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Airlines: Global Traffic Results for September



On October 31st, 2012 the International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced global traffic results for September. According to this report the total passenger demand rose by 5.7%. Additionally, limited capacity expansions (5.3%), which have been noticed for September, have pushed load factors to 80.9%. Tony Tyler, IATA's Director General and CEO stated that: "We are seeing a more positive environment for air travel demand, based on rising business confidence,

a strong increase in export orders in September and better performance of key emerging markets like China. The strong growth of recent months, coupled with the continuing improvements in air travel demand in September, suggests that there could be a further acceleration in air travel growth before the end of the year".

The European airlines' international traffic climbed by 3.4% in September compared to the year-ago period. Capacity rose 3.1%, pushing load factor up 0.3% points to 83.9%.

April 2011	Passengers' Demand	Capacity Expansion	Load Factor
Europe	3.4%	3.1%	83.9%
Middle East	10.4%	13%	77.2%
North America	2.3%	3.1%	83.9%
South America	8.3%	6.1%	80.9%
Asia Pacific	8.5%	7.1%	78.1%
Africa	6.9%	7.4%	73.2%

Asia-Pacific carriers recorded an increase of 8.5% compared to September last year, the strongest performance among the three biggest regions. Capacity growth of 7.1% pushed load factor up 1.0% point to 78.1%.

North American airlines demand rise 2.3% over a year ago, a slowdown on the August growth of 5.1%. Capacity growth 3.1% outpaced demand, pushing down load factor 0.6% points to 83.9%. Furthermore, **Middle East carriers** continued to show the strongest year-over-year traffic growth at 10.4%. Capacity expanded by 13%, pushing down load factor by 1.9% to 77.2%.



Latin American airlines posted a demand growth of 8.3% in September. Capacity grew 6.1% while load factor rose by 1.7% reaching 80.9%. Finally African airlines' traffic grew by 6.9% compared to September 2012, while capacity rose 7.4%, pushing down load factor to 0.3% to 73.2%.

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Cargo Demand for September 2013



According to the estimations made by the Geneva based International Air Transport Association (IATA), the global air freight demand stabilized during September. Estimations were available in a report published on October 30th, 2013. Global freight tonne kilometers (FTKs) were up 0.5% in September year-on-year, lower than the 3.4% year-on-year increase recorded in August. Tony Tyler, IATA's Director General and CEO stated regarding this development that: "The story behind September's performance is regional. The leveling-off of global volumes was a result of the growth rate in Europe and the Middle East moderating after recent acceleration, while Asia-Pacific airlines saw a deepening of the market weakness".



Carriers of Asia-Pacific region showcased a fall in freight volumes of 3.1% compared to September 2012, while capacity grew by 1.3% leaving load factors at 55.5%. The region's airlines have seen air freight contract 2.1% through the first nine months of 2013, the largest decline among regions.

European carriers' freight volume increased by 1.4% in September while capacity climbed 2.6% and load factors fell to 46.0%.

Regarding the North American region, carriers posted a 0.9% year-to-year incline in demand for air cargo in September. In the Middle East carriers recorded a strong growth in September, of 9.9% compared to last year.



The cargo volumes of the carriers in Latin America were up by 3.9% compared to September last year. Finally, the African FTKs fell 0.8% in September. Capacity rose by 11.2%, the second fastest of any region, which pushed their load factor down to just 26.3%, almost 20% points lower than the global average 45.1%.

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects”



Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects” provides a unique set of online tools enabling the structure, identification and implementation of comprehensive Offsets programs, through a searchable database. By introducing different offset projects and ideas proposed by local A&D industry it ensures the optimum cost for Prime Contractors and reassures that the priorities of local industry are fully met...

[For Further Information Press Here](#)

Design and development of special machines and equipments for the aerospace industry



A company with extensive experience in the manufacturing of structures and equipment for the aeronautical sector is proposing the collaboration with a Prime contractor for the design and development of special machines and equipment that can be used in the manufacturing and/or maintenance process in the aerospace industry.

