



Air Passenger Market Analysis

October 2025

Uptick in growth momentum in October

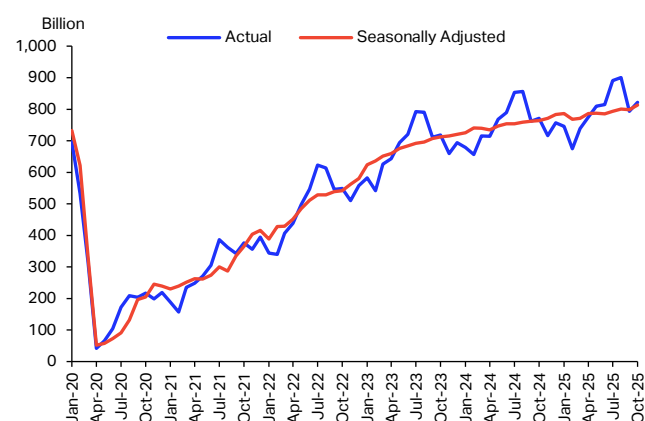
- Global passenger traffic, measured in Revenue Passenger Kilometers (RPK), rose by 6.6% year-on-year (YoY) in October, up from 4.2% in September.
- The industry-wide Passenger Load Factor (PLF) was 84.6%, up from 83.9% in October last year. This was the highest PLF on record for the month of October.
- Total traffic expansion accelerated for every region, with **Middle Eastern** carriers showing the highest growth at 10.5% YoY.
- Domestic traffic increased by 3.4% YoY. All major domestic markets showed improvements, including the **US** and **India** where growth returned to positive territory.
- Airlines from all regions showed accelerated international traffic growth in October; global international RPK increased by 8.5% YoY. The international PLF was 84.6%, also the highest on record for October.
- Global scheduled seats are projected to expand by 4.7% YoY in December, the highest monthly growth in 2025.

Improved passenger traffic growth in October

Total global passenger traffic grew by 6.6% in October, which is 2.4 percentage points above the 4.2% expansion in September. The industry-wide total RPK was 822 billion in October (Chart 1). When adjusted for seasonal variations, passenger traffic increased by 6.4% YoY and 1.9% month-on-month (MoM).

Industry-wide passenger capacity, measured in Available Seat Kilometers (ASK), rose by 5.8% YoY. The slower pace of growth compared to demand pushed the industry-wide PLF to 84.6% in October, up 0.7 percentage points from the same period last year. This was the highest PLF on record for the month of October.

Chart 1: Global RPK, billion



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, IATA Information and Data - Monthly Statistics

Stronger performance across the board for both international and domestic passenger traffic

Both the international and domestic passenger segments showed stronger growth in October. Total and international traffic of airlines from all regions and all major domestic markets posted a higher YoY expansion in October than in September.

Air passenger market in detail - October 2025

	World share, % ¹	October 2025 (year-on-year, %)				October 2025 (year-to-date, %)			
		RPK	ASK	PLF (%-pt)	PLF (level)	RPK	ASK	PLF (%-pt)	PLF (level)
TOTAL MARKET	100.0	6.6	5.8	0.7	84.6	5.3	5.1	0.2	83.6
International	61.8	8.5	7.1	1.1	84.6	7.1	6.7	0.3	83.4
Domestic	38.2	3.4	3.6	-0.1	84.6	2.4	2.5	-0.1	83.8

¹ % of industry RPK in 2024

Total international passenger traffic increased by 8.5% YoY, up from the 5.7% expansion in September. International capacity grew by 7.1% YoY, slightly below the surge in demand and pushing the PLF for international routes up 1.1 percentage points YoY to 84.6%, a record high for the month of October

Domestic passenger traffic grew by 3.4% YoY, also improving from 1.5% in September. Domestic capacity expanded slightly faster by 3.6% YoY, such that domestic PLF dropped by 0.1 percentage points to 84.6% in October.

