





Economic Outlook: Air Transport in Times of Turbulence

Marie Owens Thomsen

Chief Economist, IATA

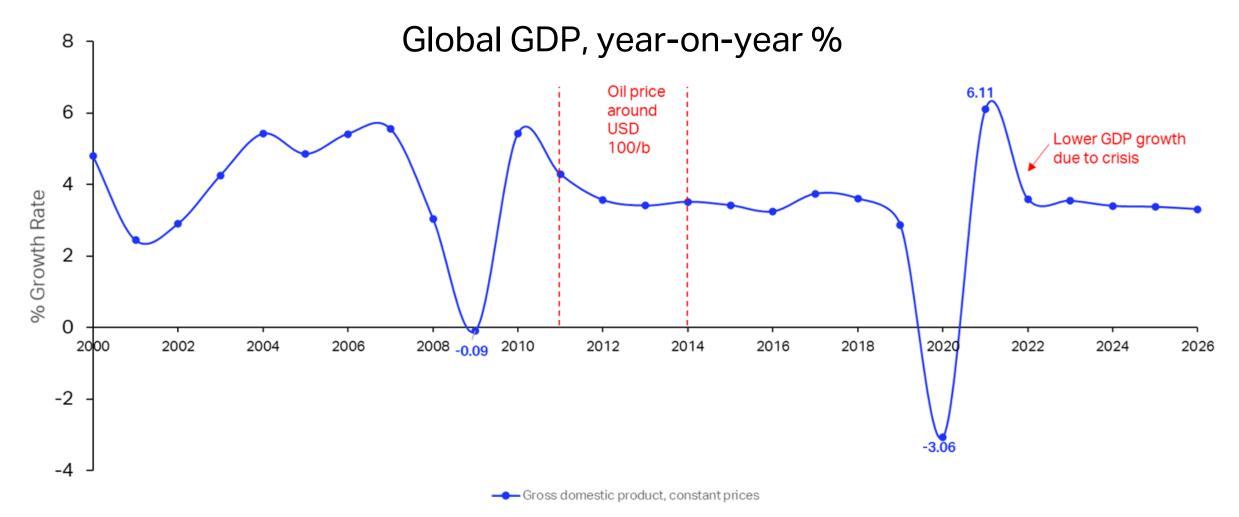




The Big Picture

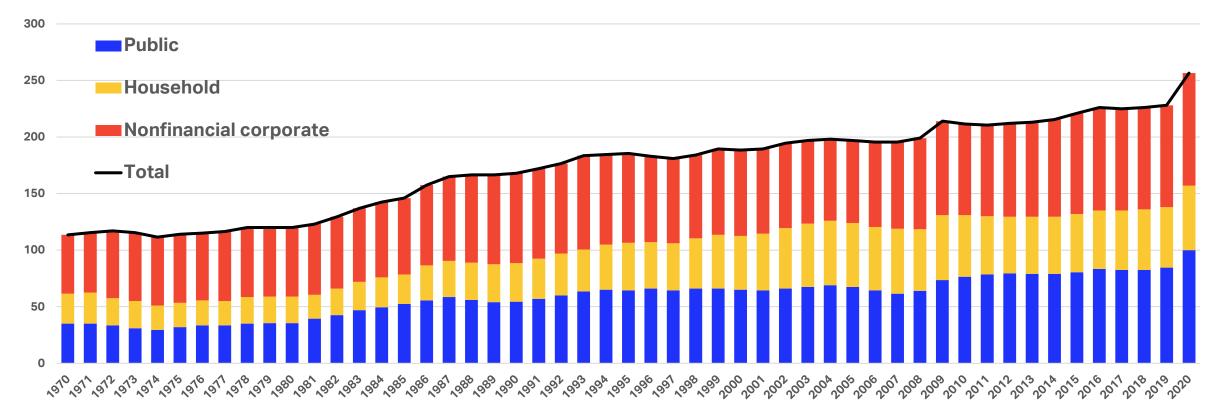


The COVID-19 Pandemic





Global debt at historic highs

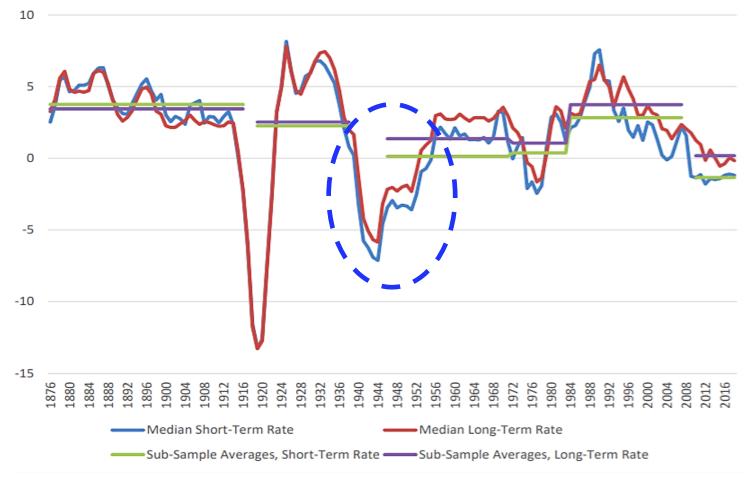


- 2020 debt increase highest in 50 years.
- Public debt now 40% of total global debt, the highest share since the mid-1960s.
- Advanced economies and China accounted for more than 90% of the USD 28 trillion debt surge in 2020.



