

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

## APR 2021: Air Transport Monthly Monitor

World Results and Analyses for FEB 2021. Total scheduled services (domestic and international).

Air Transport Bureau E-mail: ecd@icao.int

**GLOBAL KEY FIGURES** 

**FEB 2021** (versus FEB 2019)

**RPK ▼** -74.7% **ASK ▼** -63.1% **FTK** • +9.0%

**OUTLOOK\* - MAR 2021** 

(versus MAR 2019)

**ASK 7** -56.2%

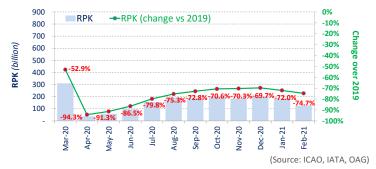
\* Source OAG

#### PASSENGER TRAFFIC

#### Revenue Passenger-Kilometres - RPK

http://www.icao.int/sustainability/Pages/Air-Traffic-Monitor.aspx

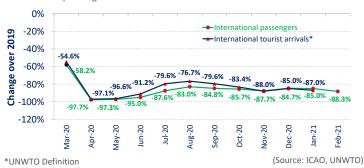
World passenger traffic fell by -74.7% in February 2021 (compared to 2019), -2.7 percentage points lower than the decline in the previous month. Surging new COVID-19 cases along with stringent travel restrictions have caused further deterioration in both international and domestic traffic. All regions contributed to the global weakness, with Asia/Pacific and Europe recording the largest slowdown. While improvements were observed in domestic Australia and US, most major domestic markets trended downward, particularly domestic China which marked a slump.



#### **International Passengers vs. Tourist Arrivals**

International passenger numbers fell by -88.3% in February 2021 (compared to 2019), -3.3 percentage points down from the decline in the previous month. Travel restrictions remained strict, and international traffic worsened for all regions, particularly Europe and Latin America/Caribbean.

The international tourist arrivals also remained stagnant and followed a similar trend as international passenger traffic.

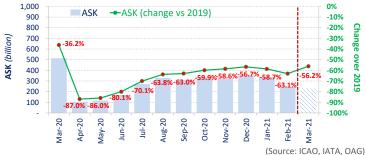


#### **CAPACITY**

#### Available Seat-Kilometres - ASK

**LF**: 55.4% ▼ -25.2 pt

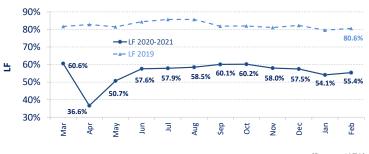
Capacity worldwide fell by -63.1% in February 2021 (compared to 2019), -4.4 percentage points down from the decline in the previous month (-58.7%). With signs of easing pressure on domestic travel, capacity is likely to be restored in March 2021 reaching a fall of -56.2% from the 2019 level.



#### Load Factor - LF

The passenger Load Factor reached 55.4% in February 2021, +1.3 percentage points higher than the previous month.

As air travel demand fell faster than capacity, the February LF was -25.2 percentage points lower than the rate in the same period of 2019.

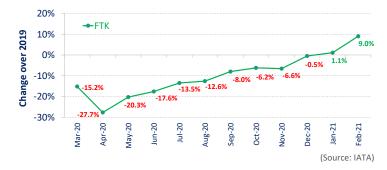


(Source: IATA)

#### FREIGHT TRAFFIC

#### Freight Tonne-Kilometres - FTK

World freight traffic reported a growth of +9.0% in February 2021 (compared to 2019), +7.9 percentage points up from the growth in the previous month. In contrast to passenger traffic, freight traffic continued to rise sharply, despite the intensified pandemic situation. Air cargo demand remained strong, supported by the robust developments in manufacturing and goods trade during the global economic recovery. All regions, except for Latin America/Caribbean, showed expansion in freight traffic. Africa recorded the fastest growth and topped the growth chart, followed by North America, which also expanded double-digitally. Latin America/Caribbean continued to lag behind other regions, and was the only region with decline from 2019 level.





