



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share the Government of Ecuador officially eliminated the 5% currency repatriation tax for airlines (both passenger and cargo), a measure meant to boost connectivity and reactivate the country's tourism sector. We continuously called for the elimination of this tax to stimulate demand and formally requested it to government officials during a recent visit to Ecuador in mid-July.

As we near the 4th quarter of the year, IATA will be focusing on the following regional activities to make the Americas' operating environment more efficient and competitive: On **Safety**, we are assisting the Mexican authorities to regain category 1 status. On **Consumer Protection**, we continue to be active in Colombia and Mexico to avoid any harmful new regulations that would negatively impact the industry. We are also pushing our **Charges and Fees Competitiveness** initiative, focused on minimizing discrimination between domestic and international ATC fees in Chile, Peru and Ecuador while assessing further opportunities in Brazil, Colombia and Argentina. In the US, we are engaging stakeholders to address the increase in airport fees, and in Canada, we continue to urge NAV CANADA to reduce their overflight fees, especially as traffic is recovering.

Lastly, on **airport infrastructure**, we are performing a follow up site visit to Tegucigalpa's new international airport (XPL) on September 28 to ensure the new airport is ready to begin operations on October 15 and continue our dialogue with stakeholders in BOG, MEX, LIM and SCL to ensure the airports are well positioned to operate efficiently and to accommodate future growth.

Industry restart related, we see vaccination rates increase across the region but unfortunately, we do not see a parallel easing of travel restrictions. The below charts confirm that the severity of restrictions has a direct impact on the bookings in each country. We keep pushing for the elimination of mandatory quarantine measures, specifically in Argentina and Chile, and urge Governments to base their decisions on the passengers' vaccination and testing status and not on the passenger's nationality.

As usual, please find IATA's latest advocacy activities across the Americas below. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like us to take further action.

