189	23,678	+ 2.2%	50,945	48,494	+ 5.1%
RPK (Million)	87,032	83,749	+ 3.9%	186,924	176,064	+ 6.2%
ASK (Million)	108,493	107,218	+ 1.2%	230,618	222,424	+ 3.7%
Passenger Load Factor	80.2%	78.1%	+ 2.1 pp	81.1%	79.2%	+ 1.9 pp
FTK (Million)	4,585	4,118	+ 11.3%	9,969	9,262	+ 7.6%
FATK (Million)	7,625	7,534	+ 1.2%	16,679	16,268	+ 2.5%
Freight Load Factor	60.1%	54.7%	+ 5.4 pp	59.8%	56.9%	+ 2.9 pp

Effective September 2014, the dataset comprises aggregated traffic data from the following 31 Asia Pacific based carriers: 5J, 6E, 9W, AI, AK, BI, BR, CA, CI, CX, CZ, GA, JL, JQ, KA, KC, KE, MH, MU, NH, NZ, OZ, PG, PR, SG, SQ, TG, TR, QF, 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 carry 1,214 million passengers and 20 million tonnes of cargo, representing one-third of global passenger traffic and two-fifths of global air cargo traffic respectively, and thus play a critically important role in the ongoing development of global aviation.

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