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# ACADEMIC WEEKLY DIGEST

School of Hospitality & Tourism Management

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## COVID-19 AND THE AVIATION INDUSTRY

During the lockdown from March to May 2020, the aviation industry cancelled over 795,000 flights to Europe, which resulted in averting an additional six million people from being infected and saving 101,309 lives. **Dr Anyu Liu**, **Dr Yoo Ri Kim**, and **Dr Frankie O'Connell** found that the spillover effects deduced that a 1% decrease in flight frequency can decrease the number of confirmed cases by 0.908%.



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# COVID-19 AND THE AVIATION INDUSTRY: THE INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS IN THE EUROPEAN MARKET

**DR ANYU LIU, DR YOO RI KIM & DR FRANKIE O'CONNELL**

The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of EU lockdown on the control of Covid-19 from the aviation industries' perspective. Two quasi-experiment studies were conducted in this study. First, the regression discontinuity design method is adapted and confirmed that the EU lockdown causally ceased the flights to destinations in EU. Second, a two-stages spatial-Durbin model with an instrument variable is used to examine the causal relationship between flight frequency and Covid-19 spread.

The results revealed that Covid-19 could significant spillover from neighbouring countries to the focal country. On average, 1% decline of the flight frequency in a destination could decreased the confirmed cases in EU by 0.908%. From the activation of lockdown in March to the end of May 2020, the aviation industry in EU cancelled 795 thousand flights but avoided another six million people to be infected and saved 101,309 lives.



## FURTHER READING:

Liu, A., Kim, Y. R., & O'Connell, J. F. (2021). COVID-19 and the aviation industry: The interrelationship between the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the frequency of flights on the EU market. *Annals of Tourism Research*.

Link: [bit.ly/31Jw4SI](https://bit.ly/31Jw4SI)

Lockdown is an effective way to control the Covid-19 spread and it is worth enough to pay any costs to save lives. Meanwhile, both the industry and policy-makers should start to plan how to better support the industry during the crises and recover the market strategically post Covid-19.