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#### TOP 15 AIRPORTS (Ranked by aircraft departures, passengers and volume of freight)

FEB 2021: -28.0%, -52.3%, and +19.6% (vs. 2019) in terms of aircraft departures, passengers and freight for the Top 15

FEB 21

(Source: ACI)

| Airports (ranking by number of departures) | Departures | YoY             | Airports (ranking by number of passengers) | Passengers* | YoY             | Airports (ranking by tonnes of freight) | Freight** | YoY             |
|--|------------|-----------------|--|-------------|-----------------|---|-----------|-----------------|
| Atlanta GA, US (ATL)                       | 22,769     | <b>↓</b> -30.7% | New Delhi, IN (DEL)                        | 1,609,556   | <b>-40.1%</b>   | Hong Kong SAR, CN (HKG)                 | 307,000   | <b>1</b> 4.0%   |
| Chicago IL, US (ORD)                       | 18,526     | <b>-42.1%</b>   | Atlanta GA, US (ATL)                       | 1,602,847   | <b>-58.0%</b>   | Memphis TN, US (MEM)                    | 288,967   | <b>↓</b> -14.9% |
| Dallas/Fort Worth TX, US (DFW)             | 18,396     | <b>-27.4</b> %  | Denver CO, US (DEN)                        | 1,397,648   | -39.1%          | Shanghai, CN (PVG)                      | 286,468   | <b>48.6%</b>    |
| Denver CO, US (DEN)                        | 17,119     | <b>↓</b> -21.2% | Chengdu, CN (CTU)                          | 1,310,361   | <b>4</b> -44.5% | Incheon, KR (ICN)                       | 233,383   | <b>1</b> 32.3%  |
| Charlotte NC, US (CLT)                     | 15,425     | <b>↓</b> -28.6% | Dallas/Fort Worth TX, US (DFW)             | 1,264,576   | <b>-50.8%</b>   | Anchorage AK, US (ANC)                  | 230,647   | <b>45.6%</b>    |
| Phoenix AZ, US (DVT)                       | 13,884     | <b>↓</b> -18.8% | Guangzhou, CN (CAN)                        | 1,157,227   | <b>-60.7%</b>   | Doha, QA (DOH)                          | 198,862   | <b>1</b> 29.0%  |
| Los Angeles CA, US (LAX)                   | 13,781     | <b>45.9%</b>    | Shenzhen, CN (SZX)                         | 1,090,257   | <b>-50.4%</b>   | Louisville KY, US (SDF)                 | 194,454   | <b>11.0%</b>    |
| New Delhi, IN (DEL)                        | 13,647     | <b>-23.9%</b>   | Charlotte NC, US (CLT)                     | 1,059,983   | <b>41.3%</b>    | Taipei, CN (TPE)                        | 192,617   | <b>1</b> 54.2%  |
| Phoenix AZ, US (PHX)                       | 12,649     | <b>-25.8%</b>   | Kunming, CN (KMG)                          | 1,012,342   | <b>-51.0</b> %  | Chicago IL, US (ORD)                    | 187,443   | <b>1</b> 62.2%  |
| Long Beach CA, US (LGB)                    | 12,271     | <b>f</b> 5.0%   | Chicago IL, US (ORD)                       | 995,419     | <b>↓</b> -63.3% | Tokyo, JP (NRT)                         | 187,149   | <b>1</b> 32.0%  |
| Miami FL, US (MIA)                         | 12,039     | -31.9%          | Orlando FL, US (MCO)                       | 994,378     | <b>4</b> -49.4% | Los Angeles CA, US (LAX)                | 181,665   | <b>1</b> 33.7%  |
| Guangzhou, CN (CAN)                        | 11,858     | <b>↓</b> -37.5% | Phoenix AZ, US (PHX)                       | 896,292     | <b>4</b> -49.5% | Miami FL, US (MIA)                      | 179,964   | <b>11.6%</b>    |
| Salt Lake City UT, US (SLC)                | 11,845     | <b>↓</b> -7.5%  | Mumbai, IN (BOM)                           | 890,047     | <b>-51.9%</b>   | Frankfurt, DE (FRA)                     | 173,906   | <b>14.3%</b>    |
| Seattle WA, US (SEA)                       | 11,441     | ·23.8%          | Jeju, KR (CJU)                             | 870,140     | <b>-24.8%</b>   | Dubai, AE (DXB)                         | 168,086   | <b>-14.0</b> %  |
| Daytona Beach FL, US (DAB)                 | 11,403     | <b>-19.8</b> %  | Dubai, AE (DXB)                            | 835,172     | <b>-75.6%</b>   | Paris, FR (CDG)                         | 147,000   | <b>-</b> 0.9%   |

Note: Total scheduled and non-scheduled services

In terms of aircraft departures, the Top 15 airports reported a combined fall of -28.0%, compared to 2019. Unlike previous months, the Top 15 was dominated by mostly US airports with two airports in Asia/Pacific.

