

# **STATE OF THE REGION: EUROPE**

# **NOVEMBER 2017**

## Economy

#### **GDP** growth, selected countries

%change on a yr ago	2016	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3
Germany	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.8
Russia	-0.2	0.5	2.5	
France	1.1	1.1	1.8	2.2
UK	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.5
Italy	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.8
Spain	3.3	3.0	3.1	
Turkey	3.2	5.2	5.1	
Israel	3.9	3.8	3.0	3.0
Euro zone	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.5
World*	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.8

Source: Datastream \* Market exchange rate basis <sup>†</sup> Estimate

#### **Exchange rates**

end of period, # per US\$	2016	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17
US\$ broad index	127.7	119.3	118.1	120.2
European euro (EUR)	0.95	0.84	0.85	0.86
Russian ruble (RUB)	60.4	58.1	57.6	58.4
British pound (GBP)	0.81	0.78	0.75	0.75
Turkish lira (TRY)	3.52	3.46	3.56	3.80
Israeli shekel (ILS)	3.84	3.58	3.53	3.52

Source: Datastream, XE

#### World oil and jet fuel price

US\$/barrel	2016	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17
Crude oil (Brent)	52.4	51.7	56.2	57.3
Jet fuel	64.0	65.6	75.6	69.6

Source: Platts, EIA Monthly average data

## Market

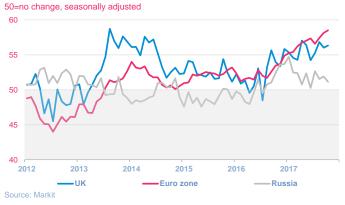
#### **Revenue passenger kilometers (RPKs)**

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%change on a yr ago	2016	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17
Region (registration basis)				
Europe	4.6	8.1	7.1	7.1
World	6.7	7.0	7.3	5.7
Routes (segment basis)				
Russia domestic	2.5	9.3	7.8	7.3
Within Europe	8.2	10.0	9.7	11.5
Europe - North America	2.5	3.2	4.7	3.3
Europe - Asia	1.8	6.5	5.4	7.1
Europe - Middle East	9.9	7.8	8.5	6.4
Europe - Africa	1.8	7.5	6.5	6.4
Europe - South America	3.5	3.8	-0.8	4.7

Source: IATA Statistics Note: historical data may be subject to revision

- Industry-wide RPKs grew by a solid 5.7%yoy in Sep, easing somewhat from the pace of recent months but adversely impacted by hurricane-related disruption in a number of markets, notably the US. We would expect this impact to be temporary & unwound next month.
- For European carriers, RPK growth was unchanged in Sep at a robust 7.1%yoy, although recent months have seen a slowing in the seasonally-adjusted trend.

## **Business confidence - manufacturing PMIs**



- Business confidence in the Eurozone rose to its highest level in 80 months. In Russia, slower increases in production & new orders, along with higher input costs, dampened business sentiment this month. The UK measure was largely unchanged on this occasion.
- → On a trade-weighted basis, the US\$ reversed some of its recent decline in Oct, rising by 1.8%. Of the key regional currencies, falls were generally in the order of 1-1.5% vs the US\$; the TRY was the outlier, down a sharp 6.7%.
- Brent crude oil prices moved above US\$60/bbl in Oct to average \$57.30 for the month. Jet fuel retraced some of its Sep surge, falling \$6 to average \$69.60 & narrowing the crack spread substantially. Tensions between Saudi Arabia & Iran continue to weigh on the market.
- → Russia domestic RPK growth eased a little again this month, but are still up a healthy 7.3% compared with a year ago. Of the main domestic markets that we track, Russia has the highest pax load factor, at almost 85%.
- Amongst the key international markets for the region's carriers, Within Europe has returned to a double-digit pace of growth, leading the way at 11.5%yoy. Europe-Asia follows, with growth stepping up to 7.1%yoy in Sep.

