

Business travellers in search of a steady path in 2012: Survey

[11 November 2011] Following a particularly buoyant July-October quarter 2011 in terms of business spend in Australia, professionals remain cautiously optimistic about corporate travel in 2012 and are, now more than ever, searching for a steady course in a potentially volatile New Year.

This is according to the latest survey by Travelscene Corporate conducted over six premier business and networking conferences across Australia including the Executive Assistants Network Conference, Brisbane; the Western Australian Mining Expo in Perth; My Biz Expo's in Melbourne and Perth; and the RSVP event industry expos in Perth and Sydney.

According to the survey results, 57% of respondents believed the amount of travel they do for work will increase in 2012 and only 3% said it would decrease – yet 25% said it was still too early to tell, even with less than two months left in the year.

"This is a sign of a volatile market," Travelscene Corporate General Manager, David Padman said. "People are unsure because we are talking about a global economy that has been through so many changes in the past 24 months, and continues to do so."

"With that in mind, domestic air travel in Australia has seen a 30% increase year on year, particularly cross-country, driven strongly by the mining sector, and double-digit increases are expected in domestic and intra-APAC business class fares with forecast rises of between 7% to 11% and economy airfares expected to grow 6% to 10%."

"The resources boom has contributed to the two-speed economy here in Australia, and business travellers are treading with a note of caution in the event of mining projects slowing down."

Respondents to the survey also believe that rising fees and airfares are one of the greatest concerns to the Australian travel industry next year.

"People are relying more and more on travel management companies (TMCs) to identify and maximise opportunities and respond to challenges that may arise such as price fluctuations in the travel market," Mr Padman said.

"At the same time, travellers are expecting more from their TMCs such as real-time travel updates and regular advice based on market situations – so they can keep ahead of the game. This keeps us on our toes too, and our focus is to continue working towards cancelling out future uncertainty for corporate travellers, so they can focus on their own business objectives."

To connect with other leading individuals and businesses in the Australian corporate travel sector, visit Travelscene Corporate's new LinkedIn Group [here](#).

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