



# Americas Focus

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2026

YOUR SOURCE FOR IATA'S LATEST REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Dear Colleagues,

The 2026 IATA Annual General Meeting in Rio de Janeiro was not only a global gathering of our industry, it was a powerful demonstration of the leadership, influence, and growing importance of airlines from the Americas.

With nearly 1,500 industry leaders, CEOs, government representatives, and media in attendance, the region was firmly at the center of the global aviation dialogue and the event successfully showcased Brazil and the broader Americas on the world stage, underscoring the region's increasing relevance in shaping the global aviation agenda. All AGM materials are now available [here](#).

Alongside the AGM, IATA also launched an important global safety campaign, "[Save a Life, Not a Bag](#)," aimed at reinforcing critical passenger behavior during aircraft evacuations. Supported by the FAA and EASA, the campaign highlights the importance of following crew instructions, leaving all belongings behind, and exiting the aircraft quickly in an emergency. It responds to a growing number of incidents where passengers attempt to retrieve cabin baggage during evacuations, actions that can delay escape, increase risks, and ultimately endanger lives. You can download the videos and leaflets for your own use [here](#).

In another engagement with the traveling public, IATA and ALTA jointly launched a regional consumer awareness campaign to help passengers across Latin America and the Caribbean identify and avoid fraud related to air travel. With demand expected to surge alongside the FIFA World Cup 2026, the [campaign](#) emphasizes that the "best move" starts before purchasing a ticket, encouraging travelers to rely

exclusively on official airline channels and authorized agents, while safeguarding personal and financial information.

Shifting gear to the latest industry data, IATA released its updated [2026 Global Outlook for Air Transport](#) at the AGM. In Latin America and the Caribbean, Airline performance remains closely tied to macroeconomic volatility, particularly currency movements amid the energy crisis, with demand remaining price-sensitive and cargo expected to soften. Despite solid operating performance, structural constraints, higher financing costs and limited balance sheet flexibility, continue to weigh on profitability. In 2026, profit per passenger is forecast at \$3.50 (down from \$5.90 in 2025), while load factor improves to 84.8% (up from 83.4%). Overall, growth is expected to moderate, even as underlying demand remains positive.

North American carriers face more direct exposure to rising fuel costs due to limited hedging, driving faster pricing responses and greater reliance on ancillary revenues. Although profitability remains comparatively strong, higher leverage and labor costs increase sensitivity to shocks. In 2026, profit per passenger is projected at \$8.1 (down from \$10.8 in 2025), with load factor at 83.3% (up from 82.9%), pointing to a largely price-driven adjustment and widening divergence across business models.

As always, please find below the latest IATA activities across the region. Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.



**PETER CERDÁ**

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT  
THE AMERICAS



## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

[DETAILS HERE.](#)

Global airline industry	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025E	2026F
<b>LATIN AMERICA</b>								
EBIT, USD billion	1.1	-4.6	-2.4	-0.7	5.9	6.4	7.1	6.2
EBIT margin	2.9%	-30.0%	-11.0%	-1.9%	12.8%	13.2%	14.0%	10.9%
Net profit, USD billion	-0.7	-12.3	-7.0	-3.5	1.1	0.2	1.9	1.2
Net profit margin	-1.8%	-80.2%	-32.0%	-9.5%	2.4%	0.4%	3.8%	2.1%
Per passenger, USD	-2.4	-114.5	-43.7	-13.1	3.7	0.6	5.9	
RPK growth, %	4.2%	-62.5%	40.5%	62.9%	16.8%	7.8%	7.2%	5
ASK growth, %	3.0%	-59.0%	37.3%	54.4%	14.4%	7.2%	7.6%	3.3%
Load factor, % ASK	82.6%	75.5%	77.2%	81.5%	83.2%	83.7%	83.4%	84.8%
Load factor, % ATK	68.8%	65.1%	67.4%	68.9%	69.4%	70.2%	69.8%	70.8%

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – NORTH AMERICA

[DETAILS HERE.](#)

