



Dear Colleagues,

IATA released its [2023 Annual Safety Report](#) with several 2023 parameters showing “best-ever” results as there were no hull losses or fatal accidents involving passenger jet aircraft in 2023. In North America, the all-accident rate rose from 0.53 per million sectors in 2022 to 1.14 in 2023 but remained better than its 5-year average for the region of 1.21. The largest proportion of accidents in 2023 were related to landing gear collapses. And in Latin America and the Caribbean, the region reversed an increase in accidents from the previous year. The all-accident rate per million sectors improved from 4.47 in 2022 to 0.37 in 2023, better than the 5-year average of 1.91. More details in the below graph.

However, many safety-related incidents are widely covered by the media in recent days, resulting in a negative safety perception of passengers. A strong safety culture within the aviation industry is essential for continuous improvement in all aspects of operations. This topic will be featured on one of the key panels at the upcoming [Wings of Change Americas](#) Conference in Santiago, Chile on April 10 and 11 with the participation of the FAA, EASA and ICAO.

In recent weeks, I had the opportunity to meet with various governments across the region, including the newly appointed authorities in Argentina ahead of IATA's [Aviation Day in Buenos Aires](#) on April 4. The authorities explained the importance of the work done by the new administration since taking power in December, including the on-going review and modification of Argentina's Aeronautical Code and other existing aviation norms with the goal of modernizing, deregulating and opening aviation in

Argentina while eliminating prior privileges to government owned entities. The Government is very open to work with airlines and other industry stakeholders and we look forward to further engaging the authorities at the upcoming Aviation Day.

In Brazil, I met with Brazil's Vice President and Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services Geraldo Alckmin, Minister of Mines and Energy Alexandre Silveira and Vice-Minister of Ports and Airports Mariana Pescatori in Brasilia and the government also expressed a collaborative attitude to work with the industry to enhance Brazil's connectivity by addressing the country's high operating costs due to the cost of jet-fuel, litigation costs and volatile exchange rates.

And lastly, in Ecuador, we met with President Daniel Noboa, Minister of Tourism Niels Olsen and Minister of Transport and Public Works Roberto Luque, to reemphasize the important role of aviation in the country and to urge the Government to eliminate the country's currency repatriation tax that was recently re-established even though it was one of the conditions for Ecuador to sign the Open Skies agreement with the U.S.

As usual, please find more details on these meetings as well as IATA's latest activities across the Americas below. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or ideas for further follow up. Thank you for your on-going support.

