





Introduction: Airline Industry Overview
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Air Transportation Management

M.Sc. Program

Network, Fleet and Schedule
Strategic Planning

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Lecture Outline

Airline Terminology and Measures

- World Airline Statistics
- Historical Trends in Industry Growth

Overview of World Airlines

- Recent Performance of Largest Airlines
- Evolution of LCC Business Models
- Emerging Global Carriers

Airline Terminology and Measures

Airline Demand

- RPK = Revenue Passenger Kilometer
 - → One paying passenger transported 1 kilometer
- Yield = Revenue per RPK
 - → Average fare paid by passengers, per kilometer flown

Airline Supply

- ASK = Available Seat Kilometer
 - → One aircraft seat flown 1 kilometer
- Unit Cost = Operating Expense per ASK ("CASK")
 - → Average operating cost per unit of output
- Load Factor = RPK / ASK
- Unit Revenue = Revenue/ASK ("RASK")

Example: Airline Measures

A 200-seat aircraft flies 1000 kilometers, with 140 passengers:

 Assume total revenue = \$16,000; total operating expense = \$15,000;

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Yield = $16,000 / 140,000 RPK = $0.114 per RPK
Unit Cost = $15,000 / 200,000 ASK = $0.075 per ASK
Unit Revenue = $16,000 / 200,000 ASK = $0.080 per ASK
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Load Factor = RPK / ASK

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LF = 140,000 / 200,000 = 70.0\%
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→ For single flight, also defined as passengers / seats

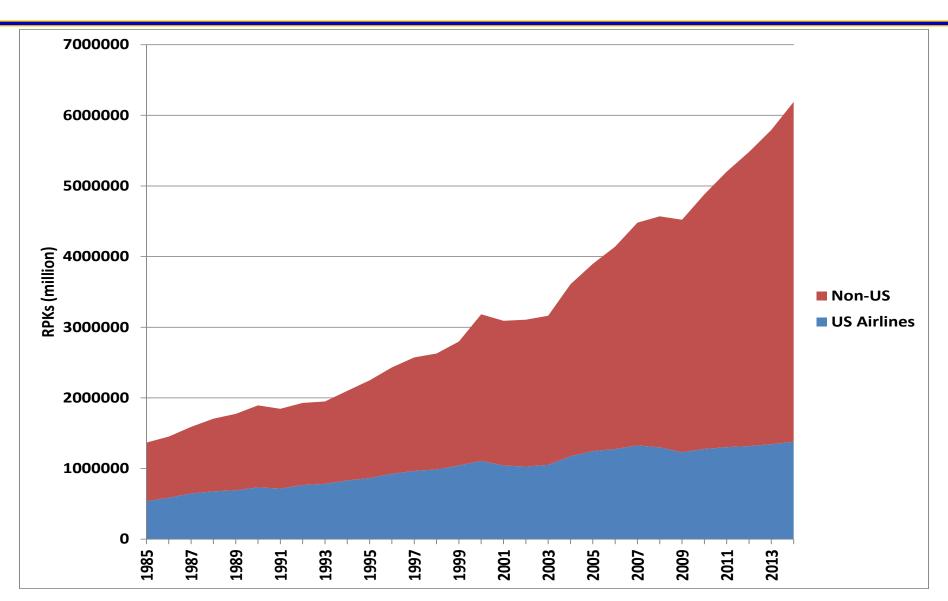
Additional Measures for Air Cargo

- Freight Tonne Kilometer (FTK)
 Measure of freight traffic carried
 = freight tonnes carried X kilometers flown
- Available Tonne Kilometer (ATK)
 Measure of freight capacity available
 = freight tonne capacity X kilometers flown
- Cargo Load Factor = FTK / ATK
 - % of freight capacity utilized

