

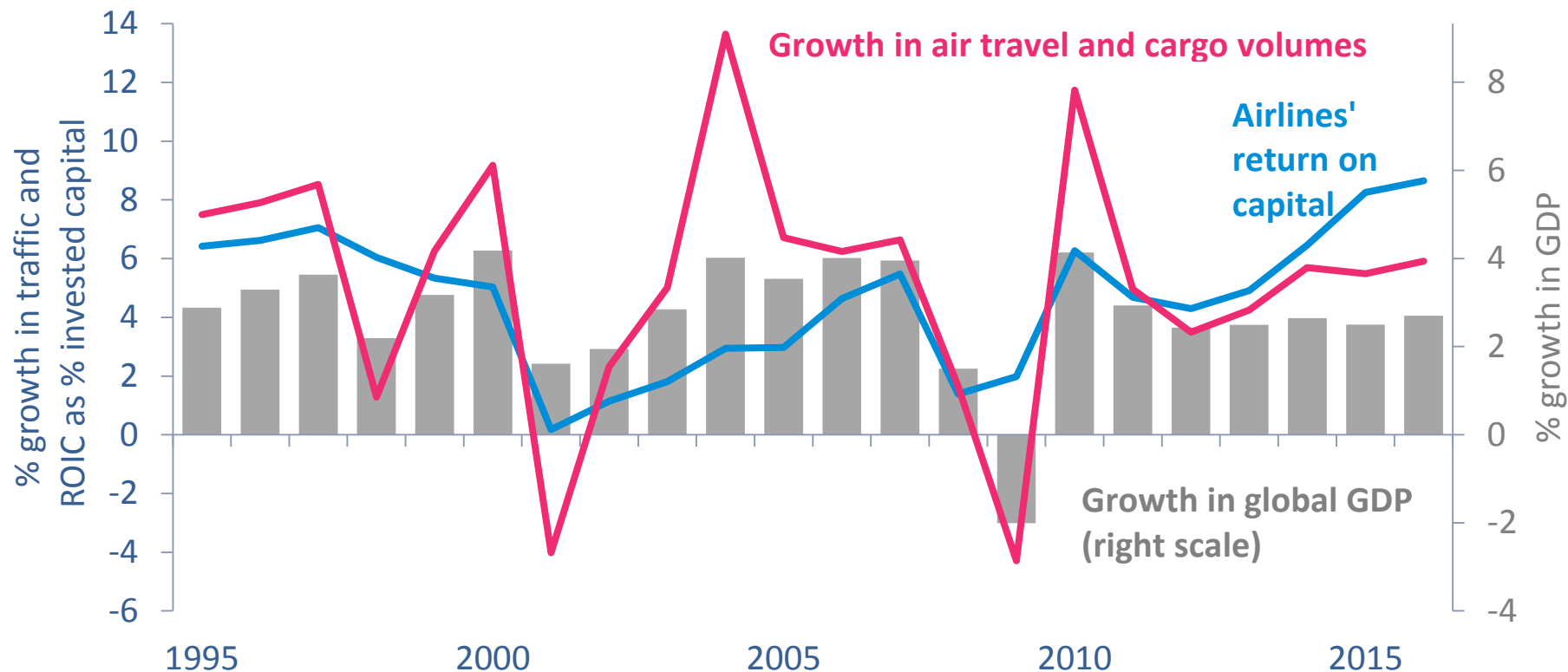
Signs of a structural improvement in airlines' financial health?

February 2016

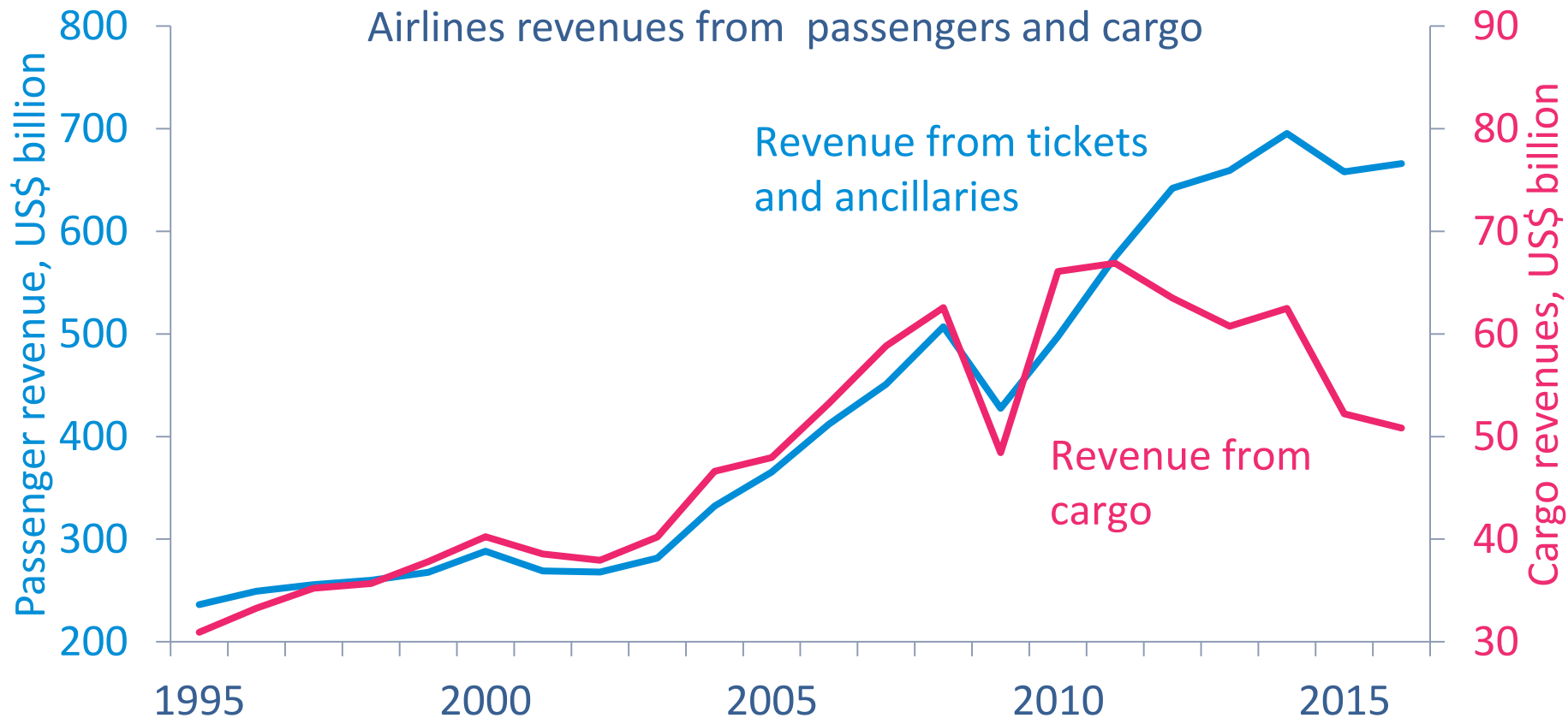
Brian Pearce
Chief Economist
International Air Transport Association

Structural not cyclical gains (or just cheap fuel)?