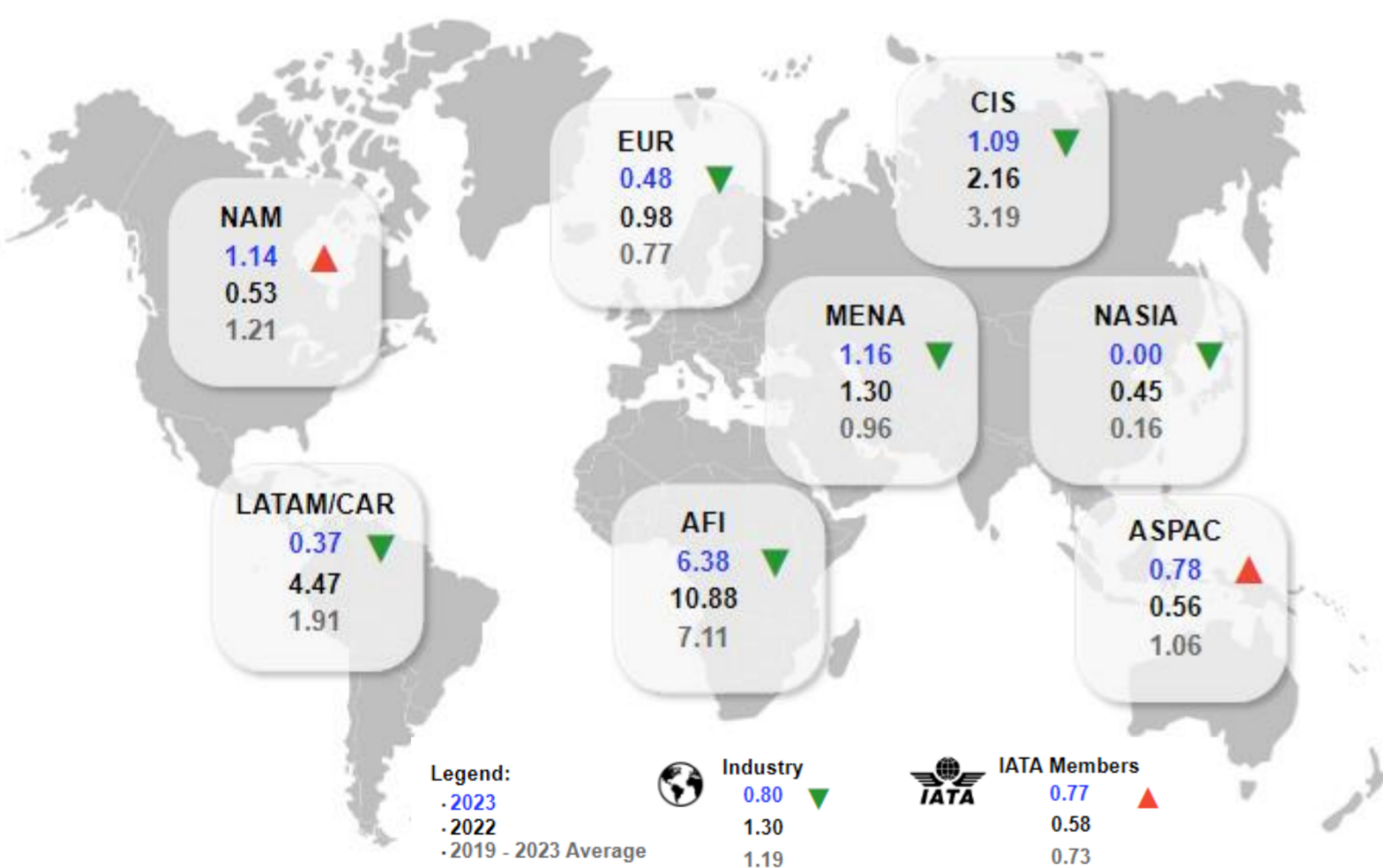


**PETER CERDÁ**  
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT  
THE AMERICAS



## ACCIDENT RATE BY REGION OF OPERATOR

per million sectors

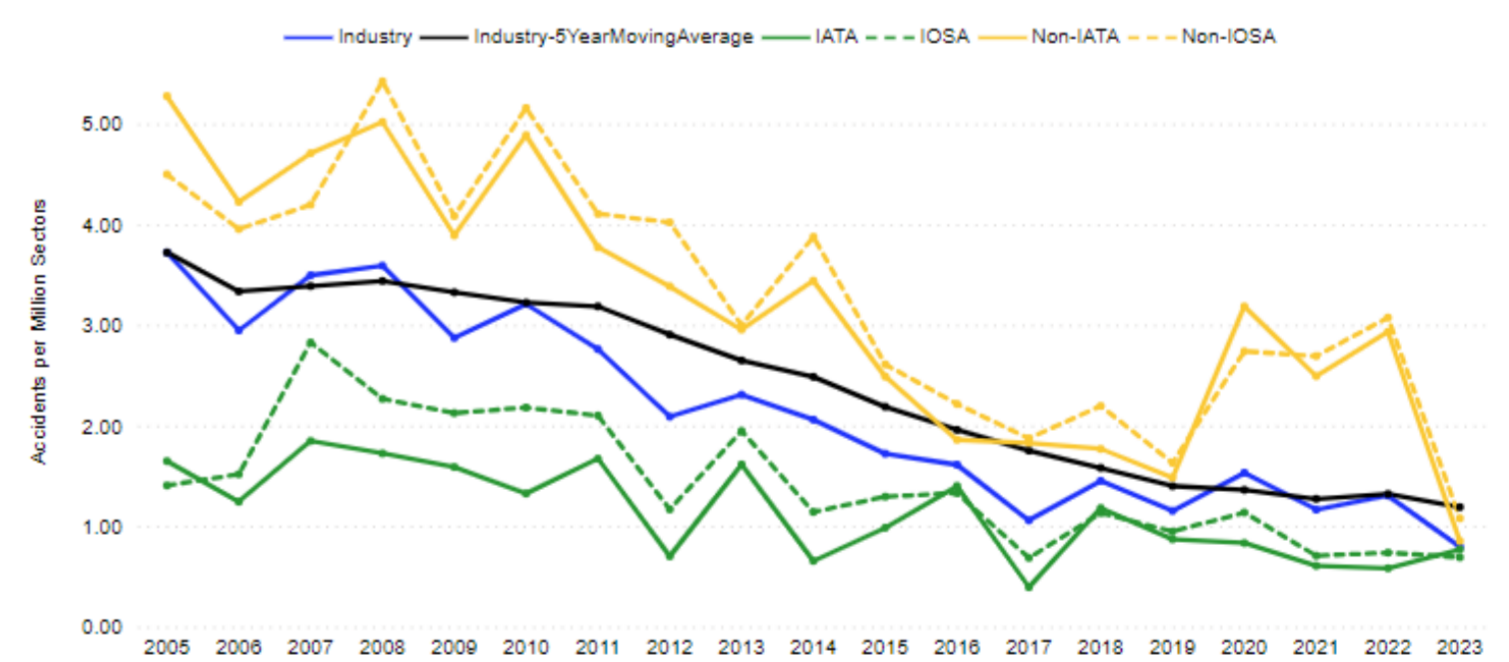


## ACCIDENT RATE BY YEAR: 2005 TO 2023

per million sectors

Accidents	Fatal Accidents	Fatalities Onboard	Other Fatalities	Jet	Turboprop	Passenger	Cargo	IATA	IOSA
1,407	237	7,791	256	825	582	1,051	315	380	591

Accident Rate (per Million Sectors) by Year \* Data source: IATA



## ARGENTINA: REFORM OF AERONAUTICAL CODE



The government issued Resolution 6/2024 calling for the industry to participate in the reform and modification of Argentina's Aeronautical Code and other existing aviation norms with the goal of modernizing, deregulating and opening aviation in Argentina while eliminating prior privileges to government owned entities. IATA is actively working with the local airline association JURCA to analyze and provide comments on articles to be reformed, deleted, or added based on a smarter regulation approach. For more details, please contact IATA's Country Manager for Argentina, [Maria Jose Taveira](#).

## CANADA: NEXT STEPS ON AIR PASSENGER PROTECTION REGULATIONS



IATA in coordination with National Airlines Council of Canada (NACC), Airlines for America (A4A), Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC) and Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC), sent a [letter](#) to the Canadian Members of Parliament and Senators asking for their assistance with the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) and the Minister of Transport to ensure that any changes to the Air Passenger Protection Regulations (APPR) address the concerns raised by a wide and growing list of aviation stakeholders. In particular, the coalition asked that the APPR amendments not threaten the viability or competitiveness of the Canadian aviation system, protects regional communities across Canada, do not result in higher costs for passengers, and protect the importance and primacy of safety. For more details, please contact IATA's Vice President, Member & External Relations, North America, [Doug Lavin](#).



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: IMPLEMENTATION OF RES 217-2022 POSTPONED TO MAY 23 2024