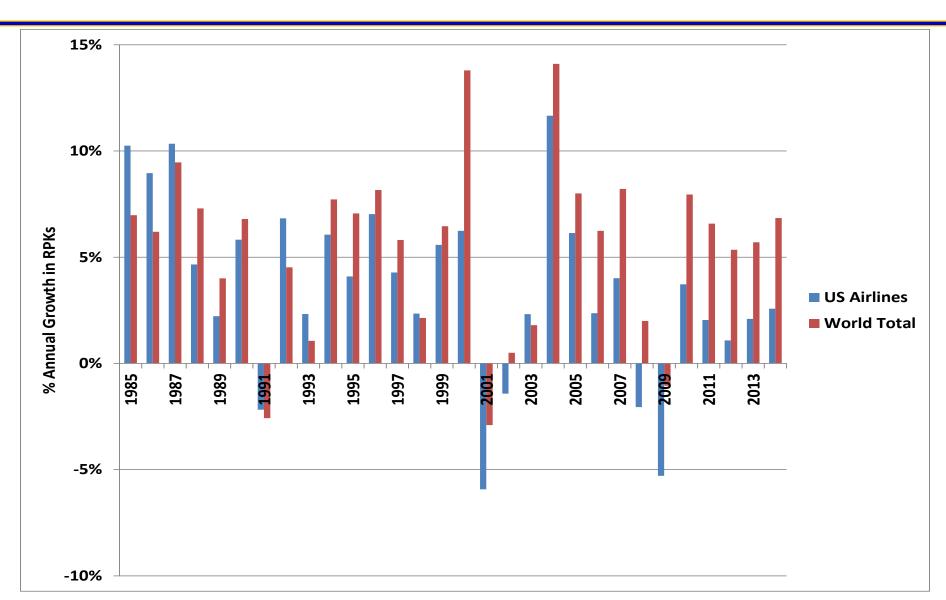
World Airline Industry Statistics 2014

| | US Airlines | World (IATA) |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Certificated airlines | 70 | 1 400 |
| Commercial aircraft | 6 727 | 25 300 |
| Scheduled departures | 9.5 million | 36.4 million |
| Employees | 580 000 | 2 400 000 |
| Passengers enplaned | 762 million | 3.32 billion |
| Passenger Traffic Growth | 2.6% | 6.0% |
| Cargo Traffic Growth | 3.0% | 5.8% |
| Operating Revenues (USD) | \$208 billion | \$733 billion |
| Net Profit (USD) | \$8.5 billion | \$16.4 billion |
| Net Profit Margin | 4.1% | 2.2% |

