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Global Aerospace

Tracking the Impact of Massive Capacity Cuts on Aircraft Utilization - Young vs Old

Analyzing Aircraft Utilization

We have collected daily flight activity across the global fleet of commercial aircraft for a better read on aircraft utilization patterns during COVID-19.

We estimate China daily utilization declined ~80%+ from late January levels, to 1-2 hours per day, then increased to ~3 hours per day by early March, where it has remained since. By aircraft age, we estimate in-warranty (0-5 year) utilization is now down 60% from its January peak while out-of-warranty (6+ year) utilization is down 62%. While the decline in out-of-warranty flying is negative for commercial aftermarket, this is better than if airlines had simply grounded older aircraft while continuing to fly their younger fleets.

China Carriers - Daily Utilization (Hours) by Age Group