

FLYING HIGH

The aviation business in India continues to post healthy growth on the back of a rise in the number of domestic and outbound passengers. **By Ramesh Chakrapani**

Air passenger traffic in the country, both domestic and international, posted healthy growth in 2017-18 over the previous year, according to a report from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. According to the report, air cargo carried by scheduled airline operators, both domestic and international, also witnessed a positive growth.

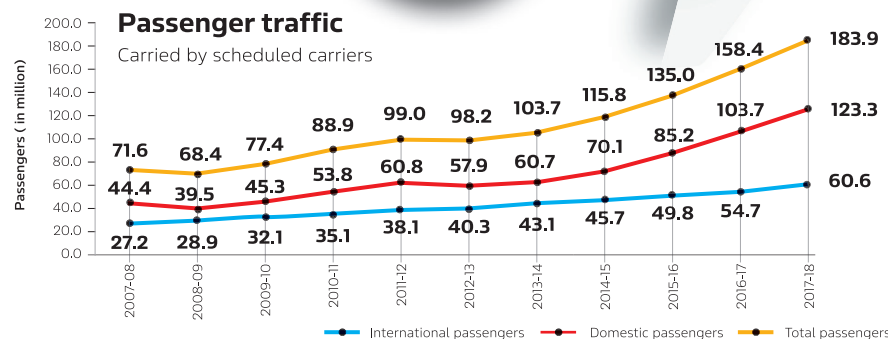
The number of domestic departing passengers grew to 123.32 million in 2017-18 from 103.75 million in 2016-17, up 18.9 per cent. The domestic airline demand was up at 117.04 billion revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) from 98.64 billion RPK, a growth of 18.6 per cent. RPK is a measure of airline flight traffic calculated by multiplying the number of revenue-paying passengers aboard by the distance travelled. Similarly, domestic airline capacity grew 15 per cent to 134.54 billion available seat kilometres (ASK) from 116.94 billion ASK. ASK is equal to the number of revenue passengers carried on each flight stage by the corresponding stage distance.

The robust rise in the total number of domestic passengers was mainly because of the strong growth in traffic carried by Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Vistara, Air Asia and Go Air.

International passenger traffic saw the number of departing and arriving passengers rise to 60.58 million from 54.68 million, a growth of 10.8 per cent.

During 2017-18, IndiGo had the maximum market share in terms of both RPK and passengers carried, followed by Jet Airways, SpiceJet and Air India.

More than half of the passenger traffic to and from India was accounted for by countries in Africa and West Asia. Out of the 93 scheduled international operators, the top six accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the total international passenger traffic in 2017-18.



Passenger traffic at a glance

Pasengers traffic	Unit	2017-18	2016-17
Domestic passengers	Departing passengers	123.32 million	103.75 million
Domestic airline demand	Revenue passenger km (RPK)	117.04 billion	98.64 billion
Domestic airline capacity	Available seat km (ASK)	134.54 billion	116.94 billion
International passengers	Departing and arriving passengers	60.58 million	54.68 million
Total passengers (Domestic & international)		183.90 million	158.43 million

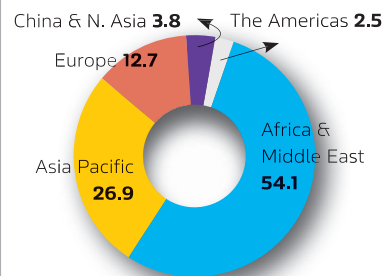
ASK is calculated as the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the total number of seats that are available in each flight stage by the corresponding stage distance. RPK is calculated as the sum of the product obtained by multiplying the number of revenue passengers carried on each flight stage by the corresponding stage distance

Market share (%)

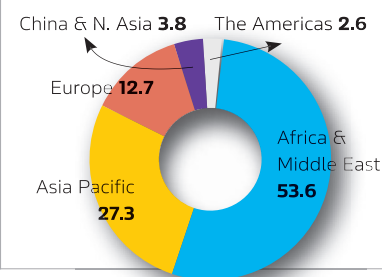
Top 15 scheduled operators
International operations in 2017-18

Airlines	Share (%)
Jet Airways	13.8
Air India	10.4
Emirates	9.2
Air India Express	6.2
Indigo	5.3
Etihad	4.3
Oman Air	3.3
Qatar Airways	3.3
Spicejet	3.2
Srilankan Airways	3.2
Air Arabia	3.0
Saudi Arabia Airlines	2.5
Thai Airways	2.3
Lufthansa	2.1
Singapore Airlines	2.0