Global GDP growth, airline industry ROIC and air traffic growth

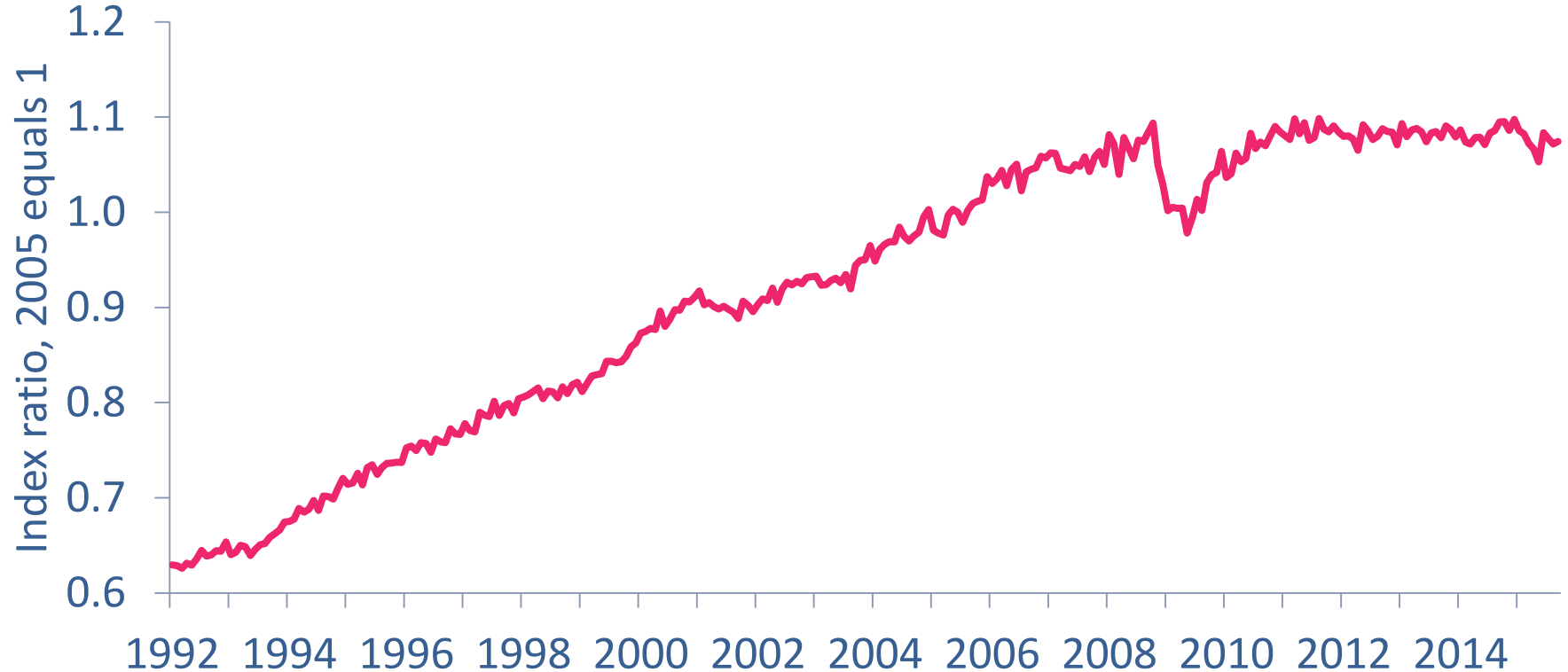


Travel business very strong, cargo very weak

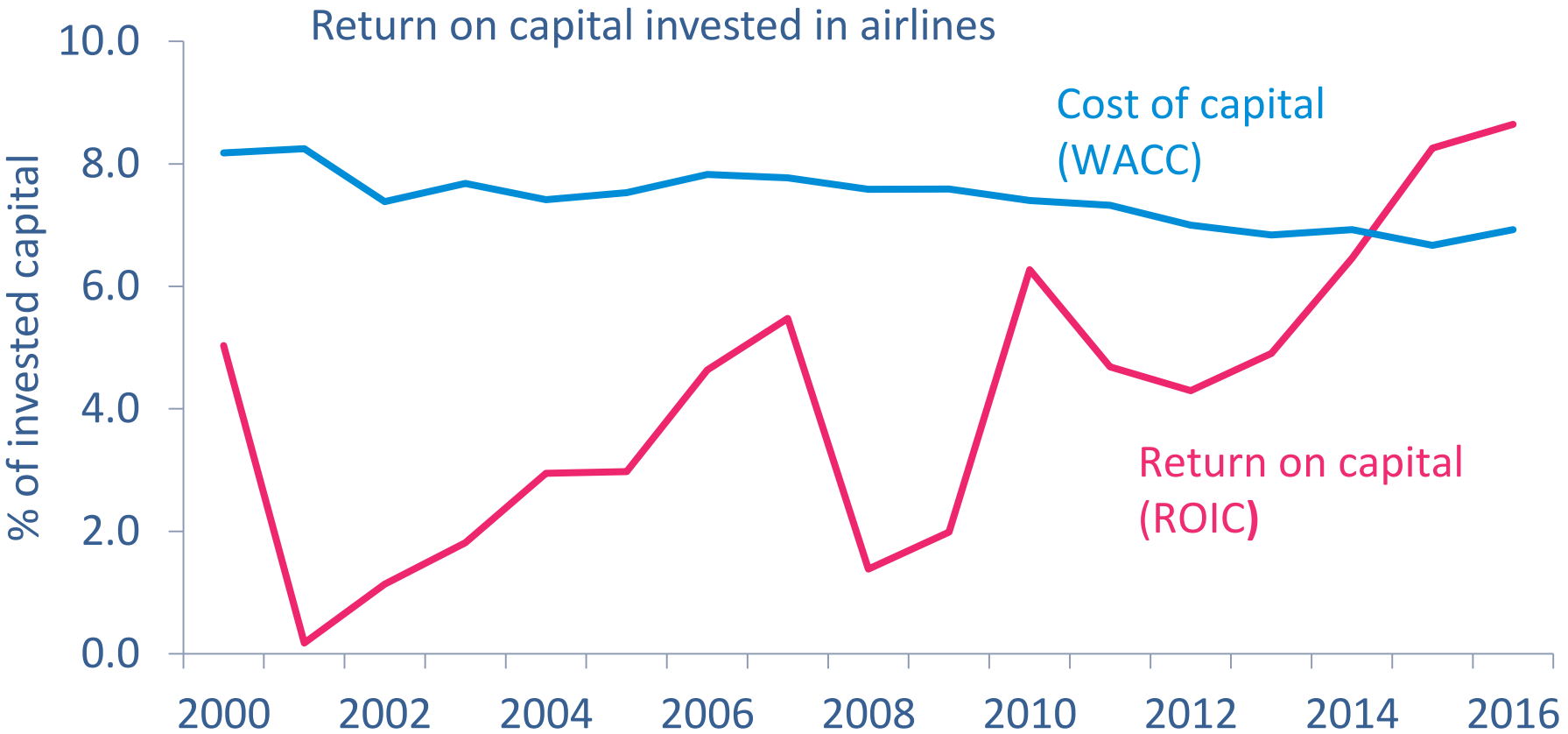


Not all structural change is good

International trade compared to global industrial production



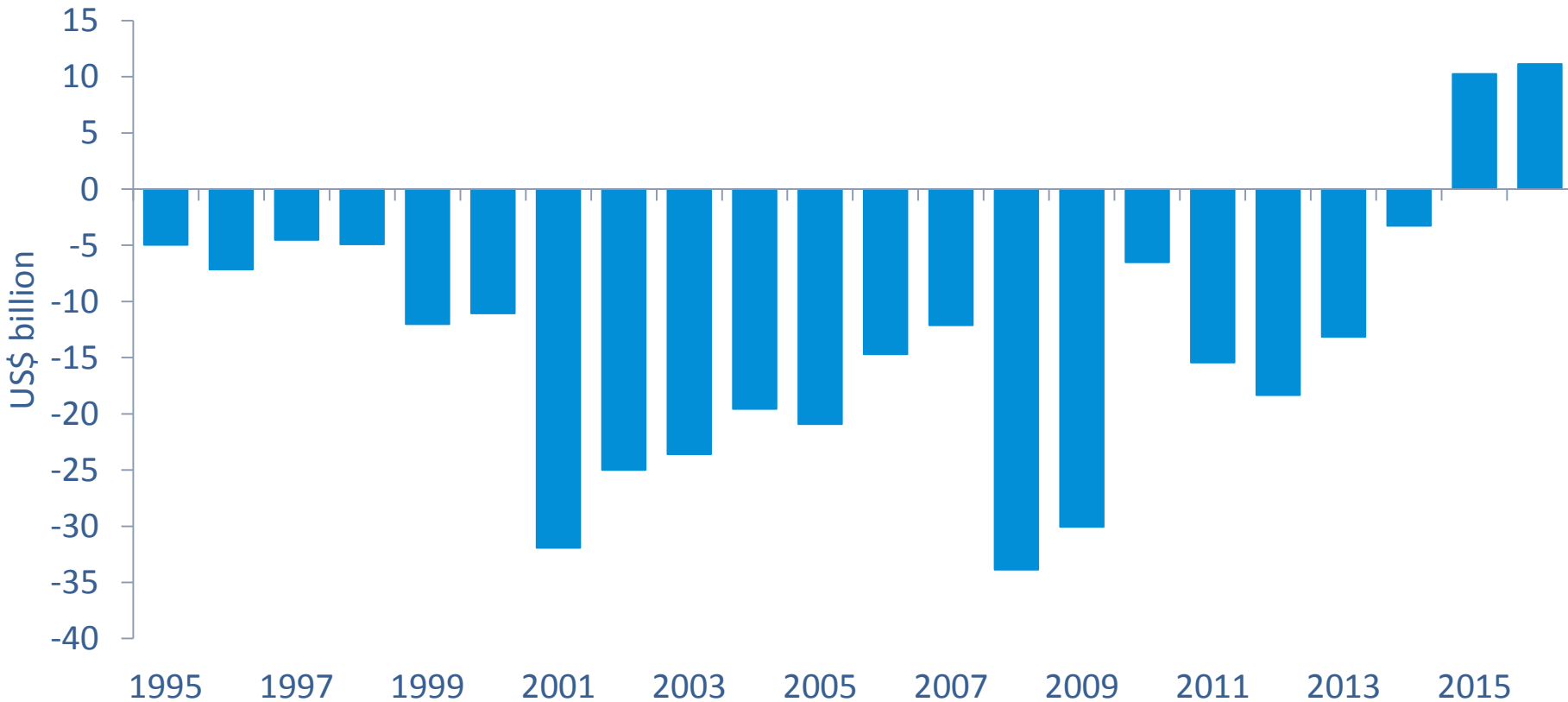
Airline investors paid a 'normal' return for 1st time



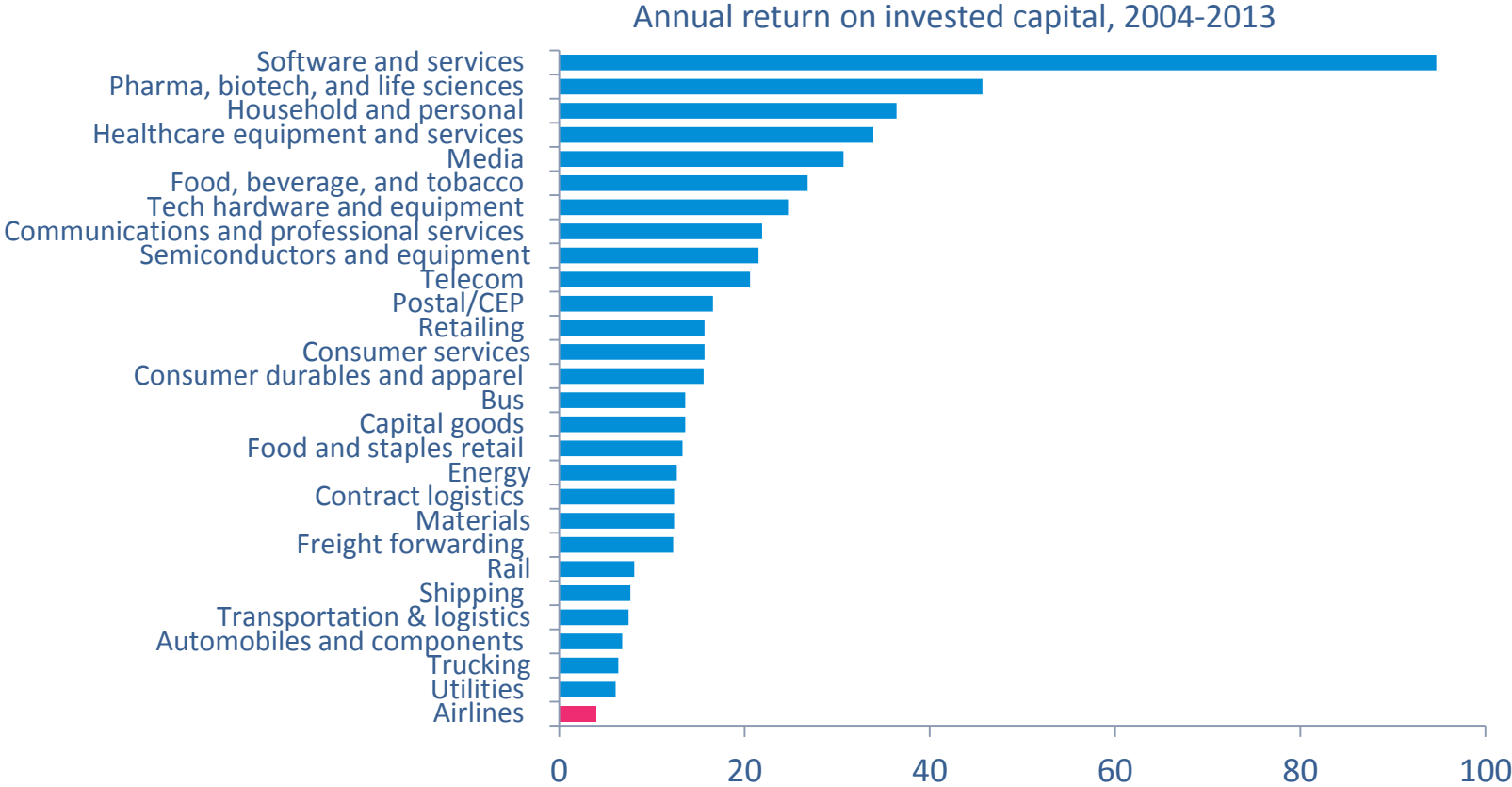
Source: McKinsey, IATA

Ending decades of investor capital destruction (?)