Accelerated growth across all regions

The YoY expansion of total passenger traffic across all regions improved in October, compared to September (Chart 2).

Middle Eastern airlines recorded the highest YoY growth in passenger traffic among all regions, with a 10.5% YoY rise in total RPK. **African** carriers followed with an 8.8% YoY increase.

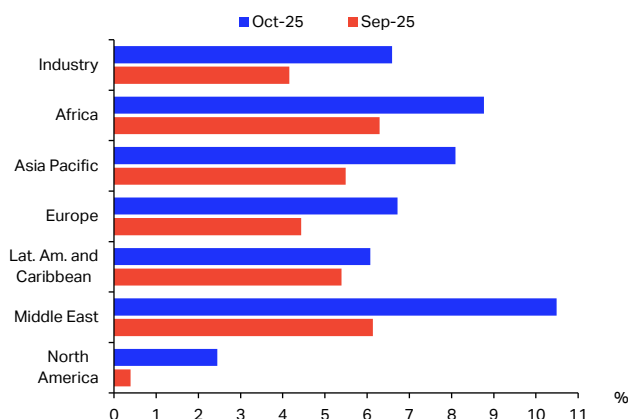
Asia Pacific carriers experienced an 8.1% YoY increase in total traffic in October. The bulk of this growth came from the international segment, which expanded by 10.9% YoY. Airlines in the Asia Pacific region were the largest contributors to global passenger growth, accounting for over 40% of the net increase in RPK in October.

European airlines posted a 6.7% YoY increase in passenger traffic, driven by a 7.4% expansion in their international market. They accounted for around 30% of industry-wide traffic growth.

Passenger traffic for **Latin American and Caribbean** airlines marked a 6.1% YoY rise, placing them—alongside North American carriers—below the industry average of 6.6%. This market expansion was driven largely by the strong performance in domestic markets such as Brazil, which saw a 12.4% YoY increase.

North America experienced a 2.5% YoY increase in passenger demand, after eight months of contraction or marginal growth below 2%. This surge is primarily driven by a 1.3% upturn in the US domestic market following its contraction over the past two months. This highlights the sector's resilience despite the US government shutdown.

Chart 2: Total RPK growth by airline region of registration, YoY, %



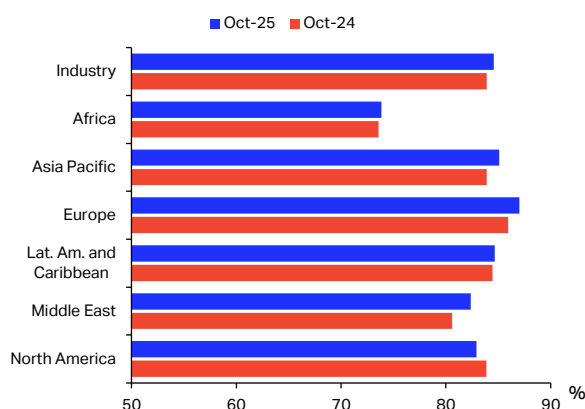
Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, IATA Information and Data - Monthly Statistics

All regions posted higher PLF except for North America

North America was the only region where carriers posted a decline in PLF in October compared to the same period last year (Chart 3). Capacity in the region increased by 3.6% YoY, which outpaced the 2.5% growth in passenger demand, and pushed PLF down by one percentage point to 82.9%. This marked the ninth consecutive month of YoY decline in PLF for the region.

European carriers led with the highest PLF at 87.0%, marking a one percentage point increase from last year's levels. **Middle Eastern** airlines recorded the strongest PLF gain among all regions, with a 1.8 percentage point rise YoY, pushing PLF up to 82.4% in October.

Chart 3: Regional and industry passenger load factors, RPK share of ASK, %



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, IATA Information and Data - Monthly Statistics

Domestic traffic rose across all key markets

Industry-wide domestic air passenger traffic increased by 3.4% YoY in October (Chart 4). All major domestic markets showed stronger YoY growth in October, compared to the previous month.

