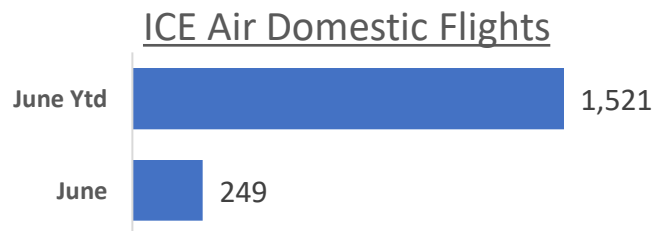
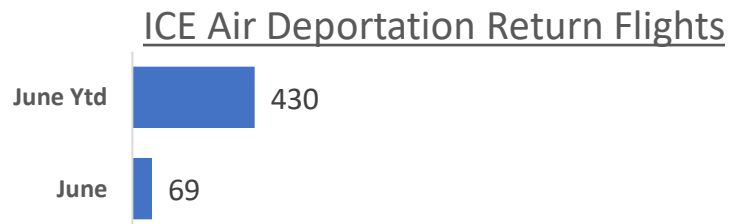
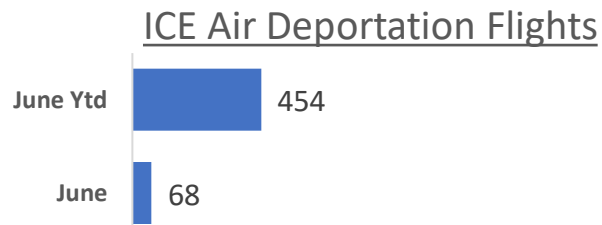


ICE Air Flights

June and June 2020 Year-to-Date



- July 14, 2020

Questions and comments about this report can be directed to: Thomas Cartwright (author)

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Thomas Cartwright: MS Financial Theory, University of Illinois. Retired EVP JPMorgan (38 years) with focus in management, strategic planning and analysis and financial management. For 3 years post retirement Tom performed strategic consulting assignments for Financial Industry leading clients. In retirement, Tom has dedicated his time to world refugee advocacy in the field and in Washington D.C. His work includes hands-on volunteering in refugee camps in Greece and our Southern Border. **S.C. : Senior Research Analyst:** BS Sociology, University of Chicago. 25 years of experience in strategic and business analytics at a Fortune Top 50 Company.

Witness At The Border shines a light on the cruelty and inhumanity of current immigration policy; we bear witness to the human rights abuse of asylum seekers and refugees. Witnesses hail from across the country and abroad.

From the Tornillo, TX and Homestead, FL Child Detention Centers to the Brownsville/Matamoros border, many have stood as witnesses in solidarity with the victims of these policies; to witness and report on the mass incarceration of innocent children and the practice of forcing asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico for their day in a tent court presided over by a remote judge on video, and to be faced with denial, without due process, of their legal rights to seek asylum and protection. To witness ICE Air fly those seeking protection from our country into danger and darkness, often in countries other than their own. Over 15,000 people follow Witness At The Border Facebook page.

[ICE Air Research and Tracking Team:](#)

Karla Barber (witnessmpp@gmail.com) – Head of Tracking and Information Management, MS Management Information Systems, University of Texas, Dallas. Retired IT Manager Texas Instruments (22 years) with a focus on Business Process Re-engineering, Change Management, and Y2K Remediation. She is a Certified Sommelier, Certified Wine Educator, and the former National President of Women for WineSense. Since retiring in 2018 she has been a witness at the Tornillo, Texas and Homestead, Florida detention facilities for migrant children. She was a lead organizer for Witness at the Border in Brownsville TX/Matamoros MX and is actively tracking ICE flight movements via a ‘virtual’ witness effort.

Joshua Rubin (Joshrubinofny@icloud.com), Joshua Rubin is the president of Rubin & Poor, Inc., a company that has developed testing software and performed data analysis since its founding at the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. He founded Witness Tornillo, which has since become Witness at the Border, a group dedicated to on the ground observation of the effects of U.S. immigration policy. His work is featured in the award-winning documentary “Witness at Tornillo.”

Julie Swift (juliekswift@gmail.com), is a former teacher, museum educator and exhibit coordinator with degrees in elementary and early childhood education. She is a Democratic precinct Chair in the border state of Texas where she lives. A social activist and member of many social and political groups, she is currently active with Witness at the Border on the ground and at the computer.

