

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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