Media briefing

Overview of air transport in 2021 and recent developments

25 January 2022
RPKs recovered to 42% of 2019 levels in 2021
Air cargo remained strong (up 7% vs. 2019)

Source: IATA Monthly Statistics

Full year 2021 vs. full year 2019:
- RPKs & CTKs, % ch. vs. the same month in 2019
  - Global CTKs: 6.9%
  - Domestic RPKs: -28.2%
  - Total RPKs: -58.4%
  - International RPKs: -75.5%
Performance of domestic markets varied. Russia the strongest, China impacted by zero-COVID policy.

Domestic RPKs, % change vs. the same month in 2019

Full year 2021 vs. full year 2019:
- Australia: 24.2%
- Brazil: -27.2%
- China: -23.8%
- Russia: -24.4%
- US: -62.4%

Source: IATA Monthly Statistics
Recovery in international travel was slow
Asia Pacific lagged the rest of the industry due to closed borders

International RPKs, % change versus the same month in 2019

-65%
-72%
-93%

Full year 2021 vs. full year 2019:

Source: IATA Monthly Statistics
Premium and economy international RPKs recovering at the same rate

Premium and economy class international RPKs, % of 2019 levels

Int'l RPKs, % of the same month in 2019


Premium class
Economy class

Source: IATA Monthly Statistics
25 January 2022
But willingness to travel remains strong
Ticket sales rebounded in South Africa after Omicron restrictions eased

Source: IATA DDS, Our World In Data

25 January 2022
No clear link between new cases and travel restrictions
Restrictions often maintained after cases have fallen

Source: IATA Economics using data from ECDC, Oxford University
New COVID outbreaks put lower burden on healthcare
The start of a new phase of the pandemic?

Gap between new cases and hospitalizations widened
Limited impact of maintaining travel restrictions
Extended restrictions do not reduce new cases but damage economy

Source: Edge Health and Oxera
Pressures on operating costs are rising
Jet fuel price at elevated levels, labor costs up amid labor shortages

Jet fuel price development

Average jet fuel price as of 21 January 2022
101.1

Jet fuel price forecast as of October 2021
77.8

Source: IATA Economics Airline Industry Financial Forecast update, October 2021, Platts
25 January 2022
Airlines optimistic about passenger recovery
Cargo growth expected to ease from record-high but to remain strong

Business confidence, expected change in traffic growth over the next 12 months

Passenger volumes
Cargo volumes

Weighted score:
>50 improvement
=50 no change
<50 decrease

Source: IATA Business Confidence Survey - January 2022 – preliminary results