

# Media Release

## Strong traffic growth in December 2009

- Global passenger traffic up by 5%; freight up 23% -

**GENEVA, 3 February 2010** – In December 2009, the ACI *PaxFlash* and *FreightFlash* traffic reports show a surge in traffic worldwide. Global airport passenger traffic rose by 5.3 percent relative to December 2008 (Table 1). Both international passenger traffic (up by 5.6 %) and domestic traffic (up by 5.2 %) were boosted by strong performance across Asia Pacific (+15.7 % international; +14% domestic). All regions saw increases, except for North America which remained flat, as shown in the Table 2 of this release.

There are clear signs of renewed passenger traffic demand at many airports worldwide in this month's results. International traffic grew faster than domestic traffic at most airports in China. Traffic in India, both domestic and international, surged in December (Delhi +32%, Bangalore, +37%, and Mumbai +29%, with Mumbai domestic traffic increasing by 39%). Similarly, traffic growth is on the mend in Russia driven by domestic traffic growth at the Moscow airports ranging from 21 to 40 percent.

ACI World Director of Economics Andreas Schimm comments, "Looking at full year 2009, global traffic results were much better than expected early in the year, finishing at just 2.6 percent below 2008. Fears that third quarter traffic would decline substantially did not materialize, and the stabilization seen provided a platform for remarkable fourth quarter growth. Even taking into account falling global traffic demand in late 2008 and the impact on Asia Pacific results in 2008 of the closure of the Bangkok airport due to a political siege, which slightly inflate the percentage growth comparison, passenger and freight results are very promising."

Overall, global figures were boosted by strong domestic traffic in China, India and Brazil where volumes surged in the second half of 2009. For the full year, traffic results highlight a split between the two largest aviation markets (North America and Europe) each of which lost more than 5 percent traffic in 2009, and the

continued expansion of Asia Pacific, Latin America-Caribbean and Middle East markets. Top performance results in the international category were seen at Dubai (+9.6%), Kuala Lumpur (+8.8%) and Istanbul (+7.3%), the only airports with more than 10 million passengers per annum to register growth in 2009. Airports in Africa suffered a moderate 3.5 percent setback for the year, mainly caused by declines in domestic traffic whereas international shrank only marginally.

Freight results show that traffic in November and December was remarkably strong, balancing the severe losses sustained in the first quarter 2009 and narrowing the gap with performance in 2008. Table 3 indicates the positive performance figures for almost all regions (except Latin America- Caribbean domestic traffic), with international freight outpacing domestic in December and surging ahead by 28 percent. This strong result illustrates the mounting confidence in the global economic recovery and significant pent-up demand. Nonetheless, it is too early to consider this performance as a future indicator of a sustainable economic recovery as this rebound is of a more technical than fundamental nature. For the full year, freight traffic remains below 2008 performance (-8% worldwide; - 2.8% domestic; -10.3% international).

Schimm added, "ACI World and ACI Europe look forward to an excellent turn-out at their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual ACI Airport Economics and Finance Conference in London, 23-24 February 2010. The situation is evolving rapidly now, and airport executives will have the opportunity to look at the ramifications of this market evolution, what it means not only in financial terms but also in terms of airport investments and future capacity."

<b>TABLE 1: SUMMARY WORLDWIDE TRAFFIC RESULTS, DECEMBER 2009 (% CHANGE)</b>			
	<b>DEC 2009 over DEC 2008</b>	<b>YTD Jan – DEC 2009 Over YTD 2008</b>	<b>Rolling 12 months, through DEC 2009</b>
<i><b>PaxFlash</b></i>			
<b>International passenger</b>	5.6	- 4.0	- 4.0
<b>Domestic passenger</b>	5.2	- 1.2	- 1.2
<b>Total passenger</b>	5.3	- 2.6	- 2.6
<i><b>FreightFlash</b></i>			
<b>International freight</b>	27.9	- 10.3	- 10.3
<b>Domestic freight</b>	15.3	- 2.8	- 2.8
<b>Total freight</b>	23.3	- 8.0	- 8.0