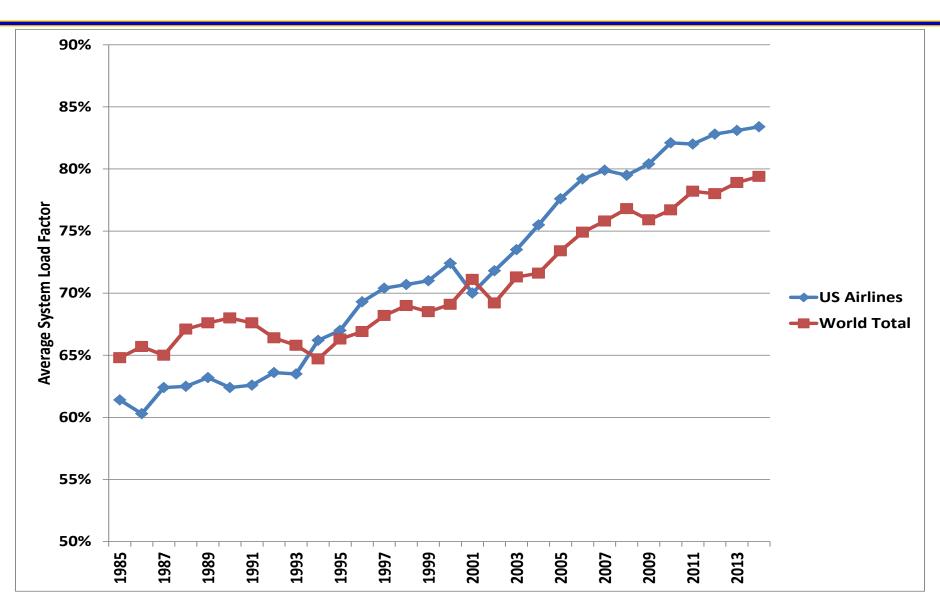
Airline Traffic (RPK) Growth 1985-2014



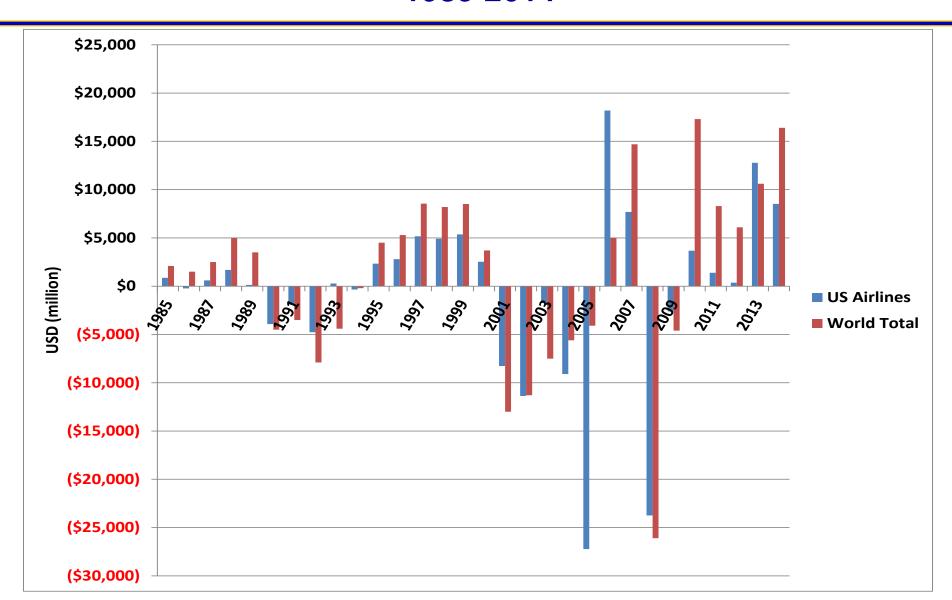
Annual % RPK Growth 1985-2014



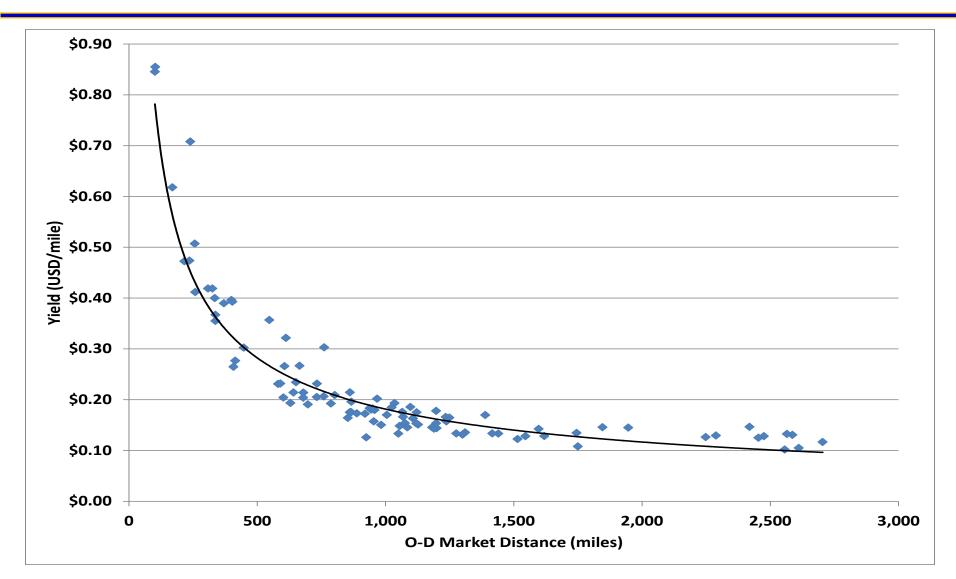
Average Load Factors 1985-2014



US and World Industry Net Profit 1985-2014



Yield vs. Distance Relationship Top 100 US Domestic O-D Markets 1Q15



Additional Airline Measures

Average Stage Length

- Average non-stop flight distance
- Aircraft Miles Flown / Aircraft Departures
- Longer average stage lengths associated with lower yields and lower unit costs (in theory)

Average Passenger Trip Length

- Average distance flown from origin to destination
- Revenue Passenger Miles (RPKs) / Passengers
- Typically greater than average stage length, since some proportion of passengers will take more than one flight (connections)

Average Number of Seats per Flight Departure

- Available Seat Miles / Aircraft Miles Flown
- Higher average seats per flight associated with lower unit costs (in theory)

Competition Under Deregulation

- The removal of economic regulations added several new dimensions to airline competitive strategies:
 - Cost cutting and productivity improvement
 - Economies of scale in operations to reduce unit costs
 - Price competition and revenue management to increase revenues
 - New marketing and distribution programs
 - Increased network coverage and market dominance
- Airline managers now actually have to make management decisions and trade-offs:
 - In contrast to regulated times when government control ensured price increases to cover increased operating costs.

The Global Airline Industry: A Tale of Three Sectors

Network Legacy Carriers

- For some, bankruptcies and consolidation reduced excess capacity, allowed for labor cost and productivity improvements
- But European legacy carriers still struggling with high costs

