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Norwegian reports passenger record in May

Norwegian reports the highest passenger number ever in May. Close to 1.2 million passengers flew with the airline last month. The traffic figures show that air travel is back to normal after European Authorities closed major parts of European airspace in April. The company had a passenger growth of 25 percent compared to May 2009.

As many as 1,185,373 passengers travelled with Norwegian in May, the highest number of passengers the company has ever reported in a single month. Norwegian also experienced a significant growth in May last year. A 25 percent growth compared to strong figures last year is therefore very pleasing, particularly taking into consideration that May this year had more public holidays which normally reduce travel activity on business destinations. The ASK growth was 38 percent and the load factor was 77 percent, the same as May 2009.

"April was an extremely challenging month for Norwegian due to the Authorities' closing of European airspace. I am very satisfied to note the positive momentum which the company is in, particularly the substantial passenger growth. Given the fact that we have larger aircraft with more seats, it is also positive that we are able to maintain the same load factor as last year, said Bjørn Kjos, Chief Executive Officer of Norwegian.

Only six flights were cancelled due to volcanic ash in May, while 2,000 were cancelled in April.

In May the yield is estimated at 0.51 NOK, down 14 percent compared to May 2009. The development partially reflects a significantly adjusted route portfolio and the introduction of 12 new Boeing 737-800 aircraft with higher

capacity and lower unit cost since May last year.

The company operated 99.7 percent of its scheduled flights in May, of which 88.2 percent departed on time.

Please find more financial figures in the attached PDF.

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Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA, commercially branded “Norwegian,” is a public low-cost airline noted on the Oslo Stock Exchange. The company is the second largest airline in Scandinavia, and has a route portfolio that stretches across Europe into North Africa and the Middle East. With competitive prices and customer friendly solutions and service, the company has experienced significant growth over the previous years. With more than 10.7 million passengers in 2009, Norwegian is the 4th largest low-cost airline in Europe. The turnover in 2009 was in excess of NOK 7.3 billion. Norwegian currently operates 52 aircraft on 230 routes to 91 destinations and employs approximately 2 000 people.

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