

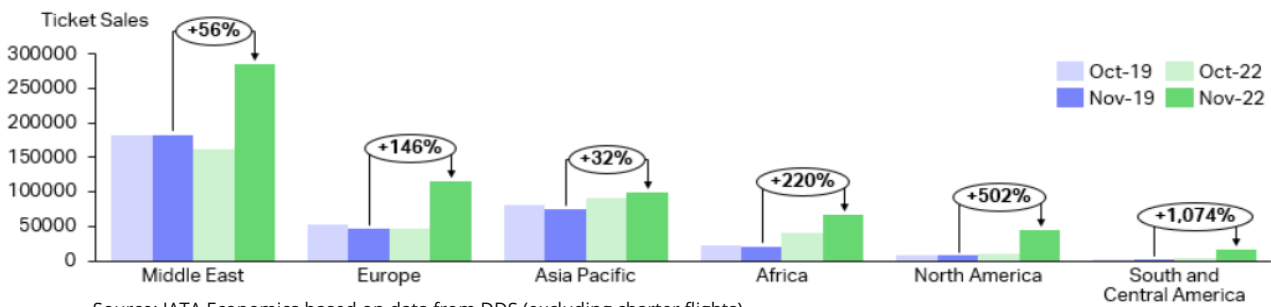
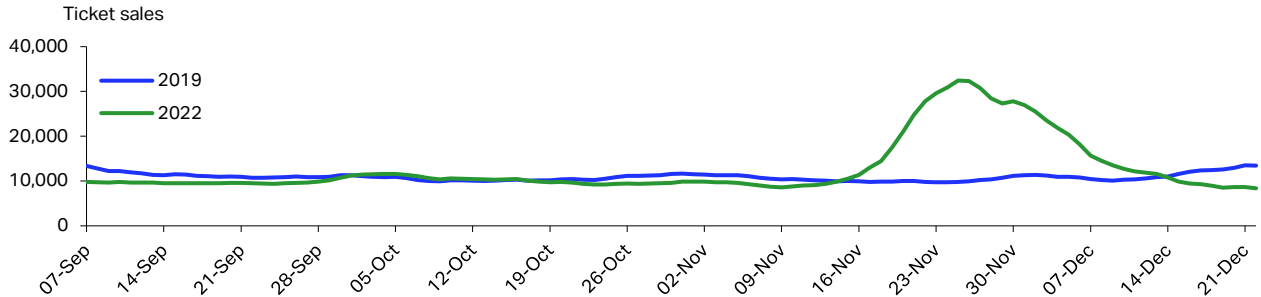


# IATA Economics' Chart of the Week

22 December 2022

## Air transport and 2022 FIFA Football World Cup in Numbers

### International bookings to Qatar by travel date and region of origin



Source: IATA Economics based on data from DDS (excluding charter flights)

- In November and December 2022, for the first time in history Qatar hosted the FIFA Football World Cup. As a result, bookings to Qatar skyrocketed by 77% in November 2022 (compared to October) and by more than 87% compared to November 2019.
- In November, most travellers to Qatar came from the Middle East, rather, unsurprisingly. However, compared to other regions, it equaled to only 56% increase in bookings in November 2022 when compared to the same month in 2019. The second runner up in November was Europe, with a 146% increase in ticket sales compared to the same month in 2019. Similarly impressive was the 1074% increase of bookings from Central and South America, although bookings from this region were the lowest among the regions in absolute terms.
- In the Middle East, bookings between Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Oman, as well as Qatar and Saudi Arabia, also increased because international travelers lodged in these countries and then shuttled to Qatar for specific matches. In particular, the share of passengers booking a return flight from Saudi Arabia to Qatar with only 0-1 nights of stay increased from 5% in October to 16% in November. For the UAE, the share increased from 14% to 51%, and for Oman from 5% to 44%.
- Looking more closely at bookings to Qatar, ticket sales originating in Morocco – a surprising semifinalist to some – increased considerably in the week following its national team's knockout of Spain in the round of 16. In particular, spontaneous bookings from Morocco to Qatar for the day of the match against Portugal increased from a total of 4 bookings three days prior to the match to 1171 bookings two days before the match. For the match against France, bookings jumped from 5 bookings three days before to a total of 1565 bookings two days before the match.
- The same applies for ticket sales from Argentina, the winning team of the tournament. Once it qualified for the final against France, bookings to Qatar almost doubled. The majority of tickets for flights before the final were purchased two days before, indicating the Argentinian fans reacted quickly to travel to Qatar to see the final match (Note: our data excludes charter flights, which in fact were quite significant in Argentina, increasing the total number of visitors).
- Air transport is vital for international sports events, allowing people to travel and support their teams. After two and half years of travel restrictions, people are eager to travel again despite the challenging circumstances that the world is facing at present.

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