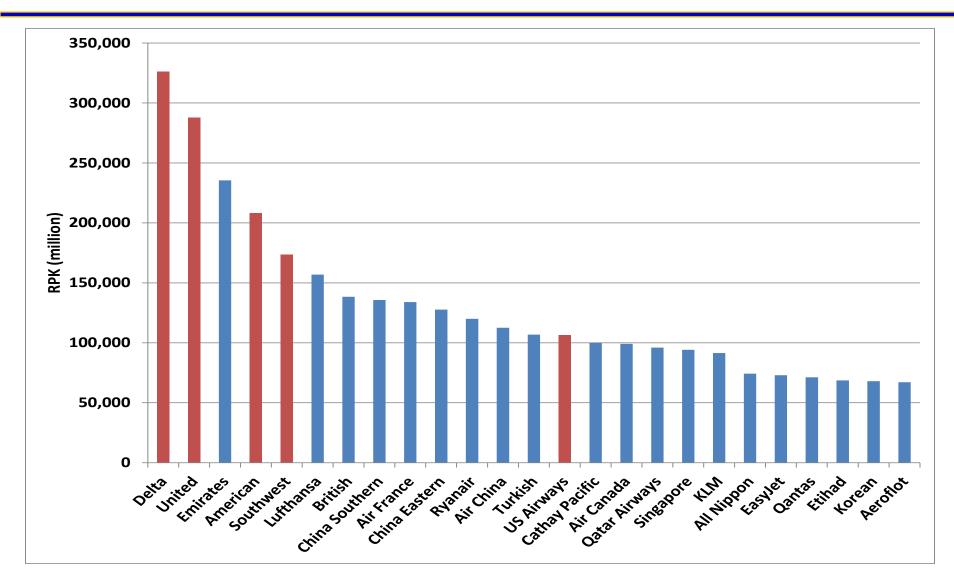
Low Cost Carriers

- LCC share of US domestic passengers has leveled off at 1/3
- LCCs continue to grow rapidly in other world regions
- But unit cost advantages of new entrants tend to disappear as both aircraft and employees mature

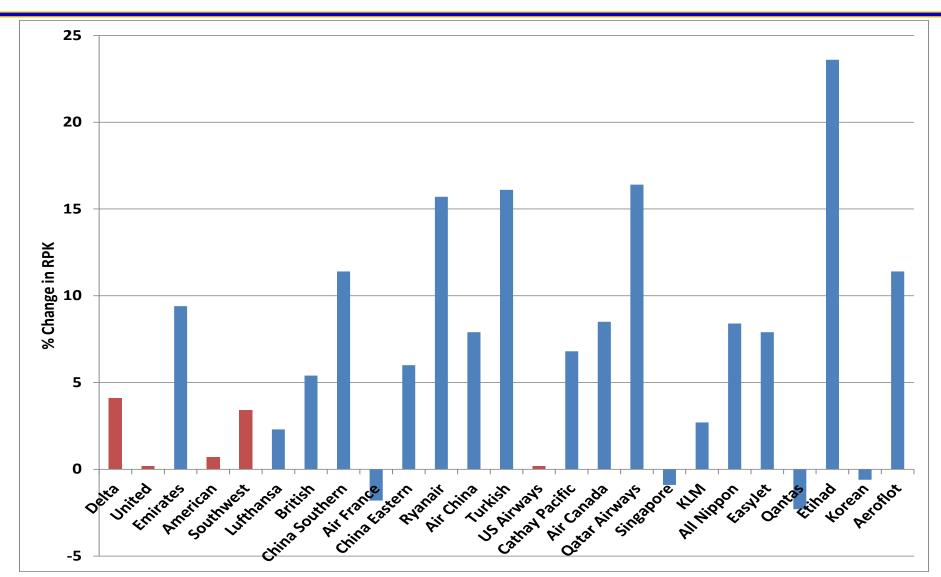
Emerging Global Carriers

- Large hub networks based in Middle East, South America and Asia
- Examples: Emirates, Etihad, Qatar, Turkish, LATAM, China Southern, China Eastern

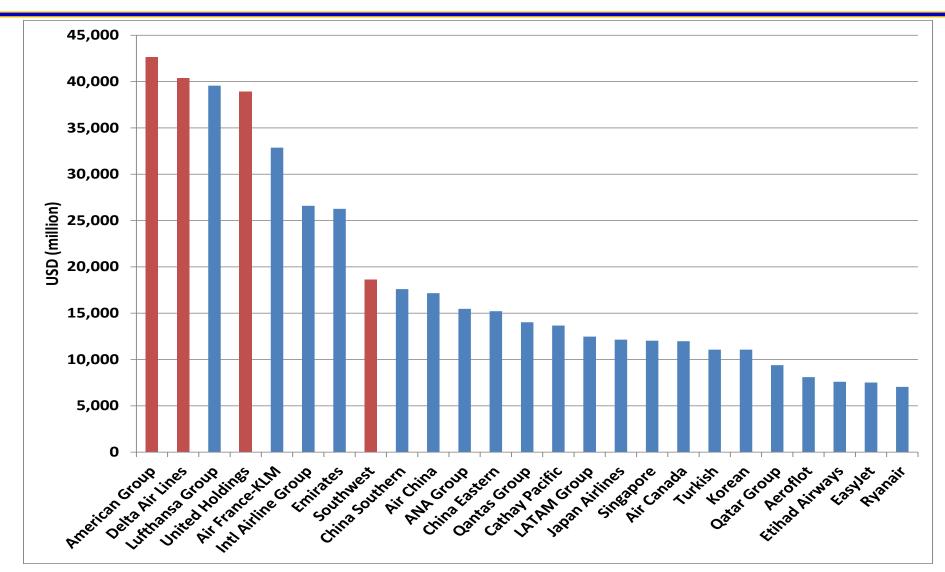
Top 25 World Airlines – Ranked by Passenger Traffic (RPK) 2014



