

# Media Release

## Airport traffic drops dramatically in November 2008

**GENEVA, 06 January 2009** – Global air traffic experienced a major setback in November 2008. Total passenger numbers during the month were about 2 percent lower than in November 2006 and 8 percent lower than in November 2007.

Worldwide passenger traffic dropped sharply by 8 percent in November 2008 as compared to November 2007, according to reports from the 165 key airports that participate in the monthly advance reporting system. International traffic, previously the driver of robust growth during the first half of 2008, decreased in November by 5.8 percent, and worldwide domestic traffic dropped by 8.5 percent for the month (Table 1). Driven by countries in North Africa and around the Arabian Gulf as well as Lebanon, only the Middle East (+8%) and Africa (+5%) regions recorded solid growth in international traffic (Table 2) for the month, compared to notable drops in Europe (-6%), Asia Pacific (-11%) and North America (-4%). Asia Pacific's 2 percent growth for domestic traffic, due to growth in China, was offset by stark declines in Europe (-15%) and North America (-12%).

The countries worst hit by the fallout of battered economies are the United States, South Korea, Japan and the United Kingdom. Results from Thailand and India were further impacted by political protests and closure of the airport in Bangkok, and the terror attacks in Mumbai in late November. Spain saw domestic traffic declining further partly because of competition with new high speed train connections, and Italian airports suffered from the uncertain future of Alitalia. South African airports registered double digit declines in domestic traffic and fewer international passengers.

Global freight growth dropped dramatically in November 2008 by 15 percent. International freight plummeted by 15.6 percent and domestic tonnage by 13.1 percent. The year-to-date and the rolling 12-month year periods also registered negative growth (Table 1) compared to the same time period of the previous year leaving only the Middle East with positive results amongst all the regions (Table 3). The slowdowns starting in May presaged the trend, as depicted in Charts 1 and 2.

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**Notes for the editor**

1. ACI, the only worldwide association of airports, is a non-profit organisation whose prime purpose is to represent the interests of airports and to promote professional excellence in airport management and operations. As of September 2008, ACI has 596 members who operate over 1678 airports in 177 countries and territories. Information can be found on the ACI website [www.aci.aero](http://www.aci.aero)

2. *PaxFlash* and *FreightFlash* statistics are based on a significant sample of airports that provide regular monthly reports to ACI. They represent approximately 60 percent of total passenger figures and 70 percent of total freight worldwide. The passenger traffic growth percentages are based on total passengers departing and arriving at the airport, and the freight data include uploaded and downloaded freight tonnage. For queries please contact Nancy Gautier at ACI World [ngautier@aci.aero](mailto:ngautier@aci.aero).

3. The economic impacts of the current economic crisis on the airport industry will be a central topic at ACI's first **Airport Economics and Finance Conference** in London on 10-11 February 2009. A **press roundtable** with Angela Gittens (Director General ACI World), Olivier Jankovec (Director General ACI Europe) and Andreas Schimm (Director Economics ACI World) will be organized during the event. Registration for the conference is available on the ACI website [www.aci.aero](http://www.aci.aero) and for further press information please contact Nancy Gautier [ngautier@aci.aero](mailto:ngautier@aci.aero) or +41 22 717 8562 for more information.

<b>TABLE 1: SUMMARY WORLDWIDE TRAFFIC RESULTS, NOVEMBER 2008 (% CHANGE)</b>			
	<b>Monthly Nov 2008 over Nov 2007</b>	<b>YTD Jan-Nov 2008 over Jan-Nov 2007</b>	<b>12 months Nov 2007-Nov 2008 over Nov 2006-Nov 2007</b>
<b>PaxFlash</b>			
International passenger	-5.8%	2.1%	2.5%
Domestic passenger	-8.5%	-2.0%	-1.8%
Total passenger	-7.8%	-0.3%	0.1%
<b>FreightFlash</b>			
International freight	-15.6%	-1.2%	-0.7%
Domestic freight	-13.1%	-4.9%	-4.7%
Total freight	-14.9%	-2.4%	-2.0%

