



International Civil Aviation Organization

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ICAO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BUOYANCY IN AIRLINE TRAFFIC CONTINUES IN 2007

MONTREAL, 21 December 2007 — Preliminary figures for 2007 released today by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) indicate that passenger traffic on the world's airlines increased by about 6.6 per cent over 2006, in terms of passenger-kilometres performed. Passengers carried on scheduled services grew by around 6 per cent to 2.2 billion.

Statistics supplied by ICAO's 190 Contracting States also show an overall increase of about 5.5 per cent over 2006 based on tonne-kilometres performed, a measure which includes passenger, freight and mail traffic.

While international passenger traffic grew at a marginally lower rate of 7.3 per cent in 2007 compared to 7.6 per cent in 2006, high growth rates were recorded across all regions. European traffic, which accounts for nearly 40 per cent of international traffic, grew by 6.4 per cent. Asia/Pacific (around 28 per cent of international traffic) was up by some 6.6 per cent and North America (around 17 per cent of international traffic) increased by about 5.5 per cent. For their part, the Middle Eastern Region (7 per cent of international traffic) grew by almost 19 per cent, and Latin America and Africa, which together account for 7 per cent of international traffic, went up by 5.8 and 6.8 per cent, respectively.

On the domestic front, North American traffic, at almost 59 per cent of the world's total, grew by 2.9 per cent in 2007. This growth is significant given the large base and the much lower 0.6 per cent growth rate in 2006. Asia/Pacific (around 27 per cent of domestic traffic) grew by a very strong 14 per cent as compared to 12.5 per cent in 2006. For Europe (8 per cent of world domestic traffic) growth was stagnant at 2006 levels while Latin America (around 4 per cent of world traffic) grew by 6 per cent.

In general, traffic growth in 2007 outpaced the increase in seat capacity offered. The global passenger load factor reached almost 76.5 per cent, up from approximately 75.8 per cent in 2006.

In 2007, total (domestic and international) scheduled freight traffic showed a growth of around 3.5 per cent, down from around 5.5 per cent in 2006. Freight tonnes carried worldwide on scheduled services in 2007 went up to approximately 41 million tonnes compared with about 40 million tonnes in 2006.

The decline in the rate of freight traffic growth may be the result of a slowing economy in the United States. However, the continuance of high growth rates in passenger traffic across all regions and especially in the United States in such an economic environment was a positive for the year.

Looking ahead, the likelihood of high rates of traffic growth continuing into 2008 will be heavily influenced by the macro-economic factors in the United States. A recessionary environment in the United States could expand to other regions, especially to the emerging economies of Asia, impacting growth adversely. In addition, if the sub prime crisis leads to a liquidity crunch, it too has the potential to affect business and leisure travel adversely.

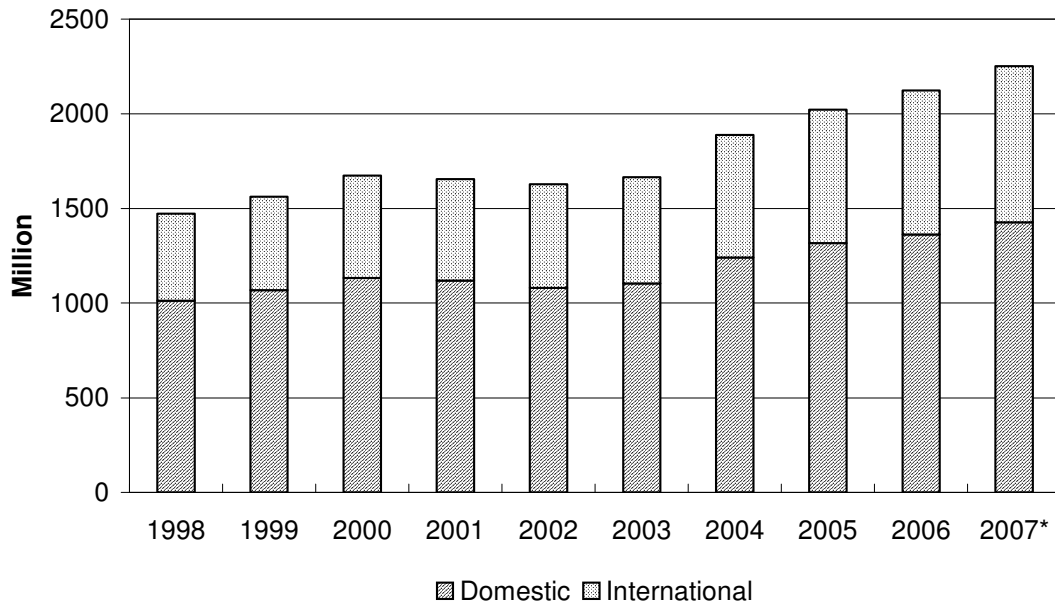
The attached chart shows annual development of world scheduled passenger and total traffic from 1998.

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 190 Contracting States.

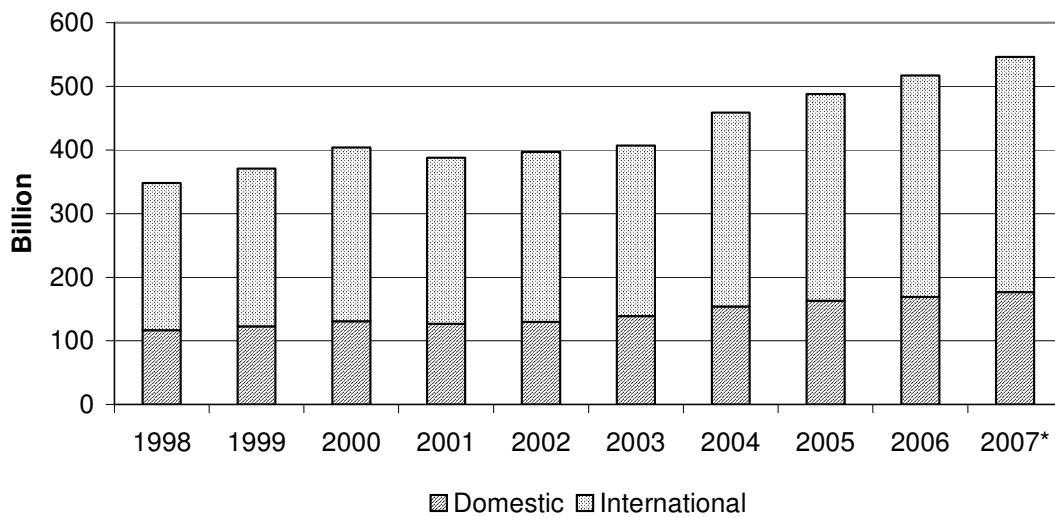
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WORLD SCHEDULED TRAFFIC 1998 - 2007

Passengers carried



Tonne-kilometres performed (including freight and mail)



* Provisional estimates

Source: ICAO (December 2007)