

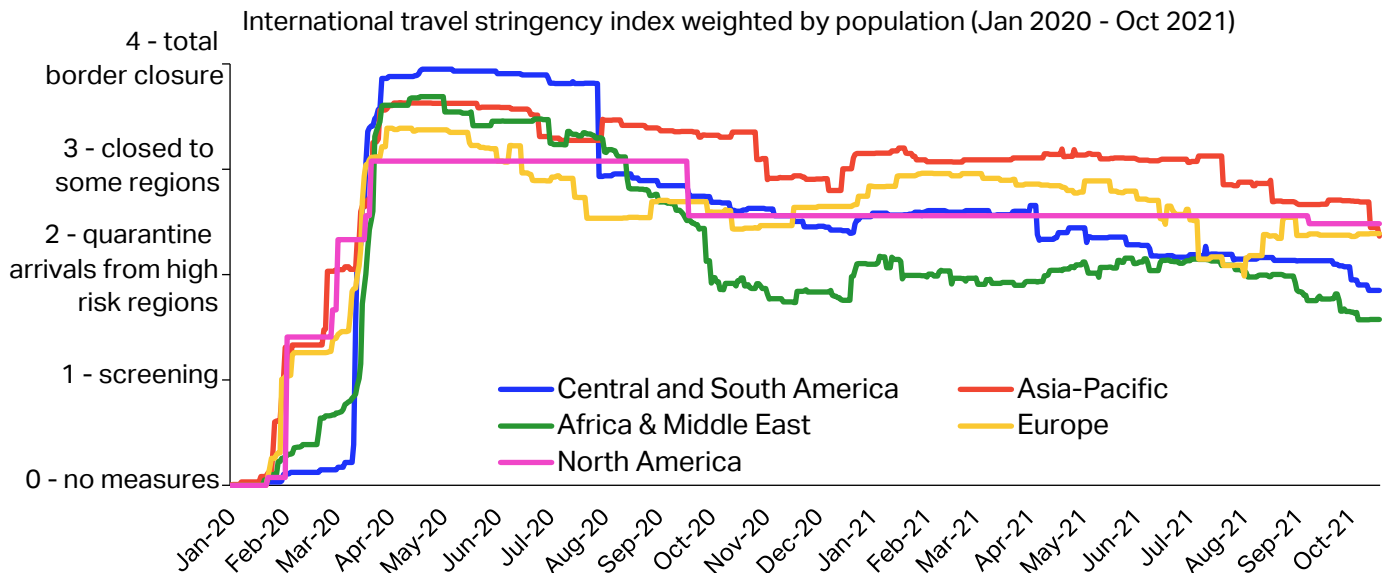


# IATA Economics' Chart of the Week

05 November 2021

## Travel restrictions easing with increasing vaccination rates

International travel stringency index weighted by population (Jan 2020-Oct 2021)



Source: IATA Economics analysis based on Oxford University data

- Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 have been suppressing passenger demand and hindering the travel recovery. However, in the final quarter of 2021, several countries across the globe have started to loosen their travel restrictions. This has resulted in the immediate uptick in booking activity in many key markets and is expected to support international passenger demand over the months ahead.
- Africa and the Middle East remain the regions with the least restrictive international travel and continue to ease restrictions. However, the Middle East is still heavily reliant on connecting traffic, so the reopening of other regions is important. In Africa, the slow vaccination rollout may hinder recovery of international traffic outside of the region. Latin American countries have also been opening their borders. Argentina, Bolivia, Guatemala as well as Chile have changed their travel regimes allowing international travelers to enter without any quarantine on arrival.
- Restrictions in Europe and North America were broadly unchanged in recent weeks, although the recent announcement from the US government on re-opening of the US-EU traffic has [jumpstarted ticket sales](#). This acted as a catalyst for other regions to re-evaluate their policies and open their borders.
- While several countries have announced the reopening of borders in Asia Pacific, the key China market is expected to remain closed for the rest of 2021 and at least the first quarter of 2022. The partial opening of Australia and New Zealand will support the recovery of region's international traffic and positively affect other hub regions, particularly the Middle East.
- With travel restrictions easing up, we expect stronger demand in 2022 for both international and domestic travel worldwide. Successful vaccination rollout, effective international cooperation as well as the recognition of the WHO-approved vaccines, will be critical for the recovery of passenger revenues.

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