

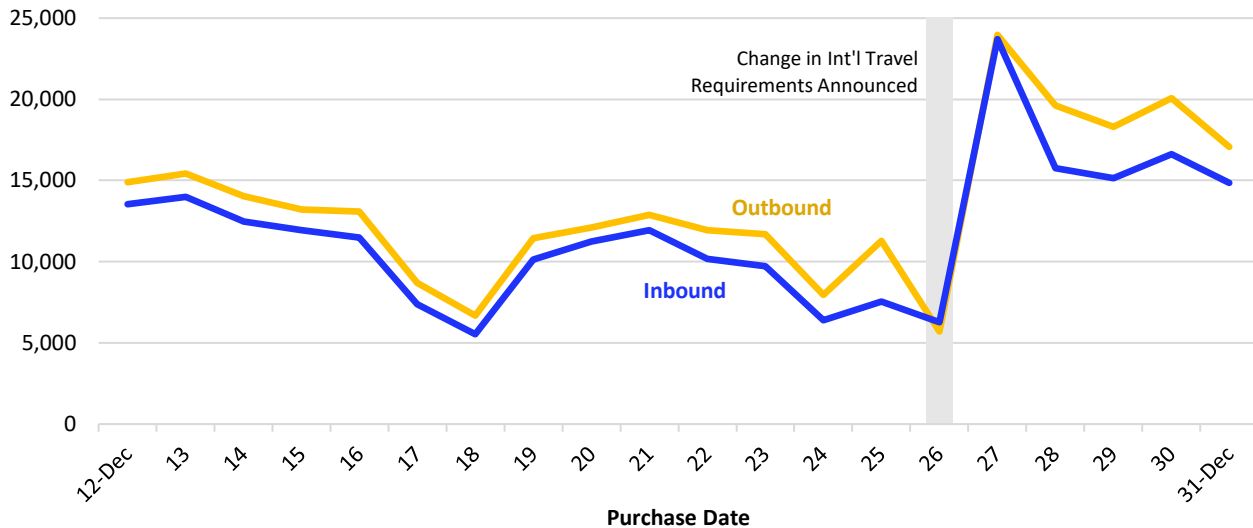


IATA Economics' Chart of the Week

6 January 2023

China to reopen border to international travelers

International Ticket Sales for Flights to and from China P.R., 12-Dec to 31-Dec 2022



Inbound Flight International Ticket Sales by Purchase Date

Travel Date	2022-Dec-24	2022-Dec-25	2022-Dec-26	2022-Dec-27	2022-Dec-28
2023-Jan-06	198	251	141	201	200
2023-Jan-07	139	157	158	486	362
2023-Jan-08	111	185	217	1,503	609
2023-Jan-09	130	224	201	1,436	557
2023-Jan-10	166	241	278	1,028	631

Source: IATA Economics based on data from DDS.

- Following a string of earlier relaxations to China’s zero COVID measures, the Chinese government announced on Monday 26 December 2022 that it would reopen its border to international travelers on 8 January 2023. The National Health Commission announced the removal of flight restrictions for international travel to China, and mandatory PCR testing and quarantine requirements for international arrivals. Inbound travelers are still required to test negative for COVID-19 prior to departure.
- Average daily tickets sold for international tickets increased by more than 85% for both outbound and inbound travelers on the back of these announcements (see Chart and Table above). A day after the announcements, tickets sold for flights to China rose sharply for travel dates beginning 8 January 2023.
- This evolution represents a new upside potential in our industry outlook as in December 2022 we assumed that China would only ease travel restrictions gradually.
- However, several countries are re-introducing varying degrees of COVID-testing measures on travelers from China in response to the recent COVID outbreak in the country and the population’s newfound freedom to travel. Among them are France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia, which now require travelers arriving from China to provide a negative COVID-19 test result before boarding flights. These measures will dampen the potential boost to the traffic outlook and might trigger retaliatory policies from China, worsening the outlook even further. This policy response is most unfortunate as it goes against the scientific evidence showing travel restrictions fail to limit the spread of the virus. Hence, despite the bold and favorable action taken by China, there are significant near-term risks to the recovery trajectory of air travel to and from China and the broader Asia Pacific region.

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