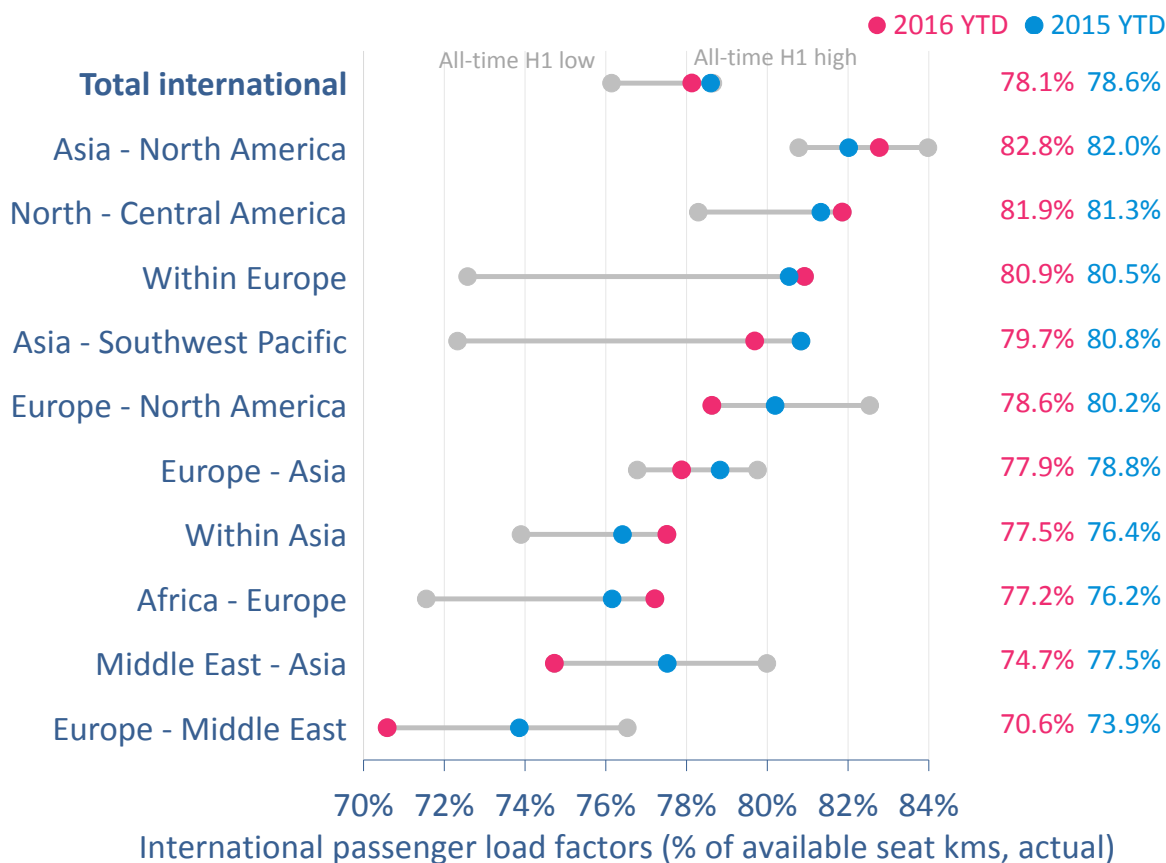




# IATA ECONOMICS' CHART OF THE WEEK

19 AUGUST 2016

## WIDE VARIATION IN LOAD FACTORS BY INTERNATIONAL ROUTE



Sources: IATA Economics, IATA Monthly Statistics by Route

\*International route data are available from 2010.

- Airlines have kept load factors close to historic highs so far in 2016: the industry-wide load factor was 79.2% in the first half of the year – only 0.2 percentage points lower than the record high seen in H1 2015. Sustained high load factors are helping to support ongoing solid financial results in the industry. Now that international route-level data are available for the first half of 2016, this week's chart looks at load factor developments for the 10 largest international markets.
- The main thing that stands out is the wide variation in both the level of load factors, and the change seen since the first half of 2015, at a route level. Four routes posted all-time period high loads in H1 2016, while three posted all-time lows (note that route-level data are available from 2010 onwards).
- Despite robust traffic growth, the routes from the Middle East to Asia and Europe saw the biggest annual declines in load factors in the first half of the year. This ties in with broader downward trends in loads for Middle Eastern routes over the past 18 months or so. Loads also slipped back on the large routes from Europe to Asia and North America as demand has weakened, possibly linked to passengers being concerned by recent terrorist attacks in Europe.
- On the other hand, the two largest international markets in terms of RPKs flown – those within Europe and Asia – both saw loads increase to all-time period highs in H1 alongside robust demand growth of 8.4% and 6.4% year-on-year, respectively. In fact, the load factor on the Within Europe market increased for the sixth consecutive year, to 80.9%.

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