

IATA: Bookings indicate a strong peak season ahead

- A Monitor Desk Report

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The International Air Transport Association (IATA) reported high levels of confidence among travelers for the peak Northern summer travel holiday season.

The survey covering 4,700 travelers in 11 countries shows that:

79pc of travelers surveyed said that they were planning a trip in the June-August 2023 period while 85pc said that peak travel season disruptions should not be a surprise, 80pc said that they expected smooth travel with post pandemic issues having been resolved.

Forward bookings data indicates that greatest growth is expected in:

Asia Pacific region (134.7pc) Middle East (42.9pc) Europe (39.9pc) Africa (36.4pc) Latin America (21.4pc) North America (14.1pc).

“Expectations are high for this year’s peak Northern summer travel season. For many this will be their first post-pandemic travel experience. While some disruptions can be expected, there is a clear expectation that the ramping-up issues faced at some key hub airports in 2022 will have been resolved. To meet strong demand, airlines are planning schedules based on the capacity that airports, border control, ground handlers, and air navigation service providers have declared. Over

the next months, all industry players now need to deliver,” said Nick Careen, IATA’s Senior Vice President for Operations, Safety and Security.

“A lot of work has gone into preparing for the peak Northern summer travel season. Success rests on readiness across all players in the supply chain. If each player delivers on what has been declared, there should be no last minute requirements to reduce the scale of the schedules that travelers have booked on,” said Careen.

Labor unrest, particularly in France, is cause for concern. Eurocontrol data on the impact of French strikes earlier this year shows that cancellations can spike by over a third.

“We need to keep a very careful eye on Europe where strike actions have caused significant disruptions earlier this year. Governments should have effective contingency plans in place so that the actions of those providing essential services like air traffic control maintain minimum service levels and do not disrupt the hard-earned vacations of those traveling or put at risk the livelihoods of those in the travel and tourism sectors,” said Careen.

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