



AVIATION UPDATE

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MAY 1, 2020 FORT WORTH, TEXAS

GREG GAYDEN, EDITOR

Cover Photo: N353AA, a Boeing 767-323/ER with American Airlines, is seen at Dallas/Fort Worth in February 2015 wearing the carrier's classic chrome livery. This frame, the 206th 767 produced, was delivered new to American on March 17, 1988 and served until November 2016. American operated a total of 97 Boeing 767s, including 30 200s and 67 300s. The 200s were first delivered in 1982, and with American retiring the last remaining 767s in revenue service in the past month, a 38-year history of 767 service with the airline has closed.

ADJUSTED ROUTES

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some of these routes, while appearing in OAG and GDS, may actually be operating solely as cargo flights, but it is rather difficult to tell from the scheduling tools.



China Eastern Airlines (NZXF) is planning to operate weekly service from Shanghai (PVG) to New York Kennedy (JFK) in May. This route will be flown by Boeing 777-300/ER equipment. ¹



China Southern Airlines (C4XF) has scheduled weekly flights from Guangzhou (CAN) to Los Angeles (LAX) through May 31. This route is flown by Airbus A380 equipment. ²



Air China (CAAF) is operating one weekly flight from Beijing Capital (PEK) to Los Angeles in May. The return flight stops in Tianjin (TSN) before arriving in Beijing. This route is flown by Boeing 777-300/ER equipment. ³



All Nippon Airways (ANPF) plans to operate 3x weekly service from Tokyo Narita (NRT) to Chicago O'Hare (ORD) in the month of

May. Service will be flown by Boeing 777-300/ER equipment. ⁴



Philippine Airlines (SCOF) plans to operate 3x weekly service from Cebu (CEB) to Los Angeles beginning on June 2. This route will be operated by Boeing 777-300/ER equipment. ⁵



Kuwait Airways (KACF) plans to resume service on June 1. As such, 3x weekly flights from Kuwait City (KWI) to New York Kennedy will start on June 3, with this route flown by Boeing 777-300/ER equipment. ⁶



Southwest Airlines (SWAA) will cut 64 percent of its May schedule. [Click here](#) to see which routes will be flown from each hub.



Singapore Airlines (SBOF) plans to operate 3x weekly service from Singapore (SIN) to Los Angeles in May. ⁷



British Airways (BRAE) plans to resume service from London Heathrow (LHR) to Boston (BOS), Chicago O'Hare, Los Angeles, New York Kennedy, and Washington Dulles (IAD) in May. All routes will be flown by Boeing 787 equipment, with the exception of New York, which will see a Boeing 777-200/ER. ⁸



Korean Air (KALF) will resume 3x weekly service from Seoul Incheon (INC) to Seattle (SEA) on June 1. ⁹



United Airlines (CALA) has further postponed service resumption dates on most long-haul routes. Flights are now set to resume on June 4 rather than May 20. [Click here](#) to see the various route information.

Additionally, United is planning to resume 3x daily service from Washington Dullues (IAD) to London Heathrow on June 4. ¹⁰



JetBlue (YENA) has added a dozen tag routes onto existing routes, although local traffic will not be sold on these sectors. These tag flights are added in order for JetBlue to maintain existing points of service as part of their agreement to take CARES Act bailout/stimulus funds. ¹¹



Spirit Airlines (GTIA) is also consolidating several routes in May, using triangle routing. Click here to review. ¹²

DROPPED ROUTES



Air Canada (ARNF) has extended the cancelation of all U.S. routes until May 21. This covers flights by both Air Canada and Air Canada Express (NZAF). ¹³



In its latest service update, Emirates (ZCQF) has suspended reservations for all flights through June 30. ¹⁴



Delta Air Lines (DALA) has canceled nearly 30 trans-Atlantic routes this year from June 2. [Click here](#) to review.

