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# Reinventing Risk Management for Air Travel

# Skytra data analysis: COVID-19 IMPACT

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April 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

# Skytra ticketing database

A unique resource

#### Other data providers

Monitor flights, volumes of tickets booked OR scraped prices.

#### Skytra

Combine the most complete issued ticketing database, from the Airline industry trade body IATA with a source of pricing information that generates BILLIONS of price checks daily.

#### Skytra proprietary models

Match prices to issued tickets enabling measurement of full economic performance on a daily basis, aggregating from individual ticket level up.

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# Skytra methodology

**Technical Disclaimer** 

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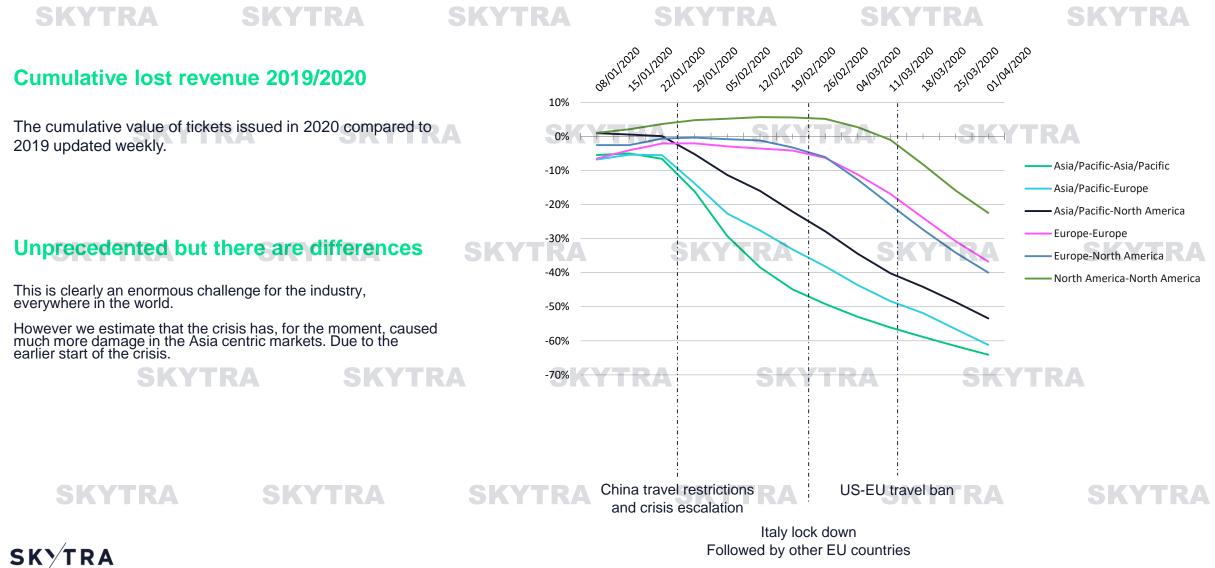
- We have cross-referenced data in line with our propietary methodology (available to data licensees in draft) however aggregation is different.
- This means that we are using our **Skytra method to ESTIMATE** ticket pricing **NOT** full ticket sales information from a listed public company or other body.
- The data and analyses presented are Skytra's and based on our own database and do not constitute advice or recommendations.
- Interpretation has been suggested using publicly available information.
- Due to the uniqueness of the situation it has not been possible to back test these new measurements against other methodologies or data.

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# COVID-19 how bad has 2020 been?



# **COVID-19 how was the last week?**

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#### Weekly ticket sales 2019/2020

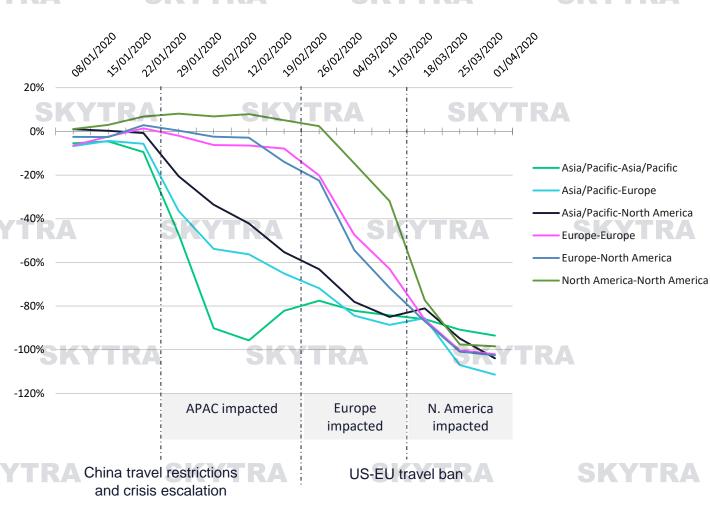
Each week we calculate the value of tickets sold, subtract the value of refunds and compare to the same week in 2019.