<https://www.witnessattheborder.org> || [FaceBook: Witness at the Border \(formerly Witness:Tornillo\)](#) || Twitter:@WitnessBorder
Instagram: Witness At The Border

TRACKING ICE AIR

ICE Air contracted with the airline broker Classic Air Charters. They in turn subcontracted the flights to World Atlantic (Caribbean Sun) and Swift Air (nka iAero). Flights on World Atlantic were substantially reduced in March and they have not flown an ICE Air flight since mid-March.

ICE Air does not disclose information or data about their flights. Our information is based on securing all flight information from the publicly available FlightAware application for World Atlantic and Swift. We then filter the flights to the likely ICE Air deportation and destination locations to identify, within a small margin of error, the deportation flights. **To do this we use the knowledge and experience we gained through tracking ICE Air for several months.** Any errors in our estimations we believe are small and certainly immaterial to the analysis that follows.

The domestic analysis was particularly difficult in that both Swift and World Atlantic fly many more non-ICE Air charters domestically than internationally, so establishing business rules to filter to just ICE Air flights becomes much more dependent on understanding the specific planes in the fleets used for ICE Air, the locations of detention centers, regular ICE Air flight patterns, and knowledge of other partners Swift and World Atlantic serve and their common destinations. **As such, the margin of error may be somewhat higher in this domestic analysis than the deportation analysis, but we are confident it is within a reasonable margin of error** and, since any errors would most likely occur randomly over time, that the comparative time period analysis is quite sound. In certain very limited cases, such as Cuba, our confidence was not high enough to determine regular flights from deportations so we excluded them all to be conservative. **A pre/early COVID domestic flights comparison can be found in our [“ICE Air 1,677 flights while COVID rages.”](#)**

OUT OF SCOPE

- **Our pre/early COVID deportation detailed comparative analysis can be found in our [“ICE Air Deportations: Has COVID -19 Changed Anything?” published May 7, 2020.](#)**
- **The number of detainees in total or on any flight.** ICE discloses none of these numbers and there is no reasonable way to estimate. In April 2019 Phil Neff from the University of Washington Center for Human Rights published a piece that did analyze passenger data secured through a FOIA request in *“Hidden in Plain Sight: ICE Air and the Machinery of Mass Deportation.”* We understand that this piece may be updated and look forward to the analysis.
- **That said, we know from how the pandemic spreads that you do not need a plane load of infected people to seed and spread COVID. A few people carrying the virus can spread it quickly and devastatingly.**

FLIGHT CATEGORIZATION

We have categorized ICE Air flight legs into 4 categories as follows:

- **Deportation** – A flight from a domestic ICE Air location to an international deportation destination. They do not include flights from a domestic location to a domestic location on the border where detainees could be deported by land from that point, such as a flight from Alexandria to Brownsville where deportees may be bussed to be deported at the Gateway Bridge. There is no way to determine that the specific flight is for deportation or not. These flights are included in the domestic pool.
- **Deportation Return** – A flight subsequent to a deportation flight that returns in one or more legs to the US. There are fewer deportation returns than deportations because in some instances there are multiple deportation destinations. For example, a flight from Brownsville to El Salvador to Ecuador to Brownsville would include 2 deportation destinations and 1 return.
- **Deportation Connection** – A flight leg that is entirely domestic and occurs earlier the same day as a deportation flight for that same plane. For example, if a specific plane flies the route San Antonio to El Paso to Guatemala in the same day, then that would be 1 deportation connection (San Antonio to El Paso) and 1 deportation flight (El Paso to Guatemala).
- **Shuffle** – A fully domestic flight that is not a deportation connection. Essentially flights facilitating movement between domestic detention centers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NB: A week before publication, a draft of flight totals, by category, was furnished to ICE for confirmation or denial. ICE requested information a day before publication about our methodology which has been furnished (it is in this document), but as of publication we have not received a confirmation, or importantly, denial of flight totals.

In the midst of the global pandemic ICE Air continues to initiate and facilitate the seeding, spreading, and exporting of COVID within the US web of 200 detention centers and to other countries through a total of 2,405 likely ICE Air flights including 1,521 domestic flights, and 454 deportation flights to 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. [Over 200 COVOD-infected deportees have been delivered into 11 countries.](#)

JUNE AND JUNE YEAR-TO-DATE FLIGHT SUMMARY

In June, there were 386 likely ICE Air flights, up 27 (8%) from May, consistent with the higher number of weekdays in June.