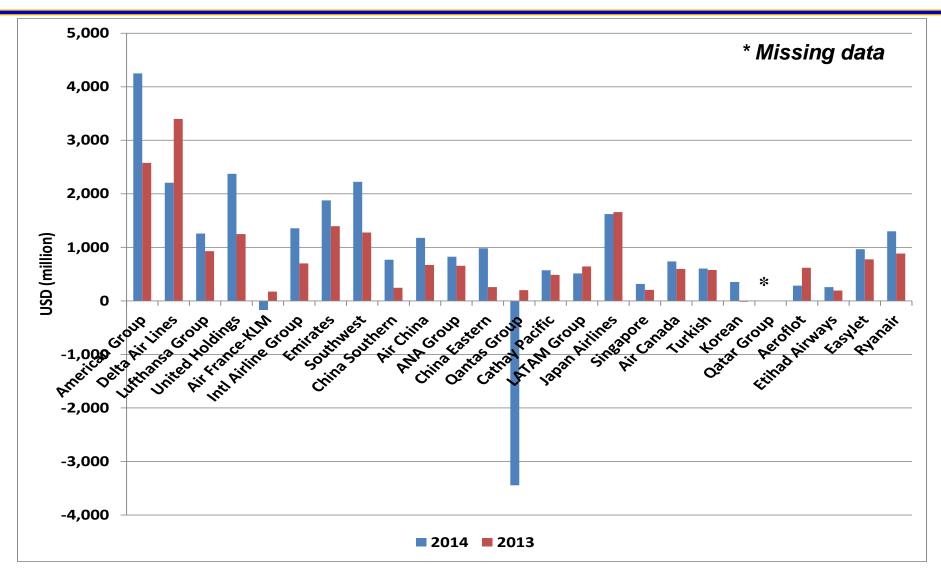
Top 25 World Airlines – Annual Growth in Passenger Traffic (RPK) 2014



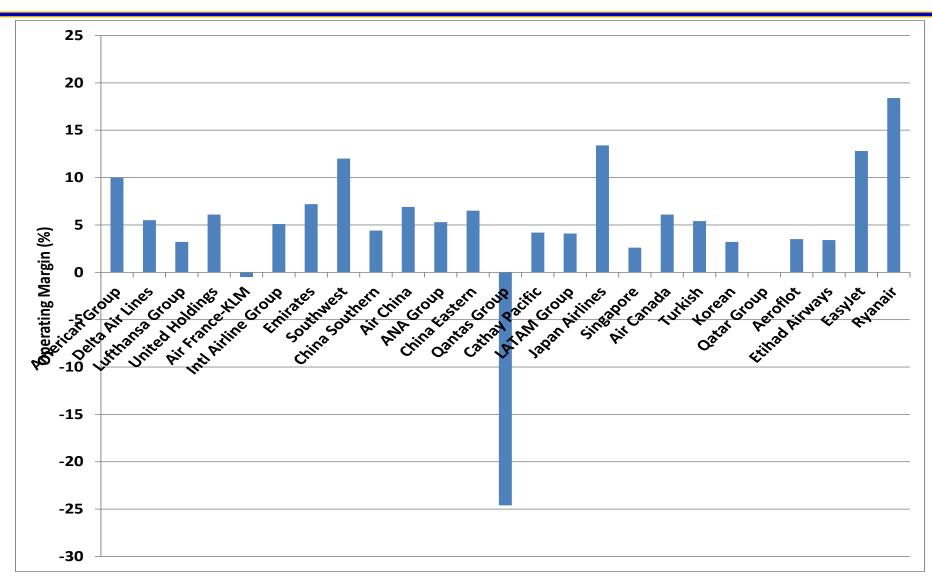
Top 25 World Airline Groups – Total Operating Revenues 2014



Top World Airline Groups – Operating Profit 2014 and 2013



Top World Airline Groups – % Operating Margin 2014



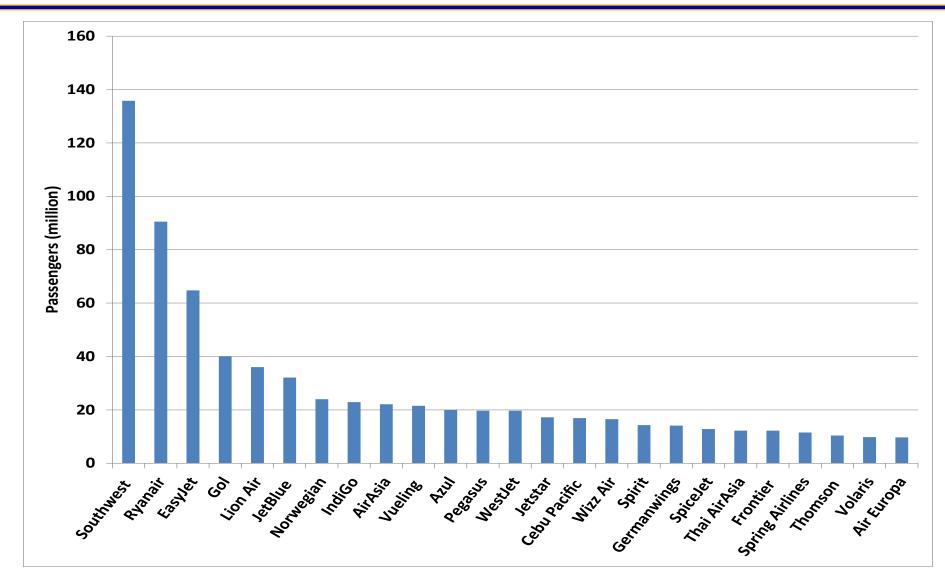
The LCC "Business Model"

