

Media Information

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CATHAY PACIFIC RELEASES JANUARY 2006 TRAFFIC FIGURES

Cathay Pacific releases January 2006 traffic figures

Cathay Pacific today released traffic figures for January 2006 that show a solid start to the year, boosted by a seasonal peak over the Chinese New Year holiday during which the airline operated 70 extra pairs of services to meet passenger demand.

The airline in January carried 1,388,805 passengers, a 15.1 percent increase over the same month last year. The shifting date of the Chinese New Year can make accurate year-on-year comparisons difficult – the holiday last year fell in February. Still, passenger growth for the period remained ahead of a corresponding 11.4 percent increase in passenger capacity, measured in terms of available seat kilometres, or ASKs.

Demand was strong to Australia and New Zealand, where it was the height of summer, and also to destinations within Southeast Asia – places that many leisure travellers avoided last year following the Indian Ocean tsunami. January's passenger load factor was a high 80.4 percent, a rise of 0.8 percentage points.

The airline carried 91,366 tonnes of cargo in January, a 21.9 percent rise over the same month in 2005. A boost to shipments is normal during the run-up to the Chinese New Year. At the same time there was a 14.4 percent increase in capacity, measured in terms of available cargo/mail tonne kilometres. Two additional freighters have joined the fleet in the past year and new services commenced to Shanghai, Dallas and Atlanta.

The cargo load factor was 61.9 percent – a reflection of the fact that far more goods are being exported from southern China through Hong Kong than are being imported from the United States and Europe.

Fuel prices remained high. Their full impact in 2005 will be revealed when the company issues its Annual Results for the year on 8 March.

Cathay Pacific General Manager Revenue Management, Sales & Distribution Ian Shiu said: "Business over the Chinese New Year was good considering it fell so close to Christmas. Although loads have been high, stiff competition on many key routes and a strengthening of the US dollar against foreign currencies depressed yield."

Cathay Pacific Director & General Manager Cargo Ron Mathison said: "Cargo growth in January got a boost from the pre-holiday peak, the addition of two freighters and new services to the US and Shanghai, which were not in place this time last year. Yet underlying demand is spiky and somewhat unpredictable with continued uncertainty over the imposition of quotas on Chinese-made garments in Europe and the US. Business will likely be weaker in February."

Full January 2006 figures on the following page.



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TRAFFIC	Jan 2006	% Change VS Jan 2005	Cumulative Jan 2006	Cumulative Jan 2005	% Change
RPK (000)					
- North Asia	800,547	11.6%	800,547	717,206	11.6%
- South East Asia and Middle East	1,147,288	18.1%	1,147,288	971,217	18.1%
- Europe	1,258,969	9.1%	1,258,969	1,153,795	9.1%
- South West Pacific & South Africa	1,117,621	0.1%	1,117,621	1,116,384	0.1%
- North America	1,754,949	21.5%	1,754,949	1,444,295	21.5%
RPK Total (000)	6,079,374	12.5%	6,079,374	5,402,897	12.5%
Passengers carried	1,388,805	15.1%	1,388,805	1,206,784	15.1%
Cargo and mail tonne km (000)	536,789	16.0%	536,789	462,804	16.0%
Freight carried (000 kg)	91,366	21.9%	91,366	74,929	21.9%
Number of flights	2,987	12.9%	2,987	2,647	12.9%

Capacity	Jan 2006	% Change VS Jan 2005	Cumulative Jan 2006	Cumulative Jan 2005	% Change
ASK (000)					
- North Asia	1,164,947	9.8%	1,164,947	1,061,318	9.8%
- South East Asia & Middle East	1,586,456	11.1%	1,586,456	1,427,800	11.1%
- Europe	1,469,364	14.7%	1,469,364	1,281,543	14.7%
- South West Pacific & South Africa	1,321,584	-0.3%	1,321,584	1,325,483	-0.3%
- North America	2,020,250	19.2%	2,020,250	1,694,552	19.2%
ASK Total (000)	7,562,601	11.4%	7,562,601	6,790,696	11.4%
Pax load factor	80.4%	0.8pt	80.4%	79.6%	0.8pt
Available cargo & mail tonne km (000)	867,221	14.4%	867,221	757,781	14.4%
Cargo and mail load factor	61.9%	0.8pt	61.9%	61.1%	0.8pt
ATK (000)	1,586,529	13.0%	1,586,529	1,403,802	13.0%

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT :

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The Cathay Pacific Website can be found at www.cathaypacific.com

** Cathay Pacific was voted 'Airline of the Year 2005' in the world's largest passenger poll conducted by UK-based Skytrax Research.*

