# **STATE OF THE REGION: ASIA-PACIFIC**

## **FEBRUARY 2016**

## **Economy**

#### **GDP** growth, selected countries

| %change on a yr ago | 2014 | 2015Q1 | 2015Q2 | 2015Q3 |
|---------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| India               | 7.2  | 7.5    | 7.0    | 7.4    |
| Japan               | -0.1 | -1.0   | 0.7    | 1.7    |
| Indonesia           | 5.0  | 4.7    | 4.7    | 4.7    |
| Korea               | 3.3  | 2.4    | 2.2    | 2.7    |
| Australia           | 2.7  | 2.1    | 1.9    | 2.5    |
| Thailand            | 0.7  | 3.1    | 2.8    | 2.9    |
| Malaysia            | 6.0  | 5.6    | 4.9    | 4.7    |
| World*              | 2.7  | 2.6    | 2.7    | 2.5    |

\* Market exchange rate basis <sup>†</sup> Estimate Source: Datastream

#### **Exchange rates**

| end of period, # per US\$ | 2014  | Nov-15 | Dec-15 | Jan-16 |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| US\$ broad index          | 111.3 | 121.1  | 122.4  | 125.2  |
| Japanese yen (JPY)        | 119.9 | 123.2  | 120.2  | 121.1  |
| Australian dollar (AUD)   | 1.22  | 1.38   | 1.37   | 1.41   |
| Sth Korean won (KRW)      | 1092  | 1157   | 1176   | 1211   |
| Indian rupee (INR)        | 63.0  | 66.4   | 66.2   | 67.9   |
| Indonesian rupiah (IDR)   | 12341 | 13889  | 13840  | 13804  |
| Thai baht (THB)           | 32.9  | 35.8   | 36.0   | 35.7   |
| Malaysian ringgit (MYR)   | 3.50  | 4.26   | 4.29   | 4.15   |

Source: Datastream, XE

#### World oil and jet fuel price

| US\$/barrel       | 2015 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 | Jan-16 |
|-------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Crude oil (Brent) | 52.4 | 44.3   | 38.0   | 30.7   |
| Jet fuel          | 64.0 | 55.7   | 45.4   | 39.1   |

Source: Platts, EIA

#### Market

#### **Revenue passenger kilometers (RPKs)**

| V                           |      |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| %change on a yr ago         | 2014 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 |
| Region (registration basis) |      |        |        |        |
| Asia Pacific                | 6.9  | 9.0    | 7.8    | 7.4    |
| World                       | 5.7  | 7.1    | 6.0    | 5.4    |
| Routes (segment basis)      |      |        |        |        |
| India domestic              | 8.0  | 17.9   | 25.1   | 25.0   |
| Japan domestic              | 3.6  | 3.5    | -1.3   | 1.2    |
| Australia domestic          | 2.9  | -1.5   | 2.1    | 3.2    |
| Asia - Europe               | 2.6  | 6.9    | 1.8    | 0.6    |
| Within Asia                 | 5.1  | 4.7    | 5.6    | 5.1    |
| Asia - Nth America          | 4.9  | 8.2    | 8.3    | 5.9    |
| Asia - Middle East          | 9.1  | 7.8    | 7.9    | 10.5   |
| S/w Pacific - N/S America   | 0.2  | 7.7    | 2.8    | 11.5   |
| Asia - Africa               | 1.2  | 4.8    | 14.4   | 6.9    |

Source: IATA Statistics

- Asia-Pac airlines have increased their level of RPKs by a brisk 7.4% over the past year, a full 2pp higher than the global industry average.
- RPK growth in the India domestic market maintained its exceptionally strong pace into year-end, an even 25.0% higher yoy. Supported by broadly favourable economic

#### **Business confidence - manufacturing PMIs**





- Business confidence in Japan is showing the first signs of turning down after drifting sideways for some months. In contrast, solid improvements in confidence were seen in both India & Indonesia this month.
- The US\$ began 2016 where it left off, rising 2.3% in Jan. Regionally, both the AUD & KRW fell 3.0% vs the US\$ in the month while the MYR & THB both rose, by 3.2% & 1.0%, respectively.
- → World oil & jet fuel prices maintained their downwards trajectory in Jan. Brent crude prices were down ~19% (US\$7.30) & jet prices fell 14% (US\$6.40) in the month. Compared with levels of a year ago, prices are down ~50-55%, respectively..

conditions, increased frequencies & market development have also played a key role in this growth. The more mature domestic markets in Japan & Australia are growing at a moderate 1-3%yoy pace.

With the exception of Asia-Europe, key international routes ended 2015 showing solid-to-strong growth in the order of 5-10%yoy. Asia-Europe RPK growth continues to struggle against the headwinds of a slowdown in China & patchy economic activity in Europe.

