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SECTOR UPDATE

Scheduled flights clock 12% YoY growth in Q4, led by IndiGo (+15%)



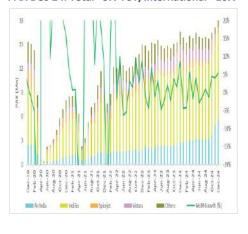
Continuous promoter stake sales



Dec: Total PAX +9% YoY (IndiGo 13%); PLF: -185bp

	Industry	Industry	IndiGo	IndiGo	
Particulars	(Dec'24)	(Dec'24)	(Dec'24)	(Dec'24)	
	YoY %	MoM %	YoY %	MoM %	
PAX (in Mn)	9%	5%	13%	7%	
Dom PAX (in Mn)	8%	5%	12%	6%	
Intl PAX (in Mn)	10%	8%	19%	11%	
ASKM (Bn KMs)	11%	5%	13%	6%	
PLF(%)	-185 bps	-54 bps	-3 bps	32 bps	

PAX Dec-24: Total +9% YoY/International +10%



Q4 flights growth healthy, led by IndiGo

We capture scheduled flights, PAX, capacity and market shares.

Highlights: i) Scheduled flights growth healthy at 12% YoY in Q4 led by IndiGo's 15% rise. ii) Industry ASKM growth at 11% YoY outpacing PAX growth at 9% in Dec-24, leading to by 185bp fall in industry PLF. iii) Dec-24 total PAX grew 9% YoY (IndiGo: +13% YoY). iv) IndiGo could see the customary half-yearly stake sale by co-promoter in Q4FY25, acting as an overhang on the stock. v) IndiGo has damp-leased wide-bodied aircraft as a stopgap arrangement until it procures its own aircraft 2027 onwards, pressurising profitability as it seeds the long-haul market. vi) We maintain 'HOLD' on both IndiGo and SpiceJet given excessive valuations and uncertainty on growth post the recent QIP, respectively.

Scheduled flights growth robust at 12% YoY in Q4, IndiGo leads

Scheduled flights in Q4FY25 stand at ~339k, set to grow at a healthy 12% YoY as domestic flights rise 10% with international flights even stronger, up 23%. IndiGo is leading the way as its scheduled flights are set to expand 15% YoY with domestic flights rising 13% and international by one-third in Q4. As a result, IndiGo's domestic market share could potentially rise from 64% in Dec-24.

Promoter stake sales a potential overhang on IndiGo stock price

Continuous sales by the co-promoter is likely to be an overhang on the stock price. We observe a sizeable stake sale (3–6%) every six months in Q2/Q4 since FY23 with another sale likely in Q4FY25. We reckon a complete exit in two-three tranches for the remaining ~13.5% share of the exiting co-promoter.

Industry ASKM > PAX growth in Dec-24; PLFs weaken

In Dec-24, industry ASKM (capacity) increased by 11% YoY versus overall PAX growth at 9%. We reckon this is the key reason for industry PLF to decrease 185bp YoY. Compared with the industry, IndiGo relatively outperformed with 13% YoY PAX growth versus 9% for the industry, 91% PLF versus industry PLF at 89% and 13% YoY ASKM growth versus 11% ASKM increase for the industry. IndiGo's domestic market share in Dec-24 stood at 64%, up 238bp YoY led by better PLF and ASKM growth.

IndiGo damp leases wide-bodied aircraft; international foray risky

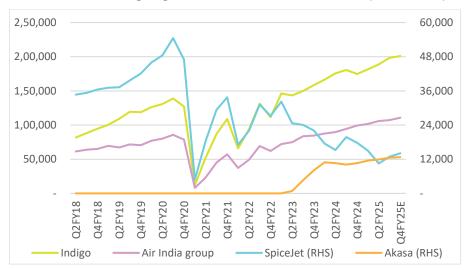
IndiGo has signed a damp-lease agreement with Norse Atlantic for one wide bodied aircraft (Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner) with operations to start in Mar-25 for servicing long-haul routes, primarily to Europe, as per media reports. The initial term is for six months, extendable up to 18 months. This follows an LoI signed in Nov-24 between the two for leasing six aircraft. We view this move as a stopgap arrangement until IndiGo gets its own wide-bodied aircraft while the company is also likely seeding the market, albeit at a high cost. Deliveries of IndiGo's own wide-bodied aircraft are due 2027 onwards. We argue IndiGo's international foray is fraught due to inexperience and relatively high competition vis-à-vis India's domestic market—a duopoly.