Difference between investing in airlines and investing in similar assets elsewhere



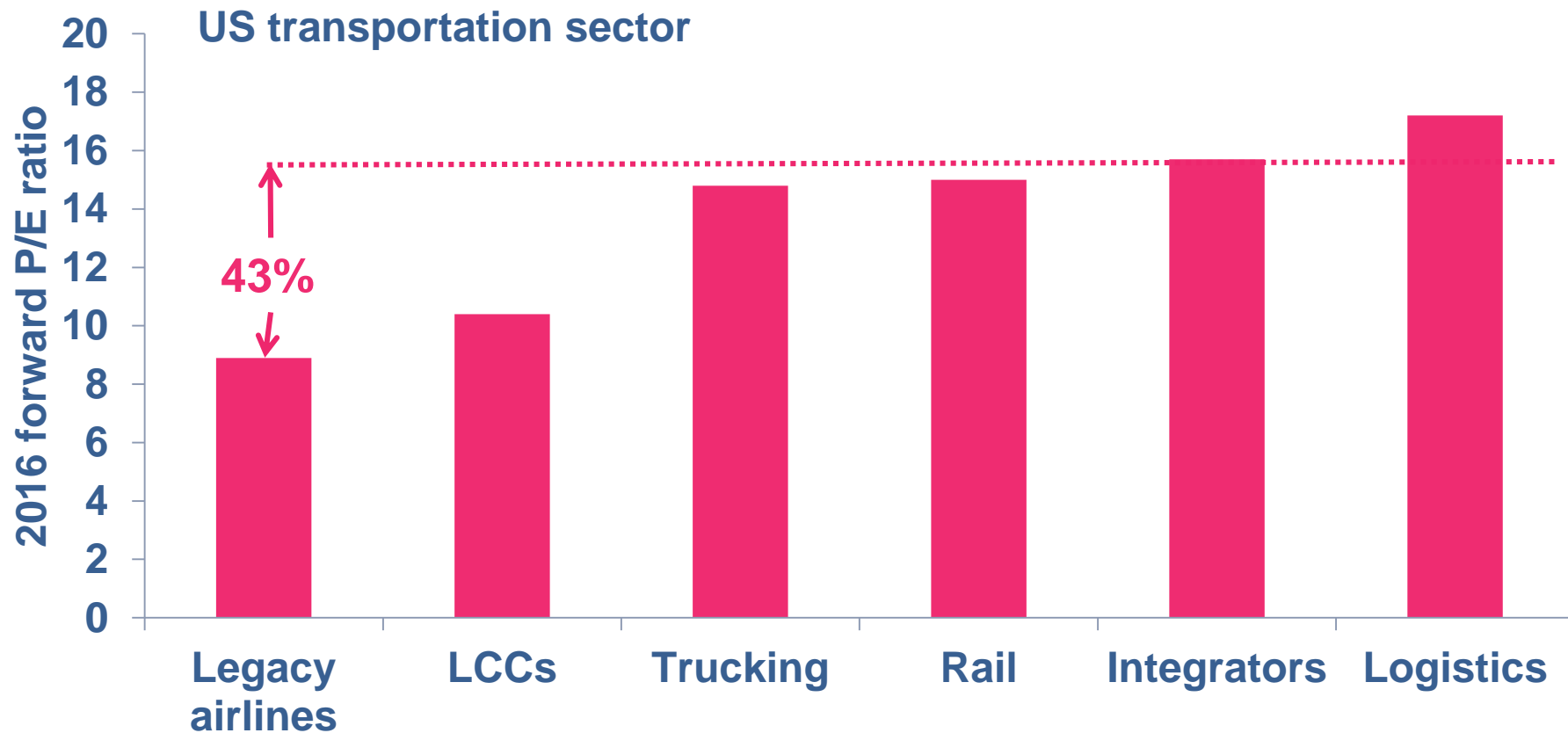
And awful relative performance



Debt finance markets still sceptical of change

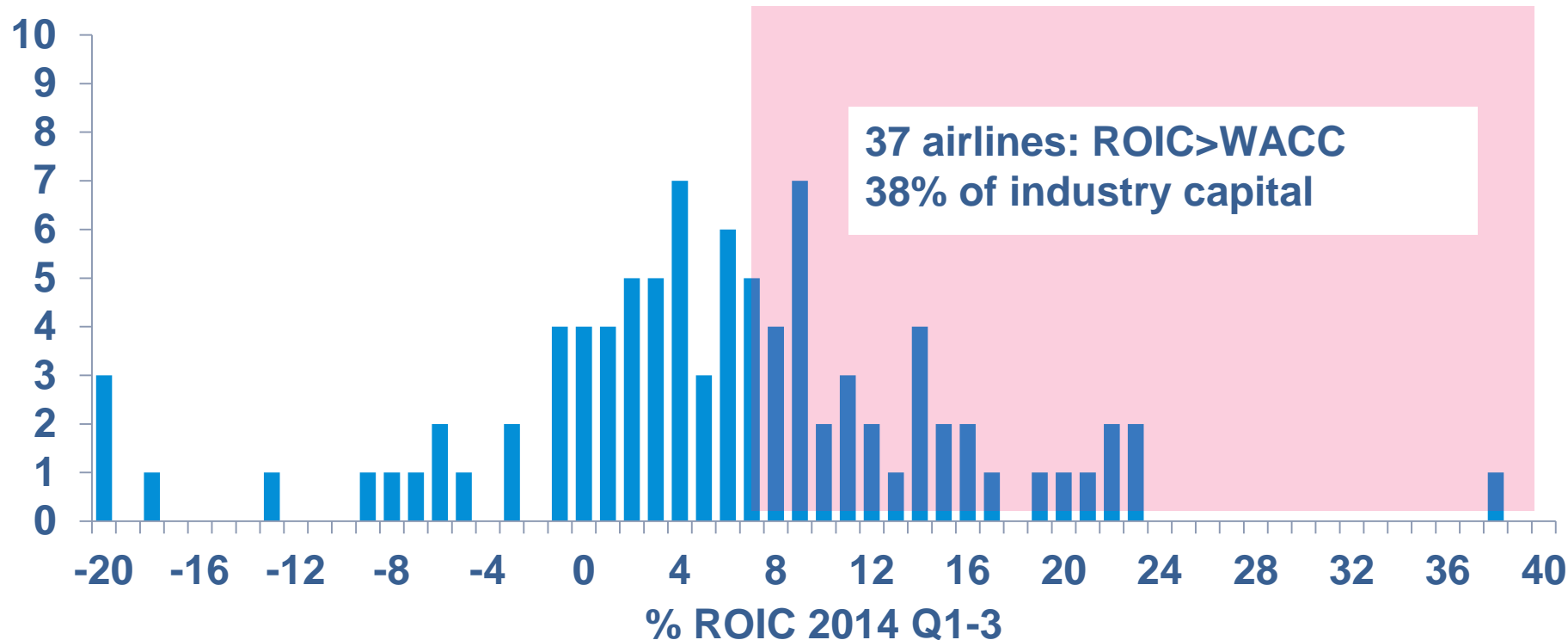
AA+/-		Investment grade
A+/-		
BBB+/-	ANZ, Qantas, Lufthansa, Ryanair, Southwest, Alaska, Westjet	
BB+/-	Delta, American, United, Allegiant, Spirit, BA, Turkish, LATAM	
B+/-	Air Canada, Hawaiian, JetBlue, Avianca, GOL, SAS, Virgin Australia	

As are equity markets

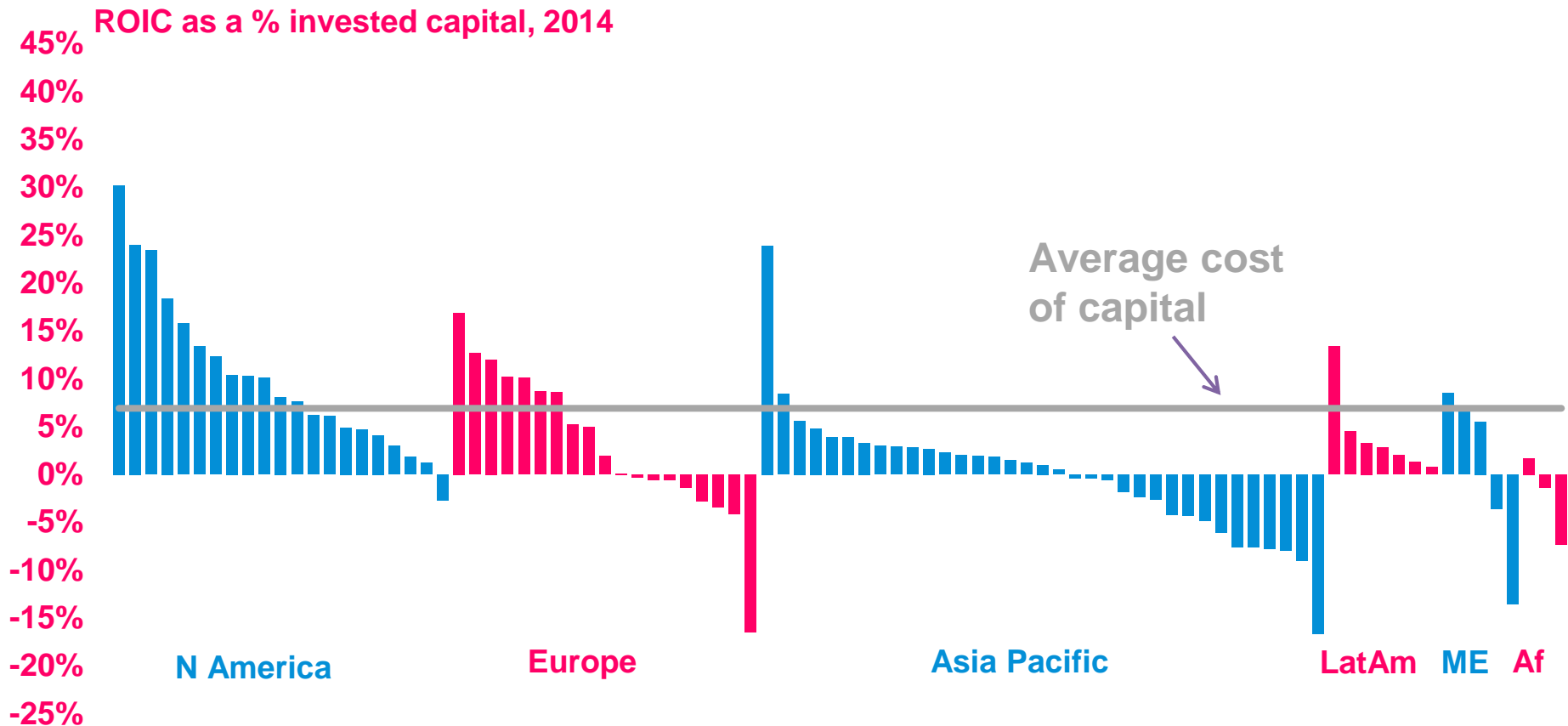


ROIC improvement in 2014 was narrowly based

Number of airlines in ROIC band



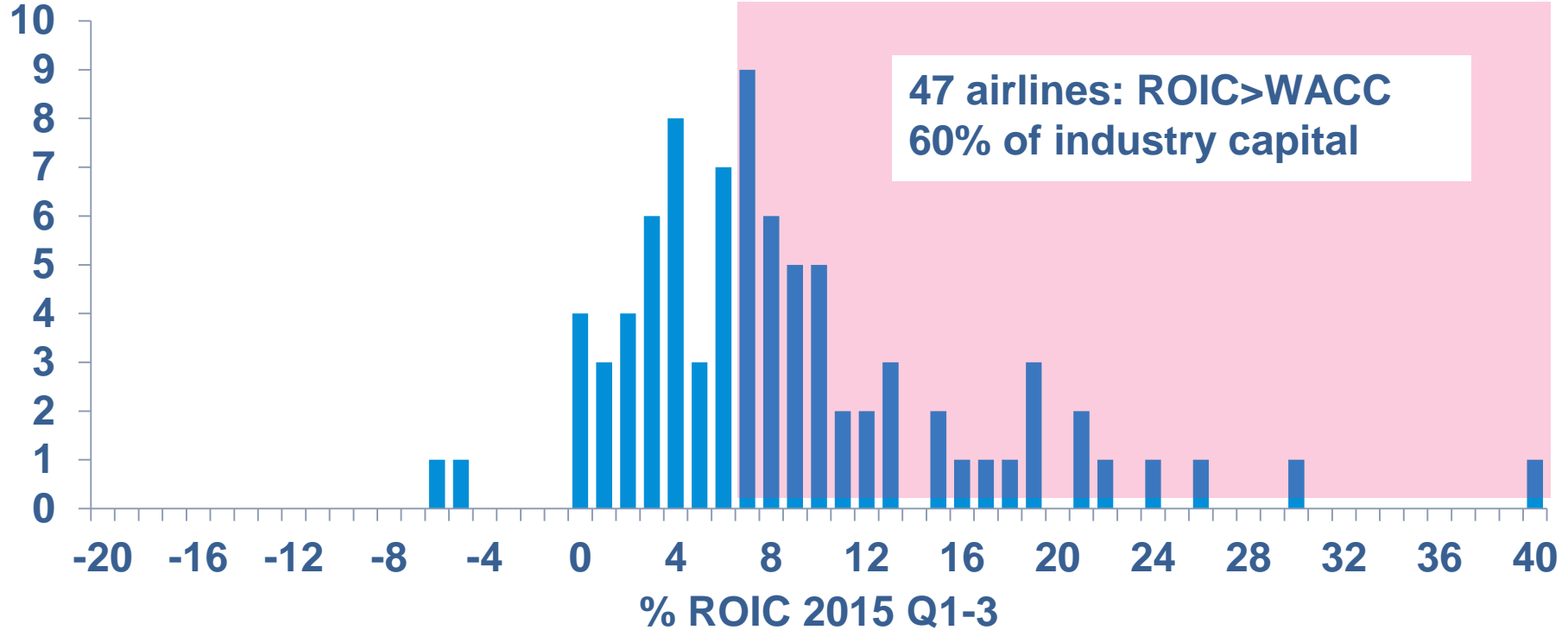
ROIC>WACC concentrated mostly in US in 2014



