The upward trend in domestic asset utilization by airlines has been a key feature in the wider passenger market in recent years. As shown by this week’s chart, the industry-wide domestic load factor recently posted a record September high of 82.6%, up from 81.2% in September 2015. Australia was the only market in which the load factor did not register an all-time September high, however it still registered an improvement from the level seen in September 2015.

Indian airlines achieved the highest domestic load factor in September 2016 (85.0%), 3.1 percentage points higher than a year ago. This has been aided in part by strong demand growth in the market (>20% year-on-year in each of the past 11 months), and is a far cry from the situation in the early 2000s when passenger loads were frequently below 60%.

But airlines in markets where demand is not growing as strongly as in India are also proving themselves adept at matching capacity to demand. Indeed, carriers in Brazil and Japan both managed to increase their domestic load factors in September despite year-on-year falls in traffic volumes. Indeed, the September domestic load factor in Brazil exceeded 80% for the first time ever.

For further information on recent trends in passenger traffic, read our latest Air Passenger Monthly Analysis (link).