In the [US](#), the world's largest domestic market, traffic rose modestly by 1.3% YoY in October after contractions in the previous two months. The longest US government shutdown in history, which started on 1 October and lasted for 43 days, did not have a big impact on domestic air travel in October, as the FAA emergency order mandating flight cuts mainly affected airline operations in November. Capacity expanded by 3.1% YoY in October, and the load factor decreased to 82.0%, approximately one and a half percentage points below the same period last year.

Momentum remained firm in [China](#), where domestic traffic grew by 5.7% YoY, partially boosted by the slightly longer eight-day national holiday break this year, compared to 2024. Capacity increased by a slower 4.6% YoY, allowing the load factor to edge up to 85.5%, about a percentage point above its level a year earlier.

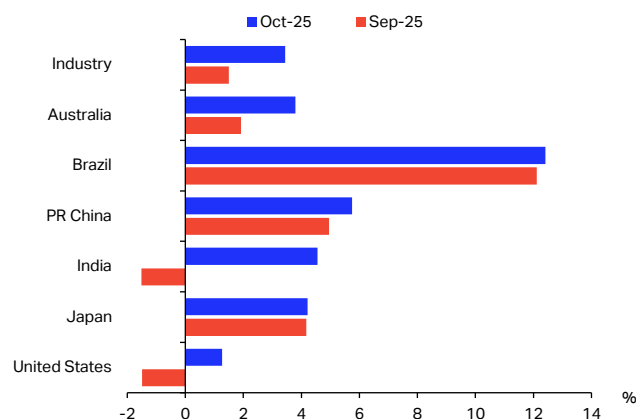
Domestic travel in [India](#) grew by 4.6% YoY, bouncing back from the 1.5% contraction in September. Diwali, one of the country's most important festivals, occurred in October this year, whereas it straddled the end of October and early November last year. The lower base contributed to the rebound in passenger growth. Capacity rose by 5.5% YoY, after stagnating for three months. With supply outpacing demand, the load factor settled at 81.5%.

Traffic demand in [Brazil](#) continued to expand at a rapid pace in October, with domestic RPK up 12.4% YoY, outpacing the 10.5% YoY increase in capacity. The load factor reached 85.2%—about one and a half percentage points higher than last year. Government initiatives to expand routes and promote domestic tourism have significantly boosted air travel, particularly over the past year.

Another strong performance came from [Japan](#), where demand increased by 4.2% YoY and capacity remained slightly below last year's level. This combination pushed the load factor to 88.3%, the highest among major domestic markets in October.

Domestic air traffic in [Australia](#) rose by 3.8% YoY while capacity grew a bit faster. The resulting load factor reached 85.2%, just over one percentage point lower than the previous year.

Chart 4: Domestic RPK growth by market, YoY, %



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, IATA Information and Data - Monthly Statistics

International traffic growth strengthens

Across global markets, international RPK rose by 8.5% YoY in October (Chart 5), with all regions showing accelerated growth from September.

[European](#) airlines accounted for the largest share of international traffic globally and demonstrated a steady performance in October, with international RPK increasing by 7.4% YoY. Capacity rose at a slower pace of 6.0% YoY and lifted the load factor to 86.5%, the highest among all regions in October.

Growth across [Asia Pacific](#) carriers, which accounted for the second largest share of international passengers, remained robust. Traffic climbed by 10.9% YoY, the highest among regions, and capacity surged by 9.1% YoY. The load factor rose to 84.4%, reflecting another month of robust utilization for the region's international networks.

