



# Americas Focus

YOUR SOURCE FOR IATA'S LATEST REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

1  
2024



Dear Colleagues,

Globally, 2024 is being hailed as the 'year of elections', with over 60 countries set to conduct polls. The Americas will be in the spotlight, with presidential elections slated in the Dominican Republic, Panama, Mexico, and Uruguay. Venezuela is also anticipated to join the list, although the election date remains unconfirmed. Meanwhile, countries like Brazil and Chile will be holding municipal elections. And in November, the United States will likely see a rematch of the 2020 election between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. El Salvador has already re-elected President Nayib Bukele with a landslide victory. The results were widely expected in a country where Bukele enjoys immense popularity.

Other countries remain uncertain, specifically in Mexico where elections will take place this June between the front-runner Claudia Sheinbaum from the MORENA Party (the party of current President Lopez Obrador) & former Mayor of Mexico City, and Xóchitl Gálvez, former Senator of the Congress. While recent polls favor Mrs. Sheinbaum, Mrs. Gálvez has been slowly shortening the gap. IATA had the opportunity to meet with Mrs. Gálvez to discuss air transport's priorities and challenges in Mexico. She understands the benefits that aviation brings to the country and was very receptive to our concerns and wiliness to work collaboratively. It is clear that the Mexico City airports will be her top aviation priority if she wins the election. We will also meet with front-runner Mrs. Sheinbaum in the coming weeks to ensure aviation is viewed as a business partner and enabler of economic growth and social development.

We will continue to actively seek meetings with the presidential candidates and their teams across the region and establish a collaborative working relationship with the objective of ensuring aviation is a priority and high on the government's agenda. To do so, we are producing a variety of economic reports and I will make sure to share these materials consistently in case they are useful in your own advocacy efforts.

I am also pleased to share the first three IATA events of 2024 in the Americas: First, the [World Legal Symposium](#) in Vancouver, Canada from February 21-23. Then an [Aviation Day for Argentina](#) in Buenos Aires on April 4 to create a joint industry agenda with the new government. A week later, we will hold the [Wings of Change Americas](#) Conference in Santiago, Chile, on April 10 and 11 with a regional focus to address the challenges and opportunities for air transport in the Americas. Please feel free to reach out to [my team](#) for further details and event information.

As usual, please find below IATA's most recent activities to start off the new year across the Americas. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for further action. We look forward to another year of collaboration. Thank you for your support.

Best regards,



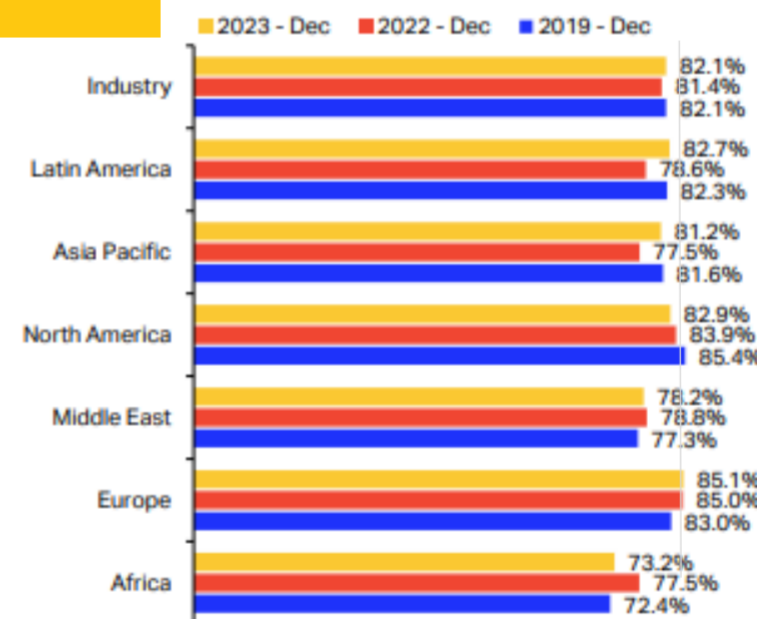
**PETER CERDÁ**  
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT  
THE AMERICAS



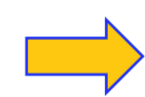
## LATEST AIR PASSENGER MARKET IN DETAIL

DECEMBER 2023 (% YEAR-ON-YEAR)	WORLD SHARE <sup>1</sup>	RPK	ASK	PLF(%-PT) <sup>2</sup>	PLF(LEVEL) <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total Market</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>24.1%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>82.1%</b>
Africa	2.1%	12.1%	18.7%	-4.3%	73.2%
Asia Pacific	22.1%	60.7%	53.4%	3.7%	81.2%
Europe	30.8%	12.5%	12.3%	0.1%	85.1%
Latin America	6.4%	16.3%	10.4%	4.2%	82.7%
Middle East	9.8%	16.4%	17.2%	-0.6%	78.2%
North America	28.8%	10.6%	12.0%	-1.0%	82.9%

