

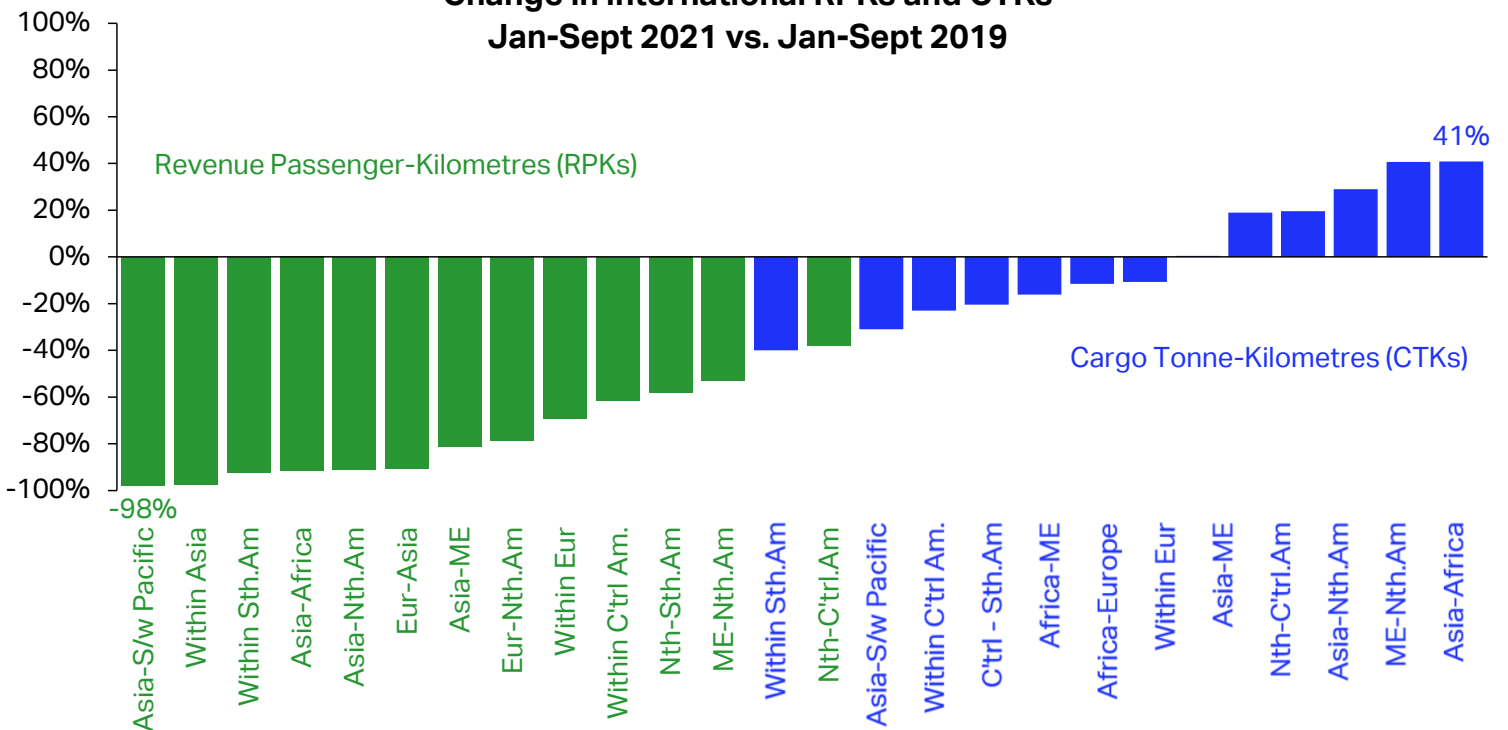


IATA Economics' Chart of the Week

26 November 2021

Divergence in passenger and cargo traffic recovery continues

**Change in international RPKs and CTKs
Jan-Sept 2021 vs. Jan-Sept 2019**



Source: IATA Economics using IATA Monthly Statistics

- This week's chart shows the ongoing [divergence](#) in recovery of international passenger and cargo markets across main international routes, with the passenger recovery lagging well behind cargo.
- The relatively positive developments in cargo markets (blue bars) continue. The cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs) in the three routes, Asia-Africa, Middle East-North America and Asia-North America, posted the strongest year-to-date growth, +41%, +40% and +29% respectively, compared to same period in 2019. The strong economic rebound and stimulus in the US is supporting demand for goods shipped by air on the North American routes.
- For passenger markets (green bars), routes in the Americas are leading the recovery, particularly North-Central America and North-South America, with year-to-date falls of 38% and 58% in RPKs respectively. This is primarily driven by the rapidly increasing US-Latin America connectivity related to leisure travel and vaccination tourism to the US. In contrast, routes in the Asia region had almost no recovery for the first nine months of 2021. None of the Asian routes recovered more than 19% of their pre-crisis RPKs levels. This is due to the strict travel restrictions imposed in Asian countries.
- The transatlantic market reopening in November significantly increased [US international bookings](#), which reached 72% of their pre-crisis levels. Additionally, in the recent weeks, some Asian countries have been gradually reopening. Further developments like these will be critical to enable a more substantial recovery for the still heavily suppressed international passenger market, particularly in Asia, and to support the restoration of the significant economic benefits that aviation generates across the globe.

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