

## Welcome to NewsFLLash Issue #34

In this edition: FLL recovers from historic rainfall event, Earth Day celebrated with special art exhibit, eco-friendly giveaways, and pledges, Air Show performers at FLL, first Honor Flight of 2023, JetBlue showcases aviation jobs to young girls, and more.



*Official Newsletter of Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport*



### **Mark E. Gale**

CEO/Director of Aviation  
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood  
International Airport (FLL)

## A Message From the CEO

Unprecedented thunderstorms on April 12 turned much of our airport's airfields, roadways, and neighboring community streets into lakes overnight following record-breaking rainfall that accumulated in less than 24 hours.

The April Showers downpour was one for the history books. The stormy weather lingering over FLL relentlessly dumped nearly 26 inches of rainwater on the airport and surrounding areas, with 19 inches falling in just a six-hour period.

As the Broward County Aviation Department (BCAD) worked to combat this historic flooding event, many airport guests had to shelter in place, either at FLL or elsewhere in South Florida, as flights were grounded and the airport's roadways closed or impassable. It wasn't until early

flights were grounded and the airport's roadways closed or impassable. It wasn't until early Thursday morning that stranded guests and employees could leave the airport after weather and roadway conditions had improved.

Safety was paramount as our staff worked to assess the airfield conditions as the water receded, enabling us to understand the impact of the floodwaters and set a plan to restore partial or complete operations as soon as possible.

Special thanks to the BCAD teams and other airport personnel who came to our aid for working hard and steadfastly to get the airport operational after closing for a day and a half. Read more in the story below. While we celebrate the progress of restoring operations on FLL's two runways within a few days, there is still some ground to cover to fully repair the damage to areas of the North Runway.

Equally, it could be a long road back to normalcy for our community residents who suffered significant damage to their homes, businesses, or vehicles during this extraordinary flooding event. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone impacted, and we wish you a speedy recovery.

On the upside, despite the flooding's impact on airport operations, FLL expects to have served 3.16 million travelers in April, compared to 2.85 million passengers in the same month last year. That's just 2.2% shy of the 3.23 million visitors in April 2019.

*Mark*

## **In This Issue:**

- A Message From the CEO
- The Sky's the Limit
- Air Show Aerobatics
- Earth Day Celebration
- Eco-Friendly Student Crafts
- Historic Rainfall at FLL
- JetBlue's Fly Like a Girl
- 27th Veterans Homecoming
- Artistic Airport Employees
- Allegiant Wins National Awards
- Hip, Humble, and Charitable
- FLL by the Numbers
- Top 10 Airline Market Share
- Stay Connected

[FLL.net](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Subscribe Now](#)



## The Sky's the Limit

### March passenger traffic recap

Airport Statistics	Current Month	2022 Month	Year-Over-Year Difference	2019 Month
Total Passengers	3,453,602	3,062,229	13%	3,678,351
Domestic Passengers	2,723,933	2,514,178	8%	2,829,219
International Passengers	729,669	548,051	33%	849,132

[View FLL Statistics](#)



Photo credit: Andre Chambers

## Air Show Aerobatics

### Touching down at FLL

The Fort Lauderdale [Air Show](#) flew into town for the last weekend of the month. During the April 29-30 event, some of the highly anticipated performers, such as the U.S. Navy Blue Angels and the F-22 Raptor Demo Team, used FLL's runways for training runs and trips to and from their scheduled acts.

Earlier in the week, on April 26, a media day was held at Jetscape at FLL, where the performers practiced pre-show flights and provided local reporters with a closer look at their head-turning aircraft.

Other performers that occupied FLL's runways were aerobatic pilot Kirby Chambliss, the Red Bull Air Force, and the SOCOM Para-Commandos.



## Earth Day Celebration

### Free plants, earth-saving pledges, and more

On April 21, FLL held a pre-Earth Day celebration in Terminal 3, departures level, from 11AM-1PM. Airport guests and employees received eco-friendly gifts, including a reusable bag, potted plants, and packets of seeds to plant something of their own in honor of [Earth Day 2023](#), officially marked each year on April 22. Travelers also shared their green initiatives and posted them on the airport's Earth Day Tree of Life.



## Eco-Friendly Student Crafts

### FLL showcases student art contest

During April, as part of festivities to celebrate Earth Day, FLL collaborated with WPLG-TV Local 10 to showcase 10 finalists in its sixth annual eARTh Day Art Contest. The colorful, creative, and eco-friendly artworks were displayed pre-security inside Terminal 3 for guests and employees to enjoy. Among them was the “Palms of the Sea” entry of painted palm fronds on wooden pallets by Kenwood K-8 Center students in Miami, pictured at the top of the newsletter.