### Notes for editors

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 575 members who operate over 1633 airports in 179 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 traffic and 70% of total freight traffic worldwide. Commentary, tables and charts are based on data submitted by participating airports.
3. Regional results and trend graphics are provided on the following pages.
4. For queries concerning the statistics, please contact Nancy Gautier, Director Communications, ACI World, Geneva Switzerland, email [ngautier@aci.aero](mailto:ngautier@aci.aero)
5. ACI World and ACI Europe will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual ACI Airport Economics and Finance Conference in London, 23-24 February 2010. Press are cordially invited to attend. Full information can be found on the ACI website at [www.aci.aero/events](http://www.aci.aero/events).

**TABLE 2: PaxFlash Summary – DECEMBER 2009**

Regions	DEC 2009	% YOY	YTD DEC 2009	% YOY	YE DEC 2009	% YOY
<b>International Passengers</b>						
AFR	4 935	6.8	60 225	(1.9)	60 225	(1.9)
ASP	31 033	15.7	327 601	(2.0)	327 601	(2.0)
EUR	54 555	1.2	797 646	(5.7)	797 646	(5.7)
LAC	4 271	4.0	45 409	(5.9)	45 409	(5.9)
MEA	8 098	11.9	91 251	7.7	91 251	7.7
NAM	13 614	(0.2)	162 581	(5.6)	162 581	(5.6)
<b>ACI TOTAL</b>	<b>116 505</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>1 484 713</b>	<b>(4.0)</b>	<b>1 484 713</b>	<b>(4.0)</b>
<b>Domestic Passengers</b>						
AFR	2 740	5.9	30 475	(6.4)	30 475	(6.4)
ASP	38 727	14.1	474 783	7.1	474 783	7.1
EUR	19 658	5.5	252 981	(5.1)	252 981	(5.1)
LAC	10 888	12.5	117 167	6.2	117 167	6.2
MEA						
NAM	67 471	(0.4)	835 122	(5.0)	835 122	(5.0)
<b>ACI TOTAL</b>	<b>139 484</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>1 710 529</b>	<b>(1.2)</b>	<b>1 710 529</b>	<b>(1.2)</b>
<b>Total Passengers</b>						
AFR	7 728	6.2	91 435	(3.5)	91 435	(3.5)
ASP	70 730	14.7	813 521	3.2	813 521	3.2
EUR	74 520	2.3	1 054 447	(5.6)	1 054 447	(5.6)
LAC	15 713	9.9	168 251	2.5	168 251	2.5
MEA	8 451	10.9	95 309	7.0	95 309	7.0
NAM	81 164	(0.6)	998 948	(5.2)	998 948	(5.2)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>258 306</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>3 221 912</b>	<b>(2.6)</b>	<b>3 221 912</b>	<b>(2.6)</b>