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Chart 1

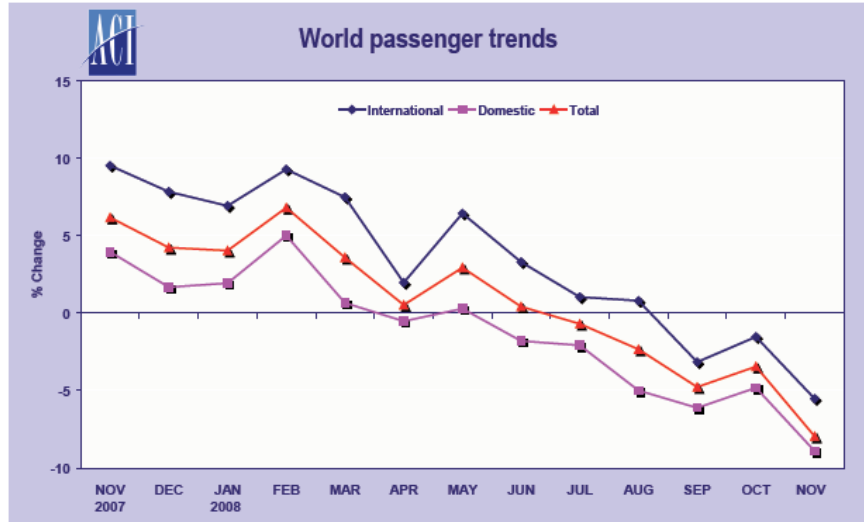
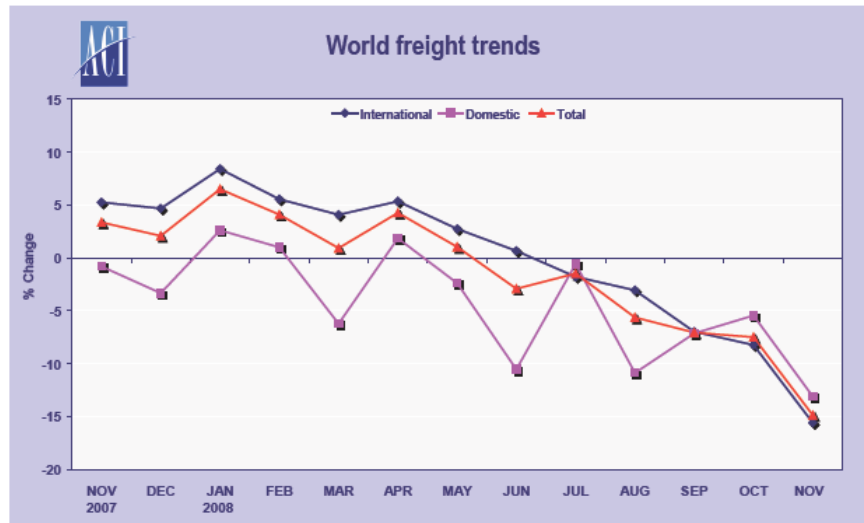


