

Media Release

Worldwide airport traffic results for March 2008

GENEVA, 30 April 2008 – Early results for global passenger traffic show continued growth in the March 2008, again fueled by a very substantial increase of over 7 percent in international traffic as compared to March 2007. Domestic passenger traffic growth was flat at 1 percent, which has held down overall results to 3.5 percent. During the first quarter 2008, passenger traffic rose 4.5 percent compared to the same period in 2007. For the first three months of the year, international passenger traffic rose strongly by 7.6 percent and domestic by 2.3 percent.

Commenting on regional results, ACI Economics Director Andreas Schimm says, “We saw a sharp decline in domestic traffic across Europe for a variety of reasons. Business travel was reduced due to the Easter holiday, but this was not compensated by more increased leisure travellers to traditional destinations within weekend reach due to the early March date and poor weather. European operations also suffered from late winter spells, industrial action and the temporary knock-on effects from flight cancellations experienced during the London Heathrow terminal 5 opening.

“Isolated phenomena have also impacted travel in other locations, for example a substantial drop in Japanese travel to China appears to be linked to food poisoning fears in China and the political situation in Tibet in March. In the US, travel choices continue to be impacted by persistently high fuel prices and rising air fares, as well as route changes due to air service consolidation and carrier bankruptcies. ”

Freight traffic for March 2008 compared to March 2007 was flat, balancing a 4 percent rise in international freight against a stark decrease of 7 percent in domestic freight. Only Asia Pacific showed positive domestic growth. In addition to the overall negative effect of global financial and economic data, airports report a direct impact on traffic from freight carrier business decline, as well as fewer scheduled passenger flights, which also lowers volume capacity. In the US and Europe air freight continues to compete with rail and road transport due to high fuel prices, in particular a transfer of small, lower value package shipping from air to surface.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY WORLDWIDE TRAFFIC RESULTS, MARCH 2008 (% CHANGE)			
	Mar 2008 over Mar 2007	YTD (Jan-Mar 2008) Over YTD 2007	Rolling 12 months, through Mar 2008
PaxFlash			
International passenger	7.2	7.6	7.2
Domestic passenger	0.8	2.3	3.7
Total passenger	3.5	4.5	5.2
FreightFlash			
International freight	3.8	5.6	5.2
Domestic freight	(6.9)	(1.9)	(0.5)
Total freight	0.4	3.1	3.3

more

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. ACI has 580 members who operate over 1647 airports in 175 countries and territories.

2. *PaxFlash* and *FreightFlash* statistics are based on a significant sample of airports that provide regular monthly reports to ACI. They represent approximately 60% of total passenger figures and 70% 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.

TABLE 2: PaxFlash Summary						
March 2008						
Regions	Mar 2008	% YOY	YTD Mar 2008	% YOY	YE Mar 2008	% YOY
International passengers						
AFR	3 623	15.0	10 199	13.3	41 382	13.5
ASP	28 357	4.8	83 698	6.2	332 439	6.9
EUR	57 020	6.1	151 800	6.6	705 379	6.2
LAC	5 562	12.2	15 835	10.6	56 545	8.1
MEA	6 850	16.0	19 592	14.8	77 825	17.2
NAM	14 293	8.9	38 790	8.4	158 342	5.7
ACI	115 705	7.2	319 915	7.6	1 371 912	7.2
Domestic passengers						
AFR	2 815	5.3	7 829	6.8	30 850	13.8
ASP	33 757	4.2	95 419	5.6	384 914	5.4
EUR	15 656	(3.4)	43 845	1.3	192 237	3.9
LAC	8 550	4.2	24 483	4.1	98 972	7.5
MEA					0	
NAM	66 100	(0.5)	177 803	0.4	772 807	2.1
ACI	126 877	0.8	349 379	2.3	1 479 780	3.7
Total passengers						
AFR	6 496	10.3	18 233	10.3	73 089	13.5
ASP	63 014	4.4	181 786	5.8	728 018	5.9
EUR	72 977	3.8	196 568	5.3	901 360	5.6
LAC	14 524	6.9	41 591	6.2	160 528	7.3
MEA	7 249	15.3	20 763	14.1	82 010	16.4
NAM	92 495	0.8	249 001	1.6	1 070 915	2.8
ACI	256 756	3.5	707 942	4.5	3 015 920	5.2

DEFINITIONS PASSENGER TRAFFIC:

INTERNATIONAL (000s). TRAFFIC (PASSENGERS) PERFORMED BETWEEN THE DESIGNATED AIRPORT AND AN AIRPORT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY/TERRITORY.

DOMESTIC (000s). TRAFFIC (PASSENGERS) PERFORMED BETWEEN TWO AIRPORTS LOCATED IN THE SAME COUNTRY/TERRITORY.

TOTAL (000s). INTERNATIONAL + DOMESTIC PASSENGERS + INCLUDING DIRECT TRANSIT PASSENGERS COUNTED ONCE (when breakdown is available). TOTAL ≠ INTERNATIONAL + DOMESTIC

TABLE 3: FreightFlash Summary						
March 2008						
Regions	Mar 2008	% YOY	YTD Mar 2008	% YOY	YE Mar 2008	% YOY
International freight						
AFR	34.5	(1.1)	96.2	3.9	422.8	11.6
ASP	1 687.2	5.9	4 516.7	7.0	18 984.4	5.5
EUR	872.3	1.8	2 419.0	5.3	9 854.4	4.9
LAC	130.1	2.5	386.5	6.6	1 642.8	9.7
MEA	296.4	6.4	826.3	7.9	3 349.6	9.0
NAM	535.6	(0.1)	1 466.4	0.5	6 219.5	1.2
ACI	3 556.0	3.8	9 711.1	5.6	40 473.5	5.2
Domestic freight						
AFR	2.6	(26.0)	7.7	(19.6)	37.4	(14.7)
ASP	375.2	2.9	1 032.7	6.1	4 188.9	2.9
EUR	30.8	(13.4)	89.5	(7.9)	400.5	(2.9)
LAC	49.2	(10.9)	143.9	(3.0)	648.5	(2.0)
MEA*						
NAM	1 036.0	(9.5)	3 037.5	(4.1)	12 765.6	(1.3)
ACI	1 493.8	(6.9)	4 311.3	(1.9)	18 041.0	(0.5)
Total freight						
AFR	42.6	(4.3)	119.3	1.2	520.7	8.4
ASP	2 062.9	5.4	5 550.5	6.9	23 175.4	5.1
EUR	903.3	1.2	2 509.1	4.8	10 255.8	4.5
LAC	179.3	(1.5)	530.4	3.8	2 291.3	6.1
MEA	296.5	6.5	826.7	7.9	3 350.9	9.0
NAM	1 623.3	(6.3)	4 660.0	(2.6)	19 665.7	(0.6)
ACI	5 107.9	0.4	14 196.0	3.1	59 259.8	3.3

Data in 000s metric tonnes

DEFINITIONS FREIGHT TRAFFIC:

INTERNATIONAL (000s). TRAFFIC (LOADED AND UNLOADED FREIGHT) PERFORMED BETWEEN THE DESIGNATED AIRPORT AND AN AIRPORT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY/TERRITORY.

DOMESTIC (000s). TRAFFIC (LOADED AND UNLOADED FREIGHT) PERFORMED BETWEEN TWO AIRPORTS LOCATED IN THE SAME COUNTRY/TERRITORY.

*Note: No domestic freight traffic is reported by airports in the MEA region.

TOTAL (000s). INTERNATIONAL + DOMESTIC FREIGHT (when breakdown is available).

ends