STRONG PASSENGER RESULTS AND A
REBOUND FOR FREIGHT TRAFFIC IN 2014

Shortly before Christmas ICAO announced from its HQ in Montreal that some 3.2 billion passengers used air transport for their business and tourism needs in 2014. This was according to preliminary figures on scheduled services released on 18 December by the Organization. The annual total passengers figure was up approximately 5% compared to 2013 and is expected to reach over 6.4 billion by 2030, based on current projections.

Aircraft departures reached 33 million globally during 2014, establishing a new record and surpassing the 2013 figure by roughly one million flights. Solid global economic growth and improving world trade helped world scheduled passenger traffic grow at a rate of 5.9% in 2014 (expressed in terms of revenue passenger-kilometres or RPKs), compared to 5.5% in 2013.

The Asia/Pacific region was the world’s largest air travel market in 2014, with a 31% share in terms of world RPKs. The second and third largest air travel markets were Europe and North America, representing 27% and 25%, respectively. The Middle East Region, accounting for 9% of world RPKs, recorded the fastest growth rate at 12.8%. The Latin America and Caribbean Region increased by a solid 5.9% while African growth registered in at 1.5%.

International passenger traffic
International scheduled passenger traffic grew by 6.3% in 2014, up from the 5.7% recorded in 2013. With recovery in the Eurozone economy, European traffic increased by 5.7% and accounted for the largest share of international RPKs with 38%. Asia/Pacific had the second largest share with 27%, growing by 5.8%. North America was also up by 3.1%, in line with its improving economic conditions.

With its combined economic strength and airline network expansion, the Middle East recorded the highest international passenger traffic growth at 13.4% compared to 2013. The Latin America/Caribbean meanwhile grew by a solid 6.2% despite weakness in some of its economies, and carriers in Africa experienced the slowest growth rate of 1.7%.

Domestic passenger traffic
Scheduled domestic passenger traffic increased by 5.1% compared to 2013, with North America and the Asia/Pacific accounting for a combined 82% of worldwide domestic traffic (44% for North America, 38% for Asia/Pacific). The Asia/Pacific domestic market experienced the fastest growth, 7.9% compared to
2013, driven mainly by Chinese airlines which accounted for approximately 60% of the region’s total domestic traffic.

**Capacity**

Overall air transport capacity, expressed in available seat-kilometres (ASKs), increased globally by 5.7% in 2014. The overall passenger load factor was relatively stable compared to 2013 at 79.5%. Carriers in North America achieved the highest passenger load factor in 2014, 83.5%, followed by European carriers at 80.4%.

**Air Freight**

World scheduled freight traffic, measured in freight tonne-kilometres (FTKs), grew strongly by 4.6% in 2014, a rebound from the 0.4% growth rate registered in 2013. This is a reflection of improvement in world trade. The Asia/Pacific was the world’s largest air freight market in 2014 with a 40% share in terms of world FTKs. Europe and North America came in at 22% and 21%, respectively, while Middle Eastern airlines recorded the fastest growth in freight traffic in 2014 with a growth of 11.3%.

**Industry trends**

The world’s major aircraft manufacturers will have delivered approximately 1,000 new commercial aircraft by the end of 2014, with orders recorded for over 2,000 more. Together with improved air traffic flow management (ATFM) and the expanded use of performance-based navigation (PBN), these environmentally-friendly aircraft will contribute positively to the sustainability of air transport development.

**ICAO Second High-level Safety Conference 2015**

2 - 5 February 2015  
Location: Montreal, Canada  
Venue: ICAO Headquarters  
Registration: The online pre-registration form is available at:  
[www.icao.int/meetings/hlsc2015/](http://www.icao.int/meetings/hlsc2015/)

The International Civil Aviation Organization will be holding the Second High-level Safety Conference (HLSC2015) from 2 to 5 February 2015 at ICAO Headquarters, in Montreal, Canada. The participation of Directors General of Civil Aviation and strategic decision-makers will provide the international civil aviation community the opportunity to build consensus, obtain commitments and formulate recommendations deemed necessary for the effective and efficient progress of key aviation safety activities.
Overall, the Conference will include various topics covering three major themes:

(a) Reviewing the current situation,
(b) The future approach to manage aviation safety and
(c) Facilitating increased regional cooperation.

In particular, the Conference will also be invited to discuss emerging safety issues, including the global tracking of aircraft and risks to civil aviation arising from conflict zones.