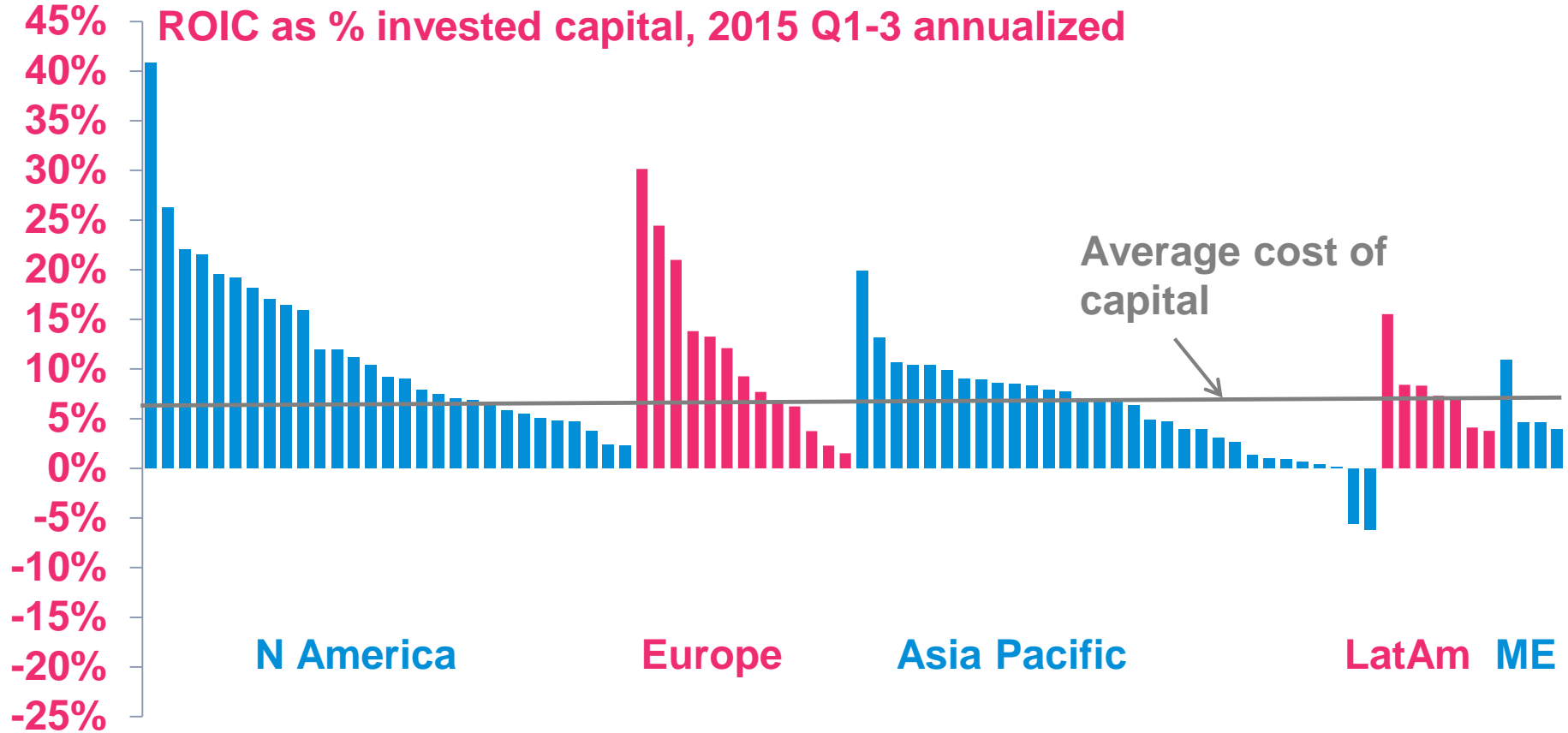
Source: The Airlines Analyst, IATA Economics

But last year ROIC improvement spread

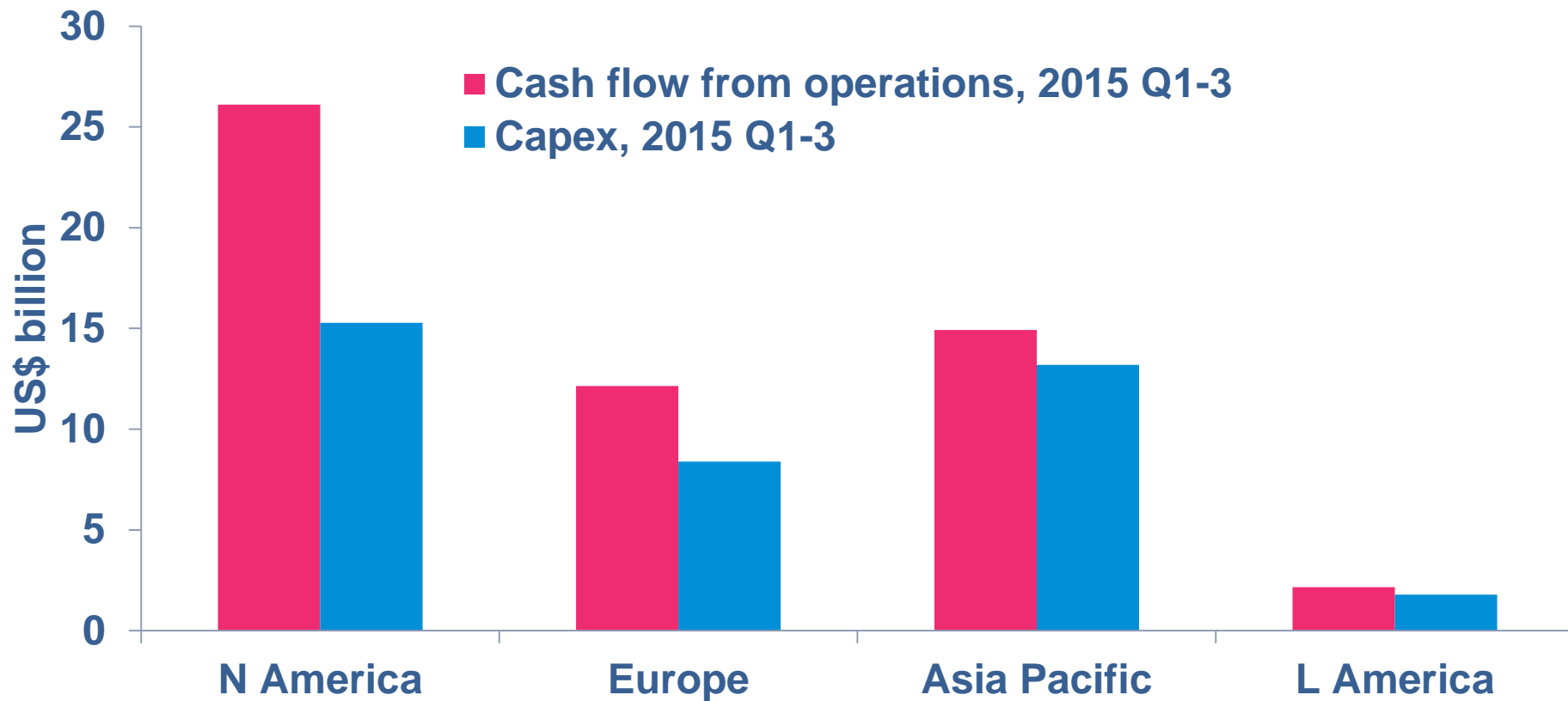
Number of airlines in ROIC band



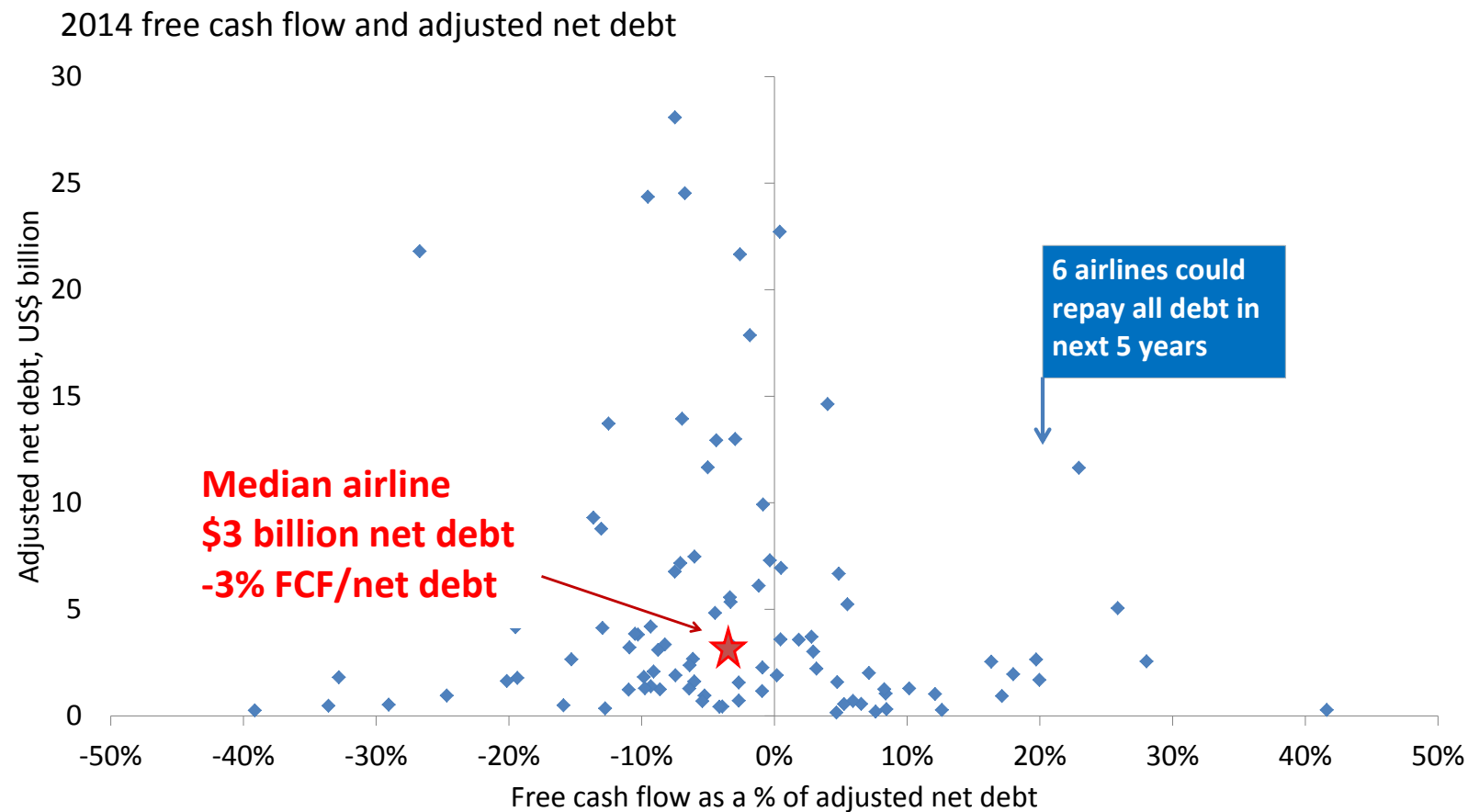
Returns rose in US, Europe and spread to Asia