AVIATION SECURITY



TSA has found **886** guns in carry-on bags in 2020 through April 22. ¹⁵ Curiously, as passenger counts have dropped 95 percent since mid-March, the number of guns per every 80,000 passengers screened has increased 2.7 percent. ¹⁶ [Click here](#) to see an airport by airport count of guns found in 2020 – **the only such list that is maintained anywhere on the Internet.**

TSA [posts daily updates](#) showing how many people traveled through U.S. airports in 2020 vs the same

date in 2019. Passenger traffic counts are down, on average, more than 95 percent from one year ago. [Click here](#) for daily updates showing the counts, percentage changes, and a graph showing year-on-year (yoy) declines. These numbers include the 22 Screening Partnership Program (SPP) airports where private contractors handle screening. It is also important to remember these numbers count **everyone** who TSA screened, including any air crew or airport employees – as such, the actual number of passengers screened is even less.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) has posted a redacted report discussing TSA’s Challenges with Passenger Screening Canine (PSC) Teams. [Click here](#) to review. The report claims that TSA cannot show deployment and use of its PSC teams provide effective security at passenger screening checkpoints. TSA spent \$77 million for 287 PSC teams in FY 2018. TSA concurred with both recommendations made by the OIG.

AVIATION INDUSTRY NEWS

A sixth TSA employee passed away from coronavirus on April 28, the fifth screener to succumb to the illness.

Passengers flying to/from or through Canada must now wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose while at the airport and on board an aircraft. ¹⁷

The U.S. and Canada have extended their border closure for an additional 30 days as of April 19, while the U.S. and Mexico have extended the closure of their shared border for 30 further days as of April 20. The closures are for non-essential traffic.

JetBlue is forcing “all support crewmembers and salaried frontline crewmembers to take 24 days of unpaid time off (UTO) between April 20 and September 30, 2020.” ¹⁸ JetBlue will also require all passengers to wear face coverings (nose and mouth) as of May 4. The policy is BYOM – bring your own mask – as the airline will not provide them. ¹⁹

After previously prohibiting flight crew from wearing masks, American Airlines (AALA) will now require masks on flight attendants from May 1. Passengers will be required to wear masks as of May 11. ²⁰

Additionally, Delta, Southwest, and United will require passengers to wear face masks starting in the coming days. ²¹

Air Mauritius has entered voluntary administration, a form of bankruptcy protection, as of April 22. ²²

Some readers asked what the Air Canada Boeing 777-300/ER passenger aircraft that had been temporarily converted to haul light freight may look like... here is a photo:



N7706A and N7707C, both Boeing 737-76Ns previously with Southwest Airlines, and AirTran before that, will join United Airlines as N18757 and N15758, So. Additionally, United will take on B-6205, a former China Southern Airlines Airbus A319-132 as N882UA.



Southwest Airlines reported a \$94 million net loss in the first three months of 2020. System-wide load factor in March dropped to 46.6 percent. The Dallas-based carrier expects an April load factor of six percent., with operating revenues off up to 95 percent in April and May. ²³

Simple Flying has a nice little article that details the history of the Boeing 717 (actually the McDonnell Douglas MD-95) and its niche market with airlines. [Click here](#) to review. Delta operates 88 of the type, which they obtained from Southwest Airlines who acquired them in their takeover of AirTran. As

Southwest of course only operates Boeing 737s, they were eager to offload these frames, and even paid all the costs associated with refitting the interior's into Delta's style.

Boeing has backed out of a planned agreement with Embraer to take over the carrier's commercial aircraft production line, leaving the jilted Brazilian manufacturer holding the roses alone at the altar. ²⁴



South Korean regulators have approved Jeju Air's purchase of a 51 percent stake in competitor Eastar Jet for \$44 million. Eastar notified employees on April 23 that it would be unable to pay wages for the month. ²⁵



Delta Air Lines reported a net loss of \$534 million in the first three months of 2020, a sharp reversal from a \$730 million profit in the same period in 2019. 37,000 Delta employees have volunteered to take unpaid leave. ²⁶

Delta will bring forward the retirement of its 32 remaining McDonnell Douglas MD-88 aircraft to the end of June, seven months earlier than previously planned. Additionally, the remaining 29 MD-90 aircraft will also be retired by the end of June. Both early retirements are a direct result of capacity reductions due to coronavirus. ²⁷