**Traffic table definitions:**

**PASSENGER TRAFFIC:** departing + arriving passengers (000s)

**INTERNATIONAL:** traffic performed between the designated airport and an airport in another country/territory

**DOMESTIC:** traffic performed between two airports located in the same country/territory

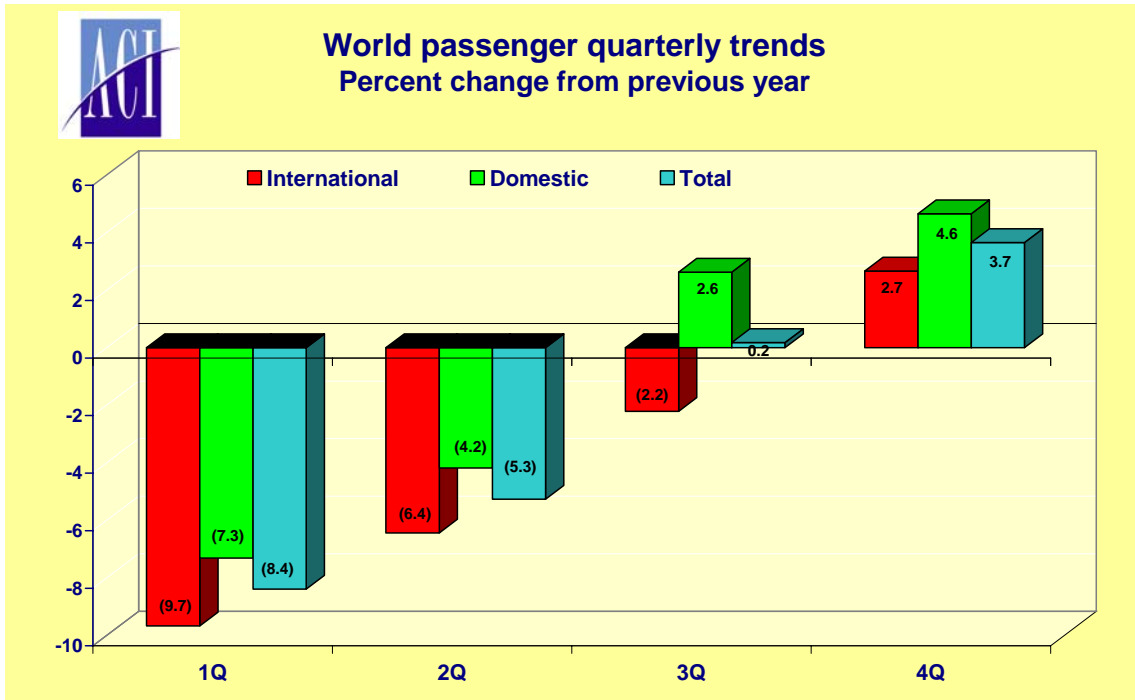
**TOTAL:** international + domestic passengers + direct transit passengers counted once (when breakdown is available)

**YOY** Year over year same month comparison

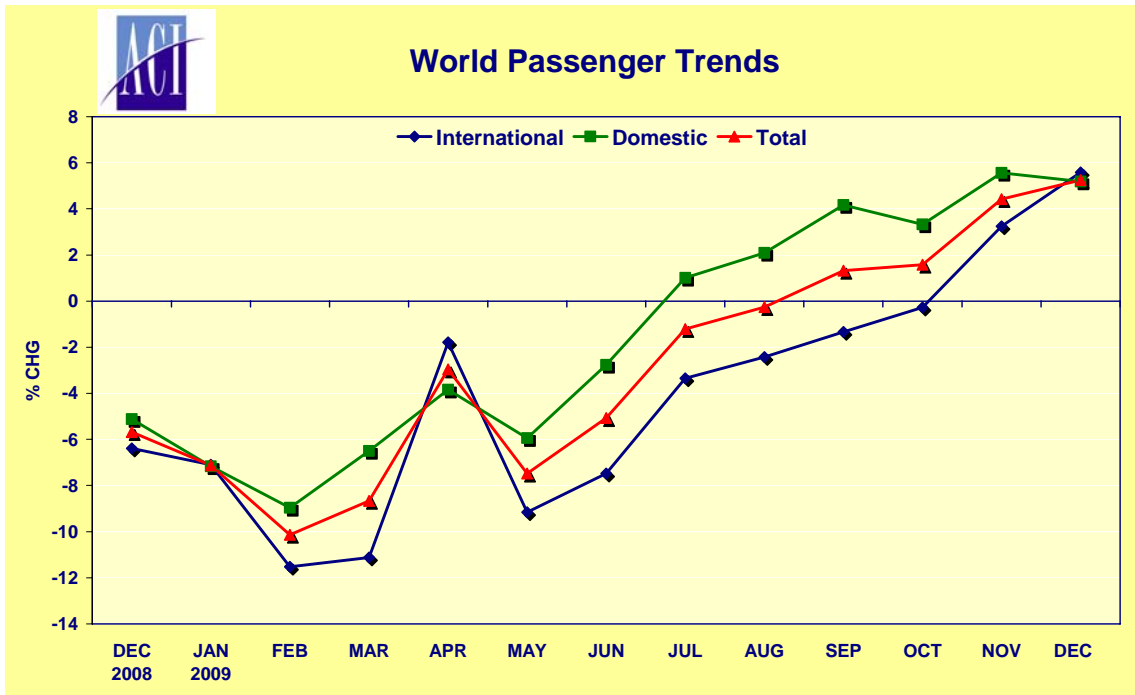
**YTD** Year to date, starting January 2009, compared to same period previous year