## PASSENGER LOAD FACTOR (PLF), % SHARE OF ASKS (Q3)



Full economic analysis here:



[ENGLISH](#)  
[SPANISH](#)

## BRAZIL: VISA CREW EXEMPTIONS GRANTED UNTIL JULY 10, 2024



Brazil's Government reinstated visa requirements for nationals of the US, Canada, and Australia which was initially set to be implemented on January 10, 2024. In December 2023, it was announced that the visa requirement would also apply to crew members, which caused major concerns for airlines. Following advocacy efforts from IATA and other associations, the Government created a Working Group to assess the necessity of visas for crew members and granted an exemption for crew until July 10, 2024. In addition, the general visa requirement for above travelers was further postponed to April 10, 2024. IATA will continue to advocate for the removal of the crew visas. For more details, please contact IATA's Country Manager for Brazil, [Dany Oliveira](#).

## CANADA: INDUSTRY INPUT TO FEDERAL PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS 2024



As part of the 2024 pre-budget consultations, IATA joined forces with Canada's aviation sector partners to urge the Canadian government to prioritize sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) in this year's budget. IATA recommends for the government to make the necessary investments to stimulate Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production to reduce aviation carbon emissions over the short and long term. IATA also urged the Canadian Government to conduct a comprehensive review of all third-party fees, charges, and taxes imposed on airlines and travellers and reinvest airport rents into airport infrastructure to make Canada more competitive. For more details, please contact IATA's Country Manager for the US & Canada, [Ben Barrocas](#).

## CANADA: SUPPLY CHAIN REGULATORY REVIEW



IATA took part in a consultation that will examine federal regulations and regulatory practices, with a view to better support the movement of commodities and goods in Canada and across the border. The Canadian Government will develop a Regulatory Roadmap, outlining initiatives to improve the federal regulatory system and better support economic growth and innovation. Initiatives could include proposed changes to federal regulations or enabling legislation, as well as updated policies, practices, guidance or tools. IATA's submission is focused on border operations, especially emphasizing the need for more interaction between Transport Canada's Pre-Load Air Cargo Targeting (PACT) program and the Canadian Border Services Agency e-Manifest initiative. In addition, resolving the unsatisfactory outcome that same data must be sent twice to two different national systems. For more details, please contact IATA's Vice President, Member & External Relations, North America, [Doug Lavin](#).

## COLOMBIA: MODIFICATION OF SUPERINTENDENCY OF TRANSPORT REGULATION



In January, the Superintendency of Transport published changes to financial supervision regulations. While the general annual supervision remains unchanged, a new oversight system will be introduced for special business models. Airlines will be classified as special business models and will thus fall under this new oversight system. Under the new regulations, airlines will also be subject to oversight during intermediate periods. However, following several discussions, IATA managed to ensure that airlines are only required to submit financial information every six months, instead of every three months. Another significant achievement is that airlines will not be required to provide a guarantee or insurance policy, contrary to what the authority had previously intended to implement. For more details, please contact IATA's Country Manager for Colombia, [Paula Bernal](#).

## COLOMBIA: MINISTRY OF ENERGY SET PRIORITIES FOR 2024



MINISTERIO DE MINAS  
Y ENERGÍA

The Ministry of Energy has recently released its 2024 [action plan and objectives](#) for public consultation. One of the primary goals of this plan is to introduce new regulations to update the requirements and specifications for producing Sustainable Aviation Fuels and jet fuel quality. IATA submitted comments on the action plan on behalf of its member airlines. For more details, please contact IATA's Manager, Industry Relationships, Colombia, [Guilherme Goulart](#).

## COSTA RICA: GOVERNMENT PRIORITIZES THE RUNWAY RESURFACING AT LIBERIA (LIR)



GUANACASTE  
AIRPORT  
COSTA RICA

Costa Rica's Civil Aviation Authority has agreed to prioritize the runway resurfacing at Daniel Oduber International Airport (LIR), following concerns raised by IATA and airline operators on the poor conditions of the runway. The project is expected to start in March and will take approximately six months to complete. IATA will work with the CAA and airport authority to ensure timelines are met and disruptions are minimized during the resurfacing works. For more details, please contact IATA's Regional Director, Operations, Safety & Security for the Americas, [Julie Mailhot](#).