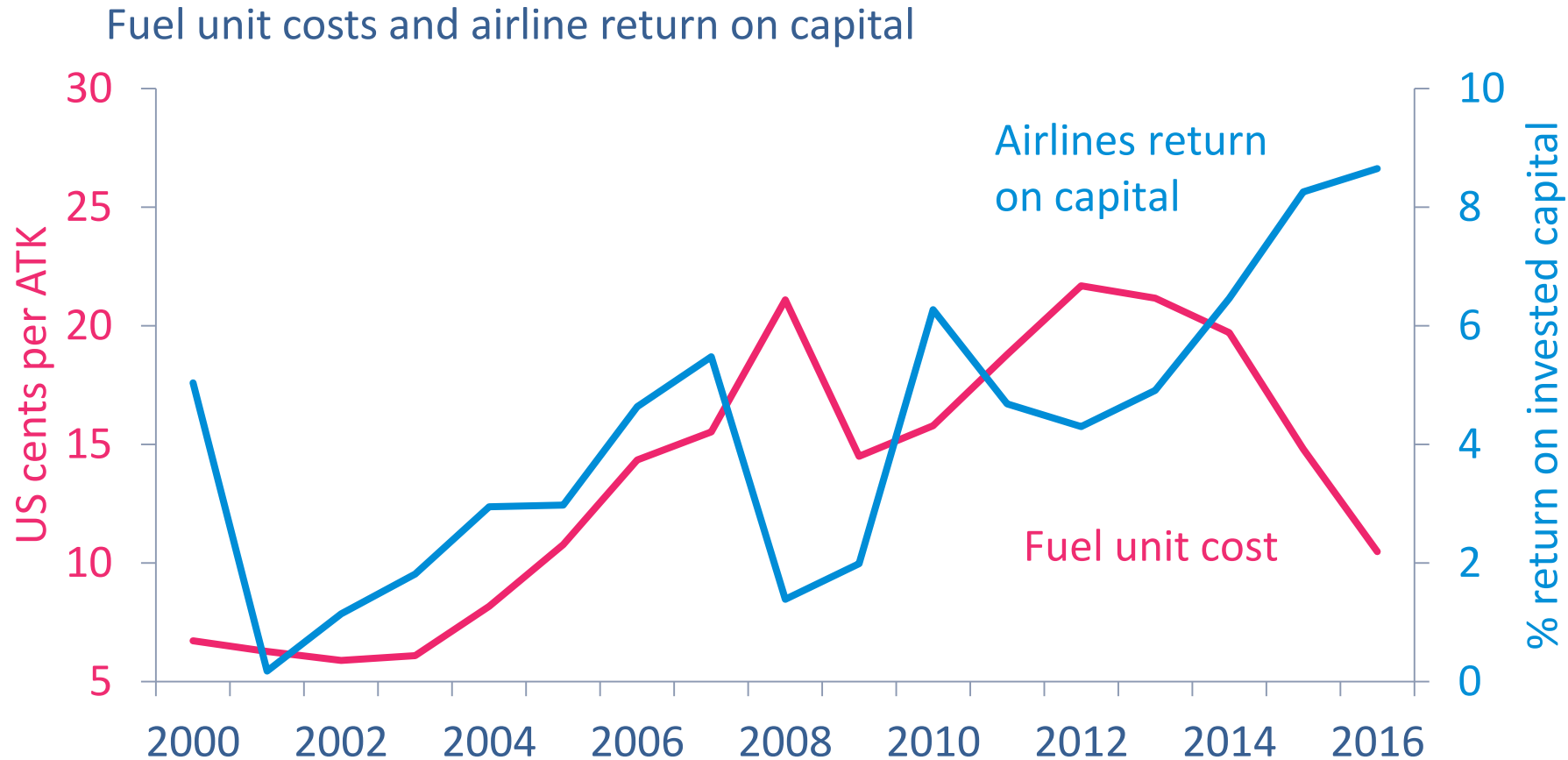
Unprecedented FCF in the US



Allowing significant balance sheet repair for some

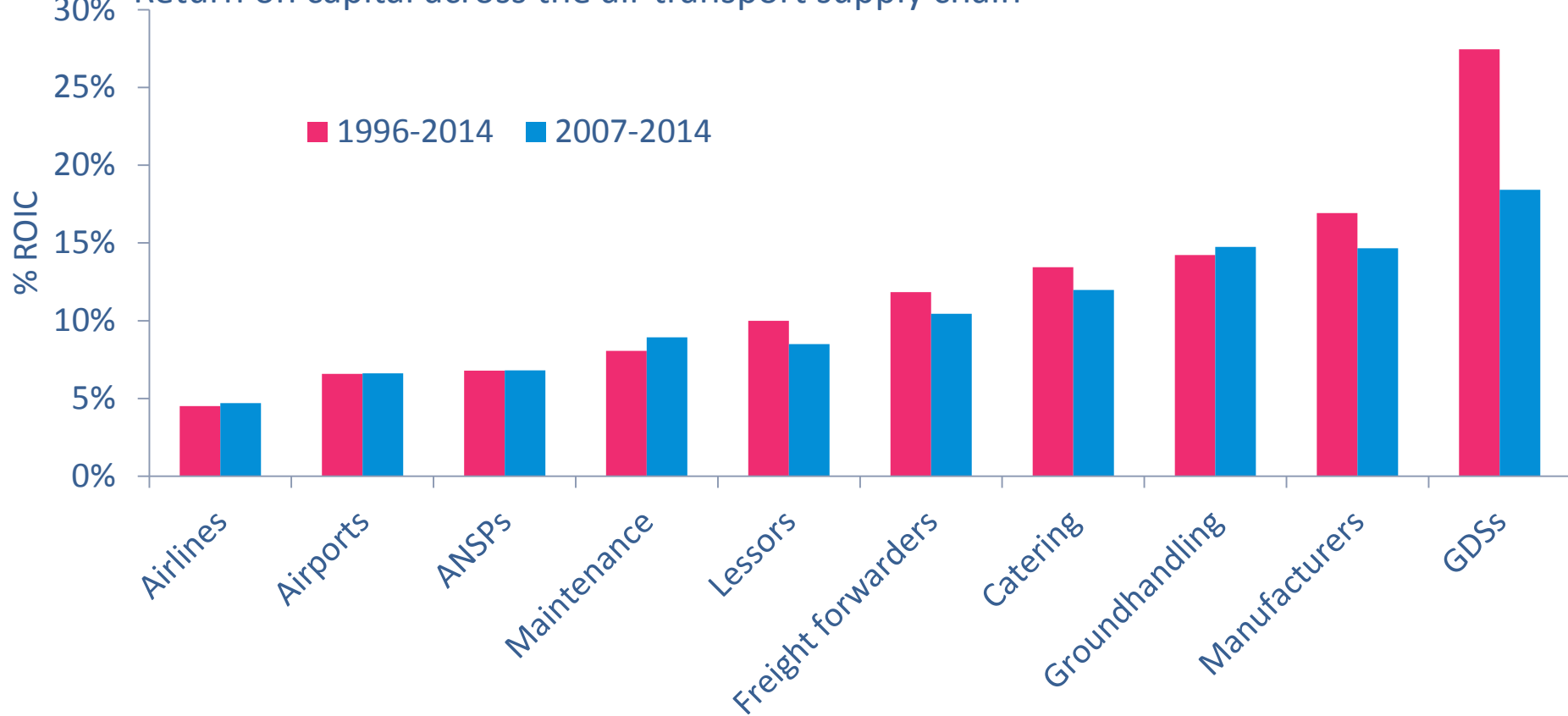


It's not just cheap fuel



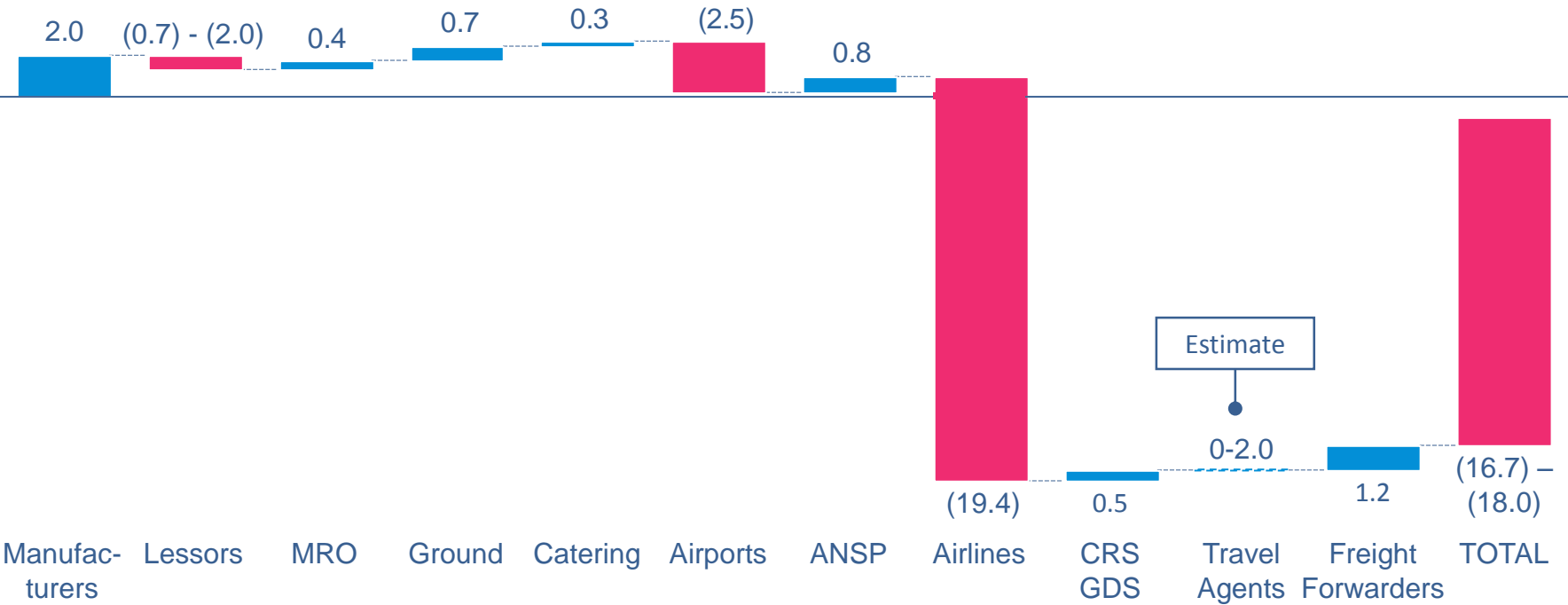
Suppliers mostly generate much better returns

