

Welcome to NewsFLLash Issue #23

In this edition: Western Air arrives to Junkanoo fanfare, inaugural World Diversity Week debuts, Scandinavian startup Norse readies for FLL launch, rescued ducklings reunion, new shops in Terminal 4, and more.



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

A Message From the CEO

Welcome to May's NewsFLLash, which highlights several vital activities at FLL during the month and other significant developments in the pipeline for June. In April, FLL welcomed nearly 2.85 million passengers, increasing 21 percent over the same month in 2021. Only 12% fewer passengers traveled through FLL in April versus the same month in 2019, indicating continued strong travel demand.

FLL added Western Air to its airline portfolio on May 19 when the private Bahamian carrier operated its first scheduled passenger flight to the U.S. with daily service between Nassau and Fort Lauderdale. During the month, two new concessions opened in Terminal 4, and another reopened in Terminal 2 after an extended closure due to COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges (see story below).

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It was an exciting month in South Florida with major events such as the Fort Lauderdale Air Show and Miami Grand Prix Formula One motor race. In addition, the Broward County Aviation Department (BCAD) participated in a handful of community events to promote airport projects, initiatives, and business opportunities.

As June commences, it is a reminder that the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season has arrived. Therefore, it is essential to have emergency response plans for work and home ready to tackle anything Mother Nature may blow our way each year.

Lastly, our biggest event yet for 2022 will be the arrival of Scandinavian carrier Norse Atlantic Airways in mid-June with nonstop transatlantic service between Oslo, Norway, and Fort Lauderdale. BCAD will celebrate Norse's first departure from Fort Lauderdale on June 20.

As we prepare for a busy summer of travel, we look forward to serving you at FLL and thank you for your patronage.

Happy Summer!

Mark

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The Sky's the Limit

April passenger traffic recap

FLL served 2,846,119 passengers in April, a 21 percent increase from the same month in 2021. Overall, the airport welcomed 2,313,396 domestic travelers during the month, an 11% uptick from April 2021. Meanwhile, the number of international visitors rose 104% to 532,723.

April's monthly passenger volume was only 12 percent less than the same month in 2019 before the pandemic landed.

A handful of new or seasonal routes are on the horizon for FLL that could lift passenger volumes for the rest of 2022. They include Norse's thrice-weekly Oslo service, starting June 18, Allegiant Air's resumption of flights to Ohio's Akron-Canton Airport on November 19, and Delta Air Lines' nonstop to Seattle, Wash., returning December 16.

[View FLL Statistics](#)



Inaugural World Diversity Week

On any given day, FLL is a cultural mecca with employees of over 100 nationalities serving travelers from 44 international destinations and 90-plus U.S. cities.

To celebrate this rich cultural heritage, the airport hosted a special week of activities from May 16-20, 2022, dubbed World Diversity Week, highlighting the theme "International Flavors of FLL." The airport's World Diversity Week was an expansion of the United Nations' World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development celebrated annually on May 21.

The weeklong schedule of activities included live music and dance performances, a cooking demonstration, an Arts & Crafts Expo, and multilingual terminal announcements from employees saluting their countries of origin.



Fanfare for Western Air

Junkanoo band welcomes inaugural flight

Broward County Mayor Michael Udine (right) poses for a photo with Bahamas First Lady Ann Marie Davis and the island chain's Miami-based Consul General Curt G. Hollingsworth on May 19, after welcoming passengers from Nassau on the first Western Air flight to FLL. The new nonstop service between Fort Lauderdale and Nassau marked Western's first scheduled passenger flight into the U.S. Members of the [Bahamas media](#) attended the inaugural flight festivities at FLL, which included a Junkanoo band, showcasing a popular Bahamian cultural tradition.

[More About Western Air](#)



Photo credit: Twitter @FlyNorse

Norse Preps for Florida Launch

First class of Fort Lauderdale cabin crew graduates

We are only weeks away from the official launch of Norse Atlantic Airways' inaugural transatlantic service between Oslo, Norway, and Fort Lauderdale. The excitement is ramping up as the startup Scandinavian airline remains on target to touch down at FLL with its first flight from Oslo on June 18. The first departure from FLL to Oslo is set for June 20.

In early May, Norse celebrated the graduation of its first class of Fort Lauderdale-based cabin crew at its headquarters in Norway in preparation for its U.S. debut. On April 29, Norse launched ticket sales for its new U.S. routes with flights between Oslo and Fort Lauderdale offering airfares as low as \$129 one-way. Norse could potentially add more flights between FLL and other European cities soon.

Since ticket sales launched, the airline has experienced keen interest from consumers, and bookings between the U.S. and Oslo have been strong, Norse CEO Bjørn Tore Larsen said in a May [Aviation Week Network podcast interview](#).



Mottled Ducks Reunion

Kudos to members of FLL's airside, wildlife and maintenance teams who recently executed a successful rescue of 10 mottled ducklings reuniting them with their worried mother.

The curious baby ducks were out for a stroll on the airfield with Mother Duck when they tried to cross a storm drain near Taxiway Q/L but fell instead through the slots into the dark waters below.

Swift action by BCAD staff resulted in the ducklings' safe rescue from the drain and relocation to a nearby pond for a joyous reunion with their mother. Roberto Cano, a senior airport operations agent was involved with the ducklings' rescue along with Mathew Natali, wildlife biologist and Thomas Dunphy, an airfield maintenance supervisor.



Candy Galore and More

FLL welcomed two new venues on May 13 from travel retailer Paradies Lagardère in Terminal 4 giving travelers more places to shop when flying through the airport. Explore the colorful Dylan's Candy Bar store (top banner photo) in Concourse G, to satisfy your sweet cravings. If something else tickles your fancy, step next door to Beaches Travelmart for favorite snacks, souvenirs, or some captivating literature to read during flight.

