



## Monthly Statistical Report

To: Thomas Bartlett, Interim Aviation Director  
From: Brian Pratte, Chief Air Service Development Officer  
Copies: San Antonio Regional Stakeholders  
Subject: December 2019 Monthly Statistics  
Date: January 28, 2020

### AIRPORT ACHIEVES RECORD PASSENGERS IN 2019

#### SUMMARY

San Antonio International Airport (SAT) continued its impressive upward trajectory with another year of record passengers in 2019. A total 10,363,040 passengers flew through SAT during the year, exceeding 2018 levels by nearly 320,000 or 3.2%. For the year, domestic traffic increased 2.7% despite challenges faced by the worldwide grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX, while international traffic increased a remarkable 12.6% with all international carriers reporting double-digit growth.

In 2019, SAT welcomed Sun Country Airlines with service to Las Vegas, Minneapolis and Portland, OR as well as new nonstop service to New York-JFK by American Airlines. Additionally, multiple airlines expanded their existing service to several critical markets including Chicago O'Hare, Denver, Guadalajara, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Miami, Newark and Seattle with added frequencies and/or increased aircraft size.

In December 2019, the airport recorded 888,086 total passengers, the highest of any December on record and a 1.4% increase compared to the same month last year. Domestic traffic rose slightly by 0.8% while international traffic increased 13.8%, driven, in part, by capacity increases by all the airport's Mexican carriers for the busy holiday travel season.

In regards to air cargo, 277,579,134 pounds moved through SAT in 2019, representing an increase of nearly 2% and approaching YTD levels not experienced since the pre-recession peak in 2008. For December, air cargo was relatively flat at (0.6%).

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

SAT's record passengers in 2019 completes a decade of consistent growth at the airport with an unprecedented 20% increase in passengers since 2016, nearly double the national average. Since then, the airport has welcomed multiple new flights that have promoted competition and driven average fares down by more than 8%. This has not only contributed to the recent passenger surge, but also the increase in passenger retention that were previously utilizing alternate airports, collectively making SAT one of the fastest growing medium-hub airports in the U.S.

**SAN ANTONIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

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## DOMESTIC PASSENGERS

As noted, domestic passengers for December increased by nearly 1% while seats remained flat at (0.1%) largely due to the setbacks associated with the grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX. The traffic growth is a positive indicator of a stable demand environment even during a period of suppressed supply. For the year, all but two of SAT's carriers added seats to the market reflecting the growing demand and prosperous economy in the San Antonio region.

In 2019, Sun Country Airlines inaugurated seasonal service to Las Vegas, Minneapolis and Portland, OR providing another low-cost option for local travelers. Additionally, other carriers such as Alaska, American and United all grew significantly at SAT. In July, Alaska doubled its service by adding a second daily flight to Seattle while American increased overall 2019 capacity by more than 11% including launching nonstop flights to New York-JFK in February. United grew seats by 7% with additional frequencies and/or aircraft upgauges to Chicago, Denver and Newark.

Airline	DEC 2019 Seat Change	DEC 2019 Passenger Change	YE 2019 Seat Change	YE 2019 Passenger Change
Alaska	99.7%	86.4%	46.1%	37.1%
Allegiant	(52.5%)	(49.3%)	(18.8%)	(21.1%)
American	1.9%	5.4%	11.2%	10.8%
Delta	2.3%	1.1%	1.6%	0.9%
Frontier	(65.2%)	(64.5%)	(30.2%)	(26.3%)
Southwest	(0.5%)	0.7%	1.2%	0.7%
Sun Country	100%	100%	100%	100%
United	1.8%	3.4%	7.1%	3.2%

\*Sun Country Airlines inaugurated service at SAT in May 2019

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

- Alaska Airlines: began second daily flight to Seattle in July 2019
- American Airlines: began daily nonstop service to New York JFK in February 2019 and increased aircraft gauge to Chicago O'Hare in May 2019
- Delta: increased gauge to Atlanta and Salt Lake City June 2019
- Frontier Airlines: seasonal route adjustments and some route discontinuations began in late 2018, early 2019; capacity increase to Las Vegas began in August 2019
- Southwest Airlines: market adjustments due to 737MAX grounding from July forward
- United Airlines: increased year-round frequency to Denver in 2019 and frequency or gauge to Chicago in March 2019



## INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS

International traffic grew by nearly 14% in December on a 9.2% increase in scheduled capacity, with 28,292 monthly departure seats. This was largely due to added capacity to Guadalajara on Interjet as well as seasonal increases by Aeromexico, Interjet and Volaris to Mexico City and Southwest to Cancun for the holiday season.

For the year, all but one of the airport's carriers that offer international flights saw a double-digit growth in passenger traffic. This growth is an impressive feat given the current macro-level economic and political uncertainties that continue to strain demand between the U.S. and Mexico and suggests an improving international environment.