Since 2018, the TV station’s art contest has invited South Florida schools to celebrate Earth Day by submitting original work that uses repurposed or recycled items. The artwork that receives the most votes is awarded \$4,500 for the school’s art department. To view the winner and all of this year’s finalists, click [here](#).

To foster partnerships in the local community, FLL provides artists and organizations exhibition opportunities to celebrate and promote their work to a large and diverse audience. To learn more, contact our Public Art Program Manager, Christina Roldan at [croldan@broward.org](mailto:croldan@broward.org).



SAV team in the Employee Parking lot



Mark Gale extends our thanks to the SAV team assisting FLL



BCAD team members work on runway reopening efforts



FLL security staff conducts gate checks

## Historic Deluge at FLL

### Others help in flood recovery efforts

Following the epic mid-April flooding in the Fort Lauderdale area that closed FLL for nearly two days, BCAD was fortunate to receive assistance from several airports during our reopening efforts.

In-person help came from a Savannah International Airport (SAV) team, who worked alongside FLL staff to reopen the flooded employee parking lot and assisted in clearing other impacted airport areas. The 10-member SAV team, comprised of electricians, airfield technicians, and other skilled staff, played an integral part in reopening the airport's employee parking lot.

FLL also received in-kind assistance from Florida airports that provided extra replacement parts to repair damaged electrical components enabling our airport to more quickly reopen and rebound from some of the flooding's impacts.

It was a herculean effort, but through great teamwork, collaboration, and tireless determination of everyone involved, FLL reopened at 9AM on April 14 with aircraft operations on the South Runway. At noon on April 15, daytime-only operations resumed on the North Runway, and by April 19, select nighttime aircraft activity returned to this runway.





Photo credit: JetBlue Airways/Nan Rich Facebook

## JetBlue's Fly Like a Girl

On April 1, JetBlue held its annual Fly Like a Girl event at Jetscape FBO at FLL. Now in its ninth year, the event offers young girls a chance to look closely at different aviation industry careers by learning directly from women already in the field. Some key female officials in attendance included Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Nan Rich, Vice Mayor of Broward County (pictured, bottom left).

More than 100 local youth from ages 8-14 participated in this year's activities. Along with engaging with JetBlue's women crewmembers, the girls toured an Airbus A320 aircraft.

According to JetBlue, Fly Like a Girl aims to promote interest in Science, Education, Technology, and Mathematics by showcasing career possibilities early on to inspire the next generation of aviators.



## 27<sup>th</sup> Veterans Homecoming

### Heroes receive warm welcome

Honor Flight South Florida (HFSF), in partnership with Spirit Airlines and BCAD, hosted its 27<sup>th</sup> veterans' trip to Washington, D.C. from FLL on April 1. Sixty-nine U.S. veterans from the Korean War, Cold War, WWII, and Vietnam traveled to the nation's capital on the one-day trip to visit their respective war memorials.

Upon returning to FLL, the veterans were greeted by dozens of family members, friends, and supporters, thanking them for their honorable service. American flags, heartfelt signs, and joyful cheers filled Terminal 4. Currently, three more Honor Flight homecomings are planned for FLL this year on May 6, September 23, and October 28, according to HFSF's website.

HFSF actively recruits local heroes who served in the military. For more information, visit their [website](#).



## Artistic Airport Employees

### Artwork on display until September 2023

The ninth installment of FLL’s employee artwork exhibition, “I Bet You Didn’t Know (IBYDK),” is now on display through September 2023 in the post-security walkway connecting Terminals 3 and 4.

The current exhibit showcases artwork from 31 FLL employees. The collection displays various styles of artworks such as paintings, sculptures, and photography by artists whose jobs range from vendor operations to pilots, among other professions.

IBYDK, which debuted in 2018, is a collaborative exhibition program presented by FLL and the Broward Cultural Division’s Public Art & Design Program. The airport community looks forward to each new series of artworks in the exhibit, which rotates every six months.

Take a [virtual tour](#) to view all the artwork and learn about the artists behind them.



## Allegiant Wins National Awards

### Among FLL's Top 10 carriers

Allegiant Air recently won three different awards for some of its workplace initiatives. In late March, the airline announced it had made the following national lists: Forbes' America's Best Midsize Employers 2023, Newsweek's America's Greatest Workplaces for Diversity 2023, and Fortune's America's Most Innovative Companies 2023.

Forbes' list included only companies with 1,000-5,000 employees, and Allegiant placed No. 444 out of the top 500. For the Newsweek award, Allegiant was one of 1,000 companies selected across 34 industries, and Fortune's award recognized Allegiant as a top 300 American industry leader in innovation.

Congratulations, Allegiant!