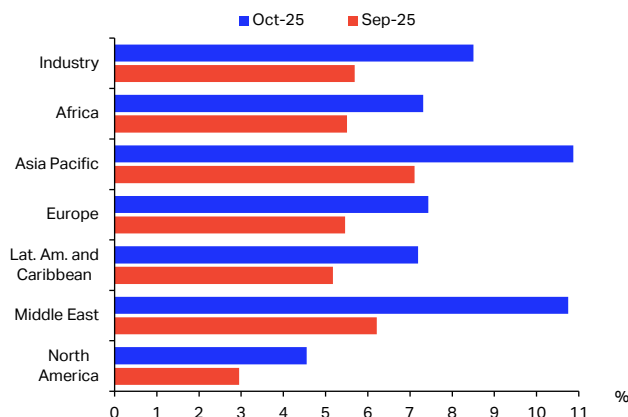
[Middle Eastern](#) carriers also posted a solid performance, with international traffic expanding by 10.7% YoY in October. This was in part due to the lower base in October 2024 amidst geopolitical tensions. Capacity grew by 8.1% YoY, pushing the load factor up by two full percentage points to 82.5%, marking the largest increase for the region since May this year.

For [North American](#) airlines, international demand increased by 4.5% YoY, with capacity rising at a similar pace. The region's load factor remained broadly stable at 84.2%, slightly below last year's level.

The international traffic carried by [Latin American and Caribbean](#) airlines rose by 7.2% YoY. Capacity, however, grew slightly faster at 8.2% YoY, leading to a modest easing of the load factor to 84.6%, just under last year's level.

African carriers recorded a 7.3% YoY increase in international traffic, while capacity climbed by 5.3% YoY. With demand rising more quickly, the international load factor of African airlines reached 74.1%, up 1.4 percentage points from last year.

Chart 5: International RPK growth by airline region of registration, YoY, %



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, IATA Information and Data - Monthly Statistics

Stellar performance for major Asia Pacific international routes

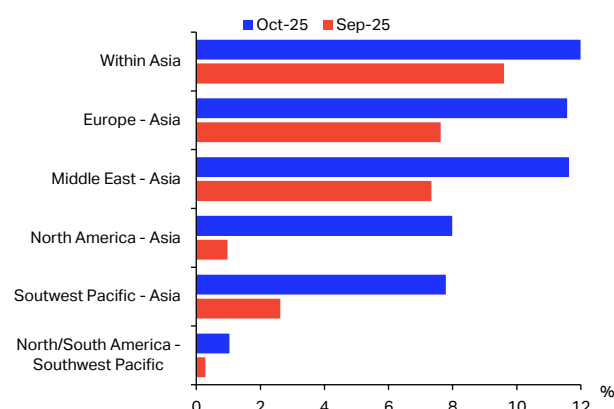
All major route corridors serving Asia Pacific recorded accelerated growth in October compared to September, with the largest international routes achieving robust increases above the industry average (Chart 6).

International traffic [within Asia](#)—the region’s largest international corridor—registered the highest growth at 12.0% YoY. Among the top ten origin markets in this corridor, traffic from China, Japan, and Vietnam experienced particularly robust expansions, each exceeding 10% YoY. The [Europe–Asia](#) and [Middle East–Asia](#) corridors also posted significant gains of 11.6% YoY in October, rising from single-digit growth in the previous month.

Although smaller international corridors serving Asia Pacific performed below the industry average, they still showed accelerated growth in October compared to September. Traffic between [North America and Asia](#) increased by 8.0% YoY, representing a seven-percentage point gain over September. Traffic from China to North America was especially strong, with YoY RPK gains surpassing 30%, due to a longer national holiday this year in China. The [Southwest Pacific–Asia](#) corridor expanded by 7.8% YoY, up from 2.6% in September, while traffic between [North/South America and Southwest Pacific](#) recorded the slowest growth at 1.0% YoY in October.

Consistent with September trends, the PLF for most international corridors serving Asia Pacific increased YoY in October. Notably, routes between Middle East and Asia gained 4.4 percentage points compared to the same period last year, reaching 78.5%. In contrast, the North America–Asia and North/South America–Southwest Pacific corridors were the only route areas to experience PLF declines. The PLF on the North America–Asia route fell for the sixth consecutive month, decreasing by 0.2 percentage points YoY to 83.0%, while the PLF for the North/South America–Southwest Pacific corridor declined by 2.8 percentage points YoY to 76.3%.