## ECUADOR: PROPOSED BILL TO INCREASE VAT FROM 12% TO 15%



President Noboa presented a new bill to the National Assembly to increase VAT from 12% to 15% to finance efforts to combat crime gangs. The proposal comes because of the serious civil unrest in the country and recently increased operations by armed forces in various parts of Ecuador. IATA, ARLAE and ALTA submitted a joint letter to the commission of the National Assembly, where the bill is under discussion, highlighting the negative effects on air transportation if the VAT increase were to be approved. For more details, please contact IATA's Manager, Industry Relationships, Central America & Ecuador, [Lucas Castellon](#).

## EL SALVADOR: ELIMINATION OF DEPARTURE IMMIGRATION CHECKPOINT AT SAL



REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR EN LA AMÉRICA  
CENTRAL

The government of El Salvador announced that, effective February 12, it will eliminate the immigration checkpoint for departing passengers at El Salvador International Airport (SAL). While this measure streamlines the passenger experience process, IATA engaged with the Immigration Authority to ensure that any invisible immigration process involving passenger data transmission must be aligned with API international standards. As a result, an industry/government implementation group was formed towards this goal. For more details, please contact IATA's Area Manager for Central America and Ecuador, [David Hernandez](#).

## MEXICO: CHANGES TO BSP/CASS COMMISSION PAYMENT PROCESS



Suprema Corte  
de Justicia de la Nación

Due to a new interpretation of the Mexican Supreme Court regarding "civil compensation", the Tax Authority now requires all industries to demonstrate gross sales before commission payments. As IATA's BSP/CASS are under a Net Remittance Scheme, IATA needs to change the process in Mexico, therefore agents will be required to pay the full remittance value to the BSP/CASS, and afterwards be paid their commission. This new scheme will show a full cash flow process and will allow airlines to request a refund of said commission taxes. IATA is working with airlines and agents to ensure a smooth transition to the new process. For more details, please contact IATA's Regional Director, Financial Settlement & Distribution Services, [Alicia Lines](#).

## PERU: SIGNIFICANT DELAYS CAUSED BY CORPAC'S FLIGHT SEPARATION NOTICES AT LIM



IATA has written to the Minister of Transportation complaining about the numerous FIR enroute (mandatory flight separation) and ground delays at Lima International Airport (LIM) caused by the lack of adequate staffing levels in the control center and tower that have prolonged for over 9 months. There is urgent need for the Ministry to work with CORPAC to staff adequately and implement contingency measures when necessary to ensure there is predictability, efficiency and reliability of service while flying within the Lima FIR. IATA has also requested the assistance of ICAO to provide technical support to the authorities. For more details, please contact IATA's Assistant Director, Operations, Safety & Security, [Julio Pereira](#).

## PERU: PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE 50% DISCOUNT ON AIR TICKETS FOR PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES



Peru has put forth a proposal that aims to offer people with disabilities a 50% discount on air tickets, whether for domestic or international flights. The proposal suggests that public or private air transport companies should incorporate articles in their regulations that grant this benefit to all citizens with the respective accreditation from the National Council for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (Conadis). Furthermore, if a person with disabilities needs to travel with a companion, the latter will also be eligible for the extension of the benefit of the discount on the air ticket. IATA commented on the bill and urged Peru's Civil Aviation Authority to intervene. For details, contact IATA's Manager, External Affairs & Sustainability, [Alejandro Restrepo](#).

## THE BAHAMAS: IMPLEMENTATION OF \$2 TOURISM ENHANCEMENT LEVY



The Government of Bahamas has amended the passenger tax act which imposes a "tourism enhancement levy of USD2 for every passenger leaving The Bahamas". The levy has been in effect since January 1, 2024, but neither IATA nor airlines operating to/from the Bahamas have been informed on how the tax will be collected. IATA has requested a consultation with the authorities to explain the process that must be initiated by an airline to formally request the establishment of a code so that airline reservations systems are updated globally, in addition to the expected timeline needed for correct implementation and compliance. For more details, please contact IATA's Area Manager for the Caribbean, [Annaleen Lord](#).

## USA: IRS GUIDANCE ON INFLATION REDUCTION ACT'S SAF CREDITS



IRS

The U.S. Treasury Department released guidance regarding implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act's sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) tax credit. Fuels that achieve a 50% or greater reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under the most recent Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) standard will continue to qualify. The Energy Department's Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET) model, to be updated by March 1, 2024, will provide another methodology for SAF producers to determine lifecycle GHG emissions rates of their production for purposes of qualifying for the credit for SAF sold or used during 2023 and 2024. For more details, please contact IATA's Senior Manager, External Affairs & Sustainability, [Pedro de la Fuente](#).