

News Releases

Air Canada reports February traffic; Load factor of 79.6 per cent matches February 2007 record

MONTREAL, March 4 /CNW Telbec/ - For the month of February, Air Canada today reported a load factor of 79.6 per cent on a consolidated basis with Jazz, matching a February 2007 record, versus 79.2 per cent in February 2008, an increase of 0.4 percentage points. System traffic decreased 10.5 per cent on a capacity reduction of 11.0 per cent system wide.

Air Canada mainline reported a load factor of 80.7 per cent in February 2009 compared to 79.5 per cent in February 2008; an increase of 1.2 percentage points. The mainline carrier flew 9.8 per cent fewer revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in February 2009 than in February 2008 on a capacity decrease of 11.1 per cent.

Jazz, from which Air Canada purchases regional capacity, reported a load factor of 69.6 per cent, a decrease of 6.8 percentage points from 76.4 per cent in February 2008. Capacity decreased by 9.7 per cent from February 2008 and the carrier flew 17.7 per cent fewer RPMs than in the previous February.

"For the month of February, Air Canada reported a load factor of 79.6 per cent on a consolidated basis with Jazz," said Montie Brewer, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Our strong load factor, matching the previous record set in February 2007, shows that we are managing capacity well in this difficult economic environment. I am particularly proud of our employees who exceeded both Customer Satisfaction and On-Time Performance objectives for the month, achieving on-time arrivals performance of 72 per cent for the month of February, a 13 percentage point improvement over the same month a year ago.

"Capacity adjustments are on track and we continue to follow the market closely, fine tuning capacity as required. With our refurbished, fuel efficient fleet, award-winning onboard product and innovative revenue model, I am confident that Air Canada is well positioned to manage through the challenges facing the industry," concluded Mr. Brewer.

CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

Air Canada's public communications may include written or oral forward-looking statements within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Forward-looking statements, by their nature, are based on assumptions and are subject to important risks and uncertainties. Any forecasts or forward-looking predictions or statements cannot be relied upon due to, amongst other things, changing external events and general uncertainties of the business. Actual results may differ materially from results indicated in forward-looking statements due to a number of factors, including without limitation, industry, market, credit and economic conditions, the ability to reduce operating costs and secure financing, pension issues, energy prices, currency exchange and interest rates, employee and labour relations, competition, war, terrorist acts, epidemic diseases, insurance issues and costs, changes in demand due to the seasonal nature of the business, supply issues, changes in laws, regulatory developments or proceedings, pending and future litigation and actions by third parties as well as the factors identified throughout Air Canada's public disclosure file available at www.sedar.com. The forward-looking statements contained in this news release represent the Air Canada's expectations as of the date of this news release and are subject to change after such date. However, Air Canada disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required under applicable securities regulations.

AIR CANADA MAINLINE (Includes Jetz & Tier 3)

	FEBRUARY			YEAR-TO-DATE		
	2009	2008	Change	2009	2008	Change

Traffic (RPMs millions)	3,130	3,469	-9.8%	6,567	7,195	-8.7%
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Capacity (ASMs millions)	3,879	4,364	-11.1%	8,209	9,098	-9.8%
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Load Factor	80.7%	79.5%	+1.2 pts	80.0%	79.1%	+0.9 pts
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RPMs	888	923	-3.8%	1,821	1,884	-3.3%
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Canada ASMs	1,069	1,118	-4.4%	2,259	2,327	-2.9%
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Load Factor	83.1%	82.6%	+0.5 pts	80.6%	81.0%	-0.4 pts
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RPMs	570	675	-15.6%	1,158	1,380	-16.1%
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U.S.

AIR CANADA'S REGIONAL CAPACITY PROVIDER (JAZZ)							
FEBRUARY				YEAR-TO-DATE			
	2009	2008	Change	2009	2008	Change	
Traffic (RPMs millions)	279	339	-17.7%	555	673	-17.5%	
Capacity (ASMs millions)	401	444	-9.7%	825	925	-10.8%	
Load Factor	69.6%	76.4%	-6.8 pts	67.3%	72.8%	-5.5 pts	
RPMs	196	261	-24.9%	389	515	-24.5%	
Canada ASMs	256	328	-22.0%	531	678	-21.7%	
Load Factor	76.6%	79.6%	-3.0 pts	73.3%	76.0%	-2.7 pts	
RPMs	83	78	+6.4%	166	158	+5.1%	
U.S. Trans-border ASMs	145	116	+25.0%	294	247	+19.0%	
Load Factor	57.2%	67.2%	-10.0 pts	56.5%	64.0%	-7.5 pts	

U.S.	ASMs	836	954	-12.4%	1,740	2,027	-14.2%
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	Load						
	Factor	78.1%	78.9%	-0.8 pts	76.1%	75.9%	+0.2 pts
	RPMs	1,672	1,871	-10.6%	3,588	3,931	-8.7%
Internal	ASMs	2,119	2,408	-12.0%	4,504	4,991	-9.8%
ASMs							
	Load						
	Factor	78.9%	77.7%	+1.2 pts	79.7%	78.8%	+0.9 pts

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