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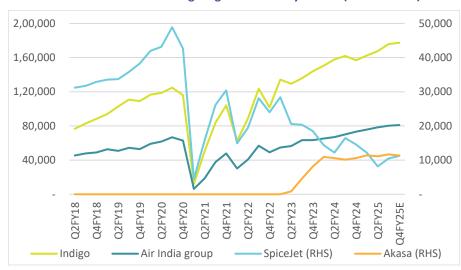
Scheduled flights growth healthy at 12% YoY in Q4; IndiGo leading the way

Exhibit 1: Scheduled flights growth robust at 12% YoY in Q4FY25 (IndiGo +15%)



Source: DGCA, Bloomberg, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 2: Domestic scheduled flights growth healthy at 10% (IndiGo +13%)



Source: DGCA, Bloomberg, Nuvama Research

40,000 5,000 32,000 4,000 3,000 24,000 16,000 2,000 8.000 1,000 Q2FY25 Q4FY23 Q2FY24 Q4FY24 Q4FY18 Q4FY19 Q2FY20 Q4FY20 Q2FY19 Q2FY21 Q4FY21 Q4FY22 Q4FY25E Indigo SpiceJet (RHS) Air India group Akasa (RHS)

Exhibit 3: International scheduled flights growth strong at 23% (IndiGo up one-third)

Source: DGCA, Bloomberg, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 4: Industry overview: Total PAX +9% YoY (IndiGo +13%); Industry PLF: -185bp YoY (IndiGo -3bp) in Dec-24

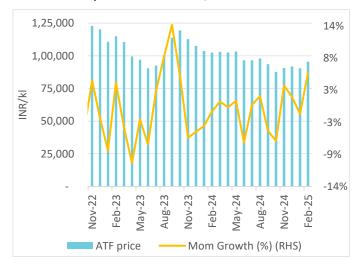
Particulars	Industry	Industry	Industry	IndiGo	IndiGo	IndiGo
	(Dec'24)	(Dec'24) YoY %	(Dec'24) MoM %	(Dec'24)	(Dec'24) YoY %	(Dec'24) MoM %
PAX (in Mn)	18.0	9%	5%	11.0	13%	7%
Dom PAX (in Mn)	15.0	8%	5%	9.6	12%	6%
Intl PAX (in Mn)	3.1	10%	8%	1.3	19%	11%
ASKM (Bn KMs)	16.5	11%	5%	10.1	13%	6%
PLF(%)	89	-185 bps	-54 bps	91	-3 bps	32 bps

Source: DGCA, Nuvama Research

Bearish crude outlook to support margins; ATF price rise temporary

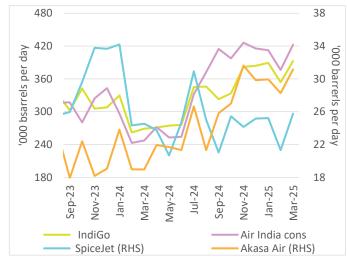
A bearish outlook for crude is likely to result in lower ATF prices for airlines, thereby supporting margins. The 6% sequential ATF price hike is temporary due to a sharp spike in crude prices during Jan-25 as OPEC delayed a reversal of production cuts. ATF demand in India is set to rise to ~870kbpd in Mar-25 on an improvement in connectivity to new cities, increasing travel distances.

Exhibit 5: ATF prices down 7% YoY; -+6 MoM in Feb-25



Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 6: ATF consumption seen at ~870kbpd in Mar-25



Source: Bloomberg, Nuvama Research

Promoter stake sales, an overhang

In the wake of a disagreement among promoters, one of the major promoters has been continuously selling stake in the company—with the final objective of exiting the company. At Q3FY22, the exiting promoter's stake stood at 36.6%, which has reduced to 13.5%. We observe the exiting promoter has been paring stake every six months or so since the Sep-22 quarter. As a surprise to the market, the other promoter sold a 2% stake in Q1FY25 (first time since the company listed), which raised speculation of both promoters exiting the company. However, a clarification from the other promoter alleviated those concerns given the intended objective of the sale was primarily to fund other business ventures of the promoter group.

Exhibit 7: Promoter stake has been continuously falling in recent quarters...