Chart 6: RPK growth across major Asia Pacific international route areas, YoY, %



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, IATA Information and Data - Monthly Statistics. Route areas are ordered by size, from largest to smallest

All key international Americas corridors posted gains in October

Most major international corridors serving the Americas remained below the industry-wide average expansion in October; however, all route areas recorded positive growth and most saw notable improvements compared to September (Chart 7).

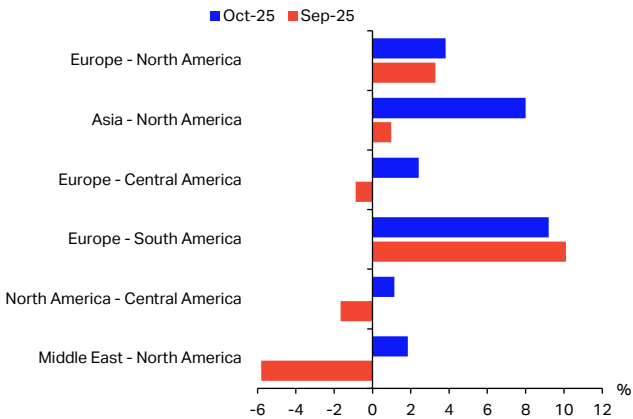
Traffic between [Europe and South America](#) grew by 9.2% YoY. Although this was slightly lower than September’s expansion, it was the only major corridor for the Americas to outperform the industry average. The [trans-Atlantic](#) corridor expanded by 3.8% YoY in October, a modest improvement over September’s 3.3% increase.

The [Europe–Central America](#), [North America–Central America](#), and [Middle East–North America](#) corridors reversed the traffic contractions observed in September. These routes posted YoY growth of 2.4%, 1.1%, and 1.8%, respectively. The Middle East–North America corridor demonstrated the most significant improvement, gaining 7.7 percentage points in October compared to September. This marked the first month of capacity expansion following four consecutive months of contraction amid heightened

geopolitical tensions, and supported the rebound in passenger traffic.

In terms of the PLF, the Europe–Central America corridor recorded the largest YoY increase, rising by 2.1 percentage points to 90.8%. Conversely, the North America–Central America corridor experienced the steepest decline among the top route areas for the Americas, falling 2.1 percentage points YoY to 80.6% in October.

Chart 7: RPK growth across major Americas international route areas, YoY, %



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, IATA Information and Data - Monthly Statistics. Route areas are ordered by size, from largest to smallest

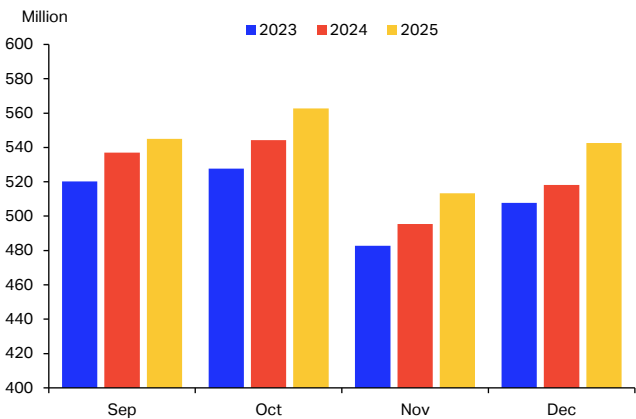
Accelerated growth in scheduled seats for November and December

In October, the number of scheduled airline seats worldwide recorded a 3.4% YoY increase (Chart 8).

This upward trajectory continued into November, with scheduled seat capacity expanding by 3.6% YoY, indicating a slight acceleration in growth momentum.