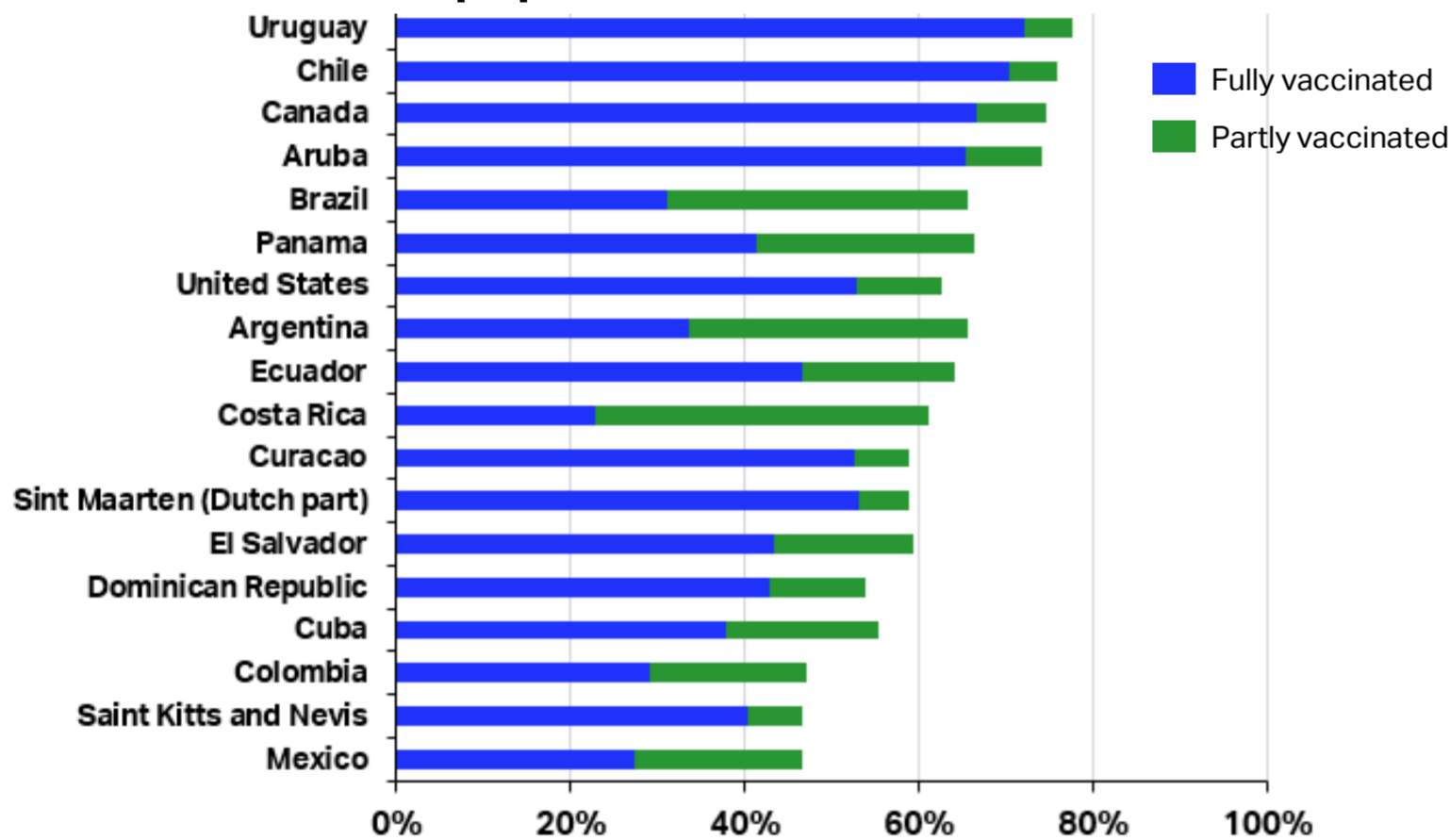


PETER CERDÁ

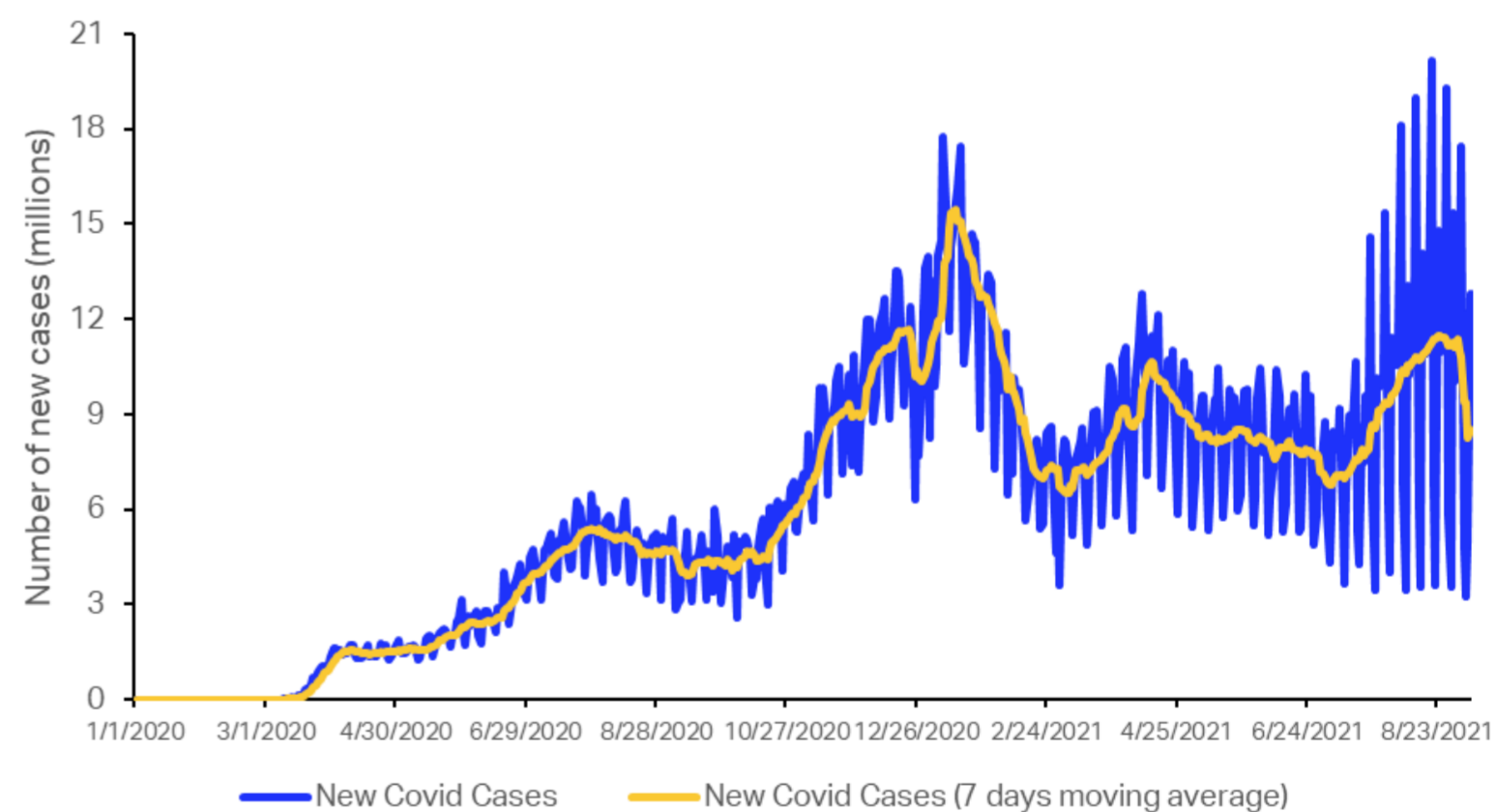
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, THE AMERICAS

