COVID-19

Most air travel markets remain weak

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Air travel recovery slowed further in October. International stalled since August, domestic market growth slowed.

Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Statistics.
Domestic markets much stronger than international. Domestic load factors up to 70% but international deteriorating again.

Load factors on domestic and international markets

Domestic load factor
International load factor

Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Statistics
But differences between domestic markets continue. China domestic market has fully recovered but other markets lagging.

Growth in domestic market RPKs

Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Statistics
COVID-19 proving difficult to control ahead of vaccines
Cases falling after Europe lock-downs but now rising in other countries

New COVID19 cases per day, 7-day moving average

Source: IATA Economics using data from ECDC
Restrictions on international travel remain high
Screening/testing being introduced but majority passengers restricted

Source: IATA Economics analysis based on Oxford University data
So most international air travel markets remain weak. Within Europe continues to decline but N-C America rising significantly.

Growth in international RPKs by market segment:

- North-Central America
- Within Europe

% change year-on-year:


Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Statistics
Relaxing UK quarantine requirement boosts bookings

Bookings on UK-US market double after 23 Nov. UK policy change

Passenger bookings between the UK and the US before and after announcement of ‘Test to release’ policy on 23 Nov (7-day moving average)

Source: IATA Economics analysis based on data from DDS
Vaccine news has not yet transformed travel intentions
As of 29 November searches of flight search sites up, but not by much

Source: IATA Economics using data from Google trends, worldwide searches
Forward bookings up but still exceptionally weak
Usual peak season for air travel facing bookings down 80% at present

Cumulative bookings for air travel within the EU between Dec 15 – Jan 10, 2019 vs. 2020

4 weeks prior to travel, normally airlines would have already sold ~63% of tickets

Source: IATA Economics using DDS ticketing data
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