Airline	DEC 2019 Seat Change	DEC 2019 Passenger Change	YE 2019 Seat Change	YE 2019 Passenger Change
Aeromexico	48.3%	57.9%	5.4%	17.5%
Interjet	13.2%	14.7%	10.4%	19.8%
Southwest*	33.3%	23.6%	(14.4%)	(15.6%)
United*	N/A	N/A	0.0%	38.7%
Volaris	7.9%	19.1%	26.6%	41.3%

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

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

- Interjet: increased frequency from weekly to daily to Guadalajara in March 2019
- Southwest & United: offers service to Cancún on a seasonal basis



## RECENT SCHEDULE CHANGES

In response to the global grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, American and Southwest have adjusted their schedule at SAT. American has temporarily suspended their Philadelphia flight until early May while Southwest has temporarily suspended service to Oakland flight until mid-April. In addition, Southwest will continue to reduce frequencies to a few other SAT markets as they work to mitigate the negative MAX impact. SAT expects capacity growth to slow slightly during affected months, but anticipates the airport's growth trend to regain its momentum once the 737 MAX is back in service, though that date is still unknown.

In December, American added a second seasonal frequency to their global hub in Miami. The flight is flown on an Embraer 175 aircraft and provides more options for those looking to escape to Florida, Caribbean or Latin America during the colder winter months.

Next summer, Southwest plans to expand service at SAT with additional frequencies to seven markets while adding **NEW** Saturday only service to Albuquerque. Expanded markets include Atlanta, Chicago-Midway, Denver, Houston-Hobby, Los Angeles, Nashville and St. Louis. While the service to Albuquerque is seasonal and less-than daily, Southwest often tests the viability of new markets by offering a limited schedule. If initial performance is positive, additional frequency is likely.

This year, Sun Country Airlines, a new carrier for SAT, launched **NEW** nonstop, seasonal service to Las Vegas Minneapolis and Portland, OR. As a previously top unserved market for the airport, Portland is a welcomed addition to SAT's air service portfolio while the added service to Las Vegas and Minneapolis will complement SAT's current level of service. All flights will operate on B737-700/800 aircraft with up to 183 seats.

In July, Alaska Airlines doubled their current service to Seattle by offering a second daily flight from SAT. This growth is a strong indicator for both the airline's success on the route as well as increased demand between the two markets. The second daily flight is scheduled to depart SAT early morning and return late evening making it now possible for passengers to make day trips to the Pacific Northwest city.

In February 2019, American Airlines launched **NEW** daily nonstop service to New York's JFK Airport. The airline joined Delta and United with nonstop service to the New York City area, a top underserved market for SAT prior to this additional flight. The new American flight departs SAT in the mid-morning and returns late evening on a 160-seat Boeing 737-800 aircraft.



## **EXHIBIT A**

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

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

	December			Calendar Year-to-Date		
	2019	2018	% Change	2019	2018	% Change
<b>Passengers</b>						
Domestic Enplanements	419,357	422,171	-0.7%	4,962,724	4,820,522	2.9%
Domestic Deplanements	421,423	411,689	2.4%	4,932,841	4,808,788	2.6%
<b>Total Domestic Passengers</b>	<b>840,780</b>	<b>833,860</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>9,895,565</b>	<b>9,629,310</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
Intl Enplanements	24,464	21,587	13.3%	230,266	208,263	10.6%
Intl Deplanements	22,842	19,990	14.3%	237,209	206,838	14.7%
<b>Total Intl Passengers</b>	<b>47,306</b>	<b>41,577</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>467,475</b>	<b>415,101</b>	<b>12.6%</b>
<b>Grand Total All Passengers</b>	<b>888,086</b>	<b>875,437</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>10,363,040</b>	<b>10,044,411</b>	<b>3.2%</b>

<b>Air Cargo (in Pounds)</b>						
Domestic Freight Enplaned	7,109,468	7,649,108	-7.1%	82,525,571	81,020,378	1.9%
Domestic Freight Deplaned	10,552,081	10,152,623	3.9%	112,561,846	107,940,508	4.3%
<b>Total Domestic Freight</b>	<b>17,661,549</b>	<b>17,801,731</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	<b>195,087,418</b>	<b>188,960,886</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Intl Freight Enplaned	331,694	950,758	-65.1%	9,442,286	7,379,797	27.9%
Intl Freight Deplaned	933,110	260,648	258.0%	3,516,106	2,802,447	25.5%
<b>Total Intl Freight</b>	<b>1,264,804</b>	<b>1,211,406</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>12,958,392</b>	<b>10,182,244</b>	<b>27.3%</b>

<b>Total Freight</b>	<b>18,926,353</b>	<b>19,013,137</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>208,045,810</b>	<b>199,143,130</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
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Mail Enplaned	1,946,037	2,005,469	-3.0%	24,104,125	27,618,724	-12.7%
Mail Deplaned	3,364,570	3,356,011	0.3%	45,429,200	45,755,528	-0.7%
<b>Total Mail</b>	<b>5,310,607</b>	<b>5,361,480</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>	<b>69,533,324</b>	<b>73,374,252</b>	<b>-5.2%</b>

<b>Grand Total All Air Cargo</b>	<b>24,236,960</b>	<b>24,374,617</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>277,579,134</b>	<b>272,517,382</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
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