# COVID-19 Airline industry financial outlook update

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#### Airline industry finances improving but still weak Operating losses reduced only to 50% of revenues by Q4 of 2020

Global airline industry operating margin, % revenue



#### Survival cost - a huge rise in airlines' debt by end-2020 \$220bn rise in airline debt as a result of govt aid and market issues





Source: IATA Economics using data from own estimates of Government aid, private debt estimates from Airfinance Journal, November 2020. Debt includes adjustment for operating leases.

#### Airlines need revenues to recover, but air travel still weak International air travel 89% down, domestic falling, though cargo strong

Cargo tonne km (CTK) and passenger km (RPK), Jan 2020 = 100



Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Monthly Statistics. Data is adjusted for seasonality.

#### Travel weak until international restrictions are reduced Most international air travel markets are at less than 15% of 2019 RPKs

International travel stringency index weighted by population (Jan 2020-March 2021)



#### Vaccine rollout should allow some markets to open in H2 Widespread vaccination has not been as rapid as expected in December



Source: IATA Economics using forecasts from Airfinity Science Tracker https://science.airfinity.com/covid-19-science-macro as of 9 Apr 2021

#### But our RPK forecast is not as positive as in December Delays to vaccination and government risk aversion limits market opening





Source: IATA Economics Airline Industry Financial Forecast update, April 2021. Data is seasonally adjusted.

#### But pent-up travel demand stoked by strong economy Travel rules prevent international travel but domestic should rebound

Global industry production and business confidence



Source: IATA Economics using data from Markit and Netherlands CPB

#### Strong 2<sup>nd</sup> half in domestic markets, international weak International RPK only 34% of 2019 by 2021H2, but domestic back to 96%

Route area segment RPKs, % of 2019 levels



#### Cargo remaining strong but trade lane variations Strongest trade lanes between Asia & N America and over M East hubs

Cargo tonne km flown by major trade lane, indexed Jan 2020=100, segment basis



Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Monthly Statistics. Data is seasonally adjusted

#### Some revenue recovery in 2021 - to 55% of 2019 level Cargo revenues strong, but insufficient to offset shrunken pax revenues

Global airlines revenue, USD billion



#### 2022/23 should see much stronger rebound of revenues Once barriers down there is large pent-up demand and savings to spend



Source: IATA/Tourism Economics 'Air Passenger Forecasts' January 2020

#### Another year of losses in 2021 but down 2-3x on last year With a slower revenue recovery, return to profit delayed until 2022



#### Cash burn diminishing in second half of 2021 Stronger H2 helps to reduce cash burn but +ve cash flow delayed to 2022

Alrline industry cash burn, USD billion per quarter

December forecast
April forecast



#### N American airlines improving fast, Europe the least Regions with large domestic markets forecast to perform better in 2021



## Contacts

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