Expect low real interest rates

Global Real Interest Rates, 1876 to 2018, %

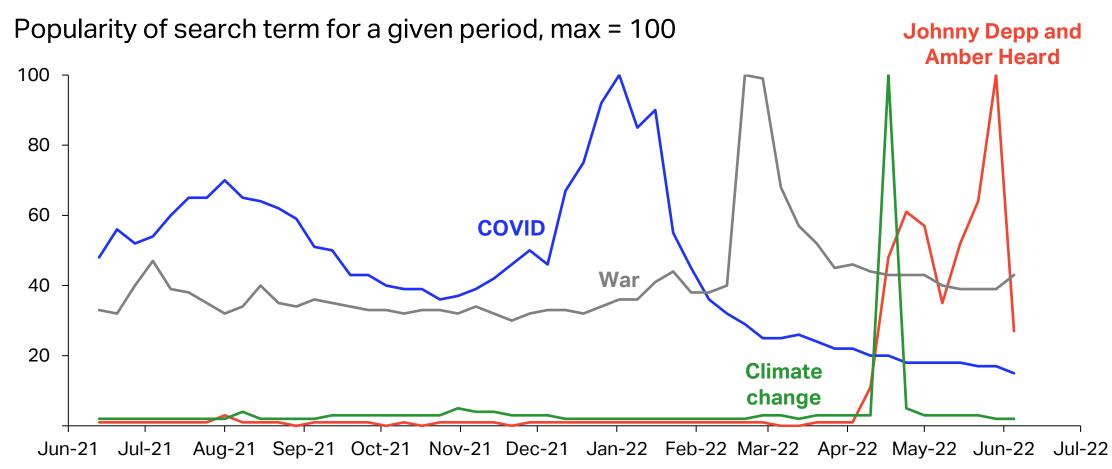


 Roughly 20 years of negative real interest rates globally in the wake of the Great Depression and the Second World War.



Source: Edward N. Bamber, "The Historical Decline in Real Interest Rates and Its Implications for CBO's Projections", CBO Working Paper 2020-09, December 2020.

Focus is on one issue at a time And often fails to reflect any order of importance

