



**SAN ANTONIO  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

# MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT





## Monthly Statistical Report

To: Russell J. Handy, Aviation Director  
From: Brian Pratte, Chief Air Service Development Officer  
Copies: San Antonio Regional Stakeholders  
Subject: September 2018 Monthly Statistics  
Date: October 23, 2018

### EXTRAORDINARY PASSENGER GROWTH CONTINUES THROUGH SEPTEMBER

#### SUMMARY

During typically one of the slowest travel periods of the year, San Antonio International Airport (SAT) again achieved record passenger growth during the month of September. A total of 781,593 passengers, a remarkable increase of nearly 14% or over 94,000 passengers, flew through the airport during the month with year-to-date totals up nearly 11% or 7.4M. This unprecedented growth at SAT reflects an ongoing trend of progress at the airport in its effort to attain and retain air service with multiple new routes added in the past two years and record passengers for the last consecutive 27 months. With some of the busiest travel periods of the year still ahead, SAT anticipates continued record breaking growth through the balance of 2018.

Broken down, domestic traffic for September also climbed nearly 14% compared to the same month last year driven largely by capacity increases by many of the domestic carriers and new routes on American, Frontier and Southwest. International traffic increased by over 7%, with year-to-date totals up an astounding 14%, or 304,360 passengers.

Additionally, a total of 22,494,556 pounds of air cargo moved through SAT in September 2018 with year-to-date totals reaching levels not experienced since 2010. This growth, further supports the economic momentum apparent in the San Antonio region.

(Please see Exhibit A for a detailed breakdown of all passenger and cargo stats)

Since 2016, 34 new flights have either been added or announced at SAT contributing to the recent passenger growth at the airport. These additions are telling indicators of a flourishing economy in San Antonio, now the fastest growing city in the country by total volume. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment rates continue to fall year after year and are consistently below the national average. From June 2017 to June 2018, over 15,000 jobs were added in the Alamo City with significant growth in the tech, cybersecurity, bioscience and manufacturing sectors. The visitor and tourism industry continues to outpace their hotel occupancy targets set for the next several years and below national average cost of living continues to make San Antonio an increasingly attractive place to live, work and do business.

(Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, San Antonio Economic Development Foundation and Visit San Antonio)

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## DOMESTIC PASSENGERS

Scheduled domestic capacity, or seats, increased 18.1% or 75,211 seats in September 2018 vs. September 2017 with a total of 491,323 monthly departure seats. Airlines routinely make monthly or seasonal adjustments to the number of flights and seats available to match market demand trends.

Since fall 2017, Frontier Airlines has launched new nonstop service to 21 markets which contributed to a 432% surge in capacity for the airline in September. Furthermore, United increased capacity over 13% by utilizing larger aircraft to Houston, Newark and Washington-Dulles with Delta and Southwest both growing their capacity by nearly 9% with new routes to Fort Lauderdale and Oakland added by the latter carrier in July. American grew their capacity by 7% with the launch of Philadelphia in February and deploying larger aircraft and/or increasing frequency to Charlotte and Chicago O'Hare. However, American did experience a slight decrease in passengers this month due to Hurricane Florence and the negative impact the storm had on the airline's Charlotte hub. Finally, Allegiant reduced capacity with the ending of Fort Lauderdale service and seasonal reductions to Las Vegas and Orlando-Sanford.

Airline	Seat Capacity Change	Passenger Change
Alaska Airlines	6.2%	1.5%
Allegiant Air	(89.6%)	(90.4%)
American Airlines	7.0%	(0.7%)
Delta Air Lines	8.8%	10.3%
Frontier Airlines	432.1%	332.9%
Southwest Airlines	8.6%	6.6%
United Airlines	13.2%	14.1%

When comparing year-over-year domestic capacity changes, the results were based on the following:

- American Airlines: began daily nonstop service to Philadelphia in February 2018 and increased aircraft gauge to Chicago O'Hare in spring 2018 and Charlotte in fall 2018
- Delta increased frequency to Salt Lake City summer 2018
- Frontier Airlines: began service to New Orleans, Ontario, CA, Phoenix, San Diego and Washington-Dulles in fall 2017 and launched service to Cincinnati, Colorado Springs, Orlando, Raleigh-Durham and San José, CA in April 2018. Service to 11 additional markets began in August 2018
- Southwest Airlines: launched new daily service to Fort Lauderdale and Oakland in July 2018 with recent added capacity to several markets
- United Airlines: increased aircraft gauge to Washington-Dulles in fall 2017



## INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS

Scheduled international capacity continued its growth trend in September 2018 at 23,819 monthly departure seats or 17.3%. This was primarily driven by added seats on Interjet to Monterrey and Volaris to Mexico City.

Overall, total international passengers increased considerably by 7.5% YOY in September. This was due, as noted earlier, by capacity increases by both Interjet and Volaris. However, current macro-level economic and political uncertainties continue to suppress demand between Mexico, SAT and the United States as a whole. The valuation of the Peso to the U.S. Dollar continues to struggle to gain significant improvement since its collapse in 2015. SAT's air service team continues to monitor this closely and any effect it may have on service levels to/from Mexico.

Airline	Seat Capacity Change	Passenger Change
Air Canada	11.5%	8.5%
Aeromexico	(1.0%)	(18.0%)
Interjet	5.8%	13.4%
Southwest*	N/A	N/A
United*	N/A	N/A
Volaris	64.6%	38.4%

\*Southwest and United offer seasonal service to Cancún, Mexico.