Resolution 217-2022, which prohibits charging citizens and foreign residents the \$10 fee for the Tourist Card, has been further extended by the Civil Aviation Board (JAC), now providing an additional 60 working days before coming into effect, which sets the new effective date to May 23. This extension includes a statement from the JAC regarding the dismissal of precautionary measures previously sought by certain airlines with the Superior Administrative Court, a decision that has been public since April of the preceding year. The court's ruling on subsequent appeals is pending, prompting JAC to continue extending the resolution's effective date. Meanwhile, IATA plans to reinstate discussions with the local tax authority DGII and the Ministry of Tourism, emphasizing the industry's constraints in applying tax, fee, and charge exemptions based on nationality or residency. For more details, please contact IATA's Area Manager for the Caribbean, [Annaleen Lord](#).



## ECUADOR: GOVERNMENT URGED TO ADOPT MEASURES TO ENSURE COMPETITIVENESS

IATA and local airline association ARLAE met with Daniel Noboa, the President of Ecuador to underscore the value of aviation in Ecuador and to raise the opportunities and urgent challenges of the industry in the country. During the meeting, the industry expressed their concern that the tax reform reenacted the 5% currency repatriation tax which was eliminated in 2022. We also shared our estimate that the tax increase could reduce demand by 4.8% which means a US\$157MM reduction in industry contribution to GDP. President Noboa was confident that the bill under discussion in the National Assembly—which reversed the currency repatriation tax for air transport and eliminates the 5% tax on jet fuel gradually by 1% per annum for the next 5 years—would be approved. Despite the President's confidence, the industry asked him to evaluate eliminating the tax by decree in case the bill is not approved. For more information, please contact IATA's Area Manager for Central America and Ecuador, [David Hernandez](#).



## EL SALVADOR: INVISIBLE OUTBOUND IMMIGRATION IMPLEMENTED AT SAL ELIMINATING PHYSICAL DOCUMENT CHECKS

El Salvador implemented invisible outbound immigration at El Salvador International Airport (SAL), eliminating physical document checks when departing the country. IATA met with authorities to ensure that the new process involving passenger data transmission must be aligned with API International Standards. A working group was formed between authorities, airlines and IATA for the fine-tuning of the new process to ensure a seamless passenger experience. For more information, please contact IATA's Assistant Director, Security & Facilitation for the Americas, [Amilcar Gonzalez](#).