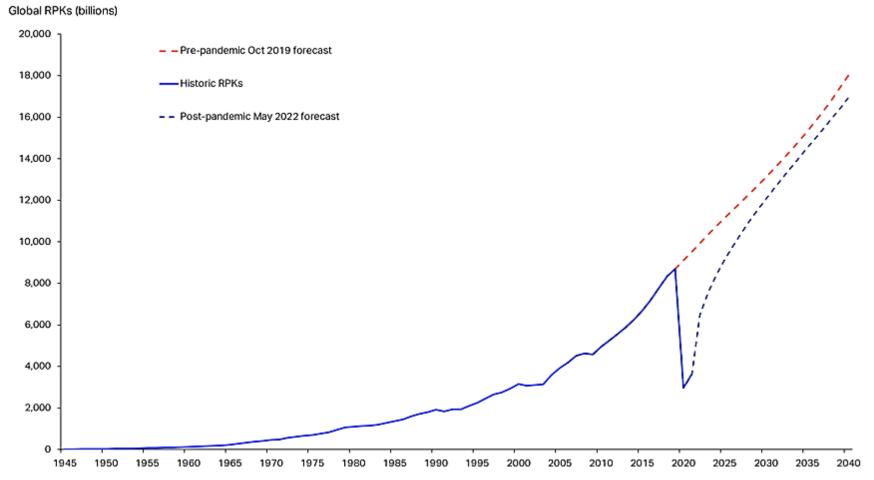






The greatest shock to aviation in its history

Global RPKs, with pre-pandemic (red) and current forecasts (blue), billion



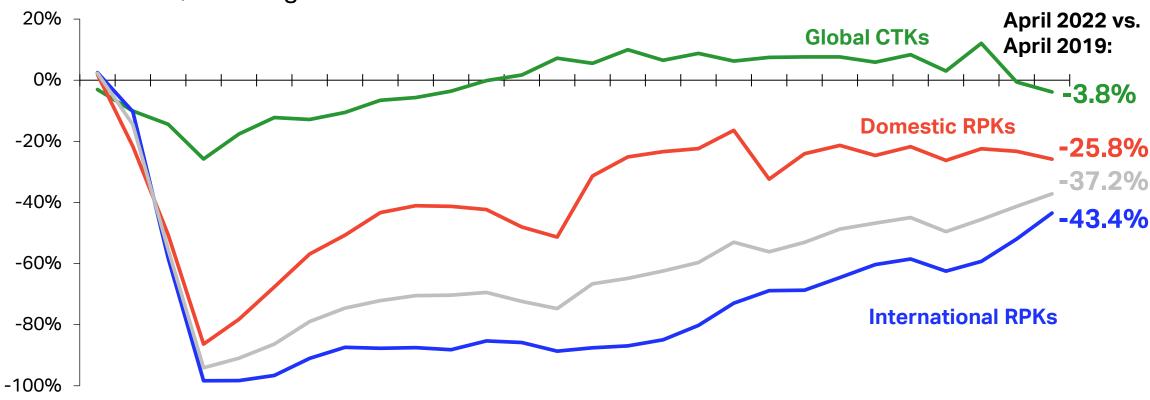
- "Lost" travel between 2020 and 2022 is equivalent to 1.8 x 2019 RPKs.
- In 2040, if our current forecast is realized, traffic would still be 6% below our prepandemic forecast.



Source: IATA Annual airline traffic statistics, IATA Economics/Tourism Economics.

Industry recovery remains uneven Domestic RPKs pause, International RPKs accelerate

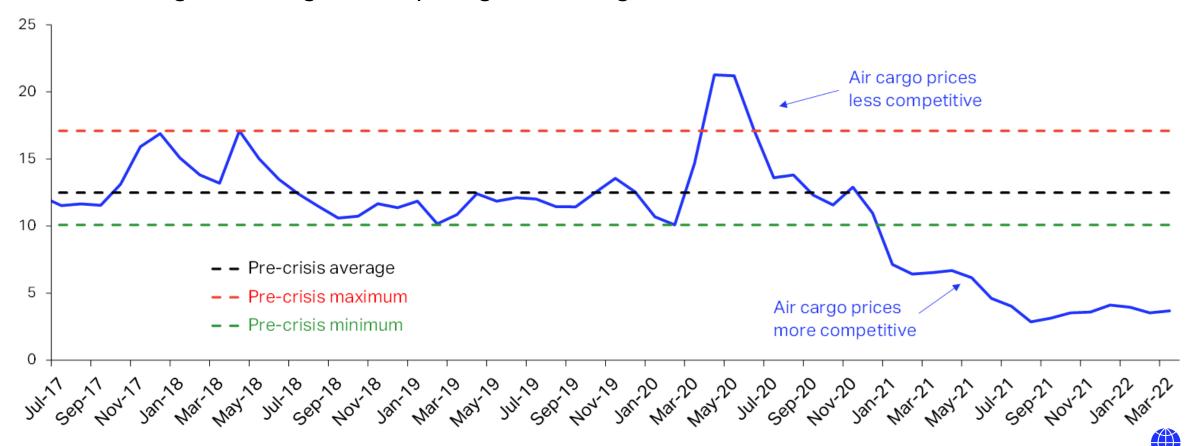
RPKs & CTKs, % change vs. the same month in 2019