When comparing year-over-year international capacity changes, the results were based on the following:

- Air Canada: reduced daily service to 5-6X weekly during off-peak travel months (Nov-May)
- Interjet: increased capacity to Guadalajara during peak summer months (Jun-Aug) and Monterrey which began June 2018
- Southwest & United: offers service to Cancún on a seasonal basis
- Volaris: launched daily service to Mexico City in September 2017 which has since become seasonal, operating only during peak travel periods. Increased seasonal capacity to Guadalajara in June 2018 during peak months only



## RECENT SCHEDULE CHANGES

In October 2018, American Airlines announced new daily nonstop service to New York's JFK Airport beginning February 2019. American joins Delta and United with nonstop service to the New York area, a top underserved market for SAT prior to this announcement. The new American flight will be operated on a 160-seat Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

In August 2018, Frontier launched weekly service to 11 **NEW** seasonal and year-round markets. They include Albuquerque, Charlotte, Cleveland, Columbus, Jacksonville, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orange County, Salt Lake City and Tulsa with all but Charlotte and Salt Lake previously unserved markets. This is in addition to 10 other routes launched within the last year bringing the total number of Frontier destinations served from SAT to 25, the largest amount of any carrier at SAT.

Also in August, Frontier and Volaris launched a first of its kind codeshare agreement between the two ultra-low-cost carriers. The codeshare allows for each airline to sell combined passenger itineraries for seamless transfer between the U.S. and Mexico and is anticipated to have a positive impact on passenger traffic between the two carriers at SAT.

In July 2018, Southwest Airlines began **NEW** daily, year-round, nonstop service to Oakland (OAK) and Fort Lauderdale (FLL). Prior to launch, OAK was an unserved market and FLL was only served seasonally. Both markets bring much needed capacity to the Bay Area and Southeast Florida and are flown on 143/175-seat Boeing 737 aircraft. Southwest has also recently increased frequencies to multiple cities, mostly during the peak summer season.

In March 2018, Mexican low-cost carrier Interjet, announced **NEW** daily nonstop service to León, Mexico (BJX), the fourth Mexican city served by the carrier and fifth from SAT. Service to BJB was initially set to begin June 2018, but has since been pushed back to spring/summer 2019 due to aircraft delivery delays. The flight will operate on a 93-seat Sukhoi Superjet 100 aircraft offering convenient central access to Mexico's thriving Bajío region.

In February 2018, American Airlines launched **NEW** daily, year-round, nonstop service to Philadelphia, a market previously served only seasonally by Frontier. The new service is operated on a 150-seat Airbus A320 aircraft and provides added capacity to the East Coast and American's primary transatlantic gateway.

In January 2018, Southwest Airlines began daily, direct (one-stop, no plane change) service to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Though the layover city fluctuates, the schedule remains consistent each day.





Volaris recently launched **NEW** nonstop service to Mexico City in September 2017 flown on a 179-seat Airbus A320 aircraft which is operated seasonally during peak travel periods. With this added service, SAT now offers four peak-day nonstop flights to Mexico's capital city.

In May 2017, San Antonio International Airport welcomed a **NEW** international carrier with Air Canada's daily nonstop service to Toronto, Ontario, Canada- the airport's first to Canada.

## EXHIBIT A

### San Antonio International Airport Passenger & Air Cargo Activity Summary Report

	September			Calendar Year-to-Date		
	2018	2017	% Change	2018	2017	% Change
<b>Passengers</b>						
Domestic Enplanements	376,355	330,814	13.8%	3,542,790	3,189,433	11.1%
Domestic Deplanements	379,020	332,323	14.1%	3,533,170	3,208,229	10.1%
<b>Total Domestic Passengers</b>	<b>755,375</b>	<b>663,137</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>7,075,960</b>	<b>6,397,662</b>	<b>10.6%</b>
Intl Enplanements	12,987	12,079	7.5%	152,460	134,899	13.0%
Intl Deplanements	13,231	12,320	7.4%	151,900	132,589	14.6%
<b>Total Intl Passengers</b>	<b>26,218</b>	<b>24,399</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>304,360</b>	<b>267,488</b>	<b>13.8%</b>
<b>Grand Total All Passengers</b>	<b>781,593</b>	<b>687,536</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>7,380,320</b>	<b>6,665,150</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
<b>Air Cargo (in Pounds)</b>						
Domestic Freight Enplaned	6,350,519	6,502,872	-2.3%	59,317,275	47,695,941	24.4%
Domestic Freight Deplaned	8,966,819	8,565,469	4.7%	78,518,263	73,013,294	7.5%
<b>Total Domestic Freight</b>	<b>15,317,338</b>	<b>15,068,341</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>137,835,538</b>	<b>120,709,235</b>	<b>14.2%</b>
Intl Freight Enplaned	665,696	495,018	34.5%	4,946,027	5,020,633	-1.5%
Intl Freight Deplaned	291,094	120,062	142.5%	1,975,606	1,510,596	30.8%
<b>Total Intl Freight</b>	<b>956,790</b>	<b>615,080</b>	<b>55.6%</b>	<b>6,921,633</b>	<b>6,531,229</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>Total Freight</b>	<b>16,274,128</b>	<b>15,683,421</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>144,757,171</b>	<b>127,240,464</b>	<b>13.8%</b>
Mail Enplaned	2,290,195	2,508,885	-8.7%	21,035,642	21,132,752	-0.5%
Mail Deplaned	3,930,233	3,807,208	3.2%	34,615,379	33,819,597	2.4%
<b>Total Mail</b>	<b>6,220,428</b>	<b>6,316,093</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>	<b>55,651,021</b>	<b>54,952,349</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>Grand Total All Air Cargo</b>	<b>22,494,556</b>	<b>21,999,514</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>200,408,192</b>	<b>182,192,813</b>	<b>10.0%</b>

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