

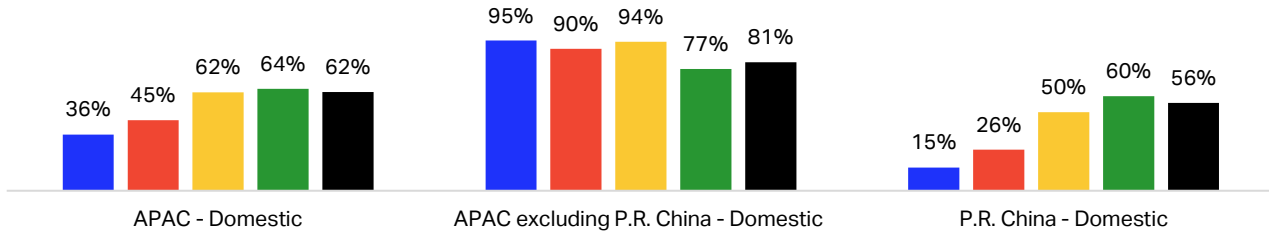


# IATA Economics' Chart of the Week

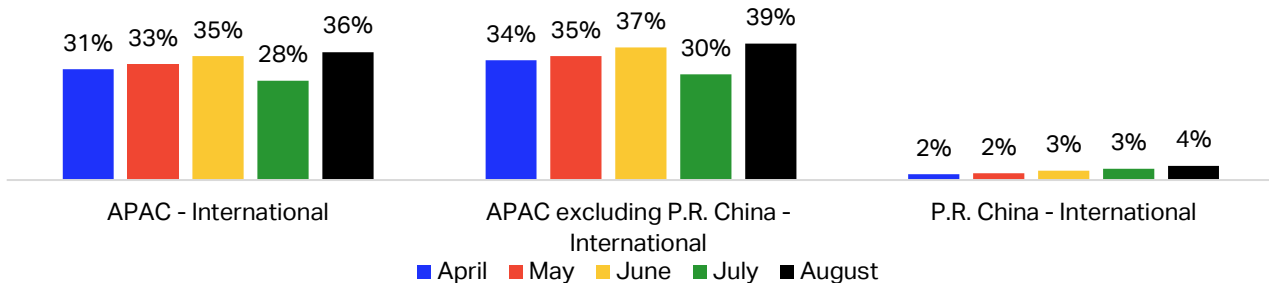
9 September 2022

## China skews aggregate measures of the APAC recovery

**Domestic bookings by purchase month, year-on-year % change 2022 versus 2019**



**International bookings by purchase month, year-on-year % change 2022 versus 2019**



Source: IATA Economics, DDS

- The recovery in China's domestic air travel demand shows a promising trend, however, with respect to international air travel demand, China remains one of the most closed markets presently. The current travel restrictions in China can be justified by the size of its population and by the lower rate of immunisation (particularly for the elderly population, with the booster vaccination rate limited to 67% (source: [Xinhuanet, 2022](https://www.xinhuanet.com))) compared to many other countries.
- This contrasts with the wider air traffic performance in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region where countries have eased their travel policies. Hence, including China in the APAC region skews the numbers to the downside, notably regarding domestic travel (see chart above). Hence, when excluding China, APAC demand for domestic air travel recovered to more than 90% of pre-pandemic levels from April to June this year, though it has since declined somewhat due to the particularly high demand recorded in the 2019 summer seasons. International air travel demand in the region has recovered more slowly and excluding China's share only improves the year-on-year rate by 3 ppt in August.
- Nevertheless, the recent easing of restrictions on domestic air travel in China has narrowed the difference for the region with and without China from 59 percentage points (ppts) in April to only 19 ppts in August.
- The current travel policies in China has seen its share in global passenger traffic fall to 8.9% as of June 2022, compared with 16.0% prior to the pandemic. Similarly, China's share in the APAC region's air traffic has dropped from 43.4% to 34.8%.
- When China is able to lift its remaining restrictions, travel is likely to rebound strongly and this will skew the numbers on the upside - greatly benefiting our industry's recovery in general and that of Asia in particular.

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