- 68 deportation flights with 69 return legs. 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 45 domestic flights connecting directly to deportation flights.
- 204 domestic shuffle flights between deportation locations.
- 249 domestic flights (connections and shuffle flights).

Year-to date June, there were 2,405 likely ICE Air flights, 50% deportation related (deportation legs, connections and returns) and 50% shuffle flights around the US.

- 454 deportation flights with 430 returns. 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 308 domestic flights connecting directly to deportation flights.
- 1,213 domestic shuffle flights between deportation locations.
- 1,521 domestic flights (connections and shuffle flights).

JUNE FLIGHTS

June deportation flights of 68 were 7 higher than May driven by a significant increase of 15 in flights to Mexico, offset primarily by slightly fewer flights to Honduras (-4) and El Salvador (-3).

Likely ICE Air flights deported people to 13 different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- **June flights were 60 (13%) below the January/February average (pre-COVID).** Interestingly, shuffle flights were down only 2% while deportation related flights were down 26%.
- **The most frequent deportations** were to Mexico (23) followed by Honduras (19), Guatemala (7), and El Salvador (6) with these 4 countries comprising over 80% of deportations in June.

- **June deportation flights are 26 below (27%) the January/February pre-COVID average (94)**
- **Guatemala flights in June were 35 (83%) below their January/February average of 42** as Guatemala's pauses and suspensions significantly reduced deportation flights following the return of [more than 190 infected deportees](#).
- [Guatemala flights were negotiated to no more than 2 per week with 50 or fewer deportees](#) following the large number of COVID infected deportees. It should be noted that in July it was announced "[regular flights would return](#)" with up to 75 deportees per plane, following a [promise of additional US aid](#) based on "furthering the President's goal of reducing illegal immigration to the United States." Three flights were observed the first week of July, but just 2 the following week. All flights carried about 70-75 deportees.
- **Mexico flights in June were 19 above their January/February average of 4** as flights escalated significantly as discussed below in the year-to-date discussion.

YEAR-TO-DATE FLIGHTS

Year-to-date June, there have been 454 likely deportation flights.

Likely ICE Air flights deported people to 15 different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- **Flights to Central America and Mexico** (374) comprise over 80% of all deportation flights. Flights to Central America (329) comprise over 70% of all deportation flights.
- **The top 5 deportation destinations** are Guatemala (140), Honduras (130), El Salvador (59), Mexico (45), and Ecuador (22).
- The most frequent deportation routes were Brownsville to Guatemala (42), Brownsville to Honduras (46), Phoenix to Guatemala (29), and El Paso to Guatemala (26).
- **Mexico flights have escalated significantly** with flights in March, April, May and June of 5, 0, 8, 23, respectively. In June, deportation flights to Mexico represented almost 35% of all deportation flights. Moreover, in March all 5 flights were to Guadalajara and in May all 8 were to Mexico City while in June locations were expanded to Mexico City (12), Guadalajara (5) and Villahermosa (6).
- **Resumption of flights to Mexico**, and the subsequent escalation of these flights are reflective of the [increase of border encounters attributed to single Mexican Nationals](#). When the publicly reported Mid-March through May Title 42 expulsions totaled 43,000, Assistant Secretary Kozak said that 58% of encounters were single Mexican adults. [Expulsions through June are almost 70,000](#).
- **We wanted to learn more about the resumption and escalation of deportations to Mexico**, so we inquired with Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) who are responsible for expulsions. **We asked why the flights resumed, why someone is chosen for expulsions by air rather than land, whether they were only Mexican Nationals and how the destinations in Mexico were chosen**. The spokesperson told us that the purpose of the flights is to "**mitigate the stress of Mexican public services along the border**" in carrying out their mission to prevent COVID from entering the US. The flights **include only Mexican Nationals** and "**those with criminal history, prior deportations and Title 42 expulsions will be prioritized.**" There also may be Title 8 removals on the plane to fill the flight. The destination locations are chosen by Mexico, with Mexico City first chosen "due to the city's advanced and capable public services." The spokesperson **did not have an answer for why Mexico deportation destinations now include Guadalajara and Villahermosa** so we have written the International Office of Migration in Mexico to ask but as of publication we have not received a response. **Our hypothesis is that the dominant reasons for**

deportations by air is to relieve pressure on Mexican border towns and, equally important, to punish migrants for multiple crossing attempts, something landing in the south of Mexico would accomplish.

