

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport February 2013 Traffic Recap

Total traffic for February 2013 was 1,981,192, down 1.3% over last year. Domestic traffic was down 1.1% and international traffic was down 2.0%

Last year was a leap year so February 2012 had one additional day of traffic. If this year is adjusted, and one additional day of traffic is added, total traffic for February 2013 equates to approximately 2,051,895, an increase of 2.3%.

February commercial operations totaled 18,748, down 2.6% over last year. General Aviation totaled 3,197, down 7.1%. Total aircraft movements for the period were 21,945, down 3.2%.

Carriers that experienced positive growth for the month were Airtran up 20.2%, United up 8.0% and JetBlue up 4.6%. On the negative side, Southwest was down 8.1%, Spirit was down 5.4%, American down 3.7% and US Airways down .3%.

Traffic for the next few months is inspected to remain positive. Current and projected growth in total traffic has been primarily due to JetBlue's increase in available seats. JetBlue's total seats for Q1, Q2 and Q3 are up 12%, 12% and 14%, respectively.

However, JetBlue's gains will begin to be offset by the Southwest/Airtran consolidation. As Southwest and Airtran continue to combine routes, shift capacity, and seasonally reduce service, FLL will begin to experience negative impacts beginning in Q3 (July, August and September).

To further illustrate this point, JetBlue will have approximately 160,000 more available seats in Q3 than last year. The combined Southwest/Airtran will have approximately 170,000 less seats, a net decrease of 10,000 seats. Since JetBlue's load factor is higher (84% vs 80% for Southwest and Airtran), net gains/losses in passengers carried should be negligible.

Southwest/Airtran markets that will be seasonally adjusted in Q3/Q4 include Indianapolis and Columbus for Airtran, and Phoenix, Albany, Raleigh Durham and Kansas City for Southwest. For Q3, the average combined available seats are estimated to be down approximately 12.3% over last year.

The impact of the American and US Airways merger is not clear at this time. However, there is no overlap in service so there should be no significant impact in the short term.

New service that will have a positive effect on traffic in the months to come includes:

- United to San Francisco in March <http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/04/01/4736370/alfredo-gonzalez-joins-brand-usa.html>
- JetBlue to Medellin, Colombia and San Jose, Costa Rica in June
- And the much anticipated arrival of Norwegian Air Shuttle from Copenhagen and Stockholm in November

Below is the year to date traffic and market share of our top carriers.

JetBlue	728,588	17.7%	US Airways	310,888	7.6%
Spirit	693,563	16.9%	American	237,452	5.8%
Southwest	580,850	14.1%	Airtran	223,901	5.4%
Delta	504,521	12.3%	Air Canada	143,269	3.5%
United	301,327	7.3%	Virgin		1.5%

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