

Welcome to NewsFLLash Issue #37

In this edition: Terminal 1's newest artwork, more airline routes coming, new Dine & Shop venues open, County Commissioner visits, Terminal 5 construction nears, and more.



Mark E. Gale
CEO/Director of
Aviation Fort
Lauderdale-Hollywood
International Airport
(FLL)

A Message From the CEO

Welcome to NewsFLLash Issue No. 37. It's the peak of the summer season (mid-July through mid-August) when temperatures typically soar to their hottest levels, so let's heed the record heat warnings by keeping hydrated, wearing protective hats, and taking breaks to cool off in the shade to stay healthy. As robust summer travel activity continues, so too could the extreme weather episodes impacting parts of the country. So, travelers' flight plans could hit some climate-related snags for the remainder of the summertime break and the Atlantic hurricane season ending on November 30. A contingency plan for unexpected flight delays or cancellations is a must-have for air travel today.

Over the past month, we paused on the Fourth of July to celebrate our nation's Independence Day and reflect on the freedom and cherished liberties enjoyed in

America. Other noteworthy July highlights included new route announcements from airlines Allegiant, Southwest, and American coming by year-end or early 2024.

Additionally, on July 26, FLL joined in nationwide social media celebrations of the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a civil rights law that works to ensure all people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. In late July, a new immersive art installation by artist Jay Bellicchi debuted in Terminal 1, Concourse C, for airport guests to enjoy.

Along the seafront in July, officials at nearby Port Everglades, one of Broward County's sister agencies and fellow powerhouse economic engines, shared the results of a new survey showing cruising had made a strong comeback since the pandemic with higher-than-expected passenger activity than budgeted this fiscal year. At FLL, there has undoubtedly been an uptick in cruise passengers in the airport terminals, a welcome sight!

Looking to August, Visit Lauderdale is touting Dine Out Lauderdale, a month-long culinary program where participating Greater Fort Lauderdale venues offer curated three-course meals at attractive fixed prices. Early next month, the JCC Maccabi Games & Access will occur in Broward County, with thousands of Jewish teenagers from the United States, Israel, Europe, Canada, and Latin America participating. Approximately 1,400 attendees plan to fly through FLL for this major Olympic-style sporting competition.

Lastly, we look forward to welcoming EL AL Israel Airlines in September and October with new seasonal flights to Tel Aviv, Israel. EL AL expects to operate the Tel Aviv route year-round starting spring 2024.

Thanks for reading, and stay cool!

Mark

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The Sky's the Limit

June passenger traffic recap

Airport Statistics	Current Month	2022 Month	Year-Over-Year Difference	2019 Month
Total Passengers	2,759,043	2,590,931	6.5%	3,007,805
Domestic Passengers	2,142,768	2,032,597	5.4%	2,258,269
International Passengers	616,275	558,334	10.4%	749,536

[View FLL Statistics](#)



Immersive Art Exhibit

Installation runs through January 2024

A brand-new public art space is now open in Terminal 1, Concourse C. Abstract geometric artist Jay Bellicchi, also known as Remote, is the first artist on display. Bellicchi spent multiple days at FLL creating the mural during overnight hours. It's a style of art he has been doing for eight years.

Bellicchi used latex and spray paint while also incorporating physical floating pieces to create an immersive experience in the post-security venue. "It has influences of my past in graffiti and also graphic design and my fascination for geometry," says Bellicchi. The exhibit will run until January 15, 2024.



More Shop & Dine Locales

Three new concessions now open

Just opened at FLL in June, Hudson Group's Distinctively Florida and ink by Hudson is a joint store that features numerous Florida-inspired shopping items and a wide selection of books. This retail option is located post-security in Terminal 2. Also debuting last month in Terminal 3 was Paradies Lagardère's Tropical News. This quick grab-and-go pre-security concession offers a variety of convenience items including snacks, gift magnets, and luggage.

A Half Moon Empanadas kiosk is set to open early next month in Terminal 2. Passengers can look forward to enjoying Argentinian-inspired empanadas made from fresh ingredients post-security in Concourse D.

Other new airport venues slated to open by the end of this year are The Market on Las Olas, Bonefish Grill, and Topo Chico.



Photo credit: Anthony Faraone

New Routes Landing

Multiple airlines add destinations

On July 11, [Allegiant Air](#) announced it's adding two new routes from Fort Lauderdale for low-cost holiday travel options. The airline will start nonstop service from FLL to Nashville, Tenn., on November 16 and to Cedar Rapids, Iowa on November 17.

After a six-year hiatus, [American Airlines](#) is resuming nonstop service between FLL and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA, a company official told Simple Flying in June. The twice-daily seasonal service to the nation's capital will take off on November 5 and run through May 5, 2024.