Atlanta retained the 1st position with -30.7% decline.

Long Beach was the only Top 15 airport recording positive increase of +5.0%.

In terms of passengers, the Top 15 airports posted a total fall of -52.3%, compared to 2019. Rankings changed significantly in February. In addition to the US and Chinese, a few airports in Asia/Pacific and Middle East also appeared in the list. For the first time, New Delhi became 1st, albeit with a large YoY decline. The smallest fall was posted by Jeju (-24.8%) and Denver (-39.1%).

In terms of **freight**, the Top 15 airports reported a YoY increase of **+19.6**%, compared to 2019. Freight traffic continued to expand strongly. All Top 15 recording YoY growth, except for **Memphis** (**-14.9**%), **Dubai** (**-14.0**%) and **Paris** (**-0.9**%). **Hong Kong** retained the 1st position, while the largest expansion was recorded by **Chicago** at **+62.2**%.

## TOP 15 AIRLINE GROUPS (Ranked by RPK)

### FEB 2021: -70.2% (vs. 2019) in terms of RPK for the Top 15

In terms of RPK, the Top 15 airline groups accounted for 62.9% of the world's total RPK in February 2021 and declined by -70.2% compared to 2019. This decline was 4.5 percentage points smaller than the fall in world's average RPK, with all airlines in the Top 15 posting contractions.

February marked another month of deterioration in both international and domestic traffic. All airlines in the Top 15 recorded smaller RPKs compared to January, especially the Chinese airlines, due to the abrupt fall in domestic traffic.

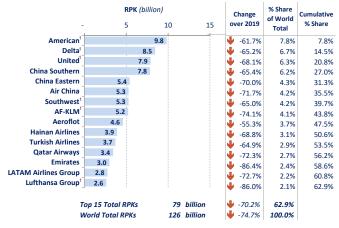
For the second consecutive month, the three major US airlines maintained the Top 3 positions. **American** ranked **1st**, followed by **Delta** and **United**. **Southwest** improved one position to **7th**. In average, all the US airlines in the Top 15 have recovered to around 35% of 2019 traffic levels.

The Chinese airlines in the Top 15, China Southern, China Eastern, Air China, and Hainan Airlines, posted sharp declines in traffic, driven by the limited travel during the Chinese New Year period. Compared to January, the Chinese airlines recorded 16-25% lower traffic. While the former three kept the same positions, the latter dropped one position to 10th.

Airlines in Europe further trended downward. AF-KLM went down to 8th, while Aeroflot and Turkish Airlines climbed up to 9th and 11th. Lufthansa ranked 15th and recorded the second largest fall.

Both Emirates and LATAM posted deeper decline and ranked 13th and 14th, respectively.

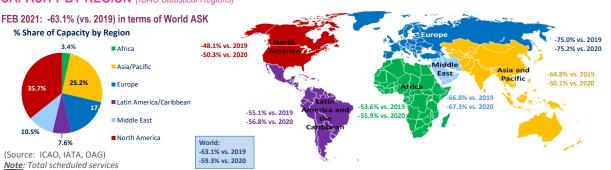
#### **FEB 21**



(Source: ICAO, airlines' websites)

<u>Note</u>: Total scheduled and non-scheduled services

### **CAPACITY BY REGION** (ICAO Statistical Regions)



Worldwide capacity contracted by -63.1% in February 2021, compared to 2019. Capacity offered in all regions was reduced, except for small increases in North America and Africa where travel restrictions eased slightly.

Europe continued to see the largest capacity decrease, followed by Asia/Pacific, mainly attributed to the fall in domestic China.