COVID-19 **Challenging outlook for** airlines, despite vaccine progress **Brian Pearce** 

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#### According to financial markets pandemic is over Challenges for air travel recognized in sub-par airlines share prices

Equity price indices, January 2020 = 100





Source: IATA Economics using data from Refinitiv Eikon

#### Transition from cash burn to cash generation in sight But difficult next 6 months for airlines as cash burn continues

Airline industry quarterly cash burn forecast



Source: IATA Economics

#### November data shows stalling of global air travel Global RPKs slowed after summer rise almost to a complete stop

Global RPKs, billion, seasonally adjusted



#### Domestic recovery stopped in November International down 88%, while domestic recovery halted at -41% y-o-y

Growth in international and domestic RPKs



Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Statistics

#### Setbacks in Russia and China due to virus challenges Even domestic air travel markets vulnerable to virus control problems

Growth in domestic market RPKs





# 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> waves of COVID19 hit Europe and N America Summer travel recovery halted as travel restrictions reimposed

New COVID-19 cases per week





Source: IATA Economics using data from WHO, ECDC

#### International air travel recovery mostly absent 2<sup>nd</sup> wave stopped Europe, but testing policies helping Americas revival

Growth in international RPKs by market segment



Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Statistics

# Bookings weakening despite vaccine news Forward bookings rise on vaccine news reversed at year end



Source: IATA Economics using data from DDS

# Bookings indicate a weak Q1, before any vaccine boost Forward bookings down more than 80% year-on-year in February/March





Source: IATA Economics using data from DDS

# Contacts

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