**YE** Year end, based on rolling 12 month period, compared to same prior 12 month period

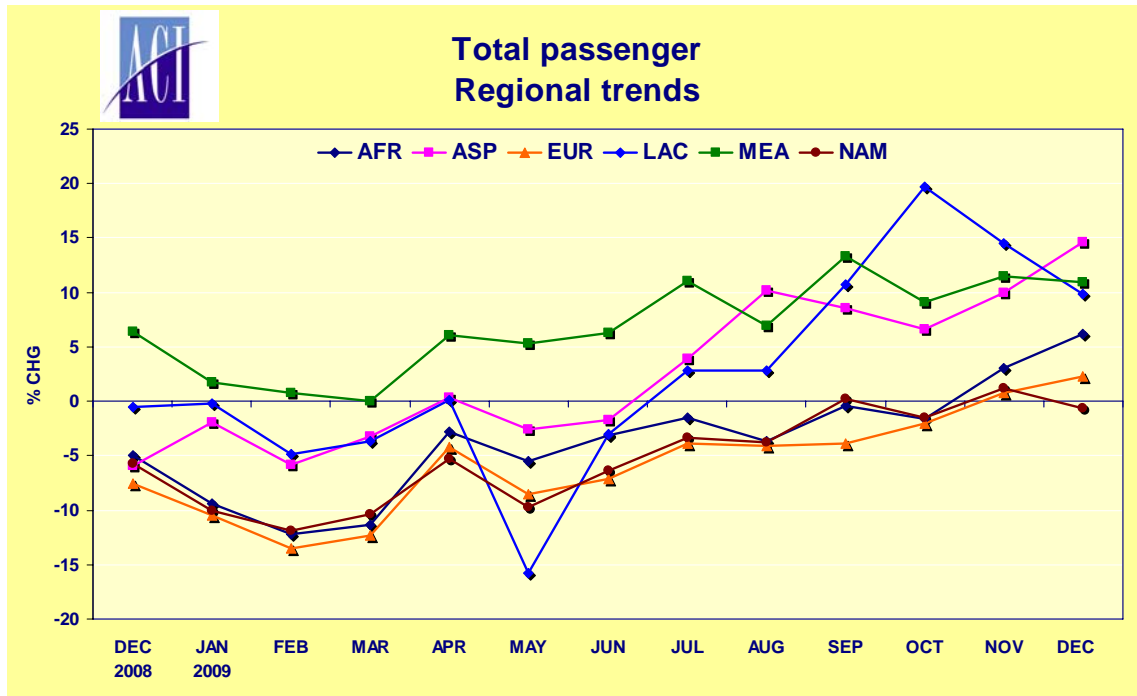
<b>AFR</b> – Africa	<b>EUR</b> – Europe	<b>MEA</b> – Middle East
<b>ASP</b> – Asia Pacific (including India)	<b>LAC</b> – Latin America and Caribbean	<b>NAM</b> – North America