- LCCs were once assumed to use common strategies designed to reduce unit costs:
 - Single aircraft type or family of aircraft
 - Point-to-point vs. hub network structure
 - No connecting tickets (only point-to-point) local passengers
 - No labor unions, low wage rates
 - Single cabin service, no "premium" classes on board
 - No seat assignment (in advance and/or at the airport)
 - Reduced "frills" and seating space on board
 - No frequent flyer loyalty programs
 - No distribution through Global Distribution Systems (GDS)
- With LCC evolution, very few large LCCs actually fit this assumed LCC "business model" today...

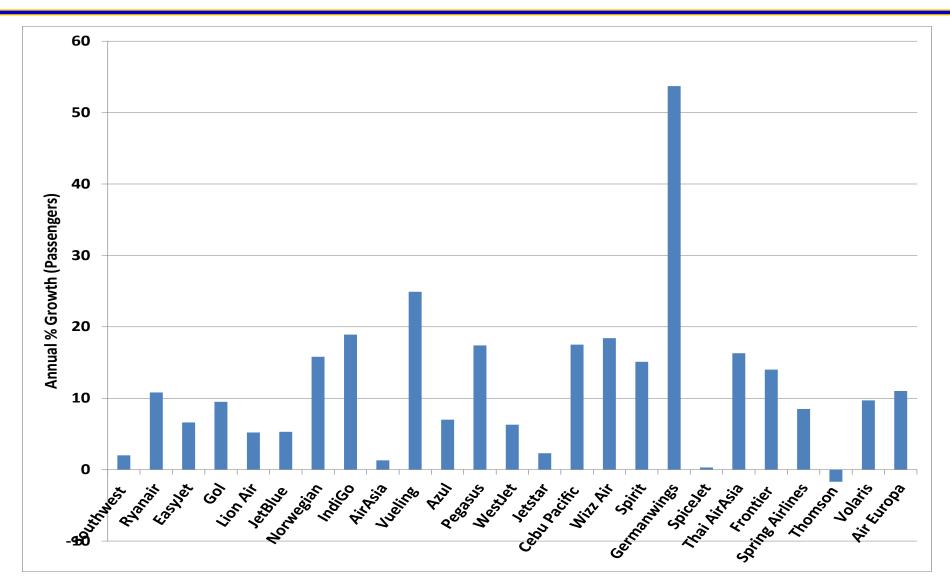
Many Different LCC Business Models

| | Southwest | jetBlue | Air Asia | GOL | EasyJet | Ryanair |
|---|------------|---------|----------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Single aircraft type or single family of aircraft | × | Χ | Y | > | ~ [| ~ [|
| Point-to-point ticketing, no connecting hubs | × | X | X | × | ~ [| ~ [|
| No labor unions, lower wage rates | × | X | X | X | X | ~ |
| Single cabin service, no premium class | ✓ □ | X | ? | ?• | ~ [| ~ |
| No seat assignments | ✓ □ | X | X | X 🗆 | ~ [| ~ |
| Reduced frills for on-board service (vs. legacy) | × | X | × | × | ~ [| ~ [|
| No frequent flyer loyalty program | × | X | X | X | ~ [| ~ [|
| Avoid Global Distribution Systems (GDS) | ? | Χ□ | X | × | ✓ □ | X |