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

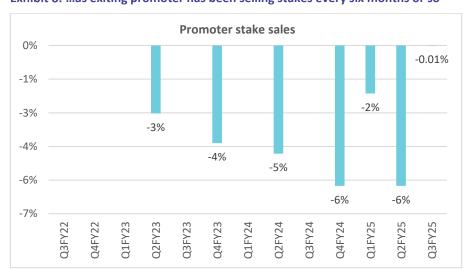


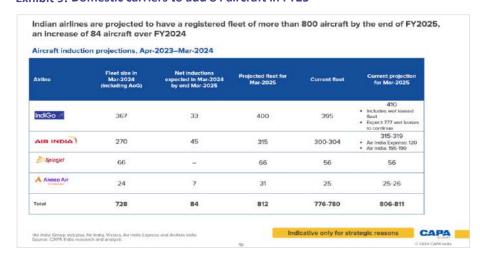
Exhibit 8: ...as exiting promoter has been selling stakes every six months or so

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Key news highlights

- Budget-carrier IndiGo has signed a lease agreement with Norway-based Norse
 Atlantic Airways for a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, the Norwegian airlines said in a
 press release on Thursday. The aircraft is likely to begin operations in Mar-25,
 marking a key step in IndiGo's efforts to expand its long-haul international
 services. (refer to <u>Business Standard</u>).
- Airlines including IndiGo, Air India and Akasa Air are all betting on expansion of
 their international operations for profitability and growth in 2026 and beyond,
 with all domestic airlines collectively looking to increase their market share in
 the international segment beyond the 50% mark in 2025. An analysis of
 international passenger traffic data by airline from the Directorate General of
 Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the first three quarters of 2024 shows that Indian
 carriers accounted for an all-time high of 45.6% market carrying around 24.2
 million passengers, when compared with 20.68 million passengers carried in the
 same period in 2023. (refer to Moneycontrol).
- Akasa Air has brought marquee investors on board, in an effort to infuse fresh
 capital into the airline, including names Premji Invest, Dr Ranjan Pai, and 360
 ONE Asset, a statement by the airline said. The Jhunjhunwala family too has also
 committed additional capital infusion into the airline. The airlines said that the
 funds raised will fuel its path to becoming one of the top 30 airlines in the world
 by the end of this decade. (refer to Moneycontrol).
- As many as 268 instances of aircraft malfunctioning were reported by private airlines in the 13 months ended January this year, according to official data. Data presented to the Lok Sabha as part of a written reply by the civil aviation ministry on Thursday showed that in 2023, the number of such instances stood at 384. (refer to <u>The Economic Times</u>).
- Air India and Virgin Australia have entered into a new codeshare partnership, enhancing travel connectivity between India and Australia. This agreement allows Air India to place its 'Al' code on Virgin Australia flights, offering seamless onward connections for passengers travelling beyond Sydney and Melbourne to 16 destinations in Australia and New Zealand. (refer to Financial Express).
- Air India Express, a subsidiary of Air India and a part of the Tata Group, is all set
 to connect Kolkata with the Hindon airport in Ghaziabad district of Uttar
 Pradesh, an airline spokesperson said. The spokesperson also claimed that AI
 Express will be the first airline to operate out of Hindon airport with a jet engine
 airliner and Kolkata will be the first place to be connected with the big plane
 (refer to Hindustan Times).
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation imposed a financial penalty of INR3mn in December last year on Air India Express for installing and operating a Boeing aircraft with an external livery without its permission, Parliament was informed. According to the data shared as part of the written reply, a total of 23 enforcement actions were taken by three directorates under the DGCA in 2024 (refer to <u>Business Standard</u>).

Exhibit 9: Domestic carriers to add 84 aircraft in FY25



Source: CAPA

Exhibit 10: Grounded aircraft set to reduce, increasing capacities

Around 120 aircraft are still expected to be grounded by Mar-2025, due to supply chain and other issues. This will be down from 150+ in Mar-2024. Estimated grounded **Estimated grounded** Airline Comments aircraft Mar-2024 aircraft Mar-2025 Aircraft grounded primarily due to supply chain issues 75-80 70+ IndiGo These are our estimates and actuals may vary. Marginal improvement in the supply of engines. Aircraft grounded due to engine supply and spare parts 25-30 30 Air India issues. ■ Expect around half of the current ~40 grounded aircraft SpiceJet 34 20+ to be returned to service by the end of the FY Total Operating Limited change in the grounded fleet, the increase in 686-691 the operating fleet is largely due to induction of aircraft (excluding by IndiGo and Air India Express aircraft on ground) CAPA