Delta MD-88 at Dallas/Fort Worth, February 2015



Hawaiian Airlines (HALA) saw 542,456 March passengers, a 45.4 percent drop from March 2019. System-wide load factor for the month was 58 percent. ²⁸

Air New Zealand (ANZF) flew 1.36 million passengers in March, a 26 percent year-on-year (yoy) drop. ²⁹



British Airways (BRAE) may lay off up to 12,000 of its 42,000 employees, including pilots and cabin crew, as travel demand has collapsed with the coronavirus. ³⁰

Austrian Airlines (AUXF) has extended its full suspension of flights until May 31. ³¹



Lufthansa (DLAF) has rejected a \$9.748 billion aid package from the German government after the money was conditioned on the government gaining a blocking minority mechanism on the board. ³²



Virgin Atlantic Airways (VAWF) has been put up for sale, with several interested suitors, despite over \$1 billion in debt. The carrier, 49 percent of which is owned by Delta Air Lines, is reportedly set to run out of money by the end of May and faces a possible collapse without an injection of fresh capital. ³³

American Airlines reported a \$2.2 billion net loss for the first three months of 202, with the carrier expecting to burn \$70 million a day from April through June. System-wide load factor was 72.7 percent. ³⁴ Long time readers of the *Aviation Update* will doubtless remember our October 13, 2017 issue, in which American Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Doug Parker was quoted, curiously, as saying his belief that American would “never lose money again.”

American announced that five fleets types have already been retired or will not return to revenue service due to the coronavirus: Boeing 757-200s, which joined American in 1989, 767-300/ERs, Canadair CRJ-200s which are flown by regional partner PSA Airlines (VNAA) under the American Eagle banner, as well as the Embraer E-190 and Airbus A330-300 fleets that were acquired somewhat reluctantly during the merger with US Airways several years ago. ³⁵

March Passenger Traffic



With the current coronavirus crisis, I've added a column which shows the percentage drop in yoy traffic at each airport:

Airport	Passengers	% Drop	
Allentown (ABE)	44,478	-41.9	36
Boise (BOI)	168,911	-49	37
Calgary (YYC)	803,263	-45.9	38
Charlotte (CLT)	2,315,652	-46.5	39
Cincinnati (CVG)	372,017	-48.4	40
Des Moines (DSM)	147,813	-44.1	41
Detroit (DTW)	1,513,802	-52.3	42
Flint, Mich. (FNT)	46,718	-17.7	
Fort Lauderdale (FLL)	1,944,050	-47.1	43
Fort Myers (FSW)	861,221		44
Grand Rapids (GRR)	189,179	-44.6	
Greensboro, N.C. (GSO)	40,244	-55	45
Helsinki (HEL)	746,298	-57.7	46
Houston Hobby (HOU)	609,427	-51.7	47
Houston Intercontinental (IAH)	2,007,656	-49.1	
Kansas City (MCI)	480,690	-52.8	48
Las Vegas (LAS)	2,064,393	-53	49
London Luton (LTN)	586,479	-56.2	50
Los Angeles (LAX)	3,287,411	-55.4	51
Milwaukee (MKE)	312,425		52
Omaha (OMA)	225,962	-49.4	53
Orlando (MCO)	2,508,249	-47.5	54
Ottawa (YOW)	240,549		55
Phoenix (PHX)	2,398,309	-47	56
Richmond, Va. (RIC)	181,634	-50.4	57
Sacramento (SMF)	527,890	-49.6	58
Salt Lake City (SLC)	1,225,057		59
San Diego (SAN)	944,758	-55	60
Santa Ana, Calif. (SNA)	337,981	-63.4	61
Seattle (SEA)	1,824,676	-55.6	62
Syracuse (SYR)	57,699	-46.2	63
Tallahassee, Fla. (TLH)	37,918	-48.1	64
Tampa Bay (TPA)	589,516		65
Tel Aviv (TLV)	472,000	-72	66
Tokyo Narita (NRT)	1,305,204		67
Tucson (TUS)	197,585	-49.5	68
Traverse City, Mich. (TVC)	24,734	-15.1	
West Palm Beach (PBI)	416,473	-47	69

