

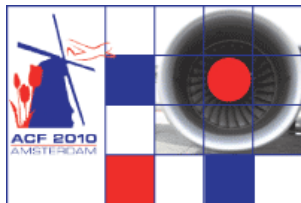
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Airlines warned against over-capacity

Monday, 16 August 2010

The aviation industry is being warned that individual decisions by airlines to pull mothballed aircraft back into service could result in a capacity oversupply.

Aviation consultant Ascend Worldwide says Boeing B747 jets increasingly are being brought out of desert storage to cater for resurgent freight and passenger demand.

Wide-bodied planes accounted for about 25 per cent of the 200 aircraft retrieved from storage in May and June, the firm says.

The number of 747s 'de-mothballed' in June exceeded those placed in storage for the first time since January 2009.

"There's a temptation to add capacity," said Chris Tarry, an airline analyst.

But, "What may be rational fleet decisions for individual airlines can add up to a problem for the industry when they are taken together."

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