

## IATA ECONOMICS' CHART OF THE WEEK

## **1 SEPTEMBER 2017** WEAKER DOLLAR IS HELPING NON-US AIRLINES MANAGE FUEL INCREASES



- World oil and jet fuel prices have risen by 60% since their low of January 2016. Along with labor costs and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), this rise in fuel prices has been a key factor underpinning the general increase in airline operating costs over the past 12-18 months. As we have noted <u>previously</u>, this led to a sizeable squeeze on airline operating margins, which was particularly evident in the first quarter of this year.
- Having said that, the impact of the developments in the world price of jet fuel which is typically denominated in US\$ –
  has not been felt evenly across all countries. This is primarily due to fluctuations in the value of individual currencies
  against the US\$ over the same period, which may exacerbate or help to offset developments in the world price. This
  divergence is shown for a selection of countries in today's chart.
- For all of the countries shown, with the exception of China, oil prices measured in local-currency terms have shown a smaller increase than the US\$-denominated world price because of gains in the value of their currencies against the US\$. The difference is most apparent for Brazil and Russia where the oil price has risen by a more modest 25-30% in real and rouble terms respectively. (Recall that these two countries, didn't share in the 2014-15 fall in oil and jet fuel prices to the same extent as many others.) Conversely, the modest fall in the value of the Chinese renminbi against the US\$ since January 2016 has meant that fuel prices have risen by 66%, vs the 60% gain in the US\$ benchmark.

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