



NEWS

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Passenger Demand Growth Slows

--Brussels Attacks Disrupt European Traffic--

30 May 2016 (Dublin) - The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced global passenger traffic data for April showing that demand (measured in total revenue passenger kilometers or RPKs) rose by 4.6%--the slowest pace since January 2015. April capacity (available seat kilometers or ASKs) increased by 4.9%, and load factor slipped 0.3 percentage points to 79.1%.

The disruptive impact of the Brussels Airport attack weighed on the April figures. IATA estimates that, absent the impact of the attacks, demand growth would have been around 5%.

“The disruptive impacts of the Brussels terror attacks will likely be short-lived. There are some longer-term clouds over the pace of demand growth. The stimulus from lower oil prices appears to be tapering off. And the global economic situation is subdued. Demand is still growing, but we may be shifting down a gear,” said Tony Tyler, IATA’s Director General and CEO.

April 2016 (% year-on-year)	World share ¹	RPK	ASK	PLF (%pt) ²	PLF (level) ³
Total Market	100.0%	4.6%	4.9%	-0.3%	79.1%
Africa	2.2%	8.6%	9.5%	-0.5%	67.7%
Asia Pacific	31.5%	7.3%	7.0%	0.2%	78.4%
Europe	26.7%	1.9%	1.8%	0.1%	79.8%
Latin America	5.4%	-1.2%	-0.7%	-0.4%	78.3%
Middle East	9.4%	12.2%	14.7%	-1.7%	75.7%
North America	24.7%	1.9%	2.4%	-0.4%	82.3%

¹% of industry RPKs in 2015 ²Year-on-year change in load factor ³Load factor level

International Passenger Markets

April international passenger demand rose 4.8% compared to April 2015, the slowest pace in two years. Airlines in all regions recorded growth, led by the Middle East region. Total capacity climbed 5.6%, causing load factor to slip 0.6 percentage points to 77.8%.

- **Asia-Pacific airlines'** April traffic increased 6.4% compared to the year-ago period. Slower economic growth in many of the region's economies has been at least partly offset by an increase in direct airport connections that has helped to stimulate demand. Capacity rose 6.8% and load factor dipped 0.3 percentage points to 77.3%.
- **European carriers** saw demand rise just 1.8% in April, which was well down on the 6.0% growth recorded in March. This reflects the impact of the Brussels terror attacks, which closed the airport for nearly two weeks. Capacity climbed 2.4% and load factor slipped 0.5% percentage points to 80.2%, which still was the highest among the regions.
- **Middle Eastern carriers** posted a 12.7% traffic increase in April, the only region to see a double-digit percentage increase in demand. Capacity growth of 14.8% outstripped this rise, however, which caused load factor to fall 1.4 percentage points to 75.6%.
- **North American airlines'** traffic rose 1.1% compared to April a year ago, the smallest increase among regions. Capacity climbed 0.9%, causing a 0.1 percentage point rise in load factor to 78.3%. While the recent downward slide in international traffic growth paused in April, traffic levels remain below July 2015 on a seasonally-adjusted basis.
- **Latin American airlines** experienced a 3.1% rise in April demand compared to the same month last year. Capacity increased by 2.9% and load factor edged up 0.1 percentage points to 77.7%. The upward trend in international traffic growth that characterized 2015 has paused even as the downward trend in domestic traffic for the region's carriers has accelerated.
- **African airlines'** traffic climbed 9.9% in April. Capacity rose 11.1%, with the result that load factor slipped 0.7 percentage points to 66.3%, lowest among regions. The continued turnaround of the carriers coincides with expansion of long-haul networks by the region's airlines.

Domestic Passenger Markets

Demand for domestic travel climbed 4.1% in April compared to April 2015, while capacity increased 3.8%, causing load factor to rise 0.3 percentage points to 81.4%. All markets reported demand increases with the exception of Brazil, which showed a 12.1% decline, reflecting the country's ongoing economic recession and political turmoil.

April 2016 (% year-on-year)	World share ¹	RPK	ASK	PLF (%pt) ²	PLF (level) ³
Domestic	36.4%	4.1%	3.8%	0.3%	81.4%
Australia	1.1%	2.4%	-1.1%	2.8%	78.9%
Brazil	1.4%	-12.1%	-10.4%	-1.5%	79.6%
China P.R.	8.4%	9.5%	9.4%	0.1%	81.8%
Indian	1.2%	21.8%	21.3%	0.4%	84.3%
Japan	1.2%	0.7%	-2.4%	2.1%	65.8%
Russia Fed.	1.3%	1.9%	-9.6%	8.6%	75.9%
US	15.4%	2.4%	3.3%	-0.7%	84.5%

¹% of industry RPKs in 2015 ²Year-on-year change in load factor ³Load factor level ***Note:** the seven domestic passenger markets for which broken-down data are available account for 30% of global total RPKs and approximately 82% of total domestic RPKs

- **China's** airlines recorded 9.5% domestic traffic growth, a strong rebound from the 3.3% increase recorded in March. Fears about slowing economic growth in the country have eased somewhat and increased growth in frequencies is helping stimulate demand.
- **India's** domestic traffic soared 21.8%, marking the 20th month of double-digit traffic growth and the 13th consecutive month it has led the domestic markets. Growth is being propelled by the comparatively strong economic backdrop as well as by substantial increases in service frequencies.

IATA AGM: In just a few days, commercial aviation's center of gravity will shift to Dublin, Ireland, for IATA's 72nd Annual General Meeting and World Air Transport Summit (1-3 June, 2016). The threat of terrorism, cyber security and climate change are high on the agenda. The event is open to [accredited](#) journalists.

-IATA-

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Notes for Editors:

- IATA (International Air Transport Association) represents some 260 airlines comprising 83% of global air traffic.
- You can follow us at <http://twitter.com/iata2press> for news specially catered for the media.
- All figures are provisional and represent total reporting at time of publication plus estimates for missing data. Historic figures April be revised.
- Domestic RPKs account for about 37% of the total market. It is most important for North American airlines as it is about 66% of their operations. In Latin America, domestic travel accounts for 47% of operations, primarily owing to the large Brazilian market. For Asia-Pacific carriers, the large markets in India, China and Japan mean that domestic travel accounts for 44% of the region's operations. It is less important for Europe and most of Africa where domestic travel represents just 11% and 14% of operations respectively. And it is negligible for Middle Eastern carriers for whom domestic travel represents just 4% of operations.
- Explanation of measurement terms:
 - RPK: Revenue Passenger Kilometers measures actual passenger traffic
 - ASK: Available Seat Kilometers measures available passenger capacity
 - PLF: Passenger Load Factor is % of ASKs used.

- IATA statistics cover international and domestic scheduled air traffic for IATA member and non-member airlines.
- Total passenger traffic market shares by region of carriers in terms of RPK are: Asia-Pacific 31.5%, Europe 26.7%, North America 24.7%, Middle East 9.4%, Latin America 5.4%, and Africa 2.2%.