Source: CAPA

Exhibit 11: Total PAX +9% YoY/+5% MoM in Dec-24

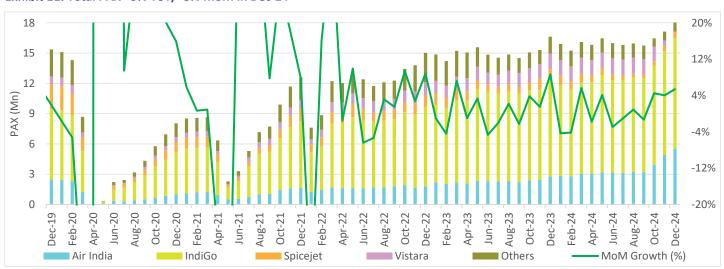
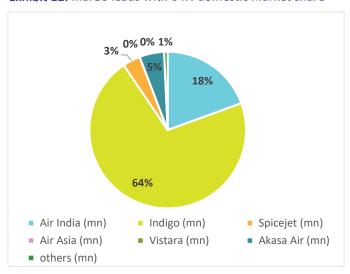
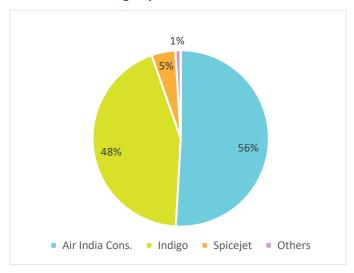


Exhibit 12: IndiGo leads with 64% domestic market share



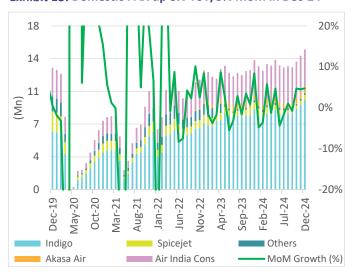
Source: DGCA, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 14: Air India group leads international market share*



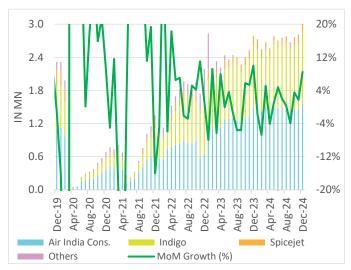
Source: DGCA, Nuvama Research *among Indian airlines with a 56% share

Exhibit 13: Domestic PAX up 8% YoY/5% MoM in Dec-24



Source: DGCA, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 15: International PAX up 10% YoY/8% MoM in Dec-24



Source: DGCA, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 16: Total Indian aviation ASKM up 11% YoY/5% MoM in Dec-24

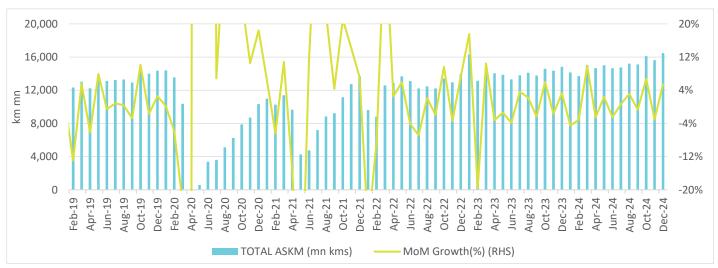
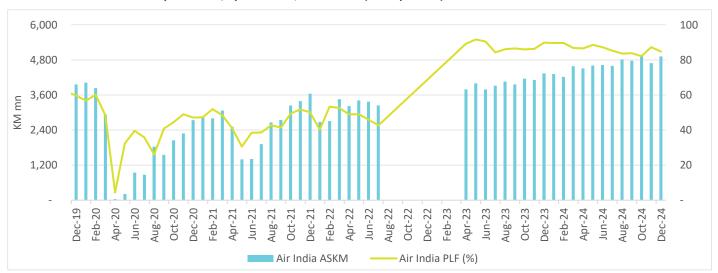


Exhibit 17: IndiGo ASKM rises 13% YoY led by expansion of fleet; PLF at 91% (-3bp YoY) in Dec-24



Source: DGCA, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 18: Air India ASKM up 13% YoY/up 5% MoM; PLF at 85% (-259bp MoM) in Dec-24