Berlin Tegel (TXL) will close to all traffic on June 1. This closure is not in relation to the upcoming opening of the new Berlin Airport (BER) but in response to the lack of demand due to the coronavirus and no need

for two airports currently operating in Berlin. (Schonefeld is the other.) In reality, Tegel will probably never re-open after this, as the aforementioned new Berlin Airport is set to finally open later in the year and was to replace the aging Tegel anyway. ⁷⁰ For our more seasoned readers, we can report that Templehoff will not be resurrected.

TUI Belgium will extend the suspension of all flights another three weeks until June 7. ⁷¹

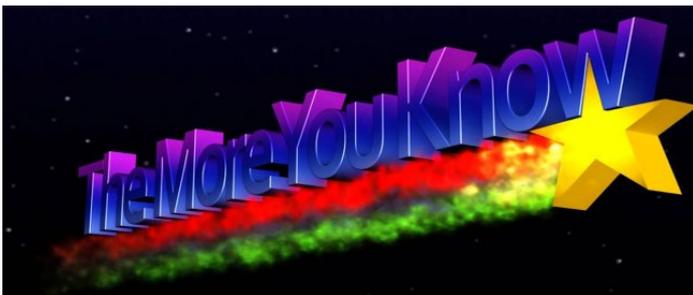
United expects to burn up to \$45 million per day in the second quarter of 2020. ⁷²

Top 10 North America Domestic Routes

Route			Seats
LAX-SFO	Los Angeles	San Francisco	4,658,377
JFK-LAX	New York JFK	Los Angeles	4,269,994
LAS-LAX	Las Vegas	Los Angeles	3,887,843
LGA-ORD	New York LaGuardia	Chicago O'Hare	3,850,720
YVR-YYZ	Vancouver	Toronto	3,561,483
ATL-MCO	Atlanta	Orlando	3,482,483
ATL-FLL	Atlanta	Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood	3,120,953
LAX-ORD	Los Angeles	Chicago O'Hare	3,118,856
LAX-SEA	Los Angeles	Seattle	3,023,573
ATL-LGA	Atlanta	New York LaGuardia	2,971,652

Source: OAG

Boeing will cut 16,000 jobs, or ten percent of its total workforce, after the manufacturer lost \$1.7 billion in the first three months of 2020. ⁷³



Wondering why airlines are canceling so many flights each day rather than well in advance with so few bookings? If passengers voluntarily change their itineraries themselves or cancel their tickets before the flight is officially scrubbed, the airline isn't obligated to refund their ticket, as they are required to do when the carrier cancels the flight. Additionally, by canceling flights at the last minute, airlines can better manage the aircraft they have that are actually flying. ⁷⁴

CARGO



Sun Country Airlines (SCNA) has taken up two Boeing 737-800/F aircraft in the past few weeks: N542RL and N545RL. These will be used to fly cargo as part of Sun Country's agreement with Amazon.

Virgin Atlantic Airways will operate 90 cargo only flights each week in May, including 17 weekly flights to New York Kennedy, nine weekly flights to Los Angeles, as well as 2x weekly flights from Dublin (DUB) to New York Kennedy and Los Angeles each. Boeing 787-9 equipment will be used on the routes.

⁷⁵

HISTORY LESSON

Trans World Airlines (TWA) filed for bankruptcy in 1992, with corporate raider Carl Icahn emerging as a creditor owed \$190 million. By 1995, Icahn wanted his money, and TWA executives wanted to be rid of him. Enter the infamous **Karabu Ticket Agreement**. This eight-year agreement allowed Icahn to purchase TWA tickets that connected through TWA's St. Louis hub for 55 cents on the dollar, as long as the ticket didn't originate or terminate in St. Louis. The deal didn't allow Icahn to sell the tickets through travel agents, but he made use of an emerging technology in those days called the Internet, setting up a website to sell these tickets. Imagine if you were able to purchase new cars for 55 percent of cost, and then sell them alongside the dealers who were advertising them at full price... might you make some money? The move started to bleed TWA dry, forcing fare prices lower as TWA was essentially competing with itself. Estimates put the losses to TWA at \$100 million a year, but it was the only way the airline could stay afloat in 1995. TWA limped along until 2001 when it was bought out by American Airlines and eventually shuttered.