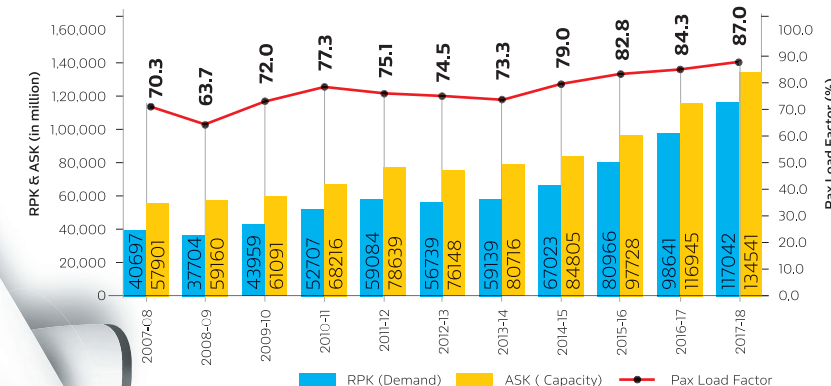
Inbound international passenger traffic (% share)



Outbound international passenger traffic



Capacity vs demand in domestic market



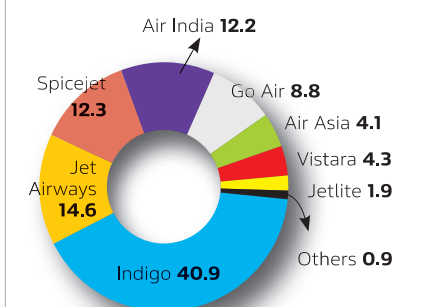
Market share (%)

Of scheduled Indian and foreign carriers in terms of international passengers carried

Year	Foreign	Indian
2004-05	71.0	29.0
2009-10	65.5	34.5
2010-11	63.9	36.1
2011-12	63.4	36.6
2012-13	66.2	33.8
2013-14	64.1	35.9
2014-15	63.0	37.0
2015-16	63.4	36.6
2016-17	62.3	37.7
2017-18	61.1	38.9

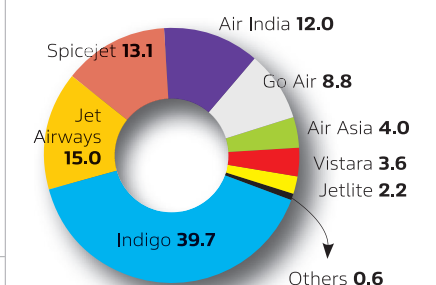
Market share (%)

Domestic market demand (RPK) in 2017-18



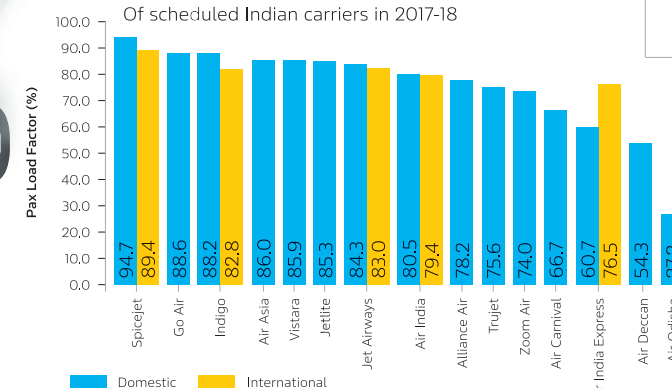
Domestic market share (%)

In terms of passengers carried in 2017-18

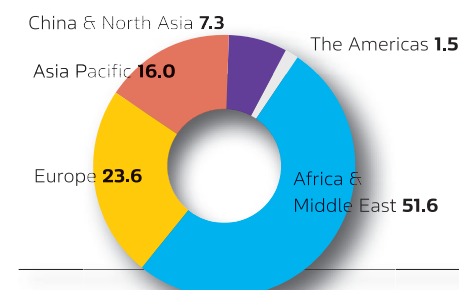


Passenger Load Factor (PLF)

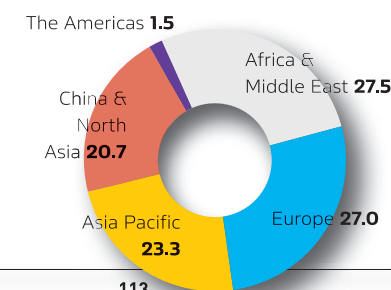
Of scheduled Indian carriers in 2017-18



Outbound international freight traffic (% share) in 2017-18



Inbound international freight traffic



Proportion of international cargo*

Carried by Indian and foreign carriers

Year	Indian	Foreign
2004-05	13.6	86.4
2009-10	16.1	83.9
2010-11	20.3	79.7
2011-12	21.1	78.9
2012-13	17.7	82.3
2013-14	18.3	81.7
2014-15	17.8	82.2
2015-16	16.9	83.1
2016-17	18.8	81.2
2017-18	20.5	79.5

* International cargo figures includes freight only