# The picture in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April

While weekly sales in Europe & North America held up through February, refunds are now keeping pace with issues in every region. Leading to net ticket sales of -100% when compared to 2019

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Italy lock down Followed by other EU countries

# Asia-Pacific carriers: Weekly ticket sales

## Asia Pacific market net weekly sales

While the Asia-Pacific market has been hit longest by the COVID-19 outbreak there are significant differences in the impact between the different airlines

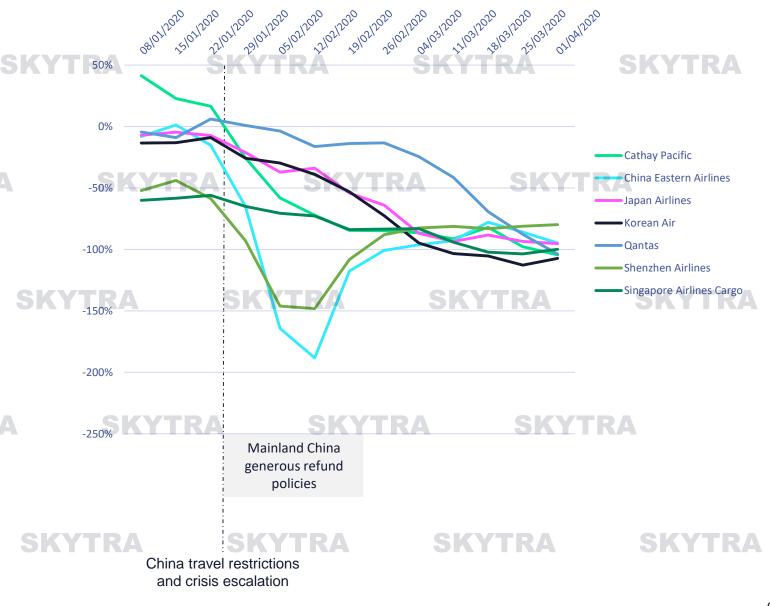
## China & the rest

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In February we can see the result of the Chinese government in taking radical steps in late January and early February, alongside the generous refund policies for mainland Chinese carriers. The performance of other carriers is closer to that of the wider international market so as a function of their exposure to the Chinese market.

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# European carriers: Weekly ticket sales

## Airlines with diversified routes

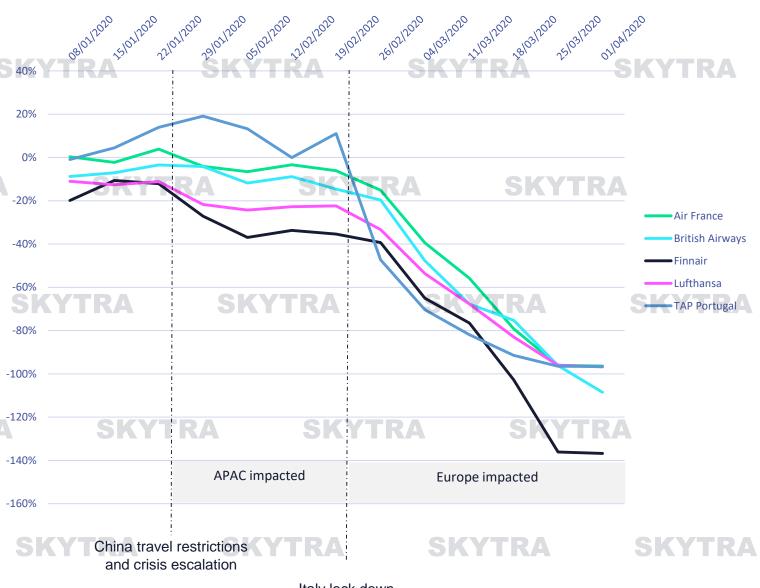
Air France, British Airways & Lufthansa are very much global carriers so it is likely that their Chinese and Asian route closures weighed on February before the crisis progressively took hold of their other markets.

