

Hactl returns to growth in first half

(17 July 2012, Hong Kong:) Cargo throughput at Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited (Hactl) – the major air cargo handler at the world's largest air cargo hub – showed consistent modest growth throughout the second quarter of 2012. The positive figures and progressive improvement throughout the first half of 2012 mean that Hactl has returned to sustained year-on-year growth for the first time since February 2011.

Hactl's throughput for the first half of 2012 totalled 1,325,502 tonnes (down fractionally on 2011), comprising 691,684 tonnes of exports, 317,746 tonnes of imports and 316,072 tonnes of transhipments.

Exports exceeded 2011 figures in April, May and June 2012, as did transhipments – contributing to positive overall figures for all three months. Export volume to the growing markets, such as Middle East and Southeast Asia, posted strong growth in the first half of 2012, up 10.4% and 13.4% respectively, compared to the same period in 2011. Transhipments continued to be the strongest aspect of Hactl's business, with June's figure of 55,655 tonnes coming close to previous records in December 2011 and March 2012.

Imports once again held overall tonnages back, with a 7.8% fall in the first half of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011. The Euro zone debt crisis remains unresolved: import volume from Europe in the first half of 2012 recorded a year-on-year drop of 13.2%. Nevertheless, import volume from the Middle East and Southeast Asia in the first half of 2012 remains strong, up 27.0% and 12.1% respectively, compared to the same period in 2011. On the other hand, June 2012 saw the best import growth since the end of 2010 (up 7.2% against 2011 at 58,322 tonnes).

Says Lilian Chan, Executive Director of Hactl: "The recovery trend in our total figures continues, and we seem likely to return to modest annual growth once again, as 2012 progresses. But the balance of our business has been shifting for two years: exports are holding their own, while it is transhipments which are showing steady growth, and are now regularly on a level with imports.

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“Overall, 2012 is looking better than we anticipated, and better than many predicted. Hong Kong’s growing role as a transshipment hub for the entire region is clearly compensating for current instability in traffic to and from China. This underscores the importance of the Airport Authority’s plans to build a third runway: we need this extra capacity if we are to protect the airport’s role as a regional hub, and safeguard local employment and the economy of Hong Kong.”

The second quarter of 2012 also saw Hactl break its previous daily import record (3,770 tonnes of cargo handled in a single day), setting a new figure of 3,874 tonnes on 28 April.

Tonnage handled by Hactl in June, the second quarter and the first half of the year 2012

	June 2012		Apr to June 2012 (Cumulative)		Jan to June 2012 (Cumulative)	
	Tonnage (in tonnes)	Year-on- Year Compari son	Tonnage (in tonnes)	Year-on- Year Compari son	Tonnage (in tonnes)	Year-on- Year Compari son
Export	117,881	+0.1%	362,266	+0.4%	691,684	-0.6%
Import	58,322	+7.2%	165,760	-2.1%	317,746	-7.8%
Transship ment	55,655	+13.4%	163,541	+12.6%	316,072	+10.9%
Total	231,858	+4.8%	691,567	+2.4%	1,325,502	0.0%

- Ends -

About Hactl:

Hactl was launched in 1976 at Kai Tak Airport, where it handled 175,000 tonnes of cargo in its first year of operation. In 1998 it relocated to its famous, custom-designed SuperTerminal 1 at the city's new Chek Lap Kok airport. This is still the world's largest single independent cargo handling facility.

Hactl has more than doubled its tonnage in the 13 years since it moved to SuperTerminal 1, with an all-time record throughput of 2.9 million tonnes in 2010.

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Hactl's shareholders are Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd (41.67%), Hutchison Port Holdings Ltd (20.83%), The Wharf (Holdings) Ltd (20.83%) and China National Aviation Corporation (Group) Ltd (16.67%).

Key facts:

Hactl:

- Launched 1976
- Handling over 100 airlines including 53 freighter operators
- Added-value services (third party unit build-up/breakdown, Customs clearances, local collection/delivery, scheduled road feeders to/from 6 points in mainland China, X-ray scanning)
- Handles over 70% of total Hong Kong throughput
- Bespoke IT system COSAC-Plus (Community System for Air Cargo) links Hactl with airlines, freight forwarders, agents, Shippers/Consignees, Airport Authority, Civil Aviation Authority, Census and Statistics Department, and Customs and Excise Department

SuperTerminal 1:

- Opened 1998
- 390, 943 sq m floor area
- Airside frontage 1,940 m
- Multilevel truck access and processing
- 3,500 bay, multi-level container storage system, served by 40 fully-automated driverless ATVs

- Additional storage for 1,573 empty units
- 10,000 bay automated stillage storage/retrieval system for loose cargo (box storage system)
- More than 400 pallet workstations
- 227 truck docks
- 2,700 staff
- Facilities for livestock/bloodstock, perishables (33 dedicated truck docks), valuables (dedicated zone for handling 9 armoured vehicles simultaneously), hazardous/radioactive cargo
- Over 1,000 CCTV cameras throughout; card-controlled access; personnel-free cargo storage zones
- Capacity: 3.5 million tonnes per annum

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- All-time record throughput of 2.9 million tonnes in 2010
- Record throughput in one day: 10,184 tonnes
- Initial investment (1998) US\$1 billion

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