## Hip, Humble, and Charitable

### New store donates to local nonprofit

One of Paradies Lagardère's newest stores at FLL launched its first annual fundraising event during Women's History Month in March to benefit local charity [Hispanic Unity of Florida](#). Every year [Hip & Humble](#) (H&H) creates a t-shirt with a different theme representing its core values (Feminism, Inclusion, Community, and Color) and then donates a portion of its sales to a local cause. This year, the retailer tapped Hollywood-based nonprofit [Hispanic Unity](#) to receive 35% of the t-shirt proceeds.

"We would love for [our stores] to be recognized not just for their unique items but for their generosity and philanthropy towards women's causes because both H&H [and] Paradies Lagardère, value women. We know that when women support women, great change occurs. We are continually amazed at what women can do for each other and our community," said Sheridan Mordue, company founder/CEO, in a statement.

Visit Hip & Humble at FLL in Terminal 3, Concourse E.

# FLL BY THE NUMBERS: MARCH 2023

TOTAL TRAFFIC WAS  
**3,453,602**

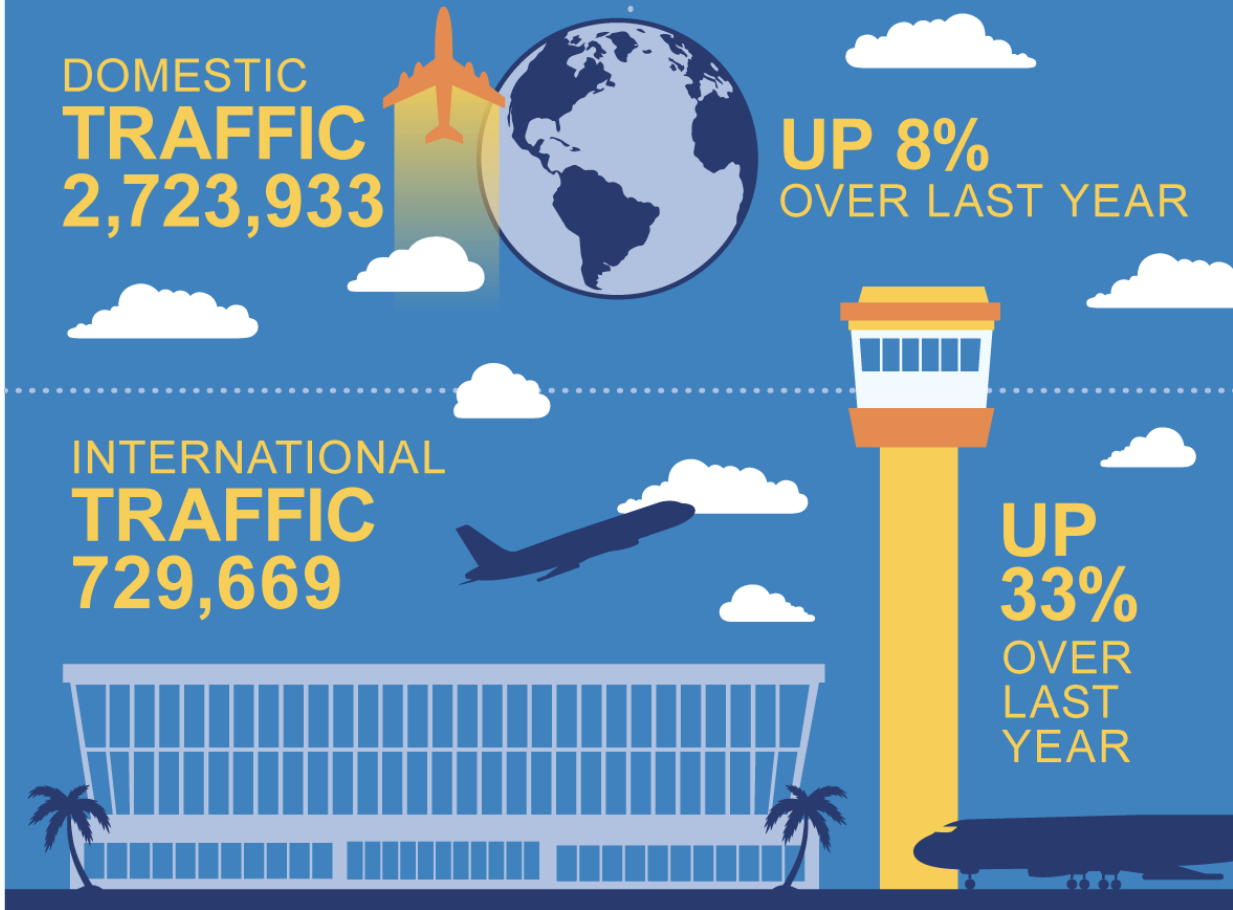
**UP 13%**  
FROM MARCH 2022

DOMESTIC  
TRAFFIC  
**2,723,933**

**UP 8%**  
OVER LAST YEAR

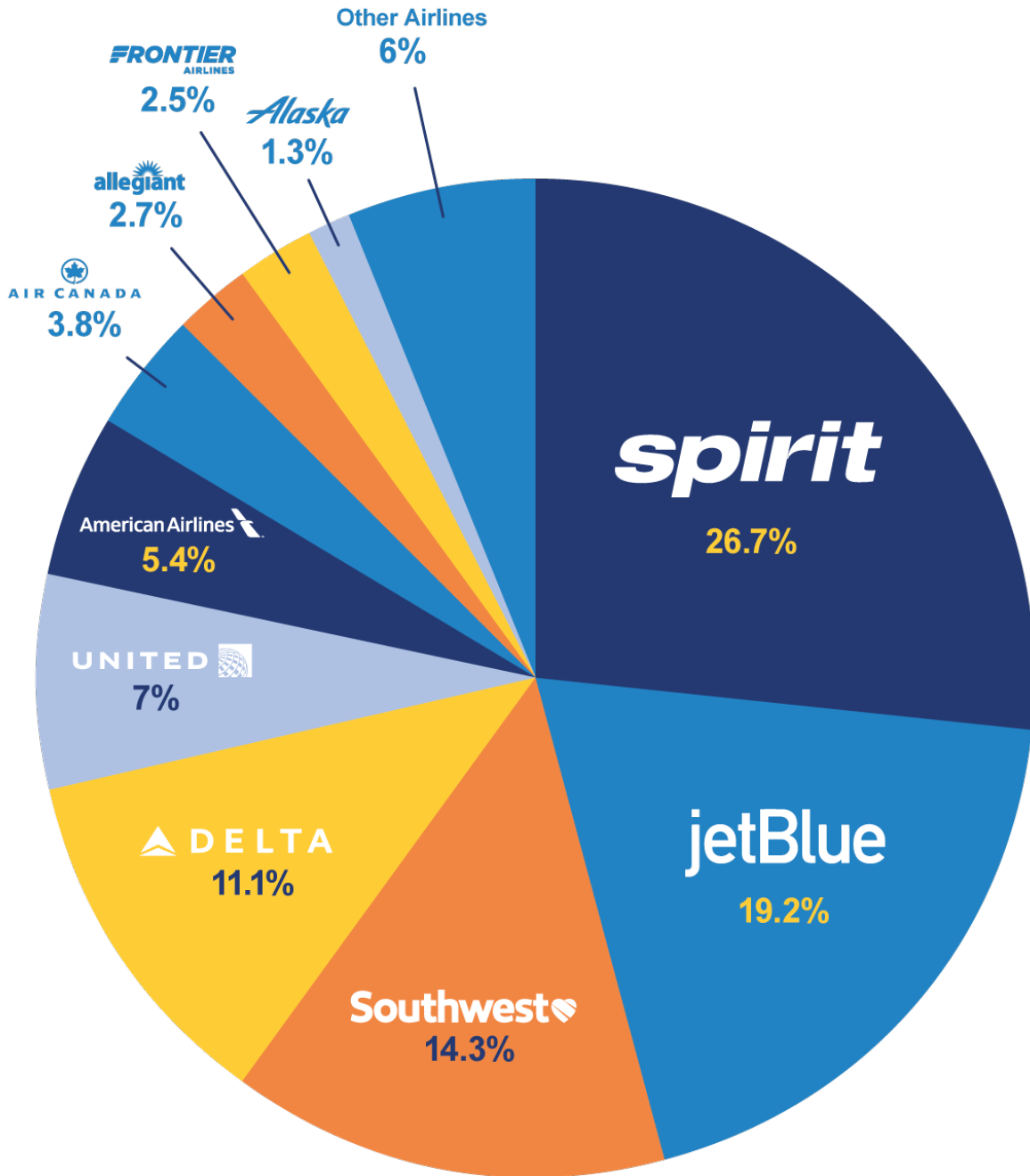
INTERNATIONAL  
TRAFFIC  
**729,669**

**UP 33%**  
OVER  
LAST  
YEAR



# Top 10 Airline Market Share

Year-to-date: March 2023



# FLL's eNewsletter

Read the latest airport developments in *NewsFLLash*, the official newsletter of Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

Subscribe Here:  
[Broward.org/Airport/Business](http://Broward.org/Airport/Business)



## Stay Connected

### Subscribe to NewsFLLash

In each issue of NewsFLLash, our goal is to share the latest news on airport developments, improvements, and key employee accomplishments in a mobile-friendly, easy-to-read format. We encourage you to sign up for NewsFLLash and stay connected. We know you'll enjoy it.

### [Subscribe Now](#)



Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport | 100 Terminal Dr., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315