Chart 2



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TABLE 2: PaxFlash Summary						
November 2008						
Regions	Nov 2008	% YOY	YTD - Nov 2008	% YOY	YE - Nov 2008	% YOY
<b>International passengers</b>						
AFR	4 559	4.7	50 491	10.9	55 075	11.5
ASP	23 671	(10.6)	284 562	(1.1)	312 471	(0.5)
EUR	47 876	(6.4)	670 629	1.5	721 094	1.8
LAC	3 988	(2.6)	48 432	5.5	53 015	5.8
MEA	6 686	8.0	77 276	12.6	84 039	13.0
NAM	10 906	(4.4)	141 367	2.7	153 989	3.0
ACI	97 686	(5.8)	1 272 757	2.1	1 379 685	2.5
<b>Domestic passengers</b>						
AFR	2 631	(10.9)	29 759	(1.9)	32 600	(1.4)
ASP	34 684	2.1	372 846	2.3	404 805	2.4
EUR	13 933	(14.9)	177 055	(4.0)	191 901	(3.6)
LAC	9 196	(5.8)	105 453	1.0	115 710	1.8
MEA	N/A		N/A		N/A	
NAM	63 492	(12.3)	791 851	(3.9)	862 293	(3.7)
ACI	123 935	(8.5)	1 476 964	(2.0)	1 607 309	(1.8)
<b>Total passengers</b>						
AFR	7 249	(1.8)	80 984	5.6	88 481	6.1
ASP	59 230	(3.5)	667 847	0.7	728 698	1.1
EUR	62 271	(8.4)	853 213	0.3	919 045	0.6
LAC	13 589	(4.9)	158 516	2.0	173 819	2.6
MEA	7 072	8.4	81 153	12.2	88 300	12.5
NAM	74 791	(12.8)	953 421	(3.1)	1 038 366	(2.9)
ACI	224 201	(7.8)	2 795 133	(0.3)	3 036 709	0.1

**DEFINITIONS PASSENGER TRAFFIC: Departing and arriving passengers**

- *International traffic (000s): performed between the designated airport and an airport in another country/territory*
- *Domestic traffic (000s): performed between two airports located in the same country/territory*
- *Total traffic (000s): international + domestic passengers + direct transit passengers counted once (when breakdown is available). N.B. Total ≠ International + Domestic*
- *N/A: not applicable due to small sample for domestic passenger traffic*

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TABLE 3: FreightFlash Summary						
November 2008						
Regions	Nov 2008	% YOY	YTD - Nov 2008	% YOY	YE - Nov 2008	% YOY
<b>International freight</b>						
AFR	36.3	(16.6)	406.6	(4.7)	447.6	(3.9)
ASP	1 400.3	(19.2)	16 998.7	(1.1)	18 690.0	(0.6)
EUR	827.0	(11.2)	9 217.9	(1.3)	10 103.8	(0.8)
LAC	137.7	(16.3)	1 563.3	(0.2)	1 726.3	0.9
MEA	301.9	0.7	3 218.6	7.3	3 516.4	7.2
NAM	439.0	(20.3)	5 874.6	(5.5)	6 460.4	(5.0)
ACI	3 142.3	(15.6)	37 279.9	(1.2)	40 944.5	(0.7)
<b>Domestic freight</b>						
AFR	2.5	(35.8)	29.6	(25.1)	32.6	(25.2)
ASP	410.3	(8.3)	4 586.3	3.7	5 021.3	3.4
EUR	34.2	(12.5)	383.2	(2.9)	420.0	(2.9)
LAC	79.0	(1.2)	821.3	0.0	908.5	0.5
MEA	N/A		N/A		N/A	
NAM	909.7	(15.9)	10 431.7	(8.6)	11 449.9	(8.3)
ACI	1 435.7	(13.1)	16 252.1	(4.9)	17 832.3	(4.7)
<b>Total freight</b>						
AFR	43.2	(17.3)	488.9	(6.3)	538.1	(5.7)
ASP	1 810.9	(17.0)	21 591.9	(0.1)	23 719.1	0.3
EUR	861.3	(11.2)	9 602.2	(1.4)	10 525.0	(0.9)
LAC	216.8	(11.4)	2 384.7	(0.1)	2 634.8	0.8
MEA	302.0	0.7	3 219.6	7.3	3 517.6	7.2
NAM	1 381.0	(17.5)	16 693.3	(7.5)	18 334.1	(7.1)
ACI	4 615.2	(14.9)	53 980.6	(2.4)	59 268.5	(2.0)

**DEFINITIONS FREIGHT TRAFFIC: Loaded and unloaded, data in 000s metric tonnes**

- *International freight: traffic between the designated airport and an airport in another country/territory.*
- *Domestic freight: traffic performed between two airports located in the same country/territory.*
- *Total freight: international + domestic*
- *N/A: not applicable due to small sample for domestic freight traffic*

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