Growth in air passenger volumes



## Freight tonne kilometers (FTKs)

|                             |      | -      |        |        |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| %change on a yr ago         | 2014 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 |
| Region (registration basis) |      |        |        |        |
| Asia Pacific                | 6.3  | 0.2    | -1.6   | 0.1    |
| World                       | 5.5  | 0.7    | -0.8   | 0.8    |
| Routes (segment basis)      |      |        |        |        |
| Japan domestic              | 4.7  | 1.7    | -2.2   | -2.4   |
| Asia - Europe               | -0.6 | -3.5   | -5.5   | -1.7   |
| Asia - Nth America          | 9.9  | -1.8   | -4.1   | -3.7   |
| Within Asia                 | 4.5  | 1.4    | -4.6   | -0.4   |
| Asia - Middle East          | 10.2 | 5.9    | 0.8    | 1.4    |
| S/w Pacific - N/S America   | 13.4 | 3.4    | 16.1   | 17.2   |
| Asia - Africa               | 8.8  | -5.5   | -4.6   | -1.4   |
|                             |      |        |        |        |

Source: IATA Statistics

- ➔ YoY FTK growth for the Asia-Pac carriers returned to positive territory in Dec, albeit only just. With marginal growth of 0.1%yoy, the region's FTK growth remains below the (also very weak) industry-wide figure of 0.8%.
- Unsurprisingly, there is little in the way of good news at the segment level either. Japan domestic FTKs are now down 2.4% in yoy terms, compounded by a sizeable

## Industry

#### **Capacity growth and load factors**

| ASK/AFTK: %ch<br>ago, LF: %of A |      | 2014 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Passenger                       |      |      |        |        |        |
| Asia Pacific                    | ASK  | 7.4  | 6.5    | 5.9    | 6.6    |
|                                 | PLF  | 77.2 | 78.6   | 77.7   | 77.8   |
| World                           | ASK  | 5.5  | 5.3    | 4.3    | 5.3    |
|                                 | PLF  | 79.6 | 80.4   | 78.0   | 78.8   |
| Freight                         |      |      |        |        |        |
| Asia/Pacific                    | AFTK | 5.9  | 5.2    | 3.2    | 4.4    |
|                                 | FLF  | 55.6 | 54.1   | 56.3   | 53.9   |
| World                           | AFTK | 4.4  | 6.4    | 4.6    | 6.5    |
|                                 | FLF  | 45.8 | 44.6   | 47.0   | 43.9   |

Source: IATA Statistics. Note: LF=seasonally adjusted load factor. ASK=available seat kilometers. AFTK=available freight tonne kilometers

- → Asia-Pac airlines increased pax capacity by a robust 6.6%yoy to Dec, solidly above the industry rate of 5.3%. At 77.8%, the regional pax load factor is 1pp below that of the global industry average.
- The converse holds for freight: the region's carriers have grown AFTKs by less than the industry overall (4.4%yoy compared with 6.5%) but the freight load factor is a full 10pp higher for the Asia-Pac airlines, at 53.9%.
- The initial Q4 EBIT margin for the region's carriers is a healthy 10.1%, ~1pp higher than a year previous. But despite this improvement, the regional margin remains below the overall industry outcome of 15.3%.

## Airline EBIT margins\*

| %revenues    | 2013 | 2014 | 2014Q4 | 2015Q4 |
|--------------|------|------|--------|--------|
| Asia Pacific | 2.3  | 2.8  | 9.2    | 10.1   |
| Industry     | 4.1  | 5.2  | 10.2   | 15.3   |

Source: Airline Analyst \* constant sample basis, not seasonally adjusted

downward revision to the Nov data.

- On international routes, FTKs for each of the three largest markets – Asia-Europe, Asia-NthAm & Within Asia – are all lower than their level of a year ago.
- While developments in China explain part of the regional story, more broadly, softness in world trade & demand has been weighing upon freight volumes for some time.

Growth in air freight volumes



➔ Passenger yields in the main domestic markets and on key regional routes continue to show widespread yoy declines, typically in the order of 10-15%. In part, this reflects developments in oil prices & the US\$ over this timeframe.

## Passenger yields, excl. surcharges & ancillaries

| %change on a yr ago | 2014  | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 |
|---------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| India domestic      | 23.9  | -16.1  | -16.5  | -16.2  |
| Japan domestic      | -11.7 | -4.7   | -5.1   | -4.9   |
| Australia domestic  | -11.1 | -13.7  | -0.9   | -15.7  |
| Asia - Europe       | -8.6  | -17.1  | -16.3  | -15.0  |
| Within Asia         | -6.1  | -8.2   | -8.5   | -9.6   |
| Asia - Nth America  | -10.4 | -15.9  | -13.0  | -11.0  |
| Asia - Middle East  | -4.9  | -8.9   | -7.3   | -6.7   |
| Asia - Sth America  | -7.5  | -16.1  | -15.4  | -13.5  |
| Asia - Africa       | -8.9  | -16.0  | -14.4  | -13.5  |

Source: IATA PaxIS

The number of jet aircraft deliveries to the Asia-Pac region in 2016 – around 550 in total – is expected to be lower than in both 2014 & 2015.

Aircraft deliveries to the Asia Pacific (latest data) # deliveries made & due



Source: Ascend

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