

RYANAIR DELIVERS RECORD TRAFFIC AND PROFITS

Ryanair Holdings Plc today (28 May 1999) released its financial results for the year ended 31 March 1999. Adjusted profit after tax has risen by 20% to a record IR£45.3m. Adjusted earnings per share grew by 11% reflecting the increased number of shares in issue following the Company's London listing last July.

Total passengers grew by 24% to just under 5 million as a result of strong growth on Ryanair's existing network and the success of the seven new UK-Europe routes. Operating expenses grew by 32% which was higher than the rate of growth in revenue, primarily due to increased depreciation and staff costs associated with the expansion of the fleet.

Summary Table of Results (Irish GAAP)

Year	Mar 31, 1998	Mar 31, 1999	% Increase
Passengers	3.9m	4.9m	24%
Operating Revenues	IR£182.6m	IR£232.9m	28%
Adjusted Profit after tax	IR£37.7m*	IR£45.3m	20%
Basic EPS	23.55p	27.47p	17%
Adjusted EPS	24.74p*	27.47p	11%

*Adjusted for certain non-recurring staff bonuses paid in the year to March 31, 1998

Speaking in London today, Ryanair's CEO, Michael O'Leary said;

"This is Ryanair's ninth year of increased profitability. In the last 12 months, we have;

- successfully developed 7 new European routes*
- taken delivery of the first of 25 new 737-800 aircraft*
- carried almost 5 million passengers on 27 international routes*
- delivered record after-tax profits, up 20% (on an adjusted basis), to IR£45.3m*
- announced seven further new routes for Summer '99*

"The past year has seen Ryanair consolidate its position as the largest and most successful 'low fares' airline in Europe. We now carry more international passengers than either Aer Lingus or British Midland."

"In the last two years while we have been growing from London into Europe, Ryanair's profits have almost doubled. In the current year Ryanair expects that 40% of its passengers will be on its routes from the UK to Europe. The fact that Dublin is missing out on this growth, highlights the urgent need for the Dublin Airport monopoly to be broken up so that Dublin becomes competitive with the many low cost, high growth airports around Europe."

“The new, next generation Boeing 737-800 series aircraft is performing well in service, and we are very pleased with the advance bookings on our seven new routes from London to Frankfurt in Germany; Ancona, Genoa, Turin in Italy; Biarritz and Dinard in France and City of Derry in Northern Ireland. These show every indication of replicating the success of last years new route growth. It is our intention to carry six million international passengers this year, and we look forward with considerable confidence.”

“Unlike many of our flag carrier competitors, Ryanair’s profits continued to rise strongly as our traffic has increased in the past 12 months. The success of our low fares formula is reflected in the strength of our balance sheet (over £125m in cash and minimal debt) which, together with financing now in place will position Ryanair to continue to grow strongly. The admission by British Airways this week that they want fewer low-fare passengers, and that they may get rid of loss making services into London, underlines our growth potential. We promise that Ryanair will take as many low-fare passengers as British Airways wants to turn away.”

“These results could only have been delivered by the 1,200 outstanding people who work in Ryanair. By delivering lower air fares we believe we have saved our passengers over £200m. in the last 12 months, when compared with the high fares charged by our direct competitors. This is how Ryanair puts its passengers first.

We also put our own people first thanks to the company wide pay increase which was almost double the national rate in Ireland. In addition our people who took up their share entitlement when we floated in May 1997 have seen their shareholding more than trebled in value, and the company wide share options granted to them last year have risen substantially in 12 months. These rewards will incentivize our people to continue to outperform our competitors”

“All of us in Ryanair, promise to continue to work hard to deliver more low fares to our (and B.A.’s!) customers.”