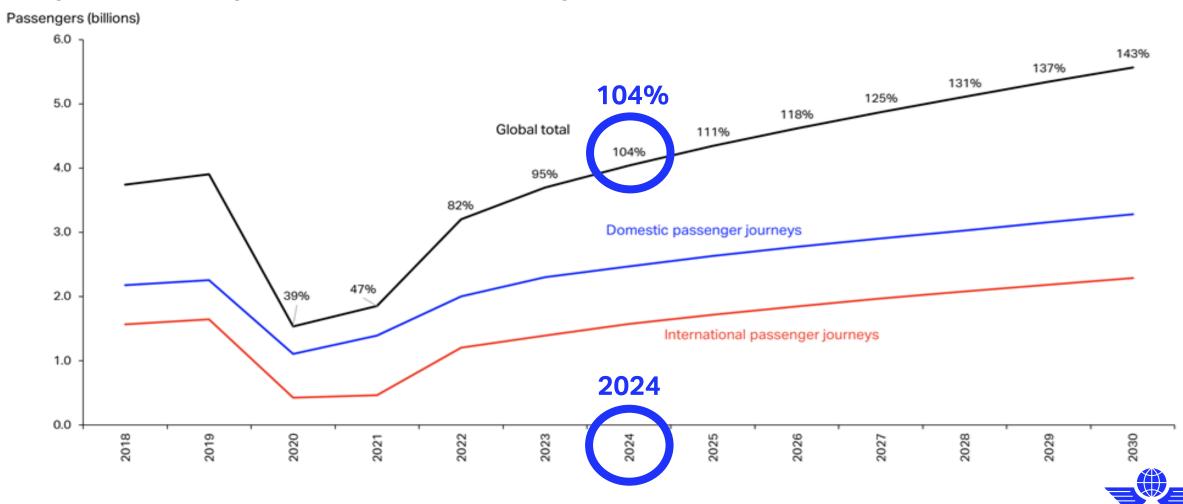
Air cargo prices are more competitive Relative air and maritime cargo rates favor air cargo

Ratio of chargeable weight rates per kg for air cargo and container



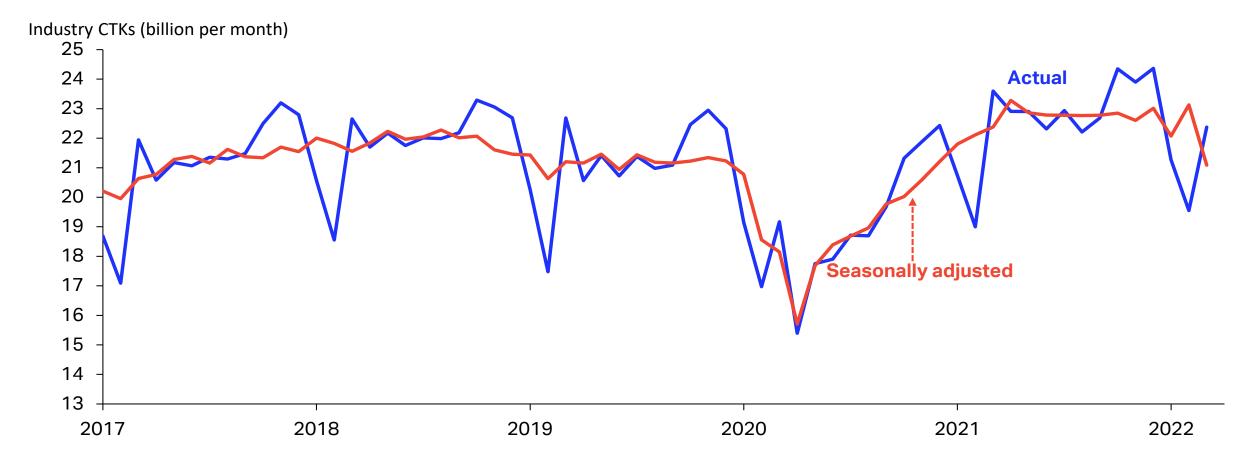
More belly capacity with strong passenger traffic

