

# Airlines suffered record drop in traffic in 2009: IATA

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International airlines suffered their biggest decline in traffic since 1945 last year as passenger demand fell 3.5 percent, the [International Air Transport Association](#) said Wednesday.

Freight also fell, by 10.1 percent, as "full-year 2009 demand statistics for international scheduled [air traffic](#) that showed the industry ending 2009 with the largest ever post-war decline," IATA said in a statement.

"In terms of demand, 2009 goes into the [history books](#) as the worst year the industry has ever seen," said [Giovanni Bisignani](#), director general of the world's biggest airlines' association.

"We have permanently lost 2.5 years of growth in passenger markets and 3.5 years of growth in the freight business," he added.

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