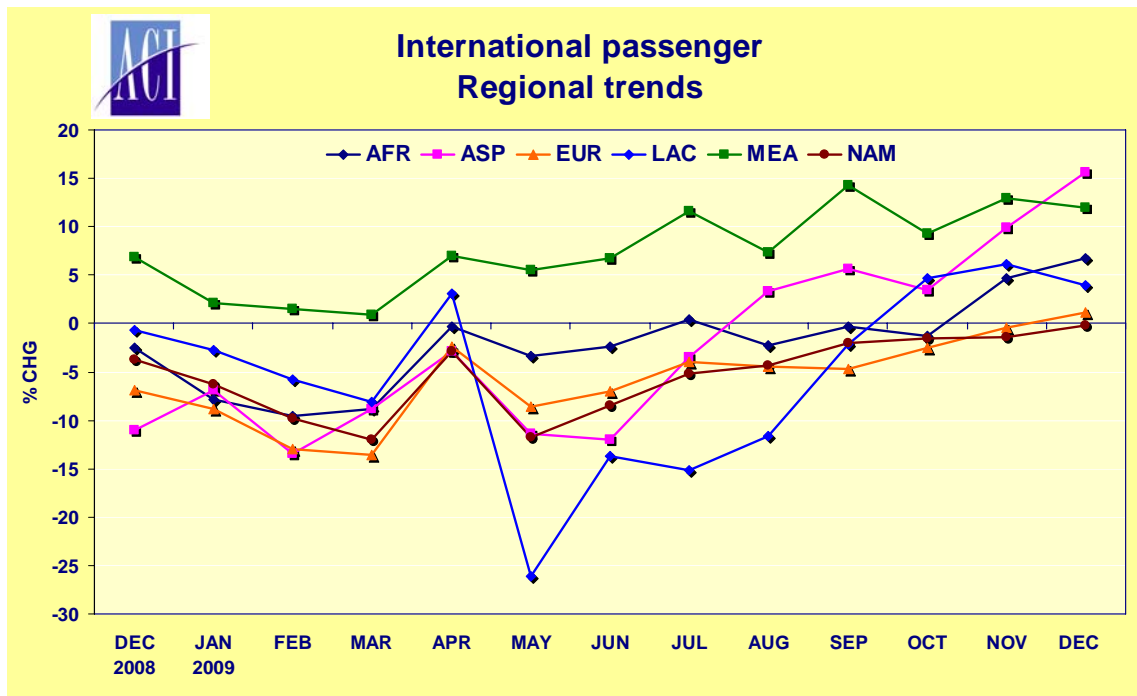
Month by month comparison with previous year



Month by month comparison with previous year



Month by month comparison with previous year



**TABLE 3: FreightFlash Summary – DECEMBER 2009**

Regions	DEC 2009	% YOY	YTD DEC 2009	% YOY	YE DEC 2009	% YOY
<b>International Freight</b>						
AFR	33.9	12.0	345.1	(16.9)	345.1	(16.9)
ASP	1 656.6	37.8	16 986.2	(9.4)	16 986.2	(9.4)
EUR	902.0	20.3	9 530.0	(12.6)	9 530.0	(12.6)
LAC	139.1	18.3	1 416.0	(15.0)	1 416.0	(15.0)
MEA	305.5	24.8	3 287.0	4.9	3 287.0	4.9
NAM	509.2	19.2	5 374.0	(14.8)	5 374.0	(14.8)
<b>ACI TOTAL</b>	<b>3 546.4</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>36 938.4</b>	<b>(10.3)</b>	<b>36 938.4</b>	<b>(10.3)</b>
<b>Domestic Freight</b>						
AFR	3.9	49.8	32.3	(1.8)	32.3	(1.8)
ASP	577.7	23.6	5 769.2	6.1	5 769.2	6.1
EUR	37.5	6.3	402.2	(12.0)	402.2	(12.0)
LAC	68.3	(6.4)	769.1	(12.4)	769.1	(12.4)
MEA						
NAM	1 041.1	13.1	10 618.6	(5.9)	10 618.6	(5.9)
<b>ACI TOTAL</b>	<b>1 728.4</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>17 591.3</b>	<b>(2.8)</b>	<b>17 591.3</b>	<b>(2.8)</b>
<b>Total Freight</b>						
AFR	42.4	13.7	431.7	(14.6)	431.7	(14.6)
ASP	2 234.3	33.8	22 758.3	(5.9)	22 758.3	(5.9)
EUR	945.1	19.6	9 998.1	(12.6)	9 998.1	(12.6)
LAC	207.4	8.9	2 185.2	(14.1)	2 185.2	(14.1)
MEA	305.6	24.7	3 288.3	4.9	3 288.3	4.9
NAM	1 602.4	14.8	16 550.1	(9.2)	16 550.1	(9.2)
<b>ACI TOTAL</b>	<b>5 337.1</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>55 211.6</b>	<b>(8.0)</b>	<b>55 211.6</b>	<b>(8.0)</b>