Dine + Shop at FLL



Hurricane Season Readiness

Virtual training to hone emergency response

On May 5, FLL participated in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Virtual Tabletop Exercise to discuss and review critical hurricane

preparations and response protocols using the mock scenario of a Category 3 storm impacting Fort Lauderdale. The FEMA virtual training session took place in the airport's Emergency Operations Center with staff from BCAD, Broward Sheriff's Office law enforcement/fire rescue, and other aviation services partners. The 2022 Atlantic hurricane season is expected to be above-average, with 14-21 names storms (winds of 39 miles per hour or higher) likely to form, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



Photo credit: Andre Chambers/BCAD

Thunderbirds Host Hero Bus Driver

Broward County Transit (BCT) bus operator and local hero Gwendolyn Whitfield took a ride of a lifetime on April 29 in the back seat of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbird #8 F-16 fighter jet piloted by Maj. Jacob Impellizzeri.

The Thunderbirds selected Whitfield for the special flight experience from FLL as part of its "Hometown Hero" program that honors deserving local people, according to officials of the Fort Lauderdale Air Show where the elite aviators were performing.

In early April, Broward County Mayor Michael Udine presented Whitfield, a BCT bus operator for nearly a decade, with the Broward County Medal of Valor for her courage and selfless actions to save lives during a fatal shooting incident on her bus in mid-March.



FLL in the Community

High School Career Fair

Human Resources Generalist Jim Schmitt represented FLL at the "My Next Move" May 12 hiring event at Plantation High School for Broward County Public Schools graduating seniors still undecided about their post-secondary steps.



Broward & Beyond Business Conference

BCAD Business Development Manager Steve Belleme (center) talks about the future expansion plans for FLL during the [Broward & Beyond Business Conference](#) on May 6 at the Signature Grand in Davie.



Fly Day at FXE

BCAD ADA Coordinator Linda Merrill (left) attended the Challenge Air Fort Lauderdale Fly Day at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) on April 23 for families with special needs children. Merrill shared information about FLL's accessibility offerings, including the new Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program. Fifteen aircraft and 105 families registered for the FXE event, where 70 children 'co-pilots' took to the skies, organizers said.

FLL
BROWARD COUNTY

HIDDEN DISABILITIES SUNFLOWER PROGRAM

NOT EVERY DISABILITY IS VISIBLE

FLL Sunflower Program

SCAN THE QR CODE AND VISIT FLL.NET FOR MORE INFORMATION

FLL BY THE NUMBERS: APRIL 2022

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UP 21%
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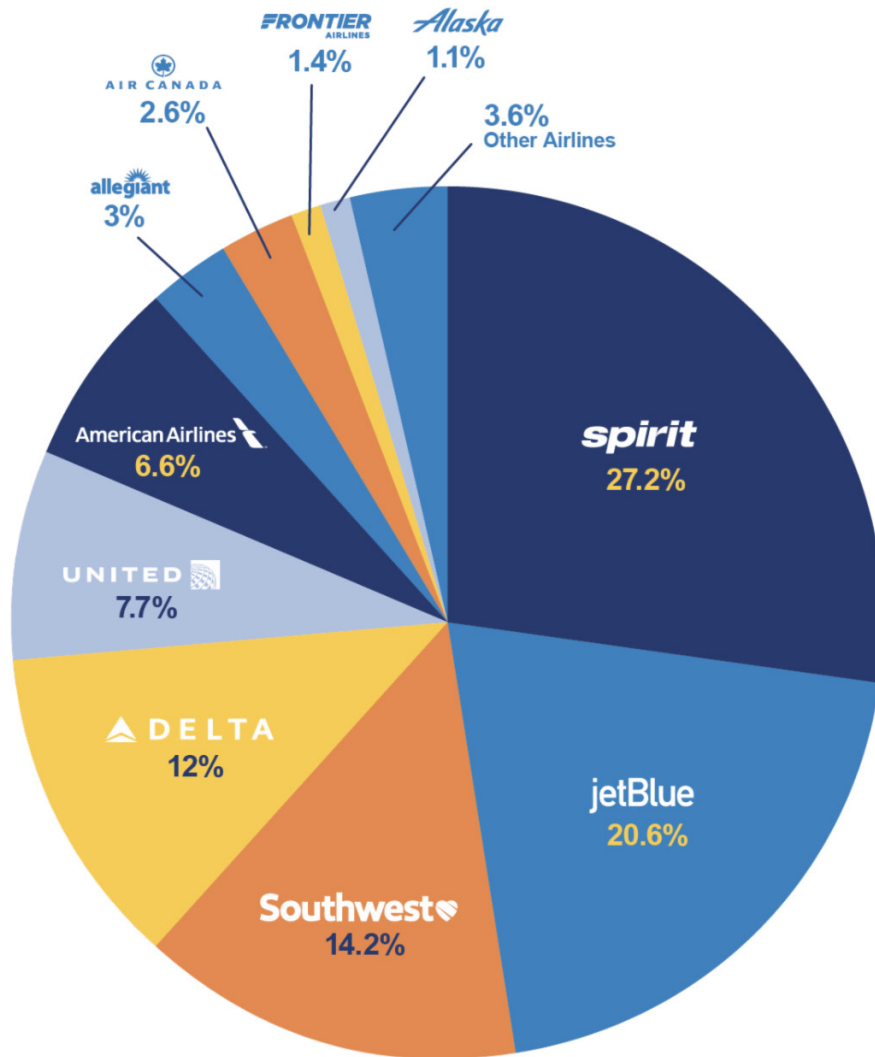


Top 10 Airline Market Share

Year-to-date: April 2022

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