- **Guatemala's sporadic reluctance to accept deportation flights** because of concerns over COVID exportation is starkly evident in the trend numbers over the first six months. Beginning in **January and ending in June likely deportation flights to Guatemala were 38, 45, 33, 10, 7, and 7.** We will witness the expected increase based on the announced resumption of regular flights but do not anticipate they will reach January/February levels.

Year-to-date, the busiest cities for combined departure and destination for domestic flights (connection and shuffle) are Alexandria (521), Brownsville (478) and Phoenix (281).

- **The most frequent domestic flight routes** are Alexandria LA to Brownsville (96), Brownsville to Alexandria (58), Miami to Columbus GA (57), San Antonio to Brownsville (54) and Phoenix to El Paso (41).
- **Alexandria LA** had a very balanced mix of flights originating to Central America with 21 to Honduras and 20 each to Guatemala and El Salvador, reinforcing their role as a major concentration point for detainees.

Total ICE Air Flights YTD 2020 – Deportation and Domestic

Flight Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Year to Date	% of Flights	Current Month		Current Month		Current Month	
									H/(L) Pr Mth	% H/(L) Pr Mth	H/(L) Jan/Feb Mth Avg	% H/(L) Jan/Feb Mth Avg	H/(L) May Ytd Mth Avg	% H/(L) May Ytd Mth Avg
1 Deportation	87	100	91	47	61	68	454	19%	7	11%	(26)	(27%)	(9)	(12%)
2 Deportation Connection Total Outbound	<u>60</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>308</u>	13%	<u>(4)</u>	(8%)	<u>(18)</u>	(29%)	<u>(8)</u>	(14%)
3 Deportation	147	166	142	84	110	113	762	32%	3	3%	(44)	(28%)	(17)	(13%)
4 Deportation Return	<u>84</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>430</u>	18%	<u>12</u>	21%	<u>(20)</u>	(22%)	<u>(3)</u>	(4%)
5 Total Deportation Related	231	259	225	128	167	182	1,192	50%	15	9%	(63)	(26%)	(20)	(10%)
6 Domestic Shuffle	191	210	264	152	192	204	1,213	50%	12	6%	4	2%	2	1%
7 Total Flights	422	469	489	280	359	386	2,405	100%	27	8%	(60)	(13%)	(18)	(4%)
8 Total Domestic (Deport Connect + Shuffle)	251	276	315	189	241	249	1,521	63%	8	3%	(15)	(6%)	(5)	(2%)
9 # Week Days (non-Holiday)	21	19	22	22	20	22	126		2	10%	2	10%	1	6%