Beginning in January 2024, [Southwest Airlines](#) will have new seasonal service between FLL and Omaha, NE; Albany, NY; Phoenix, AZ; Hartford, CT; and Louisville, KY, the carrier revealed during the same month.



Note: Rendering may not reflect final design

Terminal 5 Construction Nears

Groundbreaking coming soon

The Broward County Aviation Department (BCAD) is gearing up for a major event this fall – the official groundbreaking for FLL's new Terminal 5 (T5) project. The new two-level building will comprise five additional domestic gates with corresponding ticketing, inbound and outbound baggage processing, security screening checkpoint, retail, and food/beverage concessions.

T5 will connect to Terminal 4 with a new multi-level pedestrian bridge, providing airlines the ability to operate from both terminals through secure connectivity. The project is managed by JetBlue on behalf of Broward County/BCAD at a current estimated cost of \$404 million. T5 is slated for completion in the second quarter of 2026.



District 9 Commissioner Visits

Airport overview and South Runway tour

Broward County Commissioner Hazelle P. Rogers visited the airport on July 10 to meet with BCAD officials. She received an update on FLL's current status and future plans from the CEO/Director of Aviation, Mark Gale (pictured right, and then went on an airport airside tour.

Rogers was sworn in as the County's new District 9 Commissioner in November 2022. Commission District 9 consists of the Broward Municipal Services District (turnpike, and parts of Fort Lauderdale, Lauderdale Lakes, Lauderhill, Oakland Park, Plantation, and Sunrise.

Prior to joining the Broward County Commission, Rogers served as State Representative for District 94/95 and Mayor of Lauderdale Lakes for several years.



Improving Roadway Safety

Law enforcement traffic initiative

The Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Airport District unit, in partnership with the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) and BCAD conducted a roadway enforcement initiative dubbed Operation Safety Zone at and around FLL from June 22 through July 7. The goal of the 16-day road safety campaign was to educate motorists about the proper uses of the breakdown lanes along Interstate 595, the entrance ramps to FLL, and its terminal roadways.

A news conference was held at FLL on the first day of the initiative with BSO and FHP officials explaining Operation Safety Zone's importance as a measure to help improve roadway safety and protect lives. Drivers were also advised to expect a higher visibility of BSO and FHP officers reinforcing these traffic rules.

The law enforcement officials noted there had been a noticeable jump in the number of motorists illegally parking vehicles in these breakdown lanes, which can create potential hazards that can endanger lives. Motorists were encouraged to take advantage of the airport's free Cellphone Waiting Area lot or use the onsite parking garages which offer a free grace period for stays of 20 minutes or less.



Up Close With Wildlife

Instagram video spotlight

If you missed it, [May's NewsFLLash](#) featured a story on FLL's Federal Aviation Administration-qualified airport wildlife biologist, Mat Natali.

Now, you can get an even closer look at a day in the life of our wildlife biologist's job on our Instagram page. Our latest video showcases Natali and some of our wildlife friends. Check it out [here](#) and start following us on Instagram.



WestJet To Absorb Swoop

Full integration set for this fall

The WestJet Group is shutting down its subsidiary Swoop Airlines later this year. The Canadian company plans to absorb the ultra-low-cost airline's operations under its namesake WestJet brand by the end of October. The decision follows a recent deal between the WestJet Group and its airlines' pilots.

In 2018, WestJet formed Swoop as an independent lower-cost travel option for consumers. On October 26 that year, Swoop debuted at FLL with seasonal service to Hamilton, Canada.



No Guns Allowed

Travel and weapons do not mix!

Did you know that if caught with a weapon while going through the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) passenger screening checkpoints, your travel plans will be interrupted? Whether you have a concealed permit or not to carry a licensed firearm, by law, you still cannot bring it through TSA screening.

As of June 14, the TSA had intercepted 64 guns at FLL this year. That compares to 134 firearms discovered in 2022 at FLL security checkpoints, 128 in 2021, and 87 in 2020, respectively. This high interception rate ranks FLL among the TSA's top 10 U.S. airports for firearms found at security checkpoints. [TSA civil penalties](#) for firearms can run up to \$14,950, as well as an arrest. Watch the TSA's "[Traveling with Firearms](#)" video to learn more.

If you plan to travel with a licensed firearm, the TSA says it should be unloaded, packed in a special locked container, declared with your airline, and transported as checked luggage.