Long-term passenger forecast, billion passengers and % of 2019 level



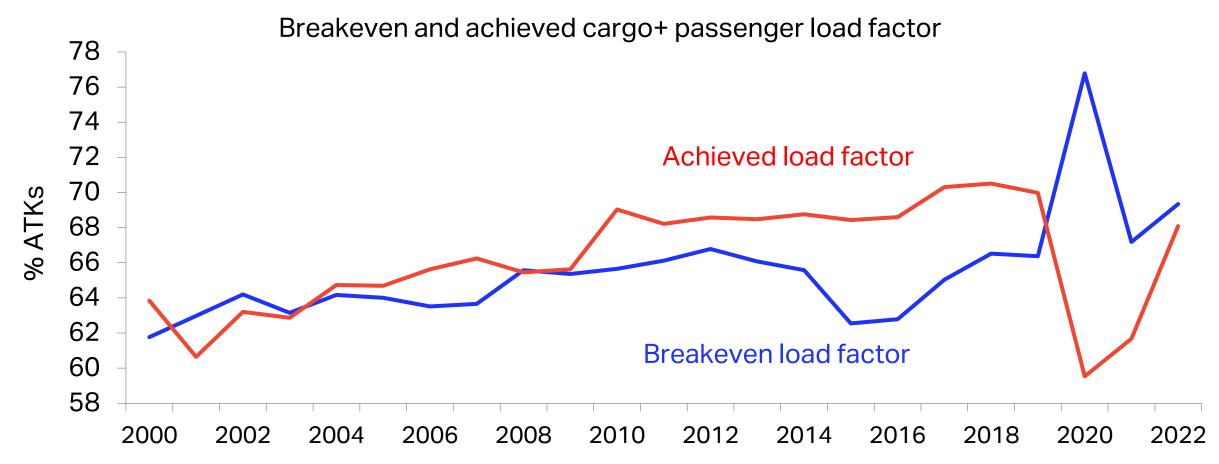
Cargo growth is flattening

Industry Cargo-Tonne-Kilometers, actual and seasonally adjusted, billion



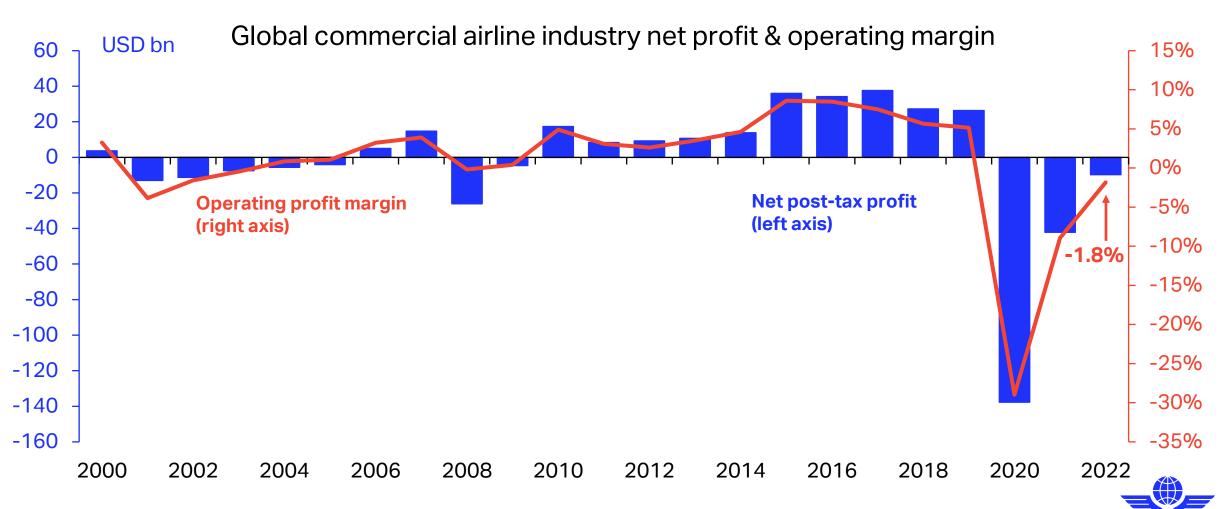


Total load factor up and nearing breakeven Cargo load factor eases on added belly capacity