Source: DGCA, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 19: SpiceJet ASKM down 33% YoY/up 16% MoM; PLF at 87% (-45bp MoM) in Dec-24

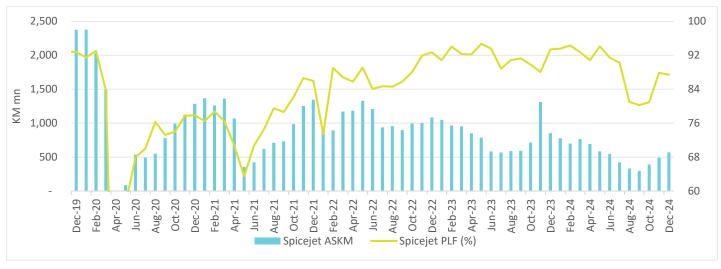
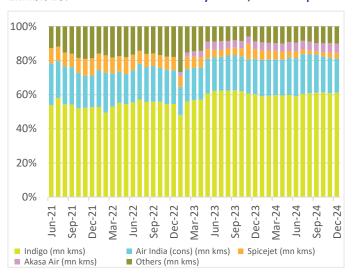


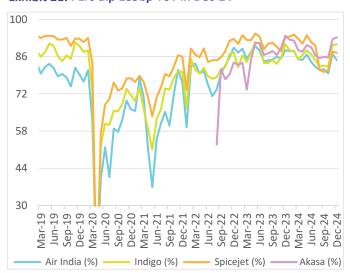
Exhibit 20: Domestic ASKM share by airline; IndiGo tops*



Source: DGCA, Nuvama Research

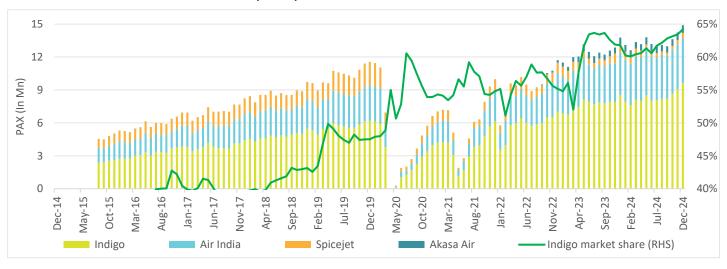
*in Dec-24

Exhibit 21: PLFs dip 185bp YoY in Dec-24



Source: DGCA, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 22: IndiGo's domestic market share up 238bp YoY to 64% in Dec-24



Source: DGCA, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 23: International ASKM share by airline; Air India group maintains lead in Dec-24

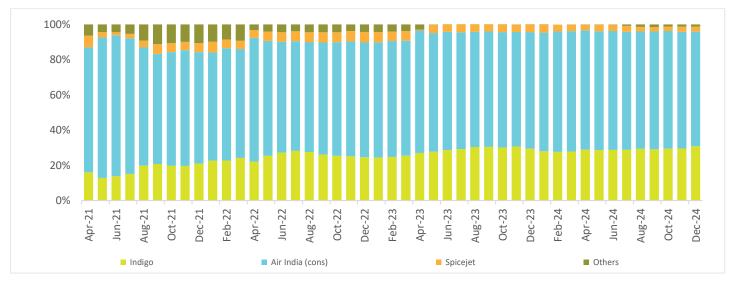
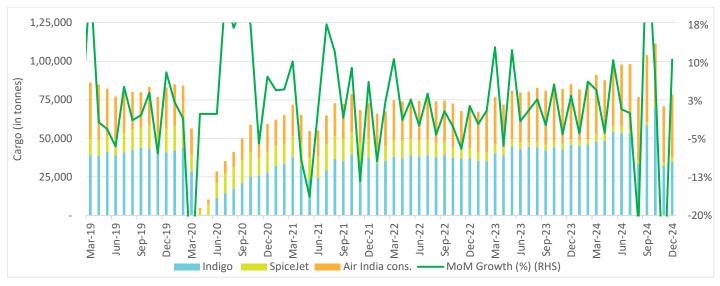


