COVID-19
Update on air cargo and air travel markets in March

Brian Pearce
Chief Economist
4th May 2021
Record high for air cargo tonne km flown in March
Cargo tonne km (CTKs) flown rise 4.4% above pre-crisis March 2019 level

Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Monthly Statistics
But cargo performance differs widely by airline region. N American airlines show strong growth in air cargo, in contrast to L America.

Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Monthly Statistics.
Global air travel improved in March but no strong trend. Global RPKs 67.2% lower than March 2019 but not much better than Q4.

Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Monthly Statistics.
Strong rise in domestic RPKs but international stays low

Domestic just 32.3% down vs March 2019, but international down 87.8%

Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Monthly Statistics
Border travel restrictions stay high with new COVID cases. New cases surge in India and still high in many other regions.

Source: IATA Economics using data from ECDC
China rebounded, US strengthening. India relatively small

Domestic US + China represented 55% global RPKs in March, India 3%

Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Monthly Statistics
Bookings point to strong domestic travel next few months
Domestic bookings point to further growth but international still weak

Bookings all future travel dates, 7 days moving average
Indexed at Jan, 2020=100

Source: IATA Economics using data from DDS
Contacts

economics@iata.org

www.iata.org/economics