

Travel demand continues strong in April says IATA

- A Monitor Desk Report

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The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced continued strong passenger traffic demand in April.

Total traffic in April 2023 (measured in revenue passenger kilometers or RPKs) rose 45.8pc compared to April 2022. Globally, traffic is now at 90.5pc of pre-Covid levels. At 81.3pc, industry load factor was only 1.8 percentage points below pre-pandemic level.

Domestic traffic for April rose 42.6pc compared to the year-ago period and has now fully recovered, posting a 2.9pc increase over the April 2019 results.

International traffic climbed 48.0% versus April 2022 with all markets recording healthy growth, with carriers in the Asia-Pacific region continuing to lead the recovery. International RPKs reached 83.6pc of April 2019 levels.

“April continued the strong traffic trend we saw in the 2023 first quarter. The easing of inflation and rising consumer confidence in most OECD countries combined with declining jet fuel prices, suggests sustained strong air travel demand and moderating cost pressures,” said Willie Walsh, IATA’s Director General.

“Heading into the Northern Hemisphere peak travel season, aircraft and airports are full of people eager to make use of their travel freedoms. Airlines are working hard to accommodate them with a smooth travel experience despite continuing supply chain shortages and other operational challenges.

“In just a few days, leaders of the global aviation community will gather in Istanbul at the 79th IATA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit. Regulation and other key issues, including the critical topic of sustainability, will be on the agenda,” said Walsh.

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