Return on capital across the air transport supply chain



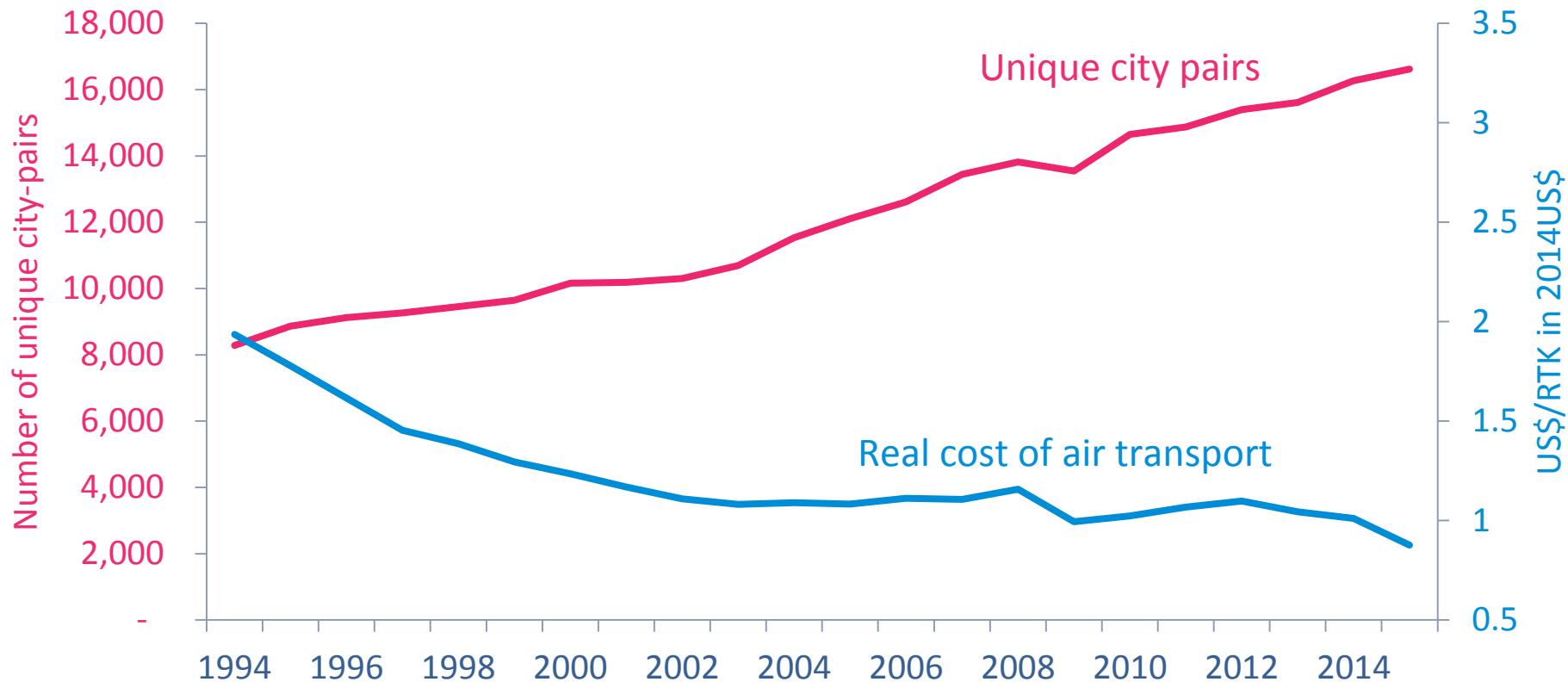
But this is not the main issue for airline earnings

Average yearly economic profit, USD billion, 2007-2014

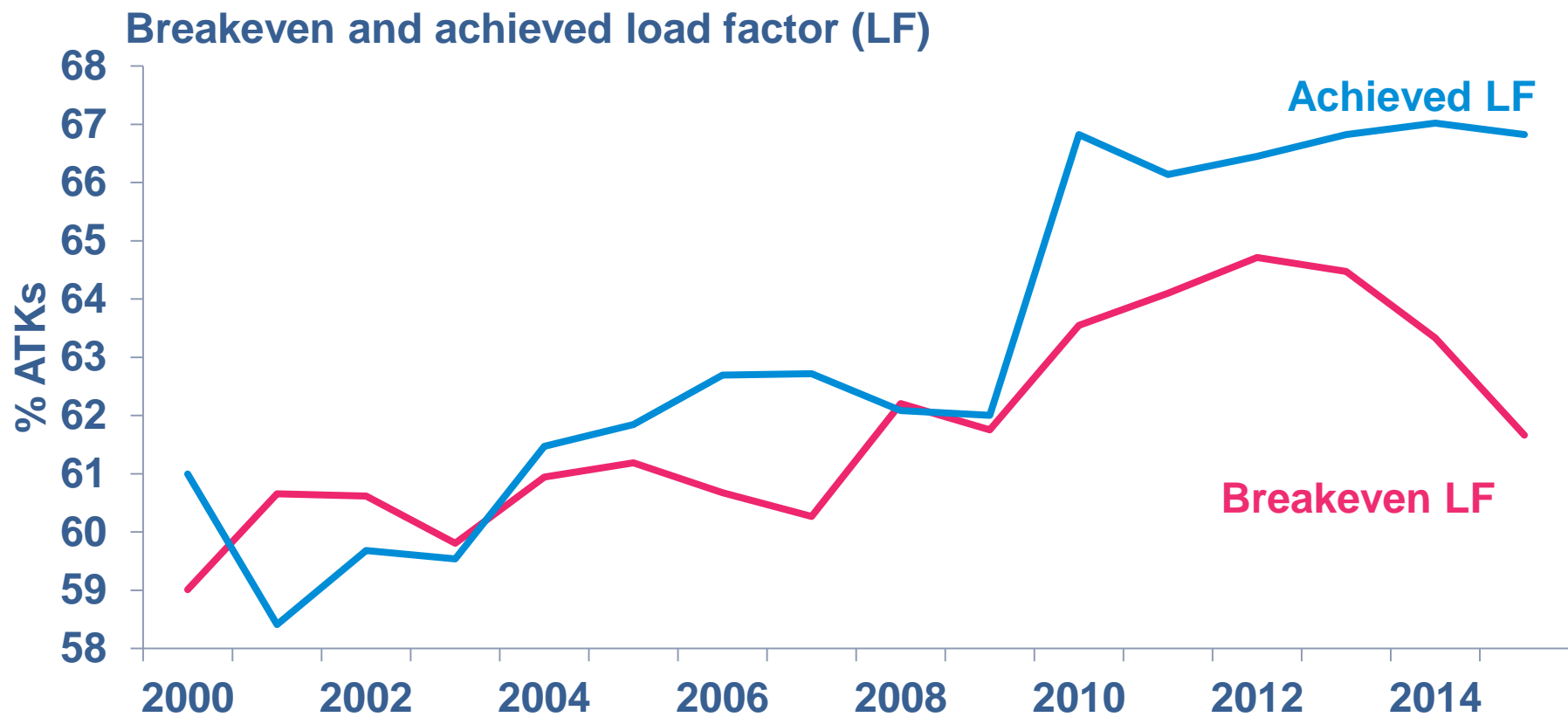


Most of the value created ends up with consumers

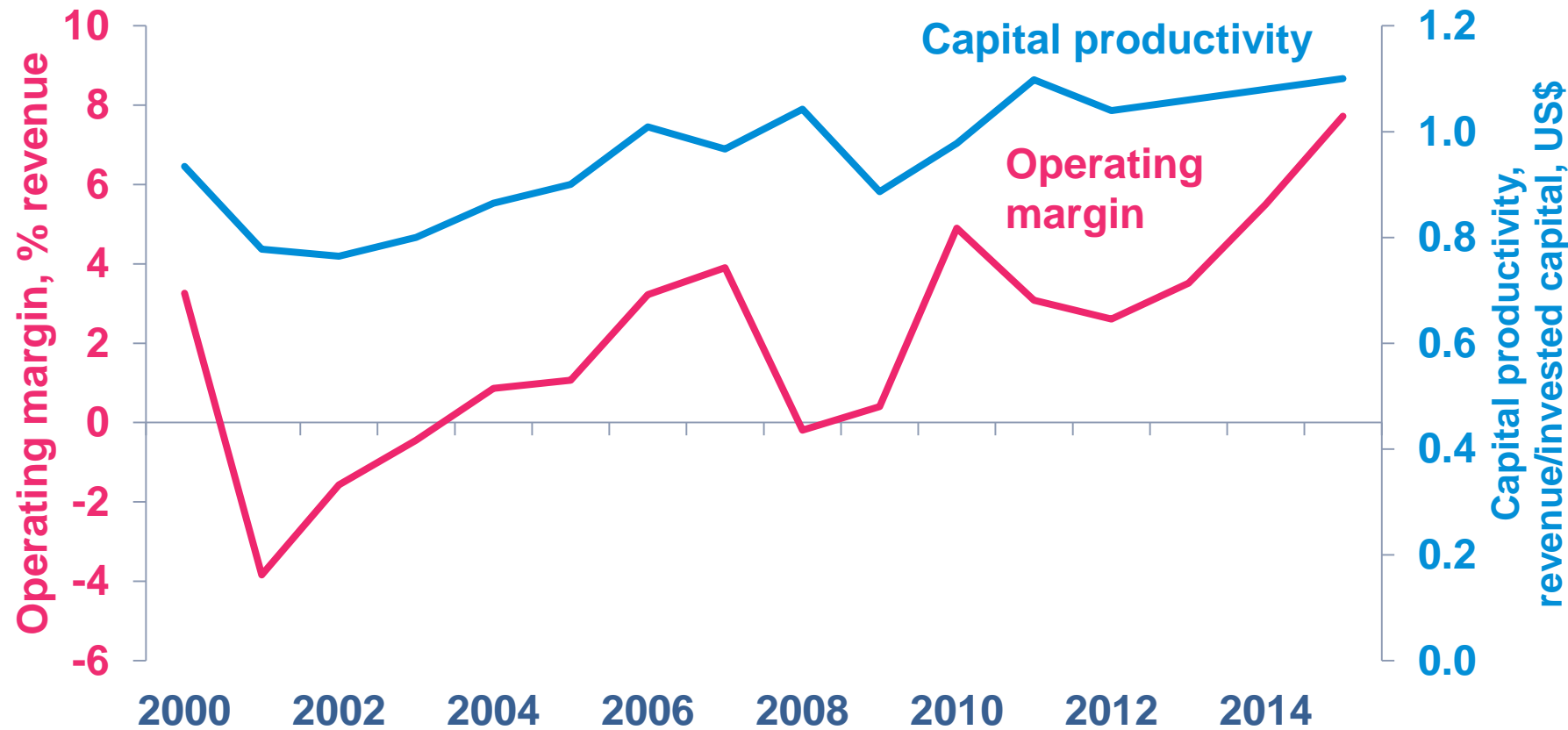
Unique city-pairs and real transport costs