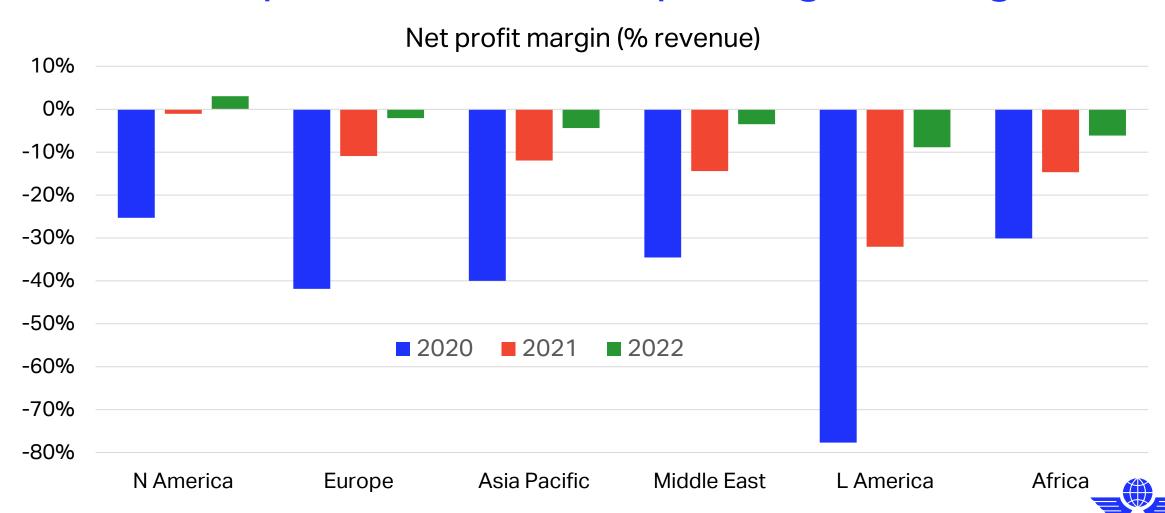


Financial performance improves to – USD 9.7bn Highlighting the resilience of the industry



Source: IATA Economics.

North America returns to profitability in 2022 But financial performance is improving in all regions



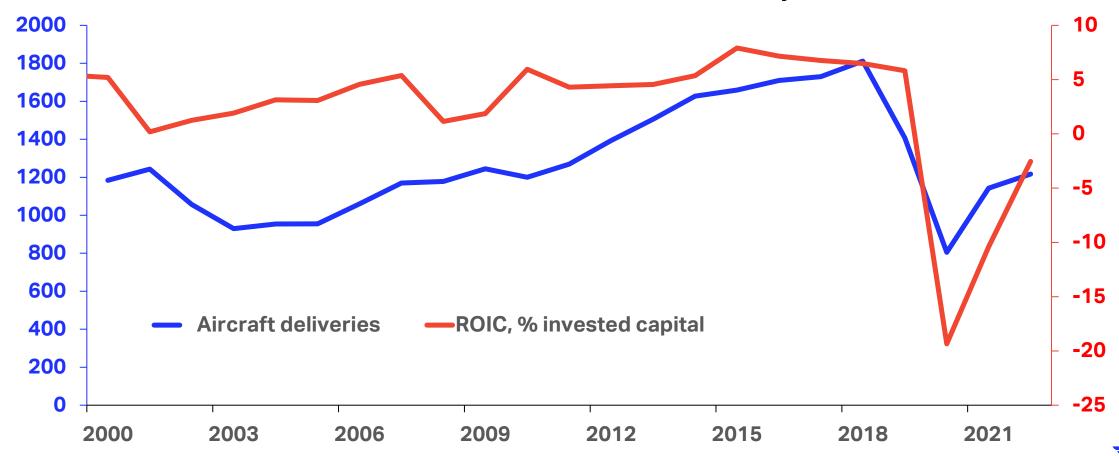
Costs are a key industry challenge this year Fuel, infrastructure, labor, interest rates

Jet Fuel & Crude Oil Price (\$/barrel) Jet fuel and crude oil price, USD per barrel



