



April 2018: Passengers up 10% in Asia-Pacific and down -2% in Middle East

[July 11, 2018 – Hong Kong] Passenger traffic across Asia-Pacific airports recorded growth at +9.9% in April 2018 while a reduction of -2.4% was observed in the Middle East.

India led the Asia-Pacific region delivering growth at 20.4%, sustained by robust domestic demand. The domestic sector reported growth exceeding 20% for the third consecutive month, at +23.8% in April. Top volume drivers for the month were: Delhi (DEL) +16.8%, Bangalore (BLR) +46.1% and Mumbai (BOM) +12.8%. (Note: the significant growth in Bangalore (BLR) was a result of reduced operations during partial runway closure in 2017).

In China, both the domestic and international sectors delivered double-digit growth for the month, resulting in an overall gain of +11.8%, the country's highest overall growth to-date in 2018. Top volume drivers for the month included: Beijing (PEK) +18%, Shanghai Pudong (PVG) +11.6%, and Guangzhou (CAN) +9.9%. (Note: the significant growth at PEK was a result of reduced operations in 2017 during closure of the main runway in 2017).

Japan grew +7% for the month, the highest to-date in 2018 possibly benefiting from holiday travels around the cherry blossom and Easter season. Current month's growth was primarily driven by volume increase at Tokyo Haneda (HND) +6.1%, the second busiest airport in the Asia-Pacific in terms of passenger traffic; followed by Osaka Kansai (KIX) +12.7% and Tokyo Narita (NRT) +5.3%.

In the Middle East, passenger volume recorded an overall decline this month as traffic softened at the larger hubs. Traffic at Dubai (DXB) -0.1% was virtually flat compared to last year. The diplomatic crisis in Qatar continued to negatively impact Doha (DOH) at -18.2%. On the other hand, strong growth continued to be observed at Kuwait (KWI) +19.3% and Muscat (MCT) +9.7%.

After a slow month in March 2018, air freight growth recovered in April 2018, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East grew at +4.2% and +2.6% respectively. Hong Kong continued to be the top freight hub delivering volume growth at +5% followed by Shanghai Pudong (PVG) +2.8% and Seoul Incheon (ICN) +0.1%.

TABLE 1: Preliminary year-on-year traffic growth rates for Airports reporting highest traffic volume in the respective size category in April 2018 ¹

Top 3 airports by size category²				
Passenger				Freight
> 40M	25M to 40M	15M to 25M	5M to 15M	
Beijing (PEK) +18.0%	Bangkok Don Mueang (DMK) +9.8%	Xiamen (XMN) +9.3%	Kuwait (KWI) +19.3%	Hong Kong (HKG) +5.0%
Dubai (DXB) -0.1%	Hangzhou (HGH) +9.0%	Fukuoka (FUK) +8.0%	Muscat (MCT) +9.7%	Shanghai Pudong (PVG) +2.8%
Tokyo Haneda (HND) +6.1%	Melbourne (MEL) +3.2%	Tianjin (TSN) +9.7%	Nanchang (KHN) +48.2%	Seoul Incheon (ICN) +0.1%

Note :

1. ACI preliminary passenger and freight statistics are based on a significant sample of airports that provide regular monthly reports to ACI. They represent approximately 60% of total passenger traffic and 70% of total freight traffic worldwide. Commentary, tables and charts are based on preliminary data submitted by participating airports and are therefore subject to change.
2. Size categories refer to the annual passenger traffic (in the last 12 months)

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