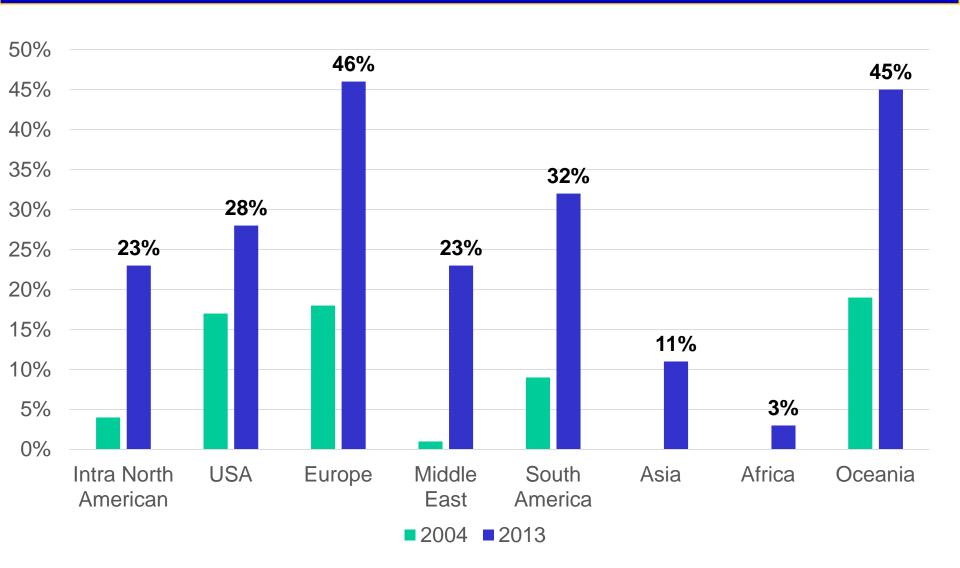
Top 25 LCCs by Passengers Enplaned (2014)



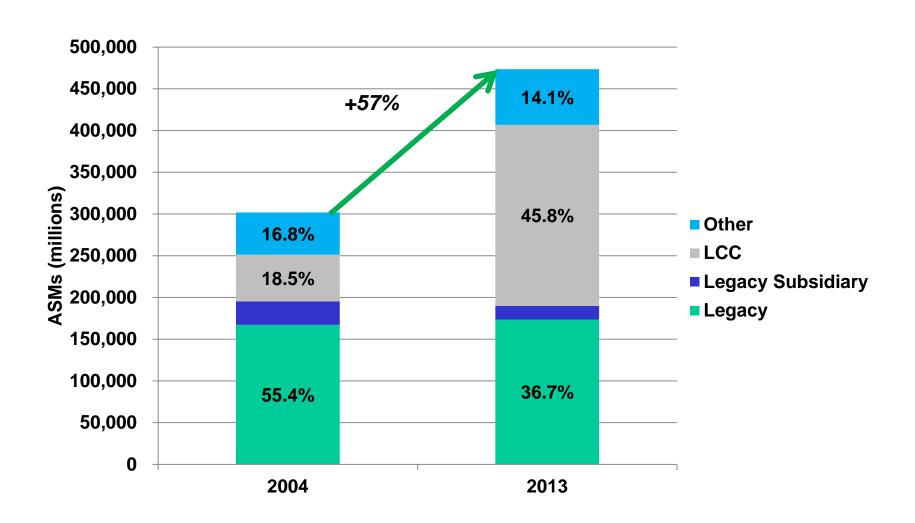
Top 25 LCCs Annual Growth Rates (2014)



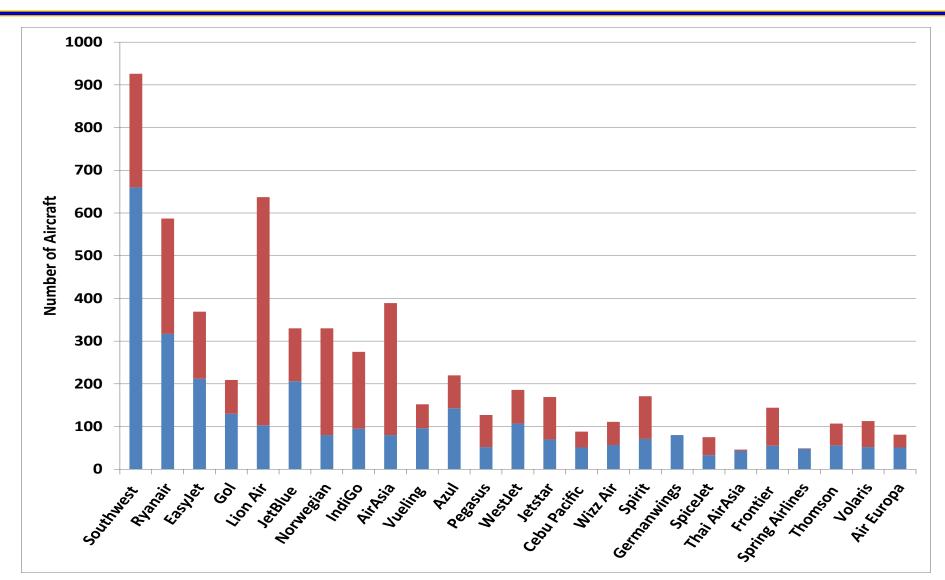
LCCs have increased their ASM share in all regions; penetration is limited in Africa and Asia



European LCCs have more than doubled their intra-Europe ASM share since 2004



Top 25 LCCs Fleets and Orders (2014)



Source: Airline Business Top 50 LCCs 2014

Emerging Global Carriers



- Dubai, UAE
- 248 Aircraft
- 3rd largest airline by weekly seat capacity



- Doha, Qatar
- 167 Aircraft
- oneworld member



- Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 120 Aircraft
- Owns large stakes in other airlines



- Istanbul, Turkey
- 267 Aircraft
- Star Alliance member

What sets the emerging carriers apart?