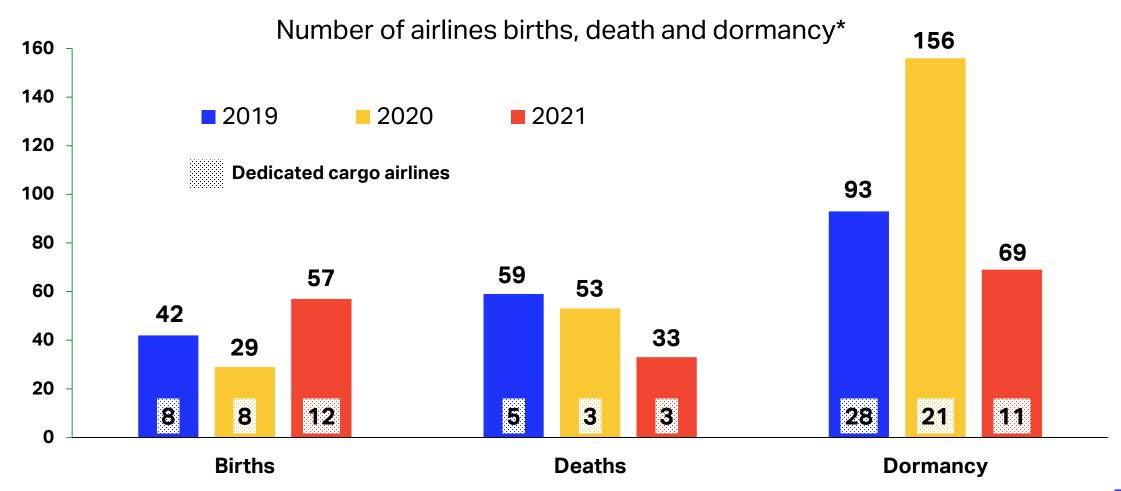
Industry confidence reflected in rising deliveries Supported by improved financial performance

Aircraft deliveries and airline industry ROIC



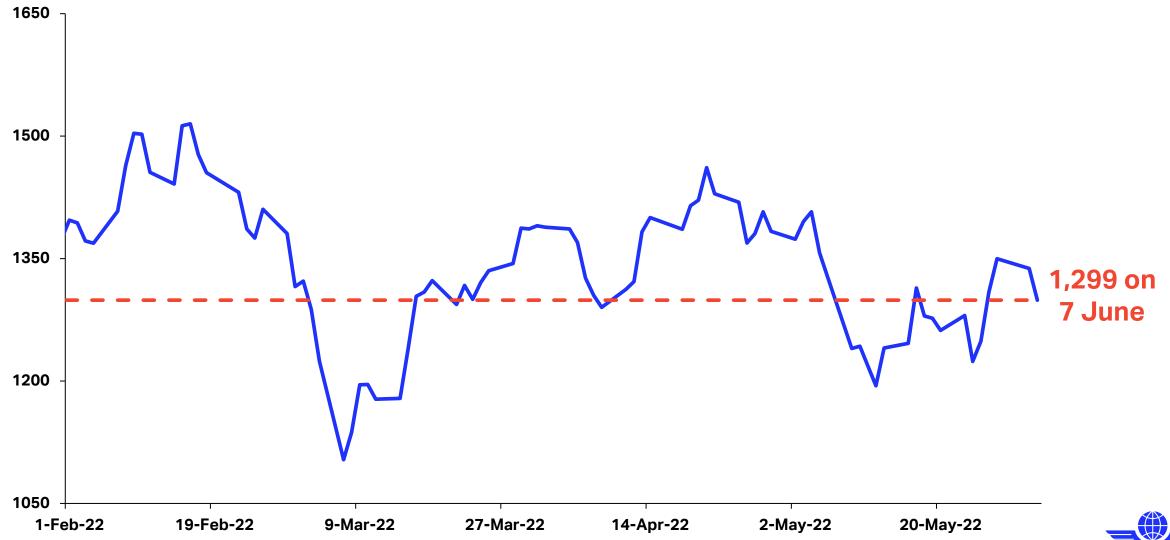


Airline entrepreneurship buoyant in 2021 Beating 2019 on all counts





NYSE Arca Global Airline Index





Turbulent times

- Easing and lifting of travel restrictions
- Willingness to travel
- Cargo
- Business model developments
- The possibility of energy abundance





- Debt burden and cost
- Labor costs
- Energy costs
- Climate change costs
- Geopolitical conflict





Contacts

economics@iata.org www.iata.org/economics