VACCINATION PROGRESS & NEW COVID CASES ACROSS THE AMERICAS

% share of total population that received COVID-19 vaccine

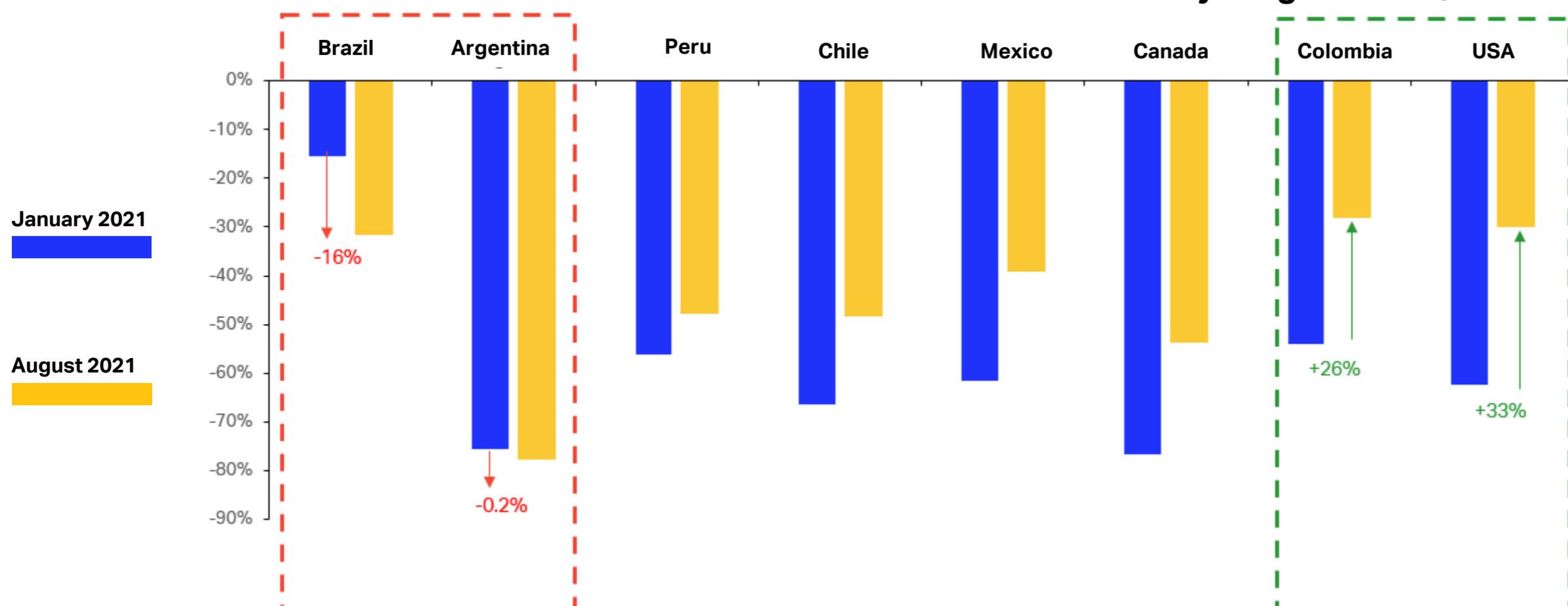


New COVID-19 cases in the Americas (as of 8 Sep)



PASSENGER BOOKING TRENDS

Number of international ticket sales to/from selected countries in January-August 2021, as % of same month in 2019, %



BRAZIL: INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTIONS TO 7TH ROUND OF AIRPORT CONCESSIONS

Collectively, IATA, ABEAR, ALTA and JURCAIB delivered the industry contributions for the 7th round of airport concessions in Brazil to the Ministry of Infrastructure (MINFRA). Together with member airlines and in close consultation with ANAC, we delivered 45 recommendations to improve the airport concession process, covering aspects of the airside, terminal and economic regulations. As a result of the submission, MINFRA established technical working groups with ANAC and SAC during the next three months to explore which elements can be incorporated to the next concession round. For more details, please contact IATA's Country Manager for Brazil [Dany De Oliveira](#).

COLOMBIA: AEROCIVIL ANNOUNCEMENT ON WINTER 2021 SEASON

Aerocivil issued the Circular 1067-202, providing further clarity to the industry for the upcoming Winter 2021 season: a) the temporary modification of the El Dorado airport capacity from 74 operations per hour to 65 operations per hour; and b) an extension until September 21 for airlines to return full series of slots in order to receive the relief on their historic rights. For more details, please contact IATA's Country Manager for Colombia, [Andres Uribe](#).

