

Media Information

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CATHAY PACIFIC RELEASES FEBRUARY 2006 TRAFFIC FIGURES

Cathay Pacific today released traffic figures for February 2006 that show passenger numbers increased over the same month last year, while cargo got off to a slow start following the Chinese New Year holiday.

The airline carried a total 1,263,435 passengers, a 9.1 percent rise over the same month last year. Demand to Europe and North America was strong, building on the extra capacity now in place to key destinations such as Los Angeles and London. The passenger load factor for the month was 77.1 percent, down 0.3 percentage points on the same month in 2005.

As with January, the shifting date of the Chinese New Year holiday makes a direct year-on-year comparison difficult. February's passenger growth dipped marginally behind the increase in capacity, measured in terms of available seat kilometres, or ASKs, which was up by 9.6 percent. Yet over the first two months of the year the passenger growth of 12.1 percent was comfortably ahead of capacity growth of 10.5 percent.

The airline carried 86,705 tonnes of cargo in February, up 18.1 percent on the same month last year, ahead of a corresponding 5.4 percent increase in capacity, measured in terms of available cargo/mail tonne kilometres. February's cargo load factor was 68 percent, reflecting continued directional imbalances as far more goods were shipped from Southern China through Hong Kong than were imported from markets such as the United States, Europe and Australia.

More passenger flights are planned. From April the airline will operate three non-stop flights each week to Penang. Three more weekly flights will operate to Paris and Frankfurt, taking both to 10 services a week. Four more weekly services will operate to Denpasar and two more to Cebu during the peak season, and another two weekly services will operate to Adelaide from June.

Cathay Pacific General Manager Revenue Management, Sales & Distribution Ian Shiu said: "Business in February was quite solid. Front-end traffic remained robust, though strong competition and aggressive pricing is depressing yield for sales in the back end of the aircraft. Currency movements resulting from the strong US dollar are also working against us."

Cathay Pacific Director & General Manager Cargo Ron Mathison said: "The market saw a very slow recovery after Chinese New Year with orders for new stock coming in later than usual. A lingering uncertainty and nervousness regarding the trade imbalance is putting pressure on yields. While demand for exports out of China appears to be strong there is over-capacity on the return lanes from the US and Europe, resulting in further yield erosion."

Full February 2006 figures as below:-



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TRAFFIC	Feb 2006	% Change VS Feb 2005	Cumulative Feb 2006	Cumulative Feb 2005	% Change
RPK (000)					
- North Asia	778,539	2.1%	1,579,086	1,479,749	6.7%
- South East Asia and Middle East	989,035	8.2%	2,136,323	1,885,044	13.3%
- Europe	1,075,492	10.1%	2,334,460	2,130,894	9.6%
- South West Pacific & South Africa	965,868	3.3%	2,083,489	2,051,250	1.6%
- North America	1,411,152	18.2%	3,166,101	2,638,354	20.0%
RPK Total (000)	5,220,086	9.2%	11,299,459	10,185,291	10.9%
Passengers carried	1,263,435	9.1%	2,652,240	2,364,938	12.1%
Cargo and mail tonne km (000)	502,768	12.0%	1,039,557	911,718	14.0%
Freight carried (000 kg)	86,705	18.1%	178,072	148,349	20.0%
Number of flights	2,687	8.3%	5,674	5,128	10.6%

Capacity	Feb 2006	% Change VS Feb 2005	Cumulative Feb 2006	Cumulative Feb 2005	% Change
ASK (000)					
- North Asia	1,072,411	6.4%	2,237,357	2,069,398	8.1%
- South East Asia & Middle East	1,364,644	4.8%	2,951,101	2,730,289	8.1%
- Europe	1,308,179	13.5%	2,777,543	2,434,425	14.1%
- South West Pacific & South Africa	1,195,384	1.1%	2,516,968	2,507,328	0.4%
- North America	1,832,154	19.5%	3,852,404	3,227,256	19.4%
ASK Total (000)	6,772,772	9.6%	14,335,373	12,968,696	10.5%
Pax load factor	77.1%	-0.3pt	78.8%	78.5%	0.3pt
Available cargo & mail tonne km (000)	739,107	5.4%	1,606,329	1,459,124	10.1%
Cargo and mail load factor	68.0%	4.0pt	64.7%	62.5%	2.2pt
ATK (000)	1,383,238	7.3%	2,969,767	2,692,778	10.3%

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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.*