 Each of the 4 airlines has managed annual growth rates greater than 10% in the following categories:

| | | Etihad | Emirates | Qatar | Turkish |
|------------------|------------|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| 5 | Passengers | 16.26% | 12.65% | 15.83% | 13.62% |
| 5-year Annual | ASKs | 18.66% | 14.19% | 20.41% | 18.30% |
| Growth | RPKs | 21.84% | 14.37% | 19.28% | 18.20% |
| GIOWEII | Fleet Size | 11.50% | 11.68% | 16.42% | 15.30% |

- Hubs locations provide them with a geographic advantage over many other airlines
- Fleets composed mostly of wide-body aircraft

Source: Airline Annual Reports, 2007-2012

Emerging global carriers will double their capacity by the end of the decade





| Airline | 2013 | | | 2020 | | | Change | | |
|----------|-------|------------|-----------------|-------|------------|-----------------|--------|------------|------|
| | Fleet | Departures | ASMs (millions) | Fleet | Departures | ASMs (millions) | Fleet | Departures | ASMs |
| Emirates | 187 | 163,338 | 170,331 | 321 | 262,545 | 305,079 | 72% | 61% | 79% |
| Etihad | 64 | 67,014 | 34,907 | 148 | 134,868 | 91,062 | 131% | 101% | 161% |
| Qatar | 113 | 124,246 | 62,687 | 241 | 244,660 | 131,954 | 113% | 97% | 110% |
| Turkish | 195 | 277,327 | 62,180 | 389 | 545,164 | 138,786 | 99% | 97% | 123% |
| Total | 559 | 631925 | 330,106 | 1099 | 1187236 | 666,882 | 97% | 88% | 102% |





What do these growth projections imply for global airline rankings?

| Rank | x Airline | Country | RPK (2012) | Rank | Airline | Assumed Annual Growth Rate | RPK (2020) |
|------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Delta Air Lines | United States | 310,466 | 1 | Emirates Airline | 9.6% | 392,781 |
| 2 | United Airlines | United States | 288,680 | 2 | Delta Air Lines | 0.6% | 325,989 |
| 3 | American Airlines | United States | 203,299 | 3 | United Airlines | 0.6% | 303,114 |
| 4 | Emirates Airline | United Arab Emirates | 188,618 | 4 | Southwest Airlines | 5.0% | 244,893 |
| 5 | Southwest Airlines | United States | 165,753 | 5 | American Airlines | 0.6% | 213,464 |
| 6 | Lufthansa | Germany | 149,780 | 6 | China Eastern Airlines | 8.0% | 201,961 |
| 7 | Air France | France | 135,824 | 7 | China Southern Airlines | 8.0% | 198,050 |
| 8 | British Airways | United Kingdom | 126,436 | 8 | Turkish Airlines | 11.5% | 178,637 |
| 9 | China Eastern Airlines | China | 109,113 | 7 9 | Air China | 8.0% | 177,578 |
| | China Southern | | | 10 | Cathay Pacific | 8.0% | 174,341 |
| 10 | Airlines | China | 107,000 | 11 | Ryanair | 7.0% | 171,819 |
| 11 | US Airways | United States | 100,460 | _12 | Qatar Airways | 10.9% | 168,981 |
| 12 | Ryanair | Ireland | 100,000 | 13 | Lufthansa | 0.6% | 157,269 |
| 13 | Air China | China | 95,940 | 14 | Air France | 0.6% | 142,615 |
| 14 | Cathay Pacific | Hong Kong | 94,191 | 15 | Singapore Airlines | 5.0% | 138,535 |
| 15 | Singapore Airlines | Singapore | 93,766 | 16 | British Airways | 0.6% | 132,758 |
| 16 | Air Canada | Canada | 89,534 | 17 | Etihad Airways | 11.8% | 117,240 |
| 17 | KLM | Netherlands | 86,281 | 718 | US Airways | 0.6% | 105,483 |
| 18 | Qantas | Australia | 75,935 | 19 | Air Canada | 0.6% | 94,011 |
| 19 | Turkish Airlines | Turkey | 74,638 | | KLM Royal Dutch | | |
| 20 | Qatar Airways | Qatar | 73,608 | 20 | Airlines | 0.6% | 90,595 |
| 30 | Etihad Airways | United Arab Emirates | 48,000 | 21 | Qantas | 2.0% | 88,970 |

[•] Growth rates for non-emerging carriers were extrapolated from recent growth patterns Source: Airline Business 2012 Rankings