HONDURAS: SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL VISIT TO THE NEW PALMEROLA AIRPORT (XPL)

Following an operational visit conducted by IATA, ALTA, and member airlines to the new Palmerola airport (XPL) serving Tegucigalpa, the industry raised concerns on the start date of operations in the new airport and the closure date of Toncontin (TGU) for international operations. These concerns were accentuated by the pending procedure publication to comply with ICAO' required 3 AIRAC cycles. IATA requested not to close Toncontin for international operations on October 15 and allow simultaneous operations in both airports between October 15 and November 15 to guarantee a smooth and flexible transition. A follow-up visit is scheduled for September 15. For more details, please contact IATA's Regional Director for Safety & Flight Operations, The Americas [José Ruiz Llorente](#).

MEXICO: INTERNATIONAL SHIPMENTS EXCLUDED FROM NEW PROCESS REQUIREMENT

After several meetings with the Mexican Tax Office (SAT), IATA and CANAERO obtained the agreement to remove SAT's proposal for additional documentation (Carta Porte/Bill of Loading) for shipments to/from the country. The implementation would have resulted in additional logistical procedures and costs for the entire cargo transport sector. During the meetings, IATA outlined the negative impact of the proposed process and as a result, SAT confirmed the new process will not be applicable for international shipments (import & export), including those that transit in one or more airports within Mexico. For purely domestic cargo operations the new rule will be applicable, and IATA will continue to engage SAT to define an efficient procedure adhering to industry standards and international best practices. For details, contact IATA's Regional Cargo Manager [Rigoberto Lopez](#).

MEXICO: INDUSTRY EFFORTS TO REGAIN FAA CATEGORY 1 RATING

IATA continues to work with Mexican Civil Aviation Authority (AFAC) to regain its FAA Category 1 rating by providing expertise and resources to address key FAA findings in areas like training, and administrative and operational best practices. AFAC recently signed a Technical Cooperation Agreement with the FAA that will allow them to provide direct support to AFAC, including monthly visits to resolve the key findings. For more details, please contact IATA's Country Manager for Mexico [Cuitlahuac Gutierrez](#).

PARAGUAY: WAIVER OF VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR CITIZENS OF THE US, CA, AU & NZ

After strong advocacy efforts from IATA and the industry, the Congress approved the Law 6790 which waives tourist visa requirements for citizens of the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The law will take effect on October 12 and will be valid for a period of 3 years. For details, please contact IATA's Area Manager for Argentina, Paraguay & Uruguay, [Maria Jose Taveira](#).

TURKS AND CAICOS: INTENTION TO INTRODUCE PASSENGER FEE BY TCICAA

The Turks and Caicos Islands Civil Aviation Authority (TCICAA) communicated their intention to introduce a fee of USD 3.00 per passenger aimed at funding safety oversight activities towards their goal of establishing themselves as an autonomous entity. IATA expressed the industry's concern in writing, underscoring the need for a proper consultation process in accordance with ICAO recommendations in order to determine cost relatedness and justification for the new fee. For details, please contact IATA's Area Manager for Caribbean [Annaleen Lord](#).

USA: INDUSTRY CONCERNS ON TSA 100% AIR CARGO SCREENING REQUIREMENT

On 30 June 2021, the TSA implemented new security requirements to bring the U.S. into compliance with a 2016 ICAO Annex 17 policy change requiring all international air cargo carried by commercial aircraft to be screened or have appropriate security controls implemented throughout the cargo supply chain. However, airlines have expressed frustration with the slow screening process and continue to face major congestion and backlogs at key airports. IATA will continue to collect airline feedback and communicate the industry concerns directly to the TSA. As part of the improvement process, the TSA finalized a proposal to allow manufacturers, shippers, and other third-party logistics providers to become a Secured Packing Facility (SPF). SPFs must apply strict security controls and if all requirements are met, cargo moving from an SPF to an all-cargo aircraft operator will not need to be screened. For more details, please contact IATA's Assistant Director, Member & External Relations, [Chad Heflin](#).

USA: EXECUTIVE ORDER ON PROMOTING COMPETITION IN THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

President Biden signed an [Executive Order](#) on "Promoting Competition in the American Economy" which covers multiple parts of the US economy, including transportation and aviation. IATA will aggressively protect the interests of member airlines throughout what is expected to be a multi-year consumer rights campaign by the Administration. While the language in the Order focuses on US carriers, any regulatory activity will likely impact all carriers serving the US market. For details, please contact IATA's Vice President, Member & External Relations, North America, [Doug Lavin](#).