Global airline industry	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025E	2026F
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>								
EBIT, USD billion	25.4	-38.8	-9.9	12.6	22.1	21.7	22.7	17.1
EBIT margin	9.6%	-27.9%	-4.7%	4.5%	6.8%	6.3%	6.4%	4.4%
Net profit, USD billion	17.9	-34.7	-1.9	7.2	14.2	11.4	12.4	9.4
Net profit margin	6.8%	-24.9%	-0.9%	2.6%	4.4%	3.3%	3.5%	2.5%
Per passenger, USD	16.5	-83.5	-2.7	7.2	13.0	10.0	10.8	8.1
Profit growth, %	4.0%	-65.1%	74.6%	45.7%	15.1%	4.6%	0.4%	0.8%
ASK growth, %	2.9%	-50.3%	41.1%	28.7%	14.0%	4.7%	2.0%	0.3%
Load factor, % ASK	84.8%	59.6%	73.7%	83.5%	84.3%	84.3%	82.9%	83.3%
Load factor, % ATK	66.1%	52.4%	59.3%	64.2%	65.0%	65.6%	65.1%	65.9%

## ANGUILLA: PASSENGER FEES INTEGRATED INTO AIRFARES

The Anguilla Air and Sea Ports Authority will transition the Passenger Service Fee and Passenger Security Fee from airport collection to inclusion in airfares, effective for tickets issued on or after June 12 for travel from October 1. The fees will be applied using the new codes PR and PS. IATA has supported the authority throughout this process, ensuring alignment with industry standards and best practices. The change is expected to enhance passenger facilitation by streamlining the travel experience, eliminating the need for separate fee payments at the airport, and enabling a more seamless journey for travelers. For more details, please contact IATA's Area Manager for the Caribbean, [Annaleen Lord](#).



## BRAZIL: TAX REFORM AND E-INVOICING DEADLINES LOOM

Brazil's aviation sector continues to navigate uncertainty as tax reform discussions advance alongside the pending August 1 implementation of e-invoicing (BPe-TA) requirements. While authorities remain firmly committed to the reform, key aspects of implementation and compliance timelines are still unclear, creating challenges for industry planning. The proposed changes are expected to increase the overall tax burden, driving higher ticket prices, adding operational complexity, and putting pressure on demand. IATA is maintaining active engagement with authorities, including technical discussions with Receita Federal and ENCAT, and upcoming meetings with the Attorney General's office. Coordination with industry partners continues to assess economic impacts and ensure alignment. Airlines are encouraged to write to State Governors and include their respective embassies, and keep IATA informed of these bilateral engagements to support a unified advocacy approach. For more details, please contact IATA's Country Manager for Brazil, [Simone Tcherniakovsky](#).



## CANADA: IATA ADVOCATES FOR COMPETITIVENESS AHEAD OF 2026 BUDGET



As part of pre-budget consultations for 2026, IATA has submitted recommendations highlighting aviation's critical role as a driver of Canada's economy and connectivity. The submission calls for policies that improve affordability and competitiveness, including simplifying Air Passenger Protection Regulations (APPR) and reducing taxes, fees, and charges in line with ICAO principles. IATA also underscores the importance of strong economic regulation and transparency in airport financing, cautioning against privatization approaches that could increase costs and negatively impact service quality. For more details, please contact IATA's Vice President, Member & External Relations, North America, [Doug Lavin](#).

## COLOMBIA: AVIATION FUEL PRICING REFORM UNDER REVIEW



Colombia is advancing regulatory changes to its aviation fuel pricing framework, with draft proposals under development by the Energy and Gas Regulatory Commission (CREG) and the Ministry of Mines and Energy. The reform could materially impact airline cost structures, as any increase in jet fuel prices would be directly reflected in fares and connectivity across the market. IATA is actively engaging with the Civil Aviation Authority, relevant ministries, and industry stakeholders to highlight potential risks and support the establishment of formal technical consultation mechanisms. For details, contact IATA's Country Manager for Colombia, [Paula Bernal](#).

## CHILE: CAMPAIGN TARGETS RISE IN UNRULY AIR PASSENGERS



Airports in Santiago and Antofagasta have launched coordinated campaigns to promote respectful passenger behavior, reflecting growing concern across the aviation sector about disruptive incidents. The initiative, supported by IATA, combines public-awareness efforts with a broader push for stronger regulatory and legal tools to deter misconduct. Industry stakeholders have increasingly warned that unruly behavior poses safety risks, operational disruptions, and higher costs for airlines and airports alike. Chile's approach aligns with global efforts to tighten enforcement and strengthen sanctions, signaling a more assertive stance by authorities and operators. The campaign underscores a shift toward proactive prevention, combining education with enforcement as passenger volumes rebound and pressure on airport systems intensifies. For more details, please contact IATA's Country Manager for Chile, [Helen Kouyoumdjian](#).