FLL BY THE NUMBERS: JUNE 2023

TOTAL TRAFFIC WAS
2,759,043

UP 6.5%
FROM JUNE 2022

DOMESTIC
TRAFFIC
2,142,768

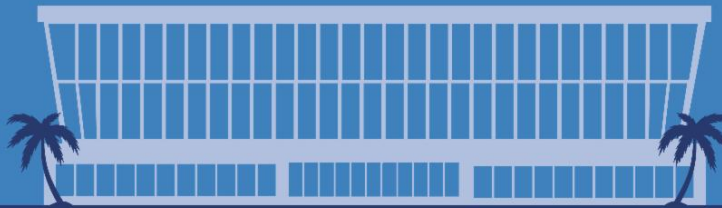


UP 5.4%
OVER LAST YEAR

INTERNATIONAL
TRAFFIC
616,275

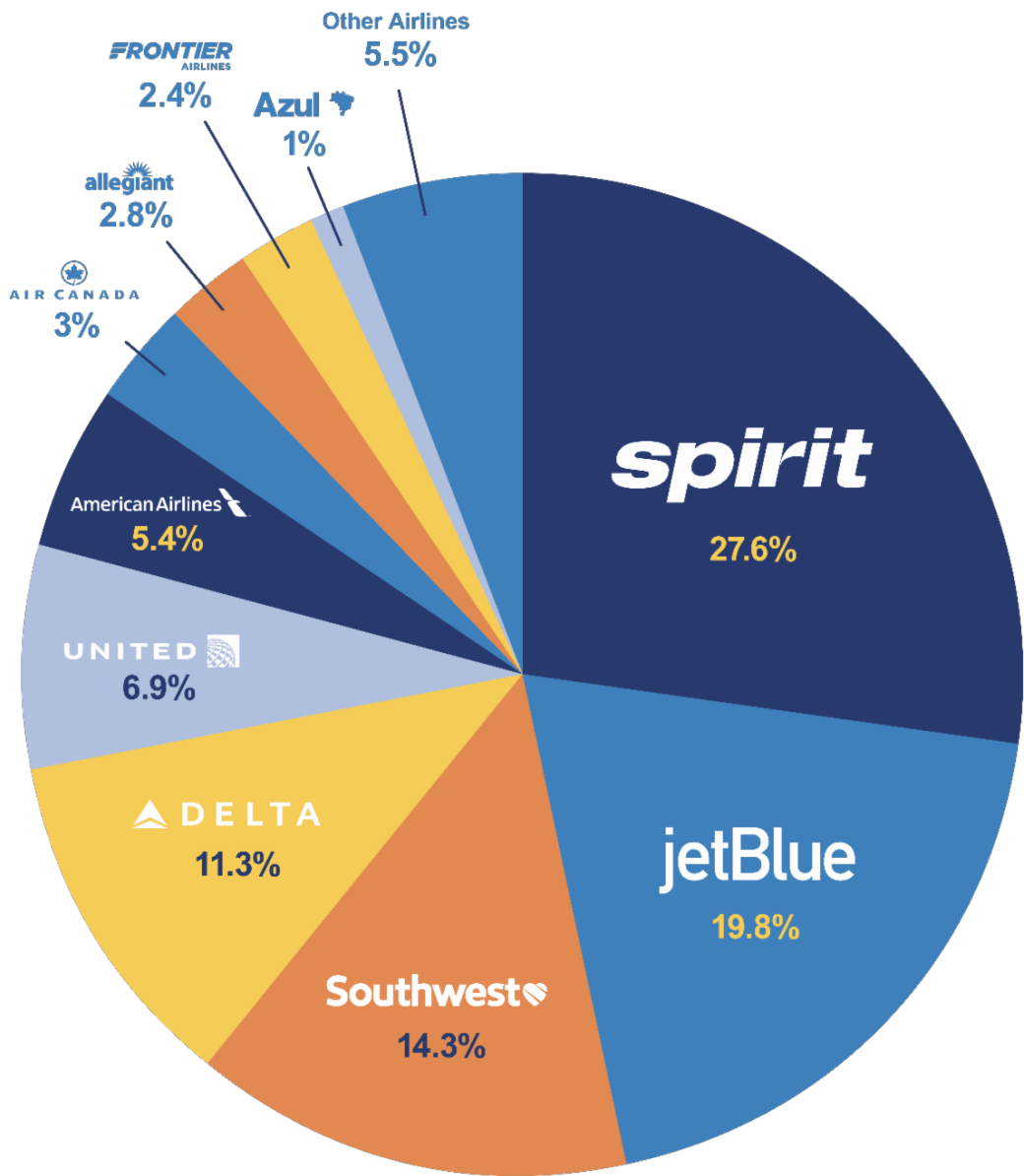


UP 10.4%
OVER
LAST
YEAR



Top 10 Airline Market Share

Year-to-date: June 2023





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