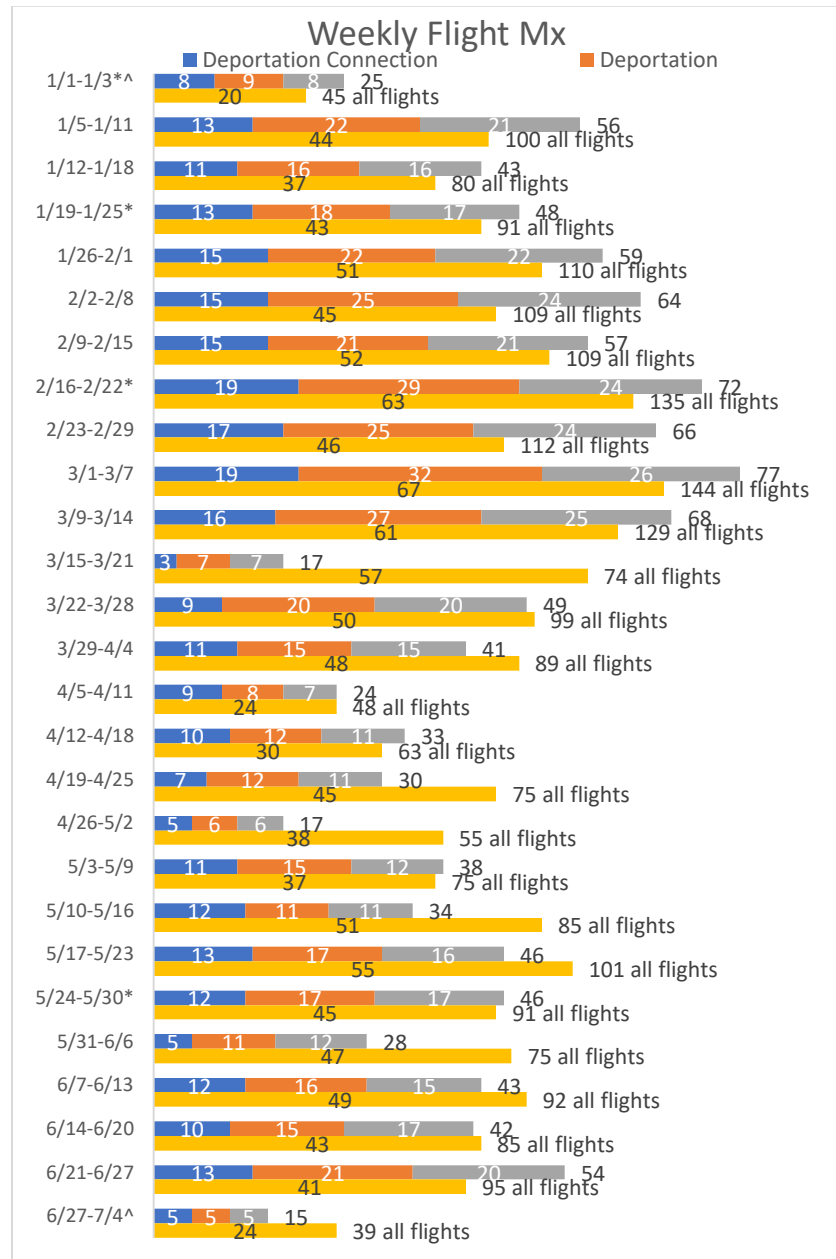
ICE Air Deportation Destination Cities YTD 2020

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Year to Date	% of Flights	Current Month		Current Month		Current Month		
									H/(L) Pr Mth	% H/(L) Pr Mth	H/(L) Jan/Feb Mth Avg	% H/(L) Jan/Feb Mth Avg	H/(L) Apr Ytd Mth Avg	% H/(L) Apr Ytd Mth Avg	
Deportation Destination Cities															
1 Guatemala City, Guatemala	38	45	33	10	7	7	140	31%	0	0%	(35)	(83%)	(20)	(74%)	
2 San Pedro Sula, Honduras	27	24	19	18	23	19	130	29%	(4)	(17%)	(7)	(25%)	(3)	(14%)	
3 San Salvador, El Salvador	11	11	14	8	9	6	59	13%	(3)	(33%)	(5)	(45%)	(5)	(43%)	
4 Ecuador	2	4	10	2	2	2	22	5%	0	0%	(1)	(33%)	(2)	(50%)	
5 Mexico City, Mexico	0	0	0	0	8	12	20	4%	4	50%	12	n/a	10	650%	
6 Guadalajara, Mexico	2	7	5	0	0	5	19	4%	5	n/a	1	11%	2	79%	
7 Port-au-Prince, Haiti Santo Domingo, Dominican	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	
8 Republic	2	2	1	2	2	2	11	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	11%	
9 Managua, Nicaragua	1	2	2	2	1	2	10	2%	1	100%	1	33%	0	25%	
10 Belo Horizonte, Brazil	0	1	4	2	2	0	9	2%	(2)	(100%)	(1)	(100%)	(2)	(100%)	
11 Villahermosa, Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	1%	6	n/a	6	n/a	6	n/a	
12 Bogota, Colombia	1	1	1	0	2	1	6	1%	(1)	(50%)	0	0%	0	0%	
13 Kingston, Jamaica	1	1	0	1	1	1	5	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	25%	
14 Manaus, Brazil	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0%	0	0%	1	n/a	1	400%	
15 Piarco, Trinidad	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0%	1	n/a	1	n/a	1	n/a	
16 Callao, Peru	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0%	(1)	(100%)	0	n/a	(0)	(100%)	
17 Nassau, Bahamas	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0%	1	n/a	1	n/a	1	n/a	
18 Total	87	100	91	47	61	68	454	100%	7	11%	(26)	(27%)	(9)	(12%)	
19 Mexico Total	2	7	5	0	8	23	45	10%	15	188%	19	411%	19	423%	
20 # Week Days (non-Holiday)	21	19	22	22	20	22	126		2	10%	2	10%	1	6%	

