

CREW CHALLENGE

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The aircraft ordered by Middle East airlines are starting to be delivered and the need for crews is rising sharply.

“There is possibly quicker fleet growth than airlines can acquire crews. This will be a challenge. Fortunately, weak demand for crews in North America may help. But once United States carriers start to hire again, it will be tough to keep crews because pay scales are not as good – even if [they are] tax free,” said one analyst.

Meanwhile with specific focus on Emirates, growth in Latin America, according to an industry observer, seems next because Emirates is less known there.

“But bear in mind that if the airline grows at 20 per cent and the market grows at five per cent, it is getting market share. Competitors are not going to allow this growth to continue without a fight. Emirates will find that it faces at least one in every market next year alone.”

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