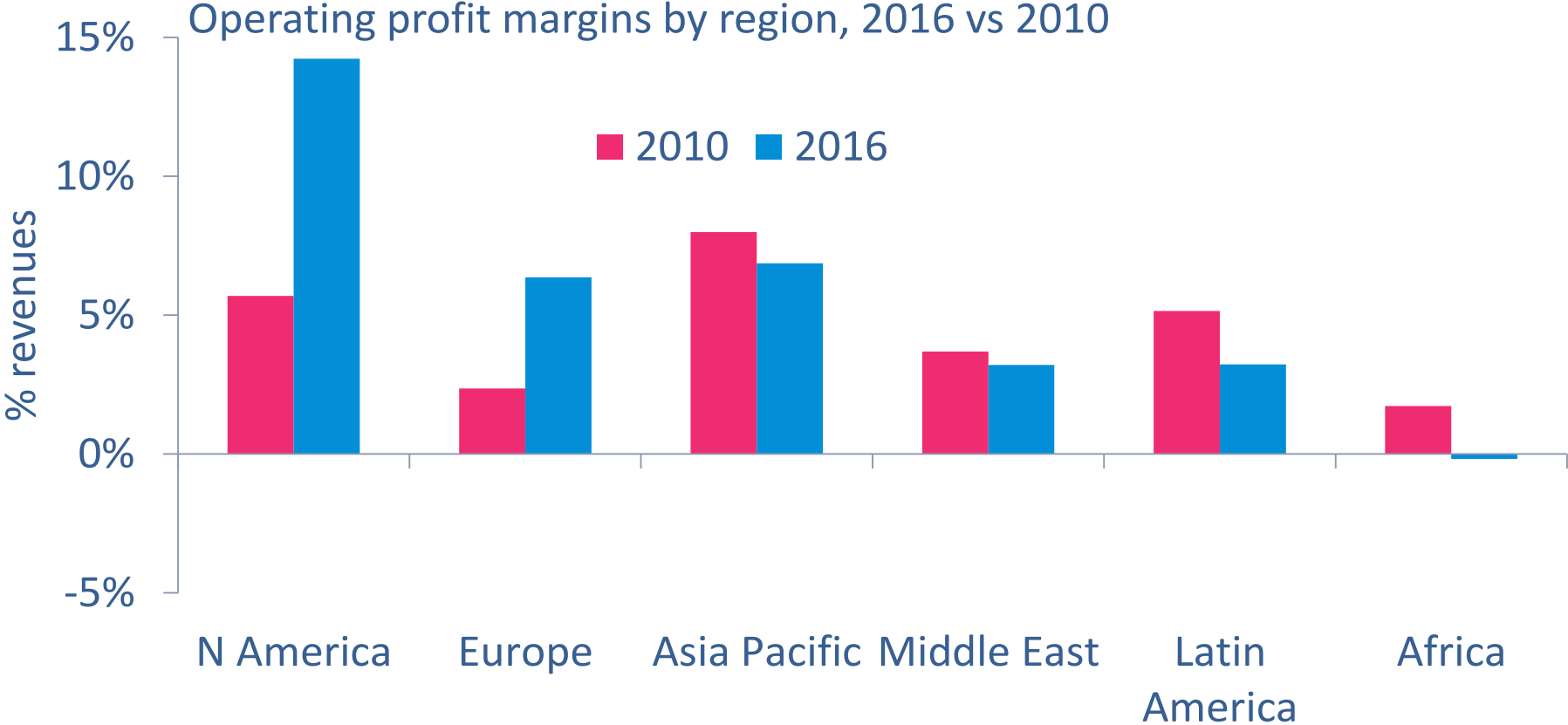
Step change in airlines' asset use since the GFC



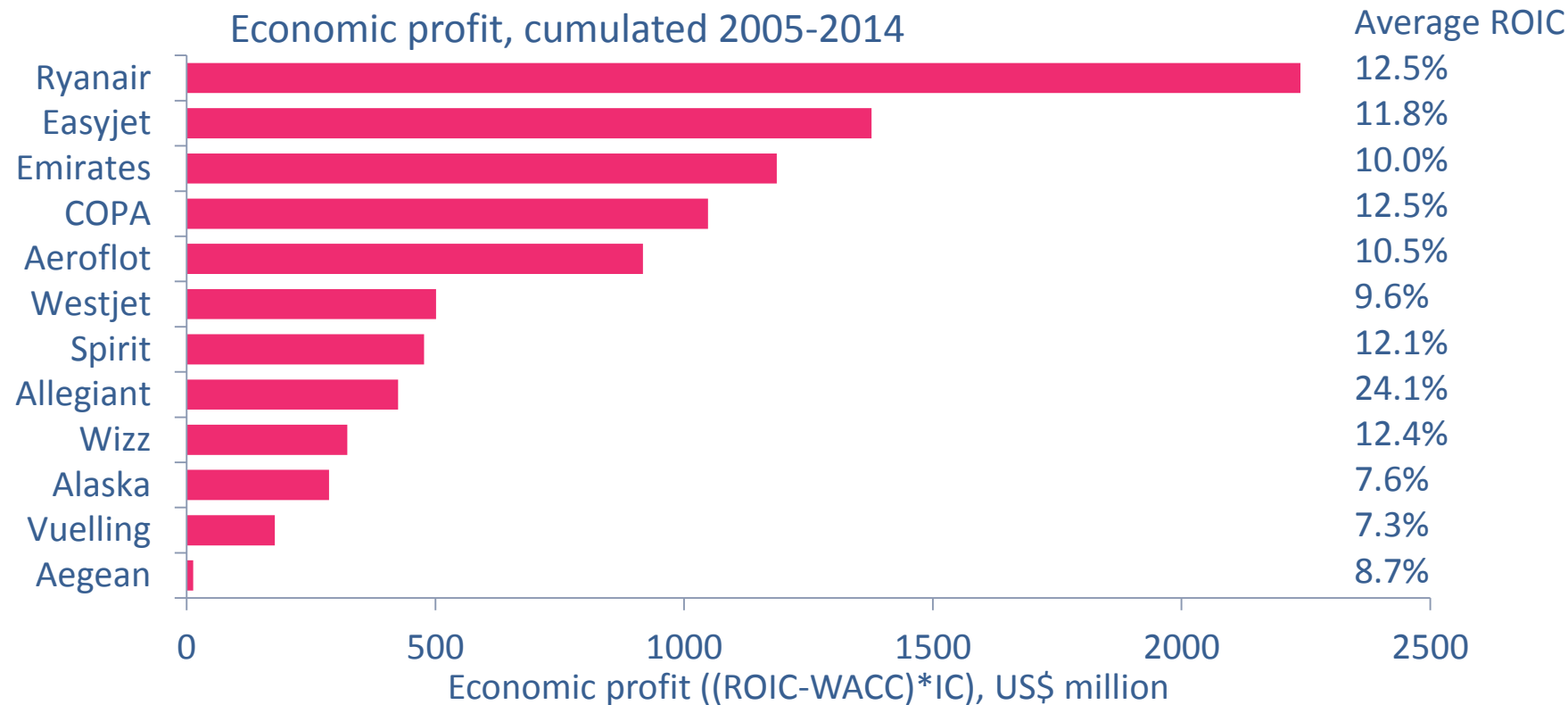
And the productivity of capital is improving



Still driven primarily by the US



Only a few generated economic profits consistently



What differentiates the few?

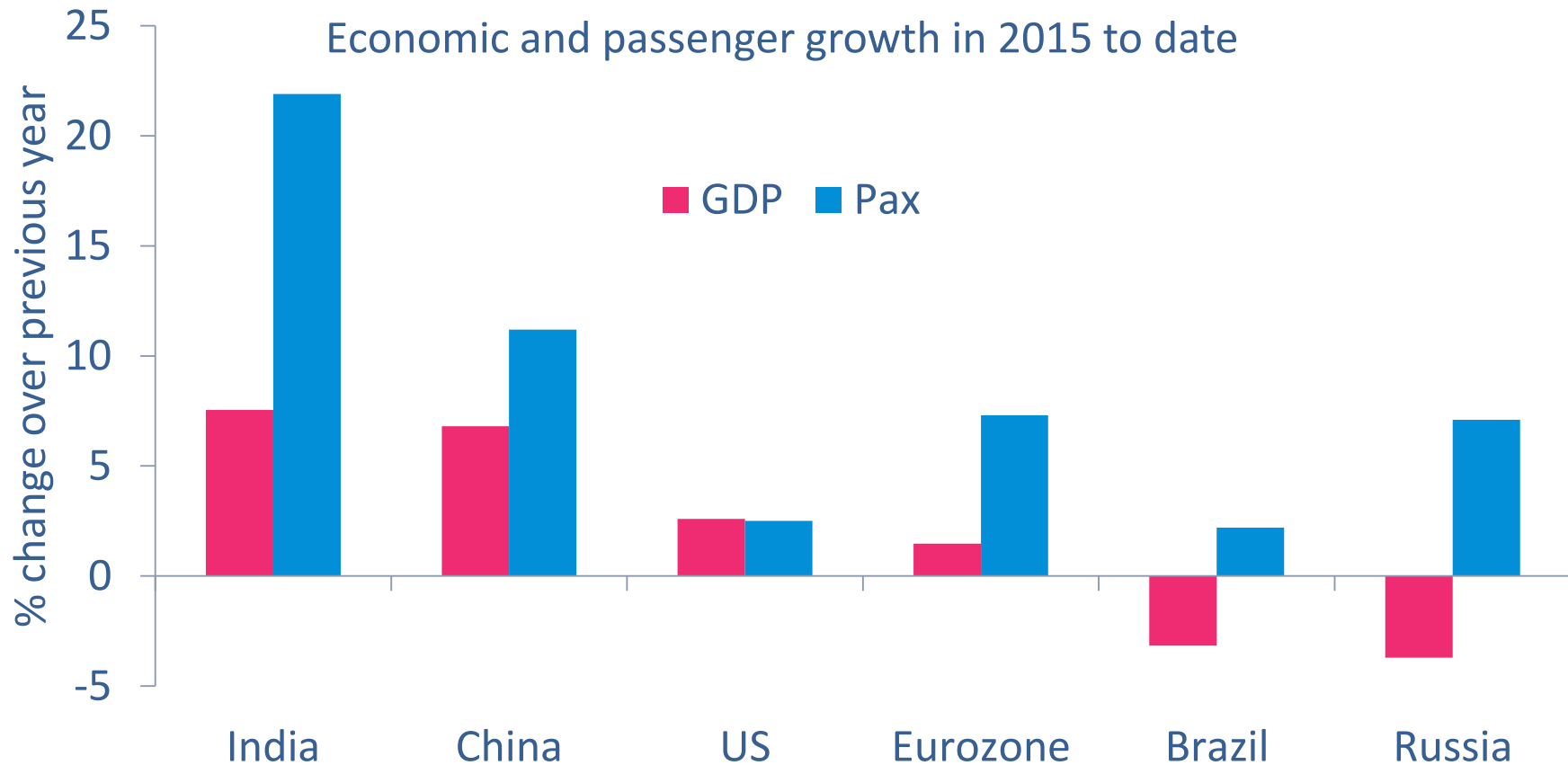
- Route network with time advantages/high QSI
- A brand that consumers value in some way
- Cost advantage versus key competitors
- Less capital?
- Shorter-haul?

Are we measuring the right thing?

