

Lufthansa loses 1.26 billion euros in third quarter

October 20 2020



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German airline Lufthansa on Tuesday reported a loss of 1.26 billion euros (\$1.49 billion) in the third quarter of 2020 as it struggles to bounce back from crippling coronavirus lockdowns.

The sobering figure is a slight improvement on quarter two's loss of 1.5 billion euros "due to an expansion of the flight schedule in the summer

months of July and August and considerable cost reductions", the airline said in a statement.

But demand for [air travel](#) is expected to remain low in the coming months "due to the global evolution of the pandemic and the associated travel restrictions", it said.

The group therefore plans to operate at just 25 percent capacity in the [fourth quarter](#) compared with the same period last year.

Like all of the world's airlines, the Lufthansa group—which also includes Swiss, Brussels and Austrian Airlines—has been brought to its knees by restrictions introduced to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Around 700 of the group's 763 aircraft were grounded at the peak of the lockdowns and it was forced to put 87,000 workers on government-backed shorter hours schemes.

The group has been saved from bankruptcy by a German government bailout worth nine billion euros.

Thanks to the rescue deal, it had liquidity of 10.1 billion euros at its disposal at the end of September and "is also in a position to withstand further burdens from the corona pandemic", the group said.

Lufthansa said in September it was losing about 500 million euros a month and bookings were declining after a brief rebound over the summer.

To cut costs, the group plans to reduce its fleet by 150 planes by 2025 and has said it will cut at least 22,000 jobs.

Citation: Lufthansa loses 1.26 billion euros in third quarter (2020, October 20) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2020-10-lufthansa-billion-euros-quarter.html>

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