



Cathay Pacific releases March 2005 traffic figures

Cathay Pacific Airways today released traffic figures for March 2005 that show continued strong passenger growth yet a more conservative improvement in cargo both during the month and cumulatively over the first quarter.

In March the airline carried 1,262,901 passengers, up from 1,158,154 in February, with an upturn in leisure travel over the Easter holiday and an inbound influx for the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens tournament.

At the same time the airline carried 96,860 tonnes of freight in March, an 8.1 percent increase from 73,420 tonnes carried in February. The March cargo load factor dipped 5.7 percentage points from the same month last year to 67.3 percent as US charter operators injected more temporary capacity into the market in response to the usual end of quarter cargo peak.

Cumulatively over the quarter, the airline recorded a 17.1 percent increase in the number of passengers carried – ahead of a corresponding 12.8 percent increase in capacity measured in terms of Available Seat Kilometres. Cargo grew a slower 3.1 percent over the period.

Cathay Pacific General Manager Revenue Management, Sales & Distribution Ian Shiu said: “A good Easter and the Rugby Sevens contributed to strong continued passenger growth. Still, competition and pricing on both regional and long-haul services remained keen, even on routes with high loads. Rising fuel prices continued to erode the bottom line as surcharges only partially covered our additional costs.”

Cathay Pacific Director & General Manager Cargo Ron Mathison said: “The end of quarter peak in shipments out of Hong Kong was, as usual, met with a spike in the number of US charters. So even though demand was strong there was plenty of capacity in the market to cover it. At the same time, the empty space that charters created flying to Hong Kong tended to dilute inbound yields. Rising fuel prices have now pushed the cargo fuel surcharge into the highest band currently permitted by the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department.”

TRAFFIC	Mar 2005	% change vs Mar 04	Cumulative Mar 2005	Cumulative Mar 2004	% change
RPK (000)					
- North Asia	756,875	30.3%	2,236,625	1,758,414	27.2%
- South East Asia and Middle East	1,079,727	23.4%	2,964,771	2,609,855	13.6%
- Europe	1,122,933	8.6%	3,253,827	2,989,794	8.8%
- South West Pacific & South Africa	914,610	35.7%	2,965,860	2,300,565	28.9%
- North America	1,451,044	21.2%	4,089,398	3,513,856	16.4%
RPK Total (000)	5,325,189	22.1%	15,510,481	13,172,484	17.7%
Passengers carried	1,262,901	21.8%	3,627,839	3,098,220	17.1%
Cargo and mail tonne km (000)	573,031	4.5%	1,484,749	1,407,583	5.5%
Freight carried (000 kg)	96,860	8.1%	245,209	236,242	3.8%
Number of flights	2,789	10.1%	7,916	7,393	7.1%



CATHAY PACIFIC

CAPACITY	Mar 2005	% change vs Mar 04	Cumulative Mar 2005	Cumulative Mar 2004	% change
ASK (000)					
- North Asia	1,064,866	7.1%	3,134,264	2,945,150	6.4%
- South East Asia and Middle East	1,455,135	14.8%	4,185,424	3,739,568	11.9%
- Europe	1,267,546	1.7%	3,701,971	3,649,255	1.4%
- South West Pacific & South Africa	1,295,979	25.6%	3,803,307	3,090,472	23.1%
- North America	1,699,064	22.4%	4,926,320	4,082,133	20.7%
ASK Total (000)	6,782,590	14.4%	19,751,286	17,506,578	12.8%
Passenger load factor	78.5%	4.9pt	78.5%	75.2%	3.3pt
Available cargo/mail tonne km (000)	851,370	13.4%	2,310,494	2,093,601	10.4%
Cargo and mail load factor	67.3%	-5.7pt	64.3%	67.2%	-2.9pt
ATK(000)	1,496,628	13.8%	4,189,406	3,759,312	11.4%