[For Further Information Contact our ICO Department](#)

Mail at: g-menexis@epicos.com

Design and set up of aircraft jet engine overhaul and test facilities



A company with extensive experience in Engineering Projects for the aerospace sector is proposing, in the frame of an offset program, the cooperation with depot level maintenance centers for the design and set up of aircraft jet

engine maintenance and test facilities.

[For Further Information Contact our ICO Department](#)

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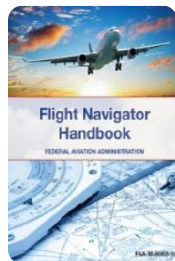


A Human Factors Analysis of USAF Remotely Piloted Aircraft Mishaps, by Matthew T. Taranto and Naval Postgraduate School and Kurtis Toppert



As the effort to demonstrate the viability and effectiveness of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) systems continues, there is an increasing demand for improved total system performance; specifically, reduced mishap rates. The USAF MQ-1 and MQ-9 have produced lifetime mishap rates of 7.58 and 4.58 mishaps per 100,000 flight hours, respectively. To improve the understanding of RPA mishap epidemiology, an analysis was completed on USAF MQ-1 and MQ-9 RPA mishaps from 2006-2011. The dataset included 88 human error-related mishaps that were coded using the DoD Human Factors Analysis and Classification System. The specific research question was: Do the types of active failures (unsafe acts) and latent failures (preconditions, unsafe supervision, and organizational influences) differ between the MQ-1 and MQ-9 when operated with the same Ground Control Station (GCS)?

The Flight Navigator Handbook, by Federal Aviation Administration



The Flight Navigator Handbook provides information on all phases of air navigation and is a source of reference for everyone in the field, from navigators to navigator students. This handbook explains how to measure, chart the earth, and use flight instruments to solve basic navigation problems. It also contains data pertaining to flight publications, preflight planning, in-flight procedures, and low altitude navigation. Specific topics covered throughout the pages of this informational and helpful guide include: Reading maps, charts, and grids, Dead reckoning, Radio aid fixing and radio navigation, Celestial concepts and special celestial techniques, Computing altitude, Pressure pattern navigation.



Japan mulling boosting Aegis destroyer fleet

Japan is considering boosting its fleet of Aegis-equipped destroyers from six to eight to counter threats from North Korean missile development and tensions with China over territory, a daily said Tuesday.

The government has started making arrangements to build two new Aegis vessels equipped with advanced interceptor missiles, the daily Yomiuri Shimbun said, quoted anonymous sources.

Tokyo hopes to include the plan in a new basic defence programme to be adopted at the year-end, the paper said, adding the new destroyers could be deployed within 10 years.

Japan currently has six vessels with the US-developed Aegis combat system.

The defence ministry said increasing the size of the fleet was an option under consideration as part of a governmental review of the defence programme.

"We are considering reinforcing Aegis ships," said Tsuyoshi Hirata at the ministry's press office.

"What the formation of the Self-Defence Forces should be like in the future will be studied when (the government) reviews the basic defence programme," he said.

The Yomiuri reported Tokyo wants to reinforce its Aegis fleet "because North Korea's nuclear and missile development has become an imminent threat to Japan's security".

North Korea conducted its third nuclear test in February, following a ballistic missile technology test in December 2012.

The Japanese-language Yomiuri also said the threat from China has also been growing around Japan's southwestern waters as the two countries have locked horns over a chain of islets in the East China Sea.

The daily noted building new Aegis ships was not being considered specifically to counter Chinese ballistic missiles.

"But if Japan could dispatch an Aegis ship equipped with a powerful radar system permanently to areas around the southwest islands, it is expected to enhance the nation's vigilance and watch capabilities against Chinese airplanes and cruise missiles," it said.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Taiwan gets first batch of US-made attack helicopters

Taiwan has received the first six of 30 Apache advanced attack helicopters bought from the United States as it modernises its military despite warming ties with China, officials said Tuesday.

The six AH-64Es -- the latest version of one of the world's most powerful assault helicopters - - were shipped to the southern port of Kaohsiung on Monday, officials at the defence ministry said.

The Taiwanese army will become the first force outside the US to introduce the new model, they said.

Delivery was originally set for October but was delayed by the US government shutdown, media reports said.

A second batch of six is scheduled to arrive in December while the remainder will be delivered by the end of 2014, the reports said.