**Traffic table definitions:**

**FREIGHT TRAFFIC:** loaded and unloaded freight; data in metric tonnes

**INTERNATIONAL:** traffic performed between the designated airport and an airport in another country/territory

**DOMESTIC:** traffic performed between two airports located in the same country/territory

**TOTAL:** international + domestic freight (when breakdown is available)

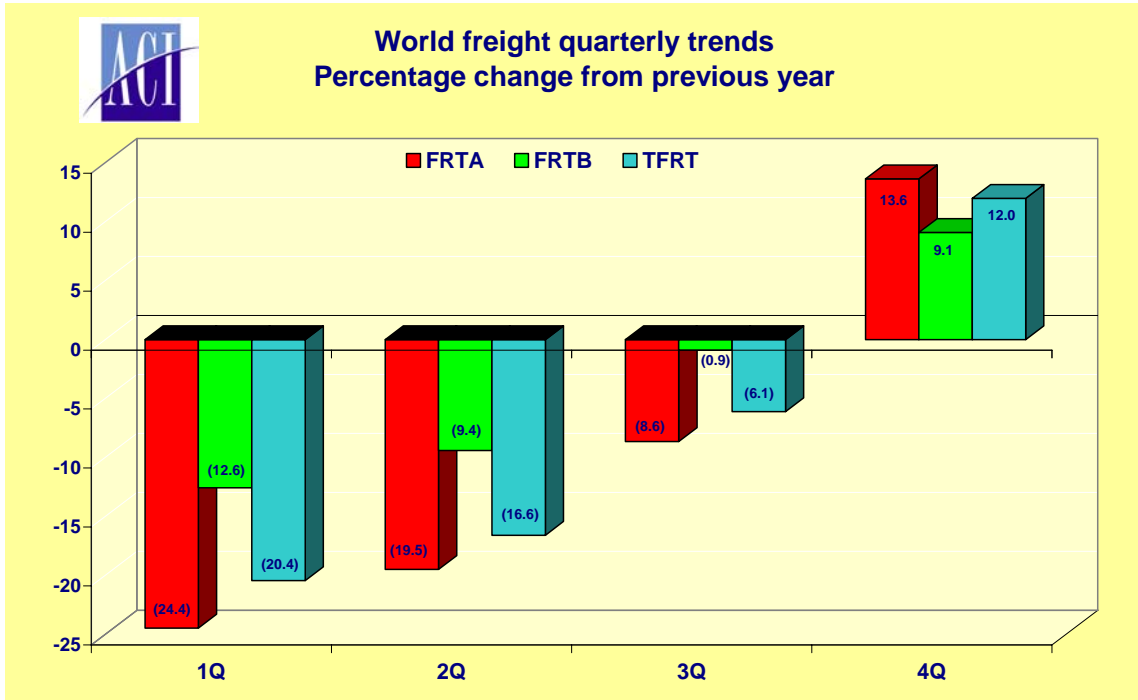
**Note:** No domestic freight traffic is reported by airports in the Middle East region. The July responses for domestic freight in Africa were insufficient to determine growth percentages.