## HONDURAS: IATA APPROACHED CENTRAL BANK AMID DELAYS IN REPATRIATIONS

Following reports of delays in the assignment of US dollars in the daily auctions to convert local currency sales into USD, IATA met with the President of the Central Bank to underscore the importance of aviation for tourism and commerce in the country. We also indicated that due to the global nature of aviation, airlines need to freely repatriate funds and countries that impose restrictions see their connectivity reduced. As a result of the meeting, the Central Bank agreed to support the industry and facilitate access to USD dollars in the daily auctions. For details, please contact IATA's Manager, Industry Relationships for Central America, [Lucas Castrellon](#).



## MEXICO: PROPOSED BILL TO PROHIBIT OVERBOOKING OF FLIGHTS

A bill was presented in Congress aiming to prohibit overbooking and impose fines in case airlines overbook flights. IATA and several airline representatives met with Senator Gloria Nunez, the author of the initiative and President of the Consumer Protection Committee of the Senate, to present our arguments supporting the importance of overbooking for the airline industry. However, Senator Nunez decided to include the bill in the agenda for the joint sessions of the First Legislative Studies and Consumer Protection Committees to take place on March 21. Over the past weeks, IATA met with several key Congressmen and their technical advisors as well as with PROFECO (governmental Consumer Protection Agency) to promote our industry position against the bill. In our engagements with Senators and Government officials, they have expressed sensitivity to the importance of a thorough analysis of the issue and the need to understand deeply the consequences of the proposal. We will keep our advocacy efforts to derail the bill from further discussion and approval. For more details, please contact IATA's Country Manager for Mexico, [Cintya Martinez](#).



## THE BAHAMAS: UPDATE ON BANSO OVERFLIGHT FEES

The Government of the Bahamas has approved the revised charging scheme presented by BANSO. Details of this revision have not yet been shared; however, we are coordinating with BANSO to finalize the dates for the consultation. We anticipate that it will take place in mid-to-late April, with potential meeting locations being Miami or Nassau. We will also ensure a virtual participation option is available for those who are unable to attend in person. For details, contact IATA's Area Manager for the Caribbean, [Annaleen Lord](#).



## THE BAHAMAS: IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW \$2 TOURISM TAX EFFECTIVE APRIL 1

The Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, will oversee the implementation and collection of the new tourism set at \$2 per departing passenger from The Bahamas, effective April 1. IATA continues to work with the Ministry and impacted stakeholders to establish a designated code for this tax. Its applicability will align with the departure tax guidelines under the Ministry of Finance's purview. A ramp-up period agreement is being negotiated between the airlines and the Ministry of Finance where airlines are accountable only for taxes collected. IATA will continue to support its members to ensure a smooth execution. For details, please contact IATA's Area Manager for the Caribbean, [Annaleen Lord](#).



## USA: PROPOSED DRAFT RULE ON PASSENGERS WHO USE WHEELCHAIRS

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on passengers who use wheelchairs while traveling by air. Specifically, the NPRM would make an airline's mishandling of assistive devices an automatic violation of the Air Carrier Access Act; require prompt repair or replacement of damaged wheelchairs and require airlines to provide loaner wheelchairs while individuals with disabilities are waiting on repairs or replacement of a mishandled wheelchair, amongst other. Airlines should carefully review the NPRM language for further details on its scope and applicability. IATA plans to submit formal comments to the [docket](#) in response to the NPRM and we strongly encourage our member airlines to do the same. For more details, please contact IATA's Vice President, Member & External Relations, North America, [Doug Lavin](#).



## IATA: UPDATE ON SCHEDULE DATA EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Schedule, and Minimum Connect Time (MCT) data are essential for the efficient operation of the air transport network from network planning to revenue management, slot coordination, or interline agreements. IATA recently launched the Schedule Data Exchange Program, an industry-owned and controlled flight schedule and MCT database that aims to put airlines in control of their schedule and MCT data and reduce IATA's dependency on 3rd party schedule providers. The IATA Schedule Data Exchange Program is a strategic initiative endorsed by the IATA Board of Governors in December 2023. Since its launch 58 airlines have signed a Letter of Intent to confirm their support to the program, and 2 airlines have moved one step forward signing the Contributed Data License Agreement. To know more about the program and how you can participate please visit [www.iata.org/schedule-data](http://www.iata.org/schedule-data).