Exhibit 24: Air cargo down 7% YoY in Dec-24



Source: DGCA, Company, Nuvama Research

Exhibit 25: Peer comparison in domestic aviation market

Table	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
PAX (Mn)																
Indigo	7.80	7.93	7.90	8.56	7.93	7.63	8.11	8.03	8.51	8.04	8.05	8.20	8.22	8.65	9.08	9.62
Spicejet	0.55	0.63	0.94	0.78	0.74	0.66	0.70	0.62	0.55	0.50	0.41	0.30	0.26	0.34	0.44	0.49
Air India Group	5.41	5.57	5.52	6.00	5.93	5.78	6.01	5.87	6.07	5.96	5.81	5.96	5.80	5.28	4.45	4.09
Akasa	0.52	0.52	0.54	0.60	0.60	0.57	0.59	0.58	0.66	0.63	0.60	0.59	0.57	0.62	0.67	0.69
RPKM (Mn Km)																
Indigo	7,288	7,539	7,453	8,098	7,377	7,157	7,631	7,557	7,950	7,515	7,532	7,603	7,627	8,132	8,596	9,117
Spicejet	539	640	1,156	795	727	661	710	630	549	499	381	268	238	315	432	498
Air India Group	3,424	3,576	3,547	3,895	3,869	3,776	3,979	3,902	4,076	4,036	3,916	4,023	3,997	4,065	4,091	4,166
Akasa	527	541	545	620	611	571	598	603	708	692	659	650	635	714	804	813
ASKM (Mn Km)																
Indigo	8,605	9,050	8,703	8,930	8,351	8,127	8,984	8,730	8,990	8,640	8,903	9,236	9,235	9,887	9,517	10,058
Spicejet	590	713	1,313	851	777	700	766	693	584	546	422	331	296	390	492	569
Air India Group	3,957	4,159	4,111	4,338	4,318	4,215	4,584	4,508	4,603	4,624	4,594	4,814	4,770	4,946	4,688	4,920
Akasa	598	625	611	660	661	620	676	686	784	772	763	760	739	834	869	872
PLF (%)																
Indigo	85	83	86	91	88	88	85	87	88	87	85	82	83	82	90	91
Spicejet	91	90	88	93	94	94	93	91	94	91	90	81	80	81	88	87
Air India Group	87	86	86	90	90	90	87	87	89	87	85	84	84	82	87	85
Akasa	88	87	89	94	92	92	88	88	90	90	86	86	86	86	93	93

Exhibit 26: Global airline peers valuation

Company	Мсар	EV	EBITDAR (LC mn)		EV/EBITDAR (x)				ROE (%)		
	(USD mn)	(LC mn)	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY24	FY25E	FY26E
India Aviation											
Indigo	19,557	1,932,199	176,405	198,592	226,537	11.0	9.7	8.5	NM	NM	NM
Spicejet	651	108,211	20,415	24,119	21,863	5.3	4.5	4.9	NM	NM	NM
India Aviation-Mean					_	8.1	7.1	6.7			
US Aviation											
Delta Airlines	41,561	61,263	9,135	9,098	10,554	6.7	6.7	5.8	44.3	32.5	29.5
American Airlines	10,567	41,127	7,225	6,297	7,148	5.7	6.5	5.8	-6.7	-10.7	NM
South West Airlines	17,780	17,135	2,430	2,223	2,909	7.1	7.7	5.9	7.6	4.9	10.0
US Aviation-Mean						6.5	7.0	5.8	15.1	8.9	19.7
Europe Aviation											
Ryanair	22,356	21,399	3,125	2,823	3,344	6.8	7.6	6.4	28.4	21.1	24.0
Lufthansa	8,180	12,956	5,832	4,584	5,240	2.2	2.8	2.5	19.3	10.7	12.4
Europe Aviation-Mean						4.5	5.2	4.4	23.8	15.9	18.2
APAC Aviation											
Singapore Airlines	14,232	23,098	4,968	4,192	3,964	4.6	5.5	5.8	14.5	13.8	8.8
Air China	14,561	313,775	29,463	29,841	37,071	10.6	10.5	8.5	-0.6	0.5	11.9
Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd	8,314	122,380	28,066	26,807	27,082	4.4	4.6	4.5	14.6	13.8	13.6
Japan Airlines Co Ltd	7,487	1,378,110	283,643	317,591	333,578	4.9	4.3	4.1	10.7	10.8	11.1
APAC Aviation-Mean						6.1	6.2	5.7	9.8	9.7	11.4
Global Aviation-Mean						6.3	6.4	5.7	16.2	11.5	16.4

Source: Bloomberg, Nuvama Research

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