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: FISCAL REFORM RAISES AVIATION CONCERNS



The Dominican Republic has enacted a sweeping fiscal reform bill following its rapid approval by Congress on June 18, introducing measures with significant implications for the aviation sector. Key provisions include an increase in the departure tax from US\$20 to US\$30, the introduction of a temporary 30% corporate income tax, and higher financial transaction taxes. These measures are expected to increase airline costs, place upward pressure on fares, and risk weakening demand, potentially impacting the country's competitiveness as a leading tourism destination. IATA has initiated formal engagement with the President and relevant government stakeholders, highlighting concerns over the lack of prior consultation and offering continued partnership to identify balanced solutions. Coordination with industry partners and outreach to the Ministry of Tourism are ongoing to ensure alignment and support a constructive dialogue. For more details, please contact IATA's Area Manager for the Caribbean, [Annaleen Lord](#).

## HONDURAS: PROPOSED TOURISM FEE AT ROATÁN UNDER REVIEW



The Government of Honduras has signaled its intent to implement the long-standing ZOLITUR tourism fee at Roatán's Juan Manuel Gálvez International Airport (RTB), based on legislation dating back to 2006 and 2007. The proposed scheme would introduce a charge of US\$6 for international arriving passengers and US\$1 for domestic passengers, to be collected via airline ticketing. Notably, the tax has never been applied to air passengers since its original adoption nearly two decades ago. While the legal framework is established, key concerns remain regarding the absence of a clearly defined financial objective, as well as the relevance of the original assumptions given today's market conditions. The introduction of additional charges risks increasing travel costs and affecting demand to the destination. IATA is actively engaging with authorities to oppose the measure and highlight its potential impact on connectivity. For more details, please contact IATA's Area Manager for Central America, [David Hernandez](#).

## MEXICO: PROGRESS ON SLOT REFORM ALIGNED WITH GLOBAL STANDARDS



Mexico has taken an important step forward in strengthening its slot allocation framework through recent updates to the Airport Law Regulations, reflecting meaningful progress toward alignment with the Worldwide Airport Slot Guidelines (WASG). The changes incorporate key elements discussed through ongoing technical dialogue with industry stakeholders, reinforcing a more transparent, consistent, and internationally harmonized approach to slot management. Notably, the removal of rigid punctuality thresholds linked to slot usage and historic precedence, and the clearer distinction of slot misuse provisions, represent a significant improvement in regulatory clarity and operational predictability. IATA will continue its close engagement, particularly in the development of updated slot allocation bases and guidance for Level 2 airports, to help ensure efficiency, connectivity, and competitiveness across Mexico's aviation system. For more details, please contact IATA's Assistant Director External Affairs, [Alejandro Munoz](#).

## PARAGUAY: MANDATORY TRAVEL AGENT COMMISSION REPEALED



Paraguay has enacted the repeal of the mandatory 6% commission on air ticket sales, following approval by Congress and formal adoption by the President. The measure removes the requirement under Law 2828/2005 for airlines to pay commissions to travel agents. This development marks an important step toward greater commercial flexibility and alignment with international industry practices, allowing airlines to determine distribution strategies more efficiently. The reform is expected to support cost optimization and enhance market competitiveness while modernizing the regulatory framework governing airline distribution. For more details, please contact IATA's Area Manager for Argentina, Uruguay & Paraguay, [Maria Jose Taveira](#).

## PERU: CIVIL AVIATION BILL PAUSED AMID INDUSTRY CONCERNS



Proposed amendments to the Civil Aviation Law are currently on hold following review by the Congressional Consumer Protection Commission (CODECO) on June 2. The draft legislation sought to introduce additional compensation requirements for delays and cancellations, alongside new obligations for airlines to manage passenger claims, measures that raised significant operational and cost concerns for the industry. IATA actively engaged in the process, circulating a detailed position paper outlining these implications. With the support of several congressional groups, the bill was not advanced for discussion. While this represents a positive development, IATA will continue to monitor its status closely through the close of the legislative session on June 24 and maintain engagement with key stakeholders. For more details, please contact IATA's Area Manager for Peru and Bolivia, [Martin La Rosa](#).

## UNITED STATES: PALM BEACH AIRPORT CODE UPDATED FROM PBI TO DJT



IATA approved a request from U.S. carriers serving Palm Beach International Airport to change the airport's code from PBI to DJT, effective 9 July 2026. This operational adjustment will require updates across reservation systems, ticketing, and related processes to ensure a smooth transition. Airlines are encouraged to ensure internal readiness ahead of the effective date to avoid disruptions. For more details, please contact IATA's Vice President, Member & External Relations, North America, [Doug Lavin](#).