

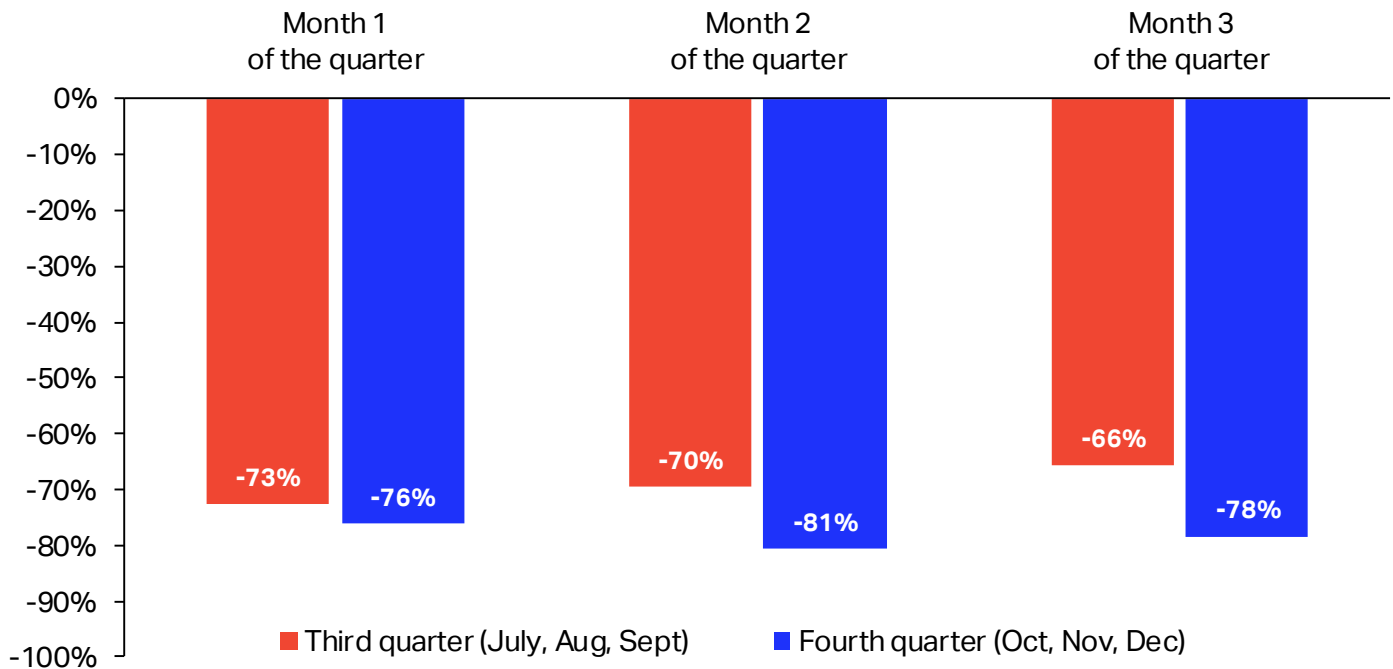


# IATA Economics' Chart of the Week

25 September 2020

## Forward bookings point to a challenging winter quarter

Forward Bookings for the Quarter Ahead  
(% change vs the same period a year ago)



Source: IATA Economics using DDS ticketing data

- As COVID-19 cases resurged in some regions, airlines started to revisit their flight schedules implementing capacity cuts compared to those initially planned for the upcoming quarter. This week's chart looks at forward bookings for the quarter ahead, since airlines are adjusting their capacity depending on the evolution of forward bookings. It is important to note that there has been a significant change in travelers' behavior towards now booking much closer to the departure date, making schedule planning more difficult for airlines. This behavior is still prevalent as travelers remain concerned about unexpected changes in travel restrictions and quarantine requirements.
- The chart above compares bookings before the start of the third and fourth quarters of 2020, all bookings made as of June 20<sup>th</sup> for Q3 and as of September 20<sup>th</sup> for Q4. So, 10 days before the start of the third quarter bookings were c. 70% lower compared to the previous year and followed an upward trend over the course of quarter. However, 10 days before the start of Q4 bookings are on average 78% below their level a year ago for the (Northern) winter quarter. The fall in forward bookings amidst the ongoing uncertainty indicates that the gradual recovery seen over the third quarter in air travel could falter in the fourth quarter.

Terms and Conditions for the use of this IATA Economics Report and its contents can be found here: [www.iata.org/economics-terms](http://www.iata.org/economics-terms)  
By using this IATA Economics Report and its contents in any manner, you agree that the IATA Economics Report Terms and Conditions apply to you and agree to abide by them. If you do not accept these Terms and Conditions, do not use this report.

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