ICE Air Deportation Departure Cities YTD 2020

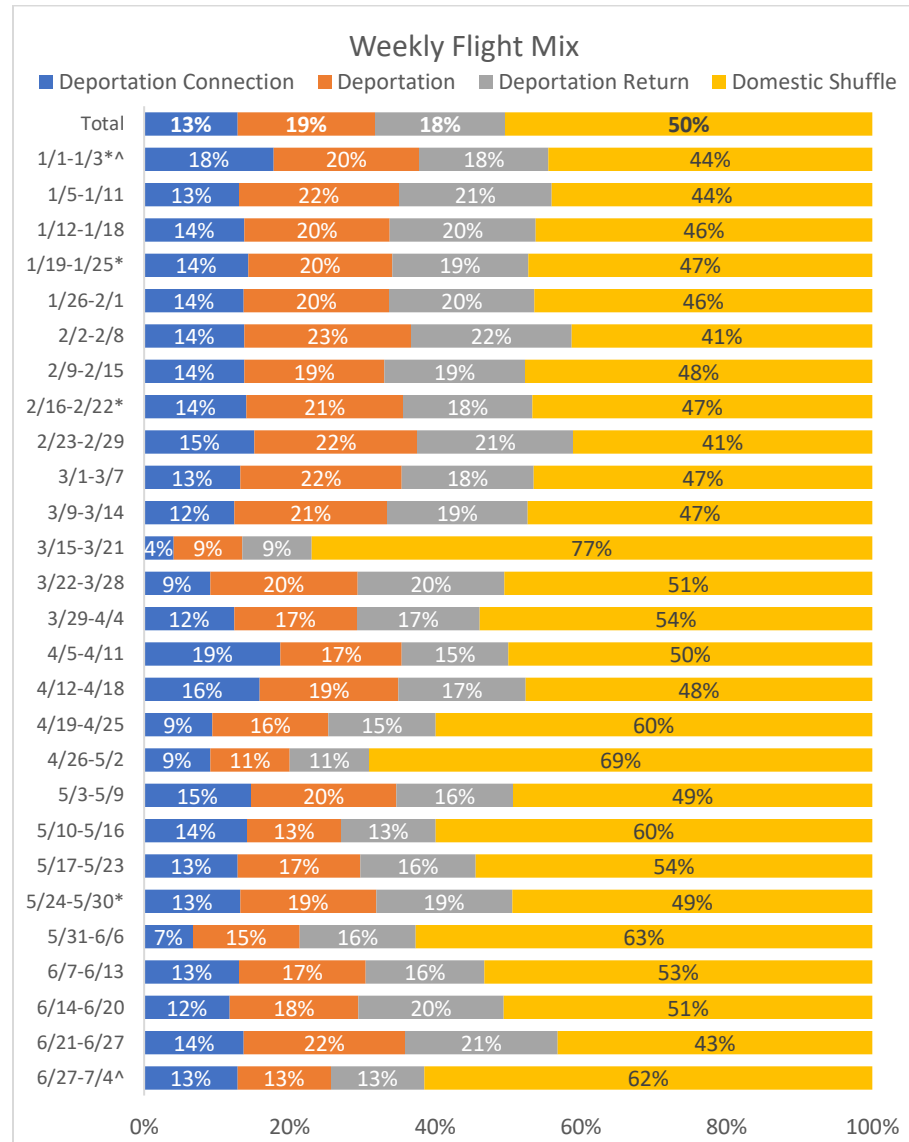
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Year to Date	% of Flights	Current Month		Current Month		Current Month		
									H/(L) Pr Mth	% H/(L) Pr Mth	H/(L) Jan/Feb Mth Avg	% H/(L) Jan/Feb Mth Avg	H/(L) May Ytd Mth Avg	% H/(L) Ma Ytd Mth Avg	
Deportation Departure Cities															
1 Brownsville, TX	23	27	20	13	13	13	109	24%	0	0%	(12)	(48%)	(6)	(32%)	
2 Alexandria, LA	16	17	13	13	14	18	91	20%	4	29%	2	9%	3	23%	
3 Phoenix, AZ	13	18	8	0	4	10	53	12%	6	150%	(6)	(35%)	1	16%	
4 El Paso, TX	9	10	11	5	3	5	43	9%	2	67%	(5)	(47%)	(3)	(34%)	
5 Houston, TX	7	9	8	6	7	3	40	9%	(4)	(57%)	(5)	(63%)	(4)	(59%)	
6 Miami, FL	4	5	8	2	0	3	22	5%	3	n/a	(2)	(33%)	(1)	(21%)	
7 Laredo, TX	6	4	4	1	2	1	18	4%	(1)	(50%)	(4)	(80%)	(2)	(71%)	
8 Dallas, TX	5	3	4	0	2	2	16	4%	0	0%	(2)	(50%)	(1)	(29%)	
9 San Diego, CA	0	0	5	0	4	6	15	3%	2	50%	6	n/a	4	233%	
10 San Antonio, TX	1	1	1	2	3	2	10	2%	(1)	(33%)	1	100%	0	25%	
11 San Juan, Puerto Rico	0	0	1	2	3	1	7	2%	(2)	(67%)	1	n/a	(0)	(17%)	
12 San Pedro Sula, Honduras	0	1	0	0	3	2	6	1%	(1)	(33%)	2	300%	1	150%	
13 Port-au-Prince, Haiti	2	2	2	0	0	0	6	1%	0	n/a	(2)	(100%)	(1)	(100%)	
14 Ecuador	0	1	3	0	0	0	4	1%	0	n/a	(1)	(100%)	(1)	(100%)	
15 Belo Horizonte, Brazil	0	1	3	0	0	0	4	1%	0	n/a	(1)	(100%)	(1)	(100%)	
16 Other	1	1	0	3	3	2	10	2%	(1)	(33%)	1	100%	0	25%	
17 Total	87	100	91	47	61	68	454	100%	7	11%	(26)	(27%)	(9)	(12%)	
18 # Week Days (non-Holiday)	21	19	22	22	20	22	126		2	10%	2	10%	1	6%	

