

Bulletin:

China Airlines' Procurement Plan Will Squeeze Its Financial Buffer

November 27, 2025

This report does not constitute a rating action.

Taiwan Ratings said today that **China Airlines Ltd.'s** plan to order multiple new aircraft will squeeze the company's credit metrics from 2029.

On Nov. 26, 2025, China Airlines (twA-/Stable/twA-2) announced a round of new aircraft procurements including 10 passenger planes, 4 freighters, spare engines, and the lease or purchase of two other freighter aircraft. The plan is likely to weigh on our forecasts for China Airlines' ratio of funds from operations to debt from 2029 onwards. When combined with the carrier's existing procurement plan, total capital expenditure is likely to be new Taiwan dollar (NT\$) 260 billion-NT\$270 billion mainly for fleet renewal in 2025-2029. This will stress the ratio to close to our downside rating trigger of 20% in 2029.

We forecast China Airline's financial buffer for the downside trigger will diminish after 2029 under the airline's fleet renewal plans announced over the past two year, despite the strong likelihood that such plans will enhance its long-haul routes and network efficiency against rising global competition. China Airline's ability to generate sufficient returns from rising passenger and air cargo volume will be the key driver to maintain the carrier's credit metrics consistent with the 'twA-' rating.

PRIMARY CREDIT ANALYST

Irene Lai

Taipei

+886-2-7724-6590

irene.lai

@spglobal.com

irene.lai

@taiwanratings.com.tw

SECONDARY CONTACT

Amelia Wu

Taipei

+886-2-7724-6572

amelia.wu

@spglobal.com

amelia.wu

@taiwanratings.com.tw

Copyright © 2025 by Taiwan Ratings Corporation (TRC). All rights reserved.

No content (including ratings, credit-related analyses and data, valuations, model, software or other application or output therefrom) or any part thereof (Content) may be modified, reverse engineered, reproduced or distributed in any form by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of TRC. The Content shall not be used for any unlawful or unauthorized purposes. TRC and any third-party providers, as well as their directors, officers, shareholders, employees or agents (collectively TRC Parties) do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or availability of the Content. TRC Parties are not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, for the results obtained from the use of the Content, or for the security or maintenance of any data input by the user. The Content is provided on an "as is" basis. TRC DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE, FREEDOM FROM BUGS, SOFTWARE ERRORS OR DEFECTS, THAT THE CONTENT'S FUNCTIONING WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR THAT THE CONTENT WILL OPERATE WITH ANY SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE CONFIGURATION. In no event shall TRC be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, incidental, exemplary, compensatory, punitive, special or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs or losses caused by negligence) in connection with any use of the Content even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

Credit-related and other analyses, including ratings, and statements in the Content are statements of opinion as of the date they are expressed and not statements of fact. TRC's opinions, analyses and rating acknowledgment decisions (described below) are not recommendations to purchase, hold, or sell any securities or to make any investment decisions, and do not address the suitability of any security. TRC assumes no obligation to update the Content following publication in any form or format. The Content should not be relied on and is not a substitute for the skill, judgment and experience of the user, its management, employees, advisors and/or clients when making investment and other business decisions. TRC does not act as a fiduciary or an investment advisor except where registered as such. While TRC has obtained information from sources it believes to be reliable, TRC does not perform an audit and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives. Rating-related publications may be published for a variety of reasons that are not necessarily dependent on action by rating committees, including, but not limited to, the publication of a periodic update on a credit rating and related analyses.

To the extent that regulatory authorities allow a rating agency to acknowledge in one jurisdiction a rating issued in another jurisdiction for certain regulatory purposes, TRC reserves the right to assign, withdraw or suspend such acknowledgement at any time and in its sole discretion. TRC disclaims any duty whatsoever arising out of the assignment, withdrawal or suspension of an acknowledgment as well as any liability for any damage alleged to have been suffered on account thereof.

TRC keeps certain activities of its business units separate from each other in order to preserve the independence and objectivity of their respective activities. As a result, certain business units of TRC may have information that is not available to other TRC business units. TRC has established policies and procedures to maintain the confidentiality of certain non-public information received in connection with each analytical process.

TRC receives compensation for its solicited ratings and certain analyses, normally from issuers, originators, arrangers, or underwriters of securities or from obligors. TRC reserves the right to disseminate its opinions and analyses. TRC's public ratings and analyses are made available on its Web sites, www.taiwanratings.com (free of charge), and rs.taiwanratings.com.tw (subscription), and may be distributed through other means, including via TRC publications and third-party redistributors. Please click [here](#) for any other conflict of interests that may affect the credit rating as requested by the regulator.