



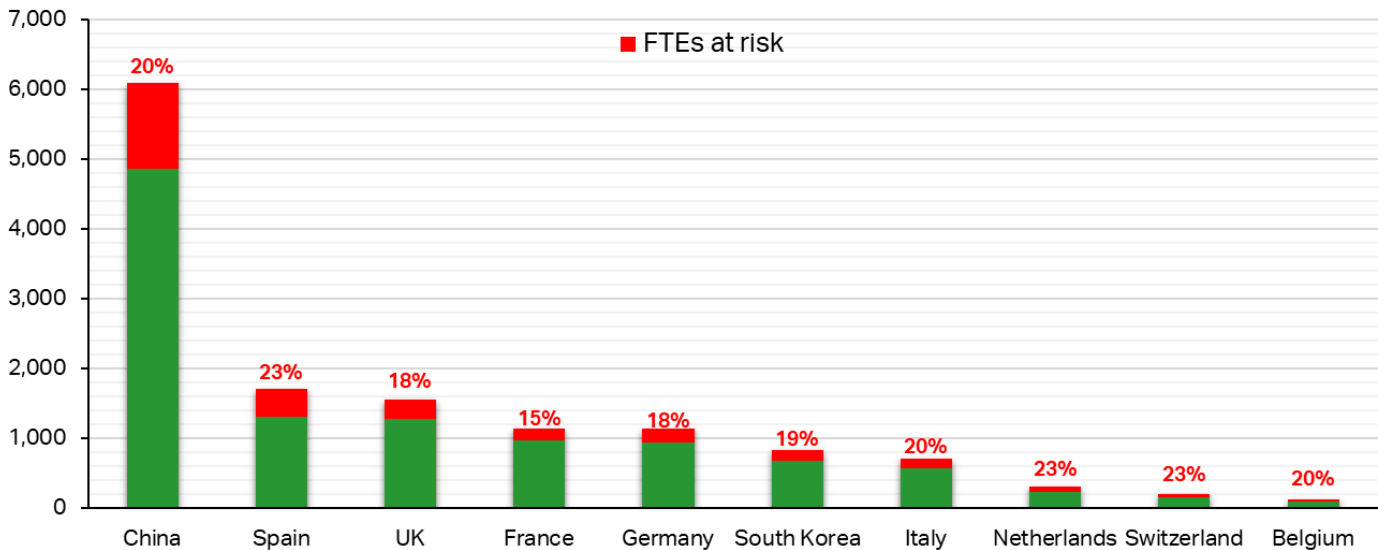
# IATA Economics' Chart of the Week

20 March 2020

## COVID-19 pandemic puts employment at risk

### The impact of COVID-19 on employment supported by air transport

Total FTEs\*  
(in thousands)



\*Total number of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) supported by the air transport sector and international tourists travelling by air.

Source: IATA Economics, 2016 data

- As the airline industry continues to suffer from weak travel demand amid the spread of the coronavirus globally, this week's chart of the week highlights the impact of the pandemic on employment supported by air transport and international tourists travelling by air. Air transport is a major contributor to global economic prosperity, supporting a total of 65.5 million jobs and US\$2.7 trillion in economic activity globally.
- Connectivity between cities enabled by air transport facilitates international trade, tourism and investment flows – it is a critical catalyst of economic growth and prosperity. The significant weakening in travel and tourism demand puts economic activity and employment supported by the air transport industry at risk. As an increasing number of airlines find themselves in a fragile financial position and face severe cash flow pressures, they are faced with the prospect of reducing air service and laying off employees, asking them to reduce hours or take unpaid leave.
- The chart above features the top 10 countries by the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases at the time of this assessment. We previously modelled the impact of COVID-19 on the financial state of the industry. Consistent with the intense spread scenario in the [March 5th assessment](#), employment at risk may range from 15% to 23% of the total number of jobs supported by the air transport industry in the countries depicted on the chart. The airline industry is fundamental to the way the modern economy functions. It will be indispensable for a faster recovery from the detrimental economic impact of COVID-19 and government support for the industry is needed to facilitate such recovery.

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IATA Economics  
[economics@iata.org](mailto:economics@iata.org)