Growth in air passenger volumes



## Freight tonne kilometers (FTKs)

2016	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17
7.6	12.2	11.9	10.3
3.7	10.3	11.6	9.2
3.9	11.1	11.8	8.6
2.5	12.9	14.6	8.1
7.1	18.0	20.7	14.5
-5.5	7.9	3.5	1.3
1.2	4.1	5.7	11.9
23.3	40.1	36.7	28.6
	7.6 3.7 3.9 2.5 7.1 -5.5 1.2	7.6 12.2   3.7 10.3   3.9 11.1   2.5 12.9   7.1 18.0   -5.5 7.9   1.2 4.1	7.6   12.2   11.9     3.7   10.3   11.6     3.9   11.1   11.8     2.5   12.9   14.6     7.1   18.0   20.7     -5.5   7.9   3.5     1.2   4.1   5.7

Source: IATA Statistics Note: historical data may be subject to revision

- ➔ Global FTK growth slowed to a 5-month low of 9.2%yoy in Sep, but remains well above its 5 & 10-year average rates of growth. While weather may have also impacted freight outcomes, this comes amidst broader & ongoing signs that FTKs have passed the cyclical growth peak.
- → Nonetheless, FTK growth for the European airlines remained in double-digits this month (10.3%), continuing to outperform the overall industry-wide outcome.

## Industry

### Capacity growth and load factors

ASK/AFTK: %ch ago, LF: %of A		2016	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17
Passenger					
Europe	ASK	4.7	6.7	5.8	5.3
	PLF	82.4	88.5	88.1	86.4
World	ASK	6.7	6.4	6.4	5.3
	PLF	80.5	84.7	84.6	81.6
Freight					
Europe	AFTK	7.9	5.7	5.1	5.6
	FLF	44.0	43.6	43.0	45.0
World	AFTK	5.4	3.1	4.2	3.9
	FLF	42.9	43.4	43.2	45.5

Source: IATA Statistics. Note: LF=seasonally adjusted load factor. ASK=available seat kilometers. AFTK=available freight tonne kilometers

- → A mixed performance in load factors this month, with the PLF falling moderately but a gain of broadly similar magnitude for the FLF, at both the industry-wide level and for the European carriers.
- → The industry-wide PLF was 81.6%, remaining below the very strong 86.4% performance from the European carriers. For freight, the European carrier FLF is a little below that of the industry, at 45.0% vs 45.5%.
- ➔ The increase in pax capacity by European carriers over the past year matches that of the overall industry, at 5.3%. European AFTKs, however, have increased by 5.6%, outpacing the industry-wide 3.9%.
- The initial Q3 financial data show a modest decline in

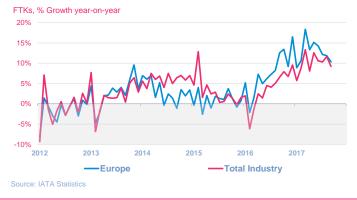
#### Airline operating (EBIT) margins\*

%revenues	2015	2016	2016Q3	2017Q3
Europe	5.4	6.1	22.2	20.3
Industry	8.5	8.8	18.2	16.3

Source: Airline Analyst \* constant sample basis, not seasonally adjusted IATA Economics: www.iata.org/economics

- → Supported by an improved economic backdrop & solid export orders, European carriers have so far shrugged off headwinds from the recent euro appreciation.
- → The robust growth performance is widespread across key international markets, with the exception Europe-Africa. FTKs in the two largest markets (Asia & NthAm) are growing by 8-8.5% yoy. The smaller Within Europe market is still the fastest growing, up 29% yoy in Sep.

#### Growth in air freight volumes



the EBIT margin of ~2pp for both the industry overall & the European airlines compared with a year ago. The seasonally strong quarter for the region shows an initial EBIT margin outcome of 20.3%, outperforming the industry-wide figure of 16.3%.

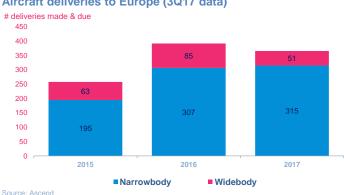
→ The upward trend in global pax yields (in US\$ terms) paused in Sep, although for key regional markets the up-trend was generally maintained. Europe-Sth America & Russia domestic are the strongest performing markets, with double-digit yield increases vs a year ago. Only for Europe-Africa are yields lower than a year ago.

#### Passenger yields (US\$, excl. surcharges & ancillaries)

%change on a yr ago	2016	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17
Russia domestic	5.2	11.9	13.1	10.8
Within Europe	-7.6	3.0	2.9	3.1
Europe - North America	-8.3	-2.3	-1.1	1.9
Europe - Asia	-10.3	4.7	4.8	5.7
Europe - Middle East	-11.5	2.5	0.6	2.9
Europe - Africa	-8.3	-1.4	-2.2	-0.6
Europe - South America	-17.5	10.0	12.1	14.6

Source: IATA PaxIS Note: historical data may be subject to revision

#### Aircraft deliveries to Europe (3Q17 data)



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