

Financial health achieved , for some airlines but not all

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Brian Pearce, Chief Economist <u>www.iata.org/economics</u> **To represent, lead and serve the airline industry**



North-South divide on airline profitability

2014 EBIT margin (% of revenue)



Source: The Airlines Analyst

Partly driven by exchange rate divergence



And partly divergence in major economies

Business confidence - manufacturing PMIs



Source: Markit

But there are strong economies in L America

GDP growth – ave. of last 3yrs vs next 3yrs



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Two big changes in the business environment



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Impact of lower fuel prices not clear

Return on invested capital and unit costs



Source: IATA, McKinsey

Costs typically passed through to prices



Source: IATA/Tourism Economics 'Air Passenger Forecasts'

A strong economic cycle would help airline returns

Airline industry ROIC and world GDP growth



Economic cycle positive but not very strong



Source: Datastream

But growth in demand for travel and cargo is solid



Source: IATA

Adverse structural change in air cargo

International trade compared to global industrial production



Source: Netherlands CPB, IATA

Fragmentation remains a problem in many markets

Market share of top-4 airlines/JVs



Source: SRS Analyser

Commoditization problem starting to be addressed

2013 ancillaries and operating profits, % revenues



Source: IdeaWorks, Airline Analyst, IATA

All of which is leading to this...

Breakeven and achieved load factor



Source: IATA

So airline industry ROIC is improving significantly

Return on capital invested in airlines



Source: IATA, McKinsey

Improvement driven by a subset of the industry



Source: The Airline Analyst, IATA

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Median airline not as well placed as leaders



Source: The Airline Analyst, IATA

Takeaways

- North-South divide
- US consolidated, strong economy, strong \$, low fuel
- Returning cash to shareholders!
- Key Latin economies and currencies weak
- Some growth hotspots
- Capacity discipline strongest in the North
- COPA exception: management, geography
- Low fuel prices not always good
- Industry profitability narrowly based
- Fragmentation tackled by JVs/LATAM innovation
- Commoditization being addressed by NDC