ICE Air Weekly Flight Mix -



^ short week
* Holiday

Ice Air Weekly Flight Mix - %



^ short week
* Holiday

ICE Air Domestic YTD 2020

Departure City	Destination City												Total	% of Total
	Alexandria, LA	Brownsville, TX	Phoenix, AZ	El Paso, TX	Columbus, GA	Miami, FL	San Antonio, TX	Houston, TX	San Diego, CA	Laredo, TX	Richmond, VA	Other		
Alexandria, LA		96	21	5	4	20	7	11			1	95	260	17%
Brownsville, TX	58		9	18	7	30	29	7	1	1		65	225	15%
Phoenix, AZ	24	6	1	41		2	2	1	25	1	1	64	168	11%
San Antonio, TX	19	54	4	5	16	3		2		17		9	129	8%
Miami, FL	19	6	5		57		4	2	1		1	3	98	6%
Columbus, GA	28	22				10	2	20				7	89	6%
El Paso, TX	15	4	30		1			1				8	59	4%
San Diego, CA			23			5		1				5	34	2%
Richmond, VA	26					1	1					1	29	2%
Harrisburg, PA	5	21										2	28	2%
Omaha, NE		3										24	27	2%
Other	67	41	20	28	3	5	7	3	20	23	26	132	375	25%
Total	261	253	113	97	88	76	52	48	47	42	29	415	1,521	100%
% of Total	17%	17%	7%	6%	6%	5%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	27%	100%	

ICE Air Deportation YTD 2020

Destination City

Departure City

	Guatemala City, Guatemala	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	San Salvador, El Salvador	Ecuador	Mexico City, Mexico	Guadalajara, Mexico	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	Managua, Nicaragua	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	Villahermosa, Mexico	Other	Total	% of Total
Brownsville, TX	42	46	4	1	10				1		3	2	109	24%
Alexandria, LA	20	21	20	4			6	5	7			8	91	20%
Phoenix, AZ	29	9	4			8					3	0	53	12%
El Paso, TX	26	7	1	4		5						0	43	9%
Houston, TX	9	23	8									0	40	9%
Miami, FL	9	5		3			4					1	22	5%
Laredo, TX			18									0	18	4%
Dallas, TX		13	3									0	16	4%
San Diego, CA					10	5						0	15	3%
San Antonio, TX	4	3	1				2					0	10	2%
San Juan, Puerto Rico								1		4		2	7	2%
Other	1	3	0	10	0	1	0	5	2	5	0	3	30	7%
Total	140	130	59	22	20	19	12	11	10	9	6	16	454	100%
% H/(L)	31%	29%	13%	5%	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	4%	100%	