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ECONOMIC DOWNTURN SHAPES OCTOBER TRAFFIC RESULT

The consequences of the global economic downturn became clear across the aviation industry in October, with increased reductions in passenger volume. In total, some 920,000 passengers were carried in the scheduled and charter segments, a figure 4.1% lower than the previous year, due to capacity reductions. The overall load factor of the Austrian Airlines Group fell by 1.5 percentage points, to 75.5%. The aviation sector is expected to continue suffering the effects of the wider financial and economic crisis also in coming months.

With an approximate total of 9.3 million passengers carried (scheduled and charter) in the period from January to October, the figure remained at the same level as the previous year. The overall load factor stood at 75.9%, slightly down on last year. The company achieved an overall rise in passenger volume of 0.8% in the scheduled segment. This figure was particularly significant in the Focus East regions, reaching an increase of 7.5%.

Short- and medium-haul segment

The passenger volume of the Austrian Airlines Group fell by 4.6% in October 2008 compared to the same month in 2007. In contrast to other traffic regions, once again the passenger figure in the Focus East Region was only slightly reduced by 0.8%. While there was an expansion in capacity in the short- and medium-haul segment of 0.7% overall (measured in available seat kilometres or ASK), revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) on these scheduled services fell by 2.1%. Overall, the passenger load factor stood at 69.4%, or 2.0 percentage points below the comparable figure for this period in 2007.

From January to October, the short- and medium-haul segment reported passenger growth of 2.3% compared to the previous year, while the Focus East region even saw an increase of 7.5%. Revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) rose by 3.9% on short- and medium-haul routes, due in particular to growth of 9.4% in the Focus East region. Scheduled capacity (ASK) increased by 3.6%. The resultant improved passenger load factor stood at 68.4%, or 0.2 percentage points above the figure of the previous year. The load factor in Focus East regions was 69.4%.

Long-haul segment

Passenger numbers on long-haul flights fell by 2.9% in October compared to the previous year. Scheduled capacity on long-haul flights (ASK) in October was 0.5% below the comparable figures in the previous year, while revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) fell by 2.7%. The load factor decreased by 1.8 percentage points, and now stands at 82.0%.

Cumulatively, around 1 million scheduled passengers were carried in the long-haul segment in the first ten months, 8.6% fewer than in the comparable period in 2007 and according to plan. While there was a structurally-related reduction in capacity of 12.1% (ASK), revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) generated on these scheduled services fell by 12.3%. Accordingly, the passenger load factor in the long-haul sector remained relatively stable, at 82.3%.

Charter segment

Around 1.2 million passengers were carried from January to October. The passenger load factor rose by 2.5 percentage points in the same period.

Traffic statistics in detail

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES GROUP (Austrian + Austrian Arrows + Lauda Air)

TRAFFIC STATISTICS	October			January - October		
	2008	+/- % p.y.		2008	+/- % p.y.	
Revenue passenger km (**RPK**) m	1,631.5	-1.8		16,409.4	-5.5	
Scheduled	1,443.0	-2.4		14,141.0	-5.3	
Long Haul	748.2	-2.7		7,397.3	-12.3	
Short/Medium Haul	694.9	-2.1		6,743.7	3.9	
- Focus East[1]	353.9	3.0		3,467.2	9.4	
- Rest of Europe[2]	341.0	-6.9		3,276.5	-1.4	
Charter	188.5	2.5		2,268.4	-6.9	
Available seat km (**ASK**) m	2,159.7	0.1		21,614.2	-5.2	
Scheduled	1,914.8	0.1		18,846.5	-4.5	
Long Haul	912.9	-0.5		8,992.0	-12.1	
Short/Medium Haul	1,001.9	0.7		9,854.5	3.6	
- Focus East[1]	517.4	7.8		4,996.1	9.2	
- Rest of Europe[2]	484.5	-5.9		4,858.4	-1.5	
Charter	244.9	-0.1		2,767.7	-9.7	
Passenger load factor %	75.5	-1.5	P.	75.9	-0.3	P.
Scheduled	75.4	-1.9	P.	75.0	-0.6	P.
Long Haul	82.0	-1.8	P.	82.3	-0.3	P.
Short/Medium Haul	69.4	-2.0	P.	68.4	0.2	P.
- Focus East[1]	68.4	-3.2	P.	69.4	0.2	P.
- Rest of Europe[2]	70.4	-0.8	P.	67.4	0.1	P.
Charter	76.9	1.9	P.	82.0	2.5	P.
Passengers carried 000	920.0	-4.1		9,311.0	-0.1	
Scheduled	833.6	-4.4		8,102.9	0.8	
Long Haul	101.6	-2.9		1,009.6	-8.6	
Short/Medium Haul	732.0	-4.6		7,093.3	2.3	
- Focus East[1]	285.9	-0.8		2,811.2	7.5	
- Rest of Europe[2]	446.1	-6.9		4,282.0	-0.8	
Charter	86.4	-1.4		1,208.1	-6.0	
Total revenue tonne km (**RTK**) m	207.0	-2.8		2,081.8	-5.7	
Scheduled	188.9	-3.3		1,863.0	-5.6	
Long Haul	114.5	-4.1		1,140.2	-10.7	
Short/Medium Haul	74.4	-2.1		722.8	3.9	
- Focus East[1]	38.3	2.6		375.2	9.2	
- Rest of Europe[2]	36.1	-6.6		347.7	-1.3	
Charter	18.1	2.6		218.8	-7.2	
Total available tonne km (**ATK**) m	279.1	0.5		2,782.0	-6.0	
Scheduled	254.5	0.5		2,499.8	-5.4	
Long Haul	140.6	-0.5		1,386.5	-12.3	
Short/Medium Haul	113.8	1.7		1,113.3	4.8	
- Focus East[1]	59.8	10.3		568.8	10.5	
- Rest of Europe[2]	54.0	-6.3		544.6	-0.6	
Charter	24.7	0.6		282.2	-11.1	
Overall load factor %	74.2	-2.5	P.	74.8	0.2	P.
Scheduled	74.2	-2.9	P.	74.5	-0.1	P.
Long Haul	81.8	-3.0	P.	82.2	1.4	P.
Short/Medium Haul	65.4	-2.6	P.	64.9	-0.6	P.
- Focus East[1]	64.0	-4.8	P.	66.0	-0.8	P.
- Rest of Europe[2]	66.9	-0.2	P.	63.8	-0.5	P.
Charter	73.5	1.4	P.	77.5	3.2	P.

[1] CEE and Middle East
[2] Incl. Domestic

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