



After waiting for more than 600 days, passengers across Europe crowded into airports to catch their first flights to the US since March 2020 when the country closed to most European travelers.

According to data from Travelport, a global technology company, flight reservations to and within the US have already reached 70% of their pre-pandemic levels.

Travelers were united by a sense of **exhilaration** despite the **arduous** process of getting through long lines and having paperwork ready. However, the **upbeat** mood can't hide the fact that the aviation industry remains deep in crisis. Losses from the coronavirus pandemic are set to pass hundreds of billions of dollars this year, and hundreds of thousands of airline employees have lost their jobs.

Difficult words: **exhilaration** (a feeling of great happiness and excitement), **arduous** (difficult to accomplish or achieve), **upbeat** (cheerful or optimistic).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *exhilaration, arduous and upbeat*
2. Why was the US closed for more than 600 days for European travelers?
3. What does the data from Travelport about flight reservations imply?
4. Did travelers mind the arduous process of queuing up long lines and having paperwork done just to travel to the US again?
5. How has the pandemic affected the aviation industry? Has the industry recovered since the pandemic hit worldwide?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Has your country opened its borders to foreign travelers again?
2. Have you traveled abroad again since the pandemic started? *If no*, do you have any plans to travel abroad?
3. How badly were the airline companies in your country affected by the pandemic? Are they still in deep crisis now?