DID YOU KNOW?

April 21 is San Jacinto Day, which marks the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. This was the final battle of the Texas Revolution; Texas won its independence from Mexico and became its own country after 900 Texas troops defeated Santa Anna’s Mexican Army in under 20 minutes.

Delta Air Lines owns 80 percent of the aircraft in its fleet, which is rather unusual, as most airlines lease a large number of their aircraft.

AIRCRAFT RETIREMENTS



LN-RPN, a Boeing 737-883 with Scandinavian (SCSF), was withdrawn from use (wfu) and ferried on April 19 to SVG for storage.

storage.



N522FE, a McDonnell Douglas MD-11/F with FedEx (FDEA), was wfu and ferried on April 17 to Victorville, California (VCV) for storage. The next day, FedEx returned a separate MD-11/F (N593FE) to service from Victorville.

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F-GLZO, an Airbus A340-313 with Joon, Air France’s (CNFF) short lived budget carrier, was wfu and ferried on April 24 to Lourdes, France (LDE)

for part-out and scrap.



F-HPJC, an Airbus A380-861 with Air France, was wfu and ferried on April 23 to Lourdes for temporary storage.

Two more Air France A380s, F-HPJF and F-HPJG, were wfu and ferried on April 25 to LETL for storage. F-HPJE was added in storage at Lourdes on April 28.

D-AIMF, D-AIMG, and D-AIMJ, all Airbus A380-841s with Lufthansa, were flown to Caude, Spain (TEV) for temporary storage in the last several days.

9V-SKT, 9V-SKW, 9V-SKY, and 9V-SKZ, all Airbus A380-841s with Singapore Airlines, were flown to Alice Springs, Australia (ASP) for storage on April 26.



VQ-BHE and VQ-BIA, both Boeing 747-4KZ/Fs with AirBridgeCargo Airlines (3ABF), were wfu and stored at Hong Kong (HKG) as of

April 21 prior to their return to lessor.



A6-EYF, an Airbus A330-243 with Etihad Airways (YY6F), was wfu and ferried on April 21 to Caude, Spain for storage.



UR-PSD, a Boeing 737-8HX with Ukraine International (7UKF), was wfu and ferried on April 25 to Rzeszow, Poland (RZE) where

it was returned to its lessor.



N733MA, a Boeing 737-81Q with bankrupt Miami Air (MYWA), was flown on April 29 to Marana, Arizona (MZJ) where it was returned to its

lessor. Another frame, N749MA, a Boeing 737-8HX, was flown to Goodyear, Arizona (GYR) on April 28 and returned to its lessor as well.



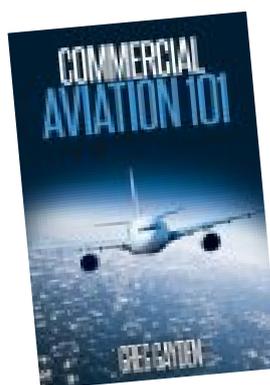
Mexico’s Interjet is down to one active Airbus A320 aircraft; the carrier had **68** when the coronavirus crisis began.

There are reportedly five or six others left on property but they haven’t flown in at least two weeks. Additionally, there are four active Sukhoi SSJ-100s in the fleet.



The *Aviation Update* is compiled by [Greg Gayden](#) from open source material gathered across the internet, and features news regarding international operations to/from the United States and the commercial aviation industry in general. To subscribe, simply [send a request](#). The *Update* is published multiple times each month as news warrants. **Back issues are available [here](#).**

Unless otherwise noted, IATA codes used for airports & FAA designator codes for airlines.



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