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Copa Holdings Announces 6.6% Traffic Growth for December 2009

Full year consolidated traffic growth comes in at 10.1%

Panama City, Jan 11, 2010 /PRNewswire via COMTEX News Network/ -- 1. Available seat miles - represents the aircraft seating capacity multiplied by the number of miles the seats are flown

2. Revenue passenger miles - represents the numbers of miles flown by revenue passengers

3. Load factor - represents the percentage of aircraft seating capacity that is actually utilized

For the month of December 2009, Copa Holdings' system-wide passenger traffic (RPM) increased 6.6% while capacity (ASM) increased 2.9%. System load factor for December 2009 was 76.9%, a 2.7 percentage point increase when compared to December 2008.

Copa Airlines passenger traffic (RPM) for December 2009 increased 5.9%, while capacity (ASM) increased 3.0%. This resulted in a load factor of 77.3%, a 2.1 percentage point increase when compared to December 2008.

Aero Republica passenger traffic (RPM) for December 2009 increased 10.5%, while capacity (ASM) increased 2.5%. Load factor for the month reached 74.8%, a 5.4 percentage point increase when compared to December 2008.

For full year 2009, Copa Holdings passenger traffic (RPM) increased 10.1%, while capacity (ASM) increased 12.1%. As a result, full year consolidated load factor came in at 74.6%, a 1.3 percentage point decrease when compared to the same period in 2008.

Copa Holdings CEO Pedro Heilbron said, "We are very pleased with our traffic results for December, having grown RPMs by 6.6% in spite of capacity increasing by only 2.9%. Furthermore, we are very pleased to have achieved double digit growth for 2009 despite weaker regional economies and the H1N1 flu crisis which affected us earlier in the year. This truly demonstrates the resiliency and growth potential of our business model."

Copa Holdings, through its Copa Airlines and Aero Republica operating subsidiaries, is a leading Latin American provider of passenger and cargo service. Copa Airlines currently offers approximately 144 daily scheduled flights to 45 destinations in 24 countries in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. In addition, Copa Airlines provides passengers with access to flights to more than 120 other international destinations through code share agreements with Continental Airlines and other airlines. Aero Republica provides service to 12 cities in Colombia as well as international connectivity with Copa Airlines' Hub of the Americas through flights from Barranquilla, Bogota, Bucaramanga, Cali, Cartagena, Medellin and Pereira. Additionally, Aero Republica has international flights to Caracas, Venezuela and Quito, Ecuador.

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