

Air traffic growth stalls in November, reports IATA

The [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\)](#) announced today that the recovery in passenger demand which had been slowing since the Northern Hemisphere's summer travel season, "came to a halt in November 2020."

Total demand (measured in revenue passenger kilometers or RPKs) was down 70.3 percent compared to November 2019, virtually unchanged from the 70.6 percent year-to-year decline recorded in October. November capacity was 58.6 percent below previous year levels and load factor fell 23.0 percentage points to 58.0 percent, which was a record low for the month.

International passenger demand in November was 88.3 percent below November 2019, slightly worse than the 87.6 percent year-to-year decline recorded in October. Capacity fell 77.4 percent below previous year levels, and load factor dropped 38.7 percentage points to 41.5 percent. Europe was the main driver of the weakness as new lockdowns weighed on travel demand.

Recovery in domestic demand, which had been the relative bright spot, also stalled said IATA, with November domestic traffic down 41.0 percent compared to the previous year (it stood at 41.1 percent below the previous year's level in October). Capacity was 27.1 percent down on 2019 levels and the load factor dropped 15.7 percentage points to 66.6 percent.

"The already tepid recovery in air travel demand came to a full stop in November. That's because governments responded to new outbreaks with even more severe travel restrictions and quarantine measures. This is clearly inefficient. Such measures increase hardship for millions. Vaccines offer the long-term solution. In the meantime, testing is the best way that we see to stop the spread of the virus and start the economic recovery. How much more anguish do people need to go through—job losses, mental stress—before governments will understand that?" said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's Director General and CEO.

International Passenger Markets

- **Asia-Pacific airlines'** November traffic dropped 95.0 percent compared to the year-ago period, which was barely changed from the 95.3 percent decline in October. The region continued to suffer from the steepest traffic declines for a fifth consecutive month. Capacity dropped 87.4 percent and load factor sank 48.4 percentage points to 31.6 percent, the lowest among regions.
- **European carriers** saw an 87.0 percent decline in traffic in November versus a year ago, worsened from an 83 percent decline in October. Capacity withered 76.5 percent and load factor fell by 37.4 percentage points to 46.6 percent.
- **Middle Eastern airlines'** demand was down 86.0 percent in November year-to-year, which was improved from an 86.9 percent demand drop in October. Capacity fell 71.0 percent, and load factor declined 37.9 percentage points to 35.3 percent.
- **North American carriers** had an 83.0 percent traffic drop in November, versus an 87.8 percent decline in October. Capacity dropped 66.1 percent, and load factor dropped 40.5 percentage points to 40.8 percent.
- **Latin American airlines** experienced a 78.6 percent demand drop in November, compared to the same month last year, improved from an 86.1 percent decline in October year-to-year. This was the strongest improvement of any region. Routes to/from Central America were the most

resilient as governments reduced travel restrictions—especially quarantine requirements. November capacity was 72.0 percent down and load factor dropped 19.5 percentage points to 62.7 percent, highest by far among the regions, for a second consecutive month.

- **African airlines'** traffic sank 76.7 percent in November, little changed from a 77.2 percent drop in October, but the best performance among the regions. Capacity contracted 63.7 percent, and load factor fell 25.2 percentage points to 45.2 percent.