Schedules for December point to a 4.7% YoY increase in available seats, marking the highest monthly growth rate observed in 2025. This robust expansion in capacity is strategically aligned with the anticipated surge in passenger demand during the December peak travel season, driven by holiday-related leisure travel and year-end business activity. The sustained growth in scheduled seats underscores the industry’s confidence in market recovery and its proactive approach to meeting seasonal demand pressures.

Chart 8: Industry-wide scheduled seats



Sources: IATA Sustainability and Economics, OAG schedules

Air passenger market in detail - October 2025

	World	October 2025 (year-on-year, %)				October 2025 (year-to-date, %)			
	share, % ¹	RPK	ASK	PLF (%-pt)	PLF (level)	RPK	ASK	PLF (%-pt)	PLF (level)
TOTAL MARKET	100.0	6.6	5.8	0.7	84.6	5.3	5.1	0.2	83.6
Africa	2.2	8.8	8.3	0.3	73.9	7.5	6.5	0.7	75.2
Asia Pacific	33.5	8.1	6.6	1.2	85.1	8.0	6.5	1.1	84.2
Europe	26.7	6.7	5.4	1.1	87.0	5.3	5.1	0.1	84.7
Latin America and Caribbean	5.3	6.1	5.8	0.2	84.6	7.2	7.8	-0.5	83.2
Middle East	9.4	10.5	8.1	1.8	82.4	6.3	5.3	0.7	81.5
North America	22.9	2.5	3.6	-1.0	82.9	0.4	2.1	-1.4	83.1
International	61.8	8.5	7.1	1.1	84.6	7.1	6.7	0.3	83.4
Africa	1.8	7.3	5.3	1.4	74.1	6.8	5.3	1.1	75.0
Asia Pacific	16.8	10.9	9.1	1.4	84.4	11.5	10.6	0.6	84.3
Europe	23.5	7.4	6.0	1.2	86.5	5.9	5.7	0.1	83.9
Latin America and Caribbean	2.8	7.2	8.2	-0.8	84.6	8.9	11.0	-1.6	83.6
Middle East	9.0	10.7	8.1	2.0	82.5	6.2	5.2	0.8	81.6
North America	7.9	4.5	4.7	-0.1	84.2	1.8	2.0	-0.2	84.3
Domestic	38.2	3.4	3.6	-0.1	84.6	2.4	2.5	-0.1	83.8
Dom. Australia	0.8	3.8	5.1	-1.1	85.2	2.2	1.4	0.7	81.1
Dom. Brazil	1.1	12.4	10.5	1.5	85.2	11.5	9.5	1.5	83.0
Dom. China P.R.	11.3	5.7	4.6	0.9	85.5	4.4	2.3	1.7	84.5
Dom. India	1.7	4.6	5.5	-0.7	81.5	5.9	7.5	-1.3	84.6
Dom. Japan	1.0	4.2	-0.6	4.1	88.3	5.4	0.7	3.6	81.1
Dom. United States	14.4	1.3	3.1	-1.5	82.0	-0.5	2.0	-2.1	82.2

Note 1: % of industry RPK in 2024

Note 2: the total industry and regional growth rates are based on a constant sample of airlines combining reported data and estimates for missing observations. Airline traffic is allocated according to the region in which the carrier is registered; it should not be considered as regional traffic. Historical statistics are subject to revision.

IATA Sustainability & Economics

economics@iata.org

28 November 2025

Get the data

Access data related to this briefing through IATA's Monthly Statistics publication:

www.iata.org/monthly-traffic-statistics

IATA Economics Consulting

To find out more about our tailored economics consulting solutions, visit:

www.iata.org/consulting

Terms and Conditions for the use of this IATA Economics Report and its contents can be found here: www.iata.org/economics-terms

By using this IATA Economics Report and its contents in any manner, you agree that the IATA Economics Report Terms and Conditions apply to you and agree to abide by them. If you do not accept these Terms and Conditions, do not use this report.