The 30 advanced Apache Longbow were part of a \$6.5 billion arms deal announced in 2008, causing anger in China.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war. However, Beijing still regards the island as part of its territory awaiting reunification, by force if necessary, prompting Taipei to seek more weaponry -- mainly from the United States.

Tensions between the two sides have eased markedly since Ma Ying-jeou became Taiwan's president in 2008 on a China-friendly platform. He was re-elected in January 2012.

But Ma has stressed that Taiwan needs to be able to defend itself and will continue to acquire arms from the United States.

"Although ties with the Chinese mainland have improved significantly in the last five years, they have not changed their military deployments targeting Taiwan. We must not relax our military preparations," he said last week during a ceremony to introduce P-3C submarine-hunting aircraft.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Saudi Arabia eyes buying German submarines: report

Saudi Arabia wants to buy five German submarines for around 2.5 billion euros (\$3.4 billion) and more than two dozen more in the future, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Citing unidentified government sources, Sunday's Bild newspaper said Riyadh had its eye initially on buying the five Type 209 submarines, followed long-term by up to 25 submarines in a 12-billion-euro deal.

It said the chancellery had, in a letter to Saudi Arabia in the summer, indicated a swift and sympathetic examination of Riyadh's weapons plans as soon as the new German government was established following September elections.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives are currently locked in negotiations with the centre-left Social Democrats on forming a grand coalition.

A German government spokeswoman, contacted by AFP, declined to comment and would not confirm or deny the reported letter.

In Riyadh, officials do not usually publicly comment on such deals.

Germany's heavy industry giant ThyssenKrupp which, the paper said, would produce the submarines was quoted by Bild as saying there was "no project on submarines for Saudi Arabia".

German arms sales to Saudi Arabia have in the past been criticised by opposition politicians, especially in light of pro-democracy uprisings throughout the Middle East.

For decades Germany declined to sell heavy weapons to Saudi Arabia because of concerns over human rights and fears for Israel's security.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Aer Lingus maintains profit forecast after warning

Aer Lingus on Tuesday maintained its annual profits forecast after recently cutting its estimate, as the Irish airline delivered a rise in third-quarter earnings.

Aer Lingus posted an operating profit of 94.9 million euros (\$128 million) in the three months to the end of September, up 4.4 percent compared with the third quarter of 2012.

"We maintain our current guidance for full year 2013 operating profit, before net exceptional items, to be around 60 million euros," chief executive Christoph Mueller said in a results statement and following a recent profits warning.

In September, Aer Lingus had cut its 2013 forecast to about 60 million euros from 69 million euros, as hot summer weather in Ireland and the neighbouring United Kingdom hit demand for holidays abroad.

The carrier's latest update comes one day after Irish no-frills airline Ryanair slashed its annual profits forecast for the second time since September owing to lower-priced fares, triggering a 14-percent slump in its share price.

Ryanair owns 29.82 percent of Aer Lingus but earlier this year the minority stakeholder was ordered by British regulators to slash its share to 5.0 percent, on grounds of unfair competition.

On Tuesday, Aer Lingus said that revenue for the third quarter rose by 1.2 percent to 466.3 million euros.

"The 2013 outlook on long haul remains positive with the exception of some weakness expected in November which was previously communicated," Mueller added.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Ryanair slashes annual profits forecast

Irish no-frills airline Ryanair on Monday slashed its annual profits forecast for the second time since September, blaming the cut on lower fares.

The Dublin-based carrier expects annual profit after tax of not more than 520 million euros (\$701 million), it said in a results statement, which compared with a forecast at the lower end of a 570-600 million euros range given just two months ago.

"We now expect the full year outturn to be between 500 million euros to 520 million euros due entirely to this lower fare environment," Ryanair said in the statement. Ryanair's fiscal year runs to the end of March.

Ryanair added that net profit rose 1.0 percent to 602 million euros in the group's first half, or in the six months to the end of September, as traffic rose 2.0 percent to 49 million passengers.

"We are pleased to report slightly increased first half profits, particularly against a backdrop of softer fares this summer," Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said in the statement.

Ryanair added that from February it will move to fully-allocated seating on all flights, ensuring that families sit together.

Source: 2013 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)