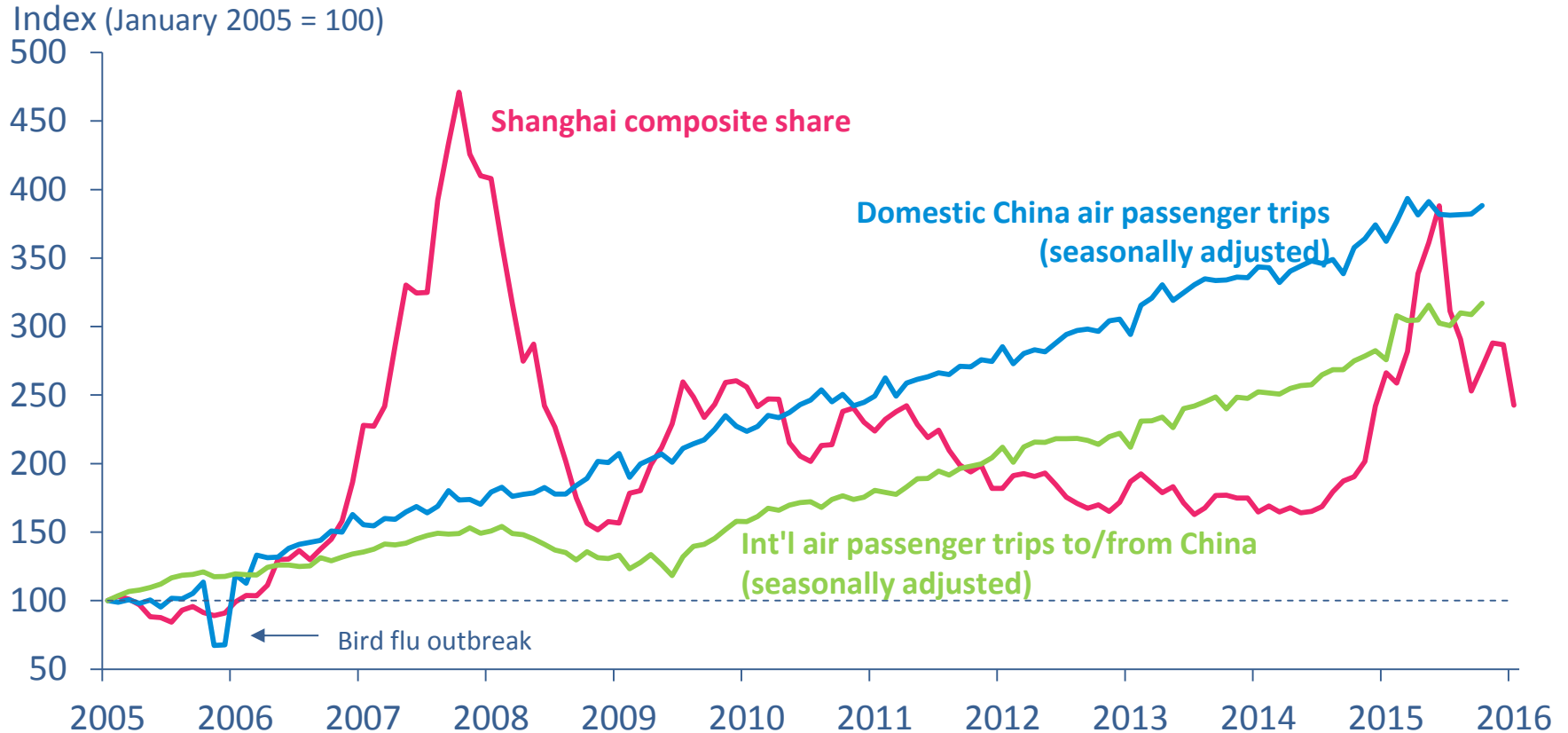
- Economic losses persisted for 70 years
- No apparent shortage of capital
- Operating cash flow covers leasing cost/depreciation
- Are aircraft really capital?
- Is WACC overstated?
- Are airlines doing better than we think?

BACK UP SLIDES

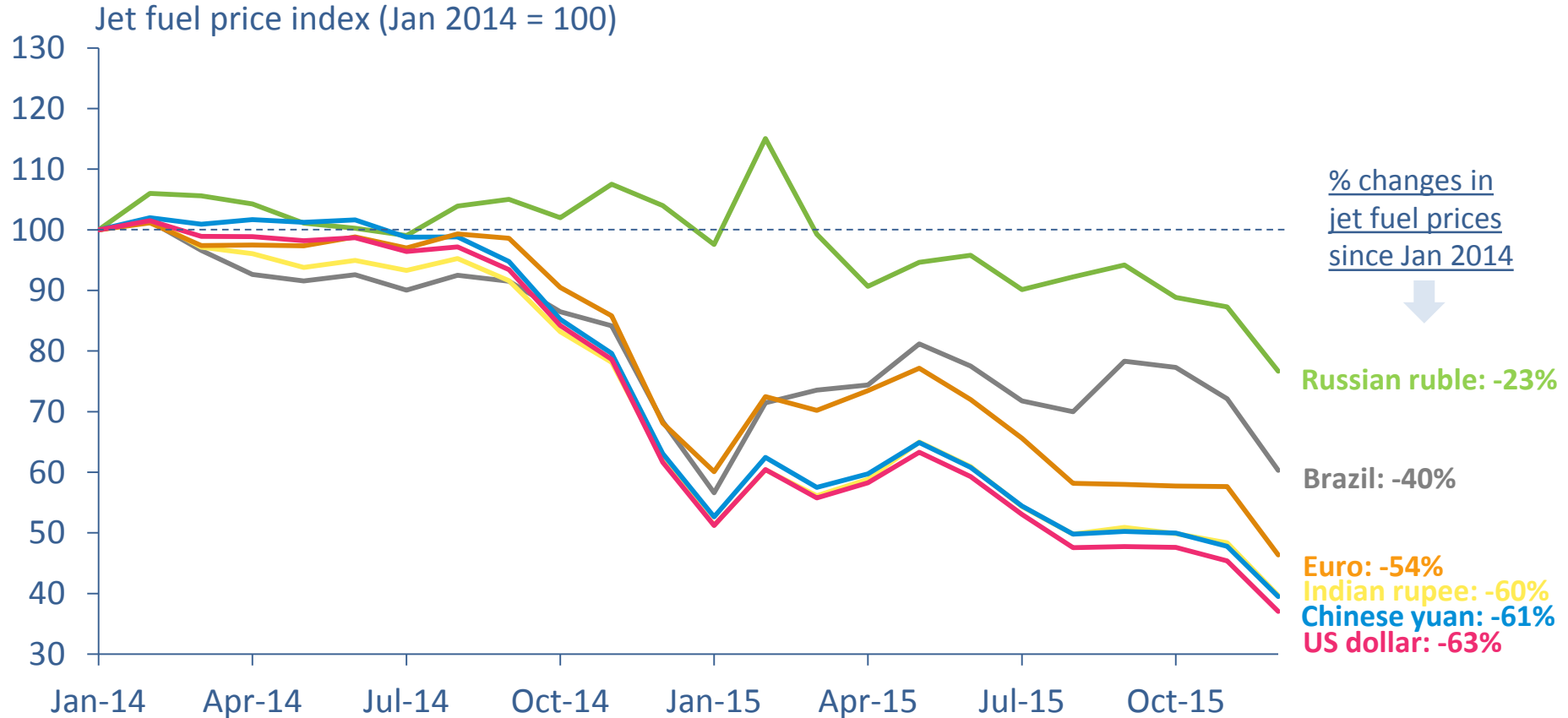
Wide variation in travel growth by country



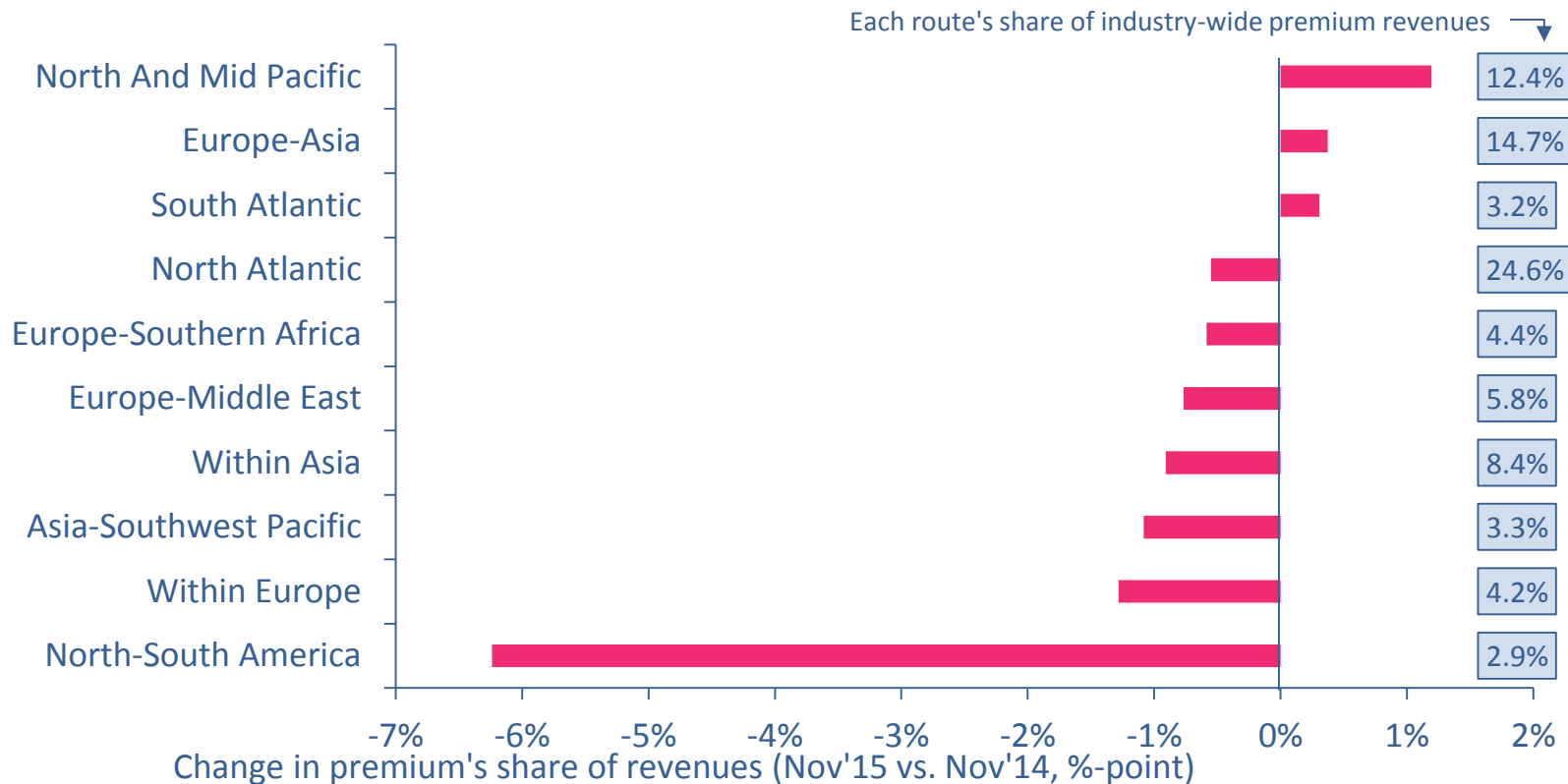
Equity markets not always a good signal



Partly driven by major exchange rate shifts

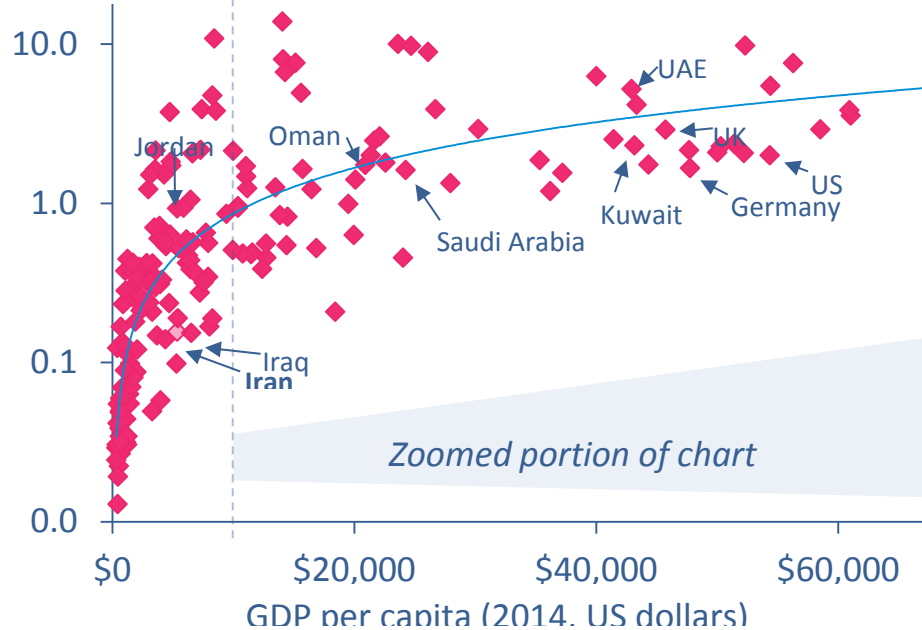


Premium slowing yield decline in some markets



Still vast potential in air travel marketes

Air passenger journeys per capita (2014, log scale)



Air passenger journeys per capita (2014, log scale)