YOY Year over year same month comparison

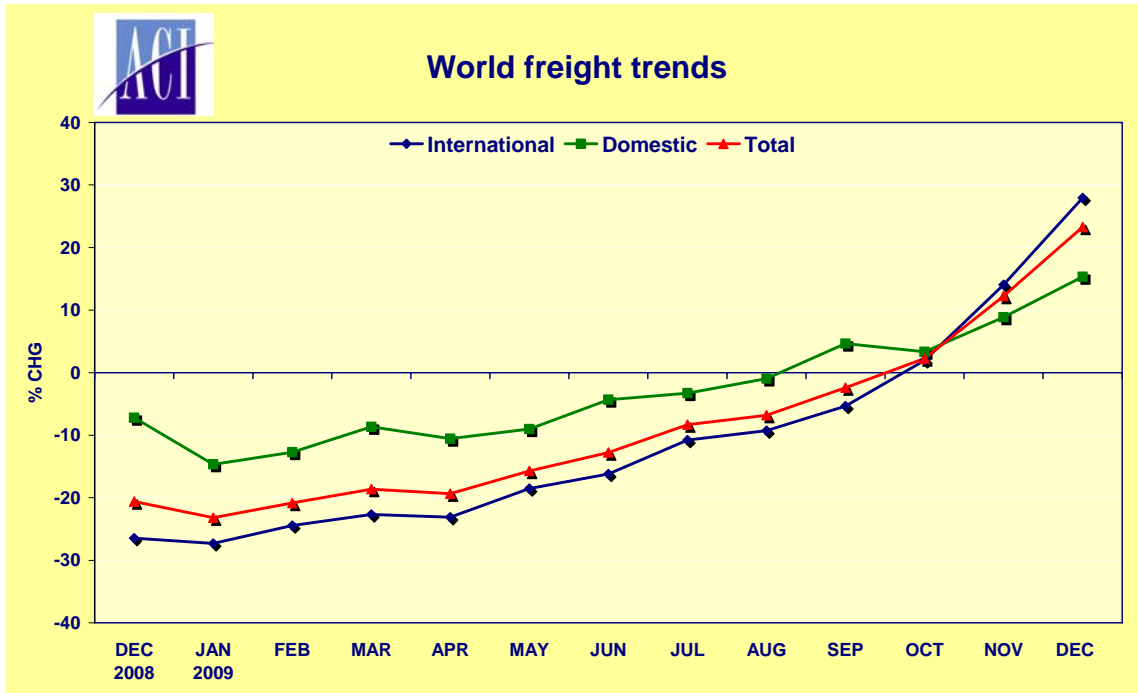
YTD Year to date, starting January 2009, compared to same period previous year

YE Year end, based on rolling 12 month period, compared to same prior 12 month period

AFR – Africa	EUR – Europe	MEA – Middle East
ASP – Asia Pacific (including India)	LAC – Latin America and Caribbean	NAM – North America