# Airlines with a focus on certain markets

TAP were initially less exposed as they operate routes focused on Europe, Africa and the Americas before these markets too were affected. Finnair on the other hand with their competitive position on the Europe to Asia market face a challenge.

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Italy lock down Followed by other EU countries

# N. American carriers: Weekly ticket sales

## A solid start, tough March

The North American carriers fared comparatively well through January and February before following the rest of the world.

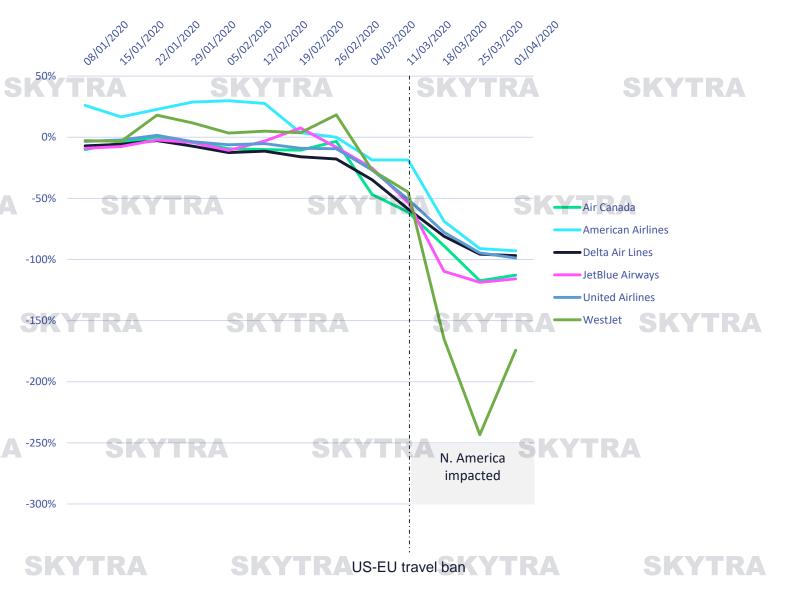
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## **Refund policies?**

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Westjet seem to have particularly abrupt start to the crisis, perhaps the suspension of their cancellation policy is a factor, similarly to JetBlue who announced a suspension of change/cancellation fees from late February to mid March. To date American Airlines have suspended the least capacity the figures here seem to support this approach.



What about future sales?

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# Asia-Pacific carriers: Future sales this week

## Asia Pacific market net weekly sales

Each week we compare the value of sales for travel in each upcoming month compared to 2019. In normal conditions these are signals of how the market will perform that are stronger the closer in time you get...

#### Little optimism visible yet

It appears that China Eastern and Air China may be capturing a part of holiday week in China where flights are being reinstated. JAL also seem to have slightly more sales for the later part of the year over the course of this past week, similarly to the N. American carriers.

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# European carriers: Future sales this week

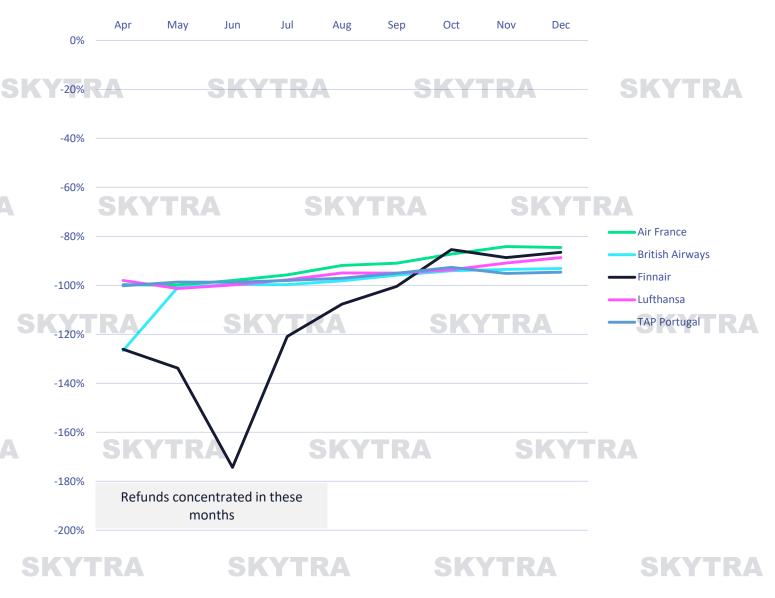
## A different view of the same data

Like on the previous slide we are looking at what has been estimated as sold this past week for travel in the future, so of the refund level identified earlier for Finnair we see a high concentration of refunds April through June.