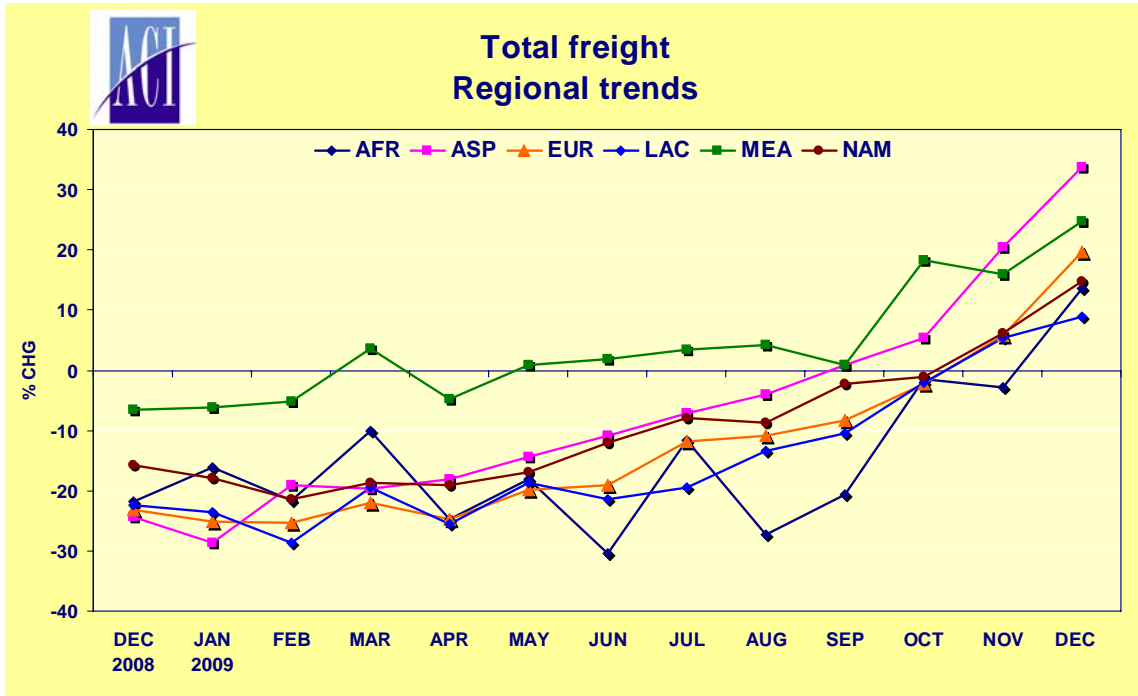


Month by month comparison with previous year

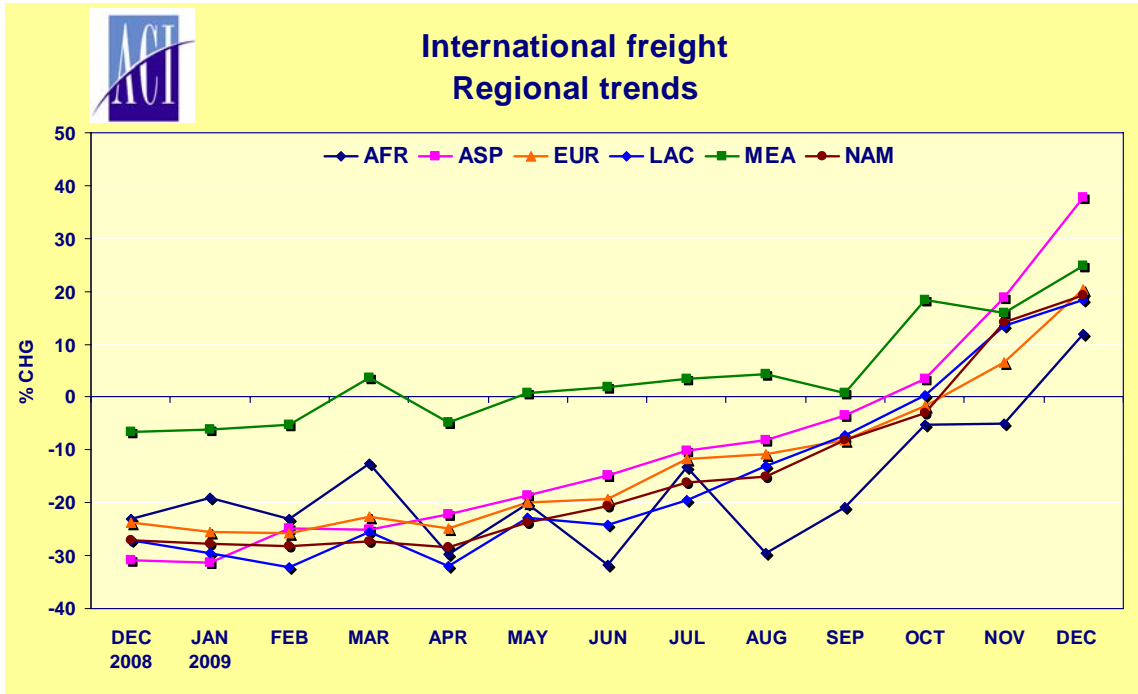




Month by month comparison with previous year



Month by month comparison with previous year



- ENDS -