## No outliers for the European carriers

As of this week sales for travel in the future are down across the board this week.

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# N. American carriers: Future sales this week

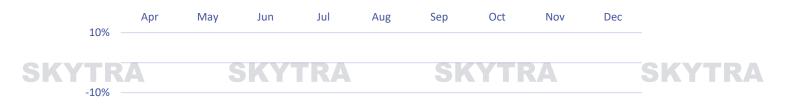
## A starting point... For a rich data set

Again we see here that refunds for both WestJet and JetBlue are very high for April and May, with significantly less long term booking than United, American or Delta... Wouldn't it be interesting to combine this with analysis of the typical booking curves? After all low cost or domestic flights typically fill later.

#### The most optimistic market studied

The N. American market has been hit later by COVID-19, which may a role in customer behaviour or indeed the different approach to the crisis taken by the authorities in the USA to date. The CEO of Delta announced to employees that they expect Q2 to be tougher than Q1 with revenue down by 90%. Our data seems to support this analysis

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Skytra price indices

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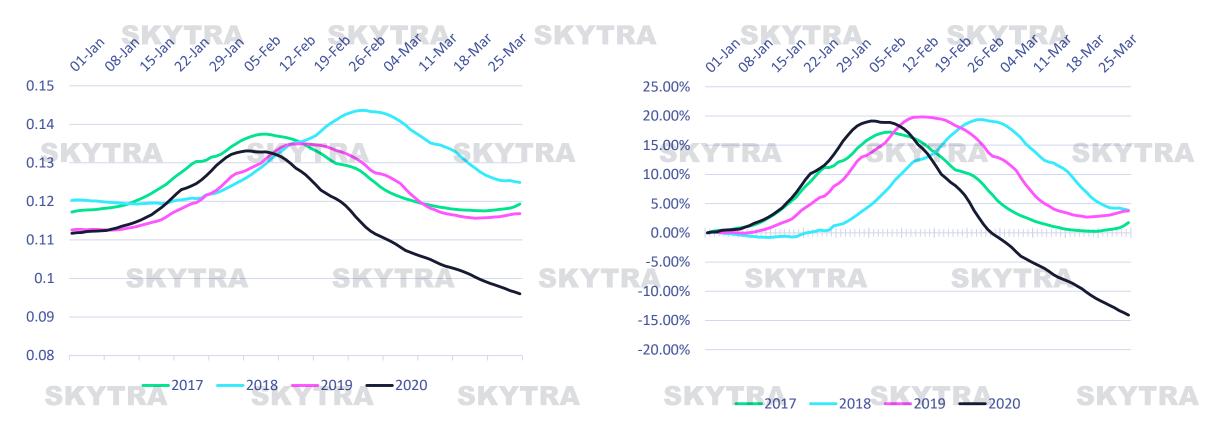


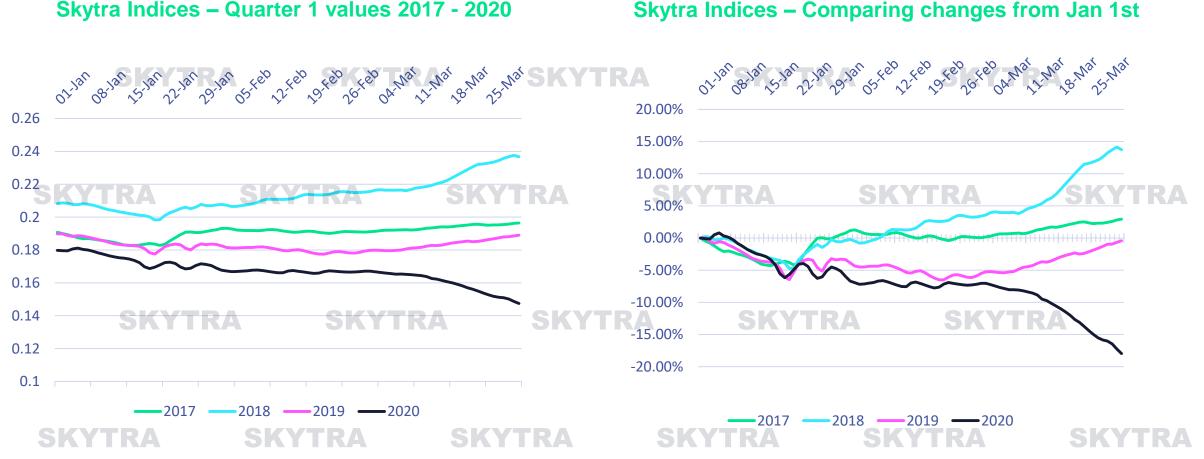
# Skytra Indices 2020: APAC-APAC 17% – 19% down

The airline industry has thin margins pre COVID-19 Statista predicted **5.5% margin for the industry SKYTRA SKYTRA SKYTRA** 

## Skytra Indices – Quarter 1 values 2017 - 2020

Skytra Indices – Comparing changes from Jan 1st





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#### Skytra Indices 2020: Europe-Europe 18% – 22% down YTRA SKYTRA

#### Skytra Indices – Quarter 1 values 2017 - 2020

If airlines had been able to hedge 2020 prices they **might** have been able to offset losses incurred through fuel hedging.

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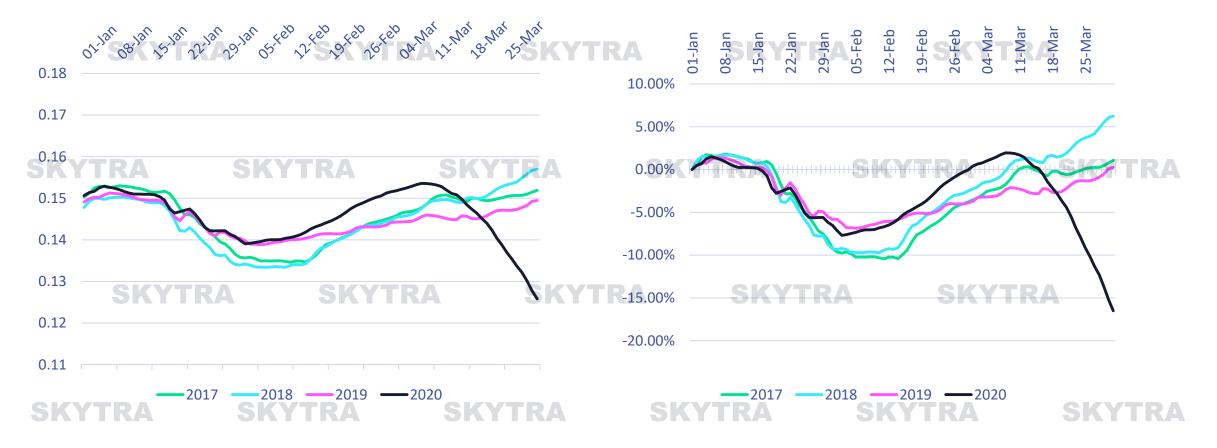
Skytra Indices 2020: N. America – N. AmericaHow will prices behave<br/>How will the return<br/>SKYTRA15% – 17% down<br/>SKYTRASKYTRASKYTRASKYTRASKYTRASKYTRA

Skytra Indices – Quarter 1 values 2017 - 2020

How will prices behave when restrictions are lifted? How will the return of the 737 Max affect things?

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Skytra Indices – Comparing changes from Jan 1st



# Skytra database & method

Stress testing

We are all living through unprecedented challenges.

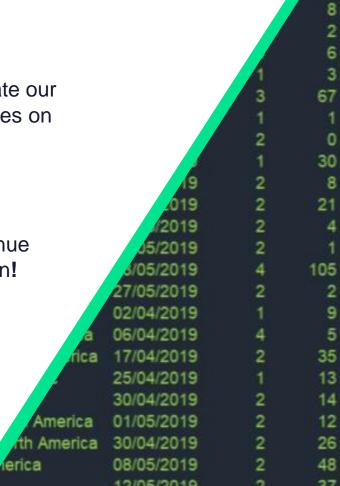
#### **Data volumes**

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We still receive enough data to calculate our indices although we may tweak our rules on minimum data.

#### **Technical resilience**

We are able to run our tools and continue development despite being in lockdown!



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# **Flexible ticketing**

Stimulating the market?

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- Anecdotally it seems that Airlines are allowing free refunds and modifications to encourage bookings for future travel in these uncertain times.
- Perhaps the ability to manage opportunity risk incurred by Airlines selling flexible discounted tickets would have been attractive...
- Perhaps travel agents would have been able to execute similar strategies if they could offer flexibility to their customers.

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# THANK YOU!

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