

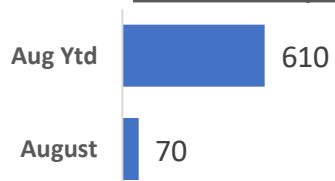
# ICE Air Flights

## August and August 2020 Year-to-Date

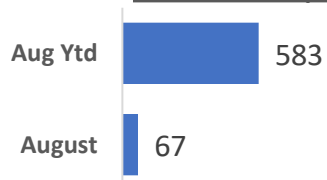
Total ICE Air Flights



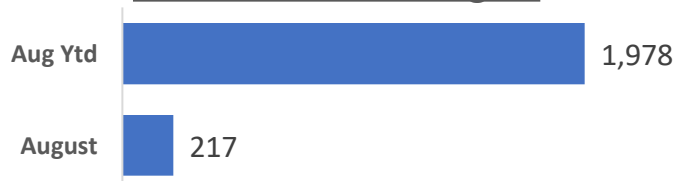
ICE Air Deportation Flights



ICE Air Deportation Return Flights



ICE Air Domestic Flights



- September 11, 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, an all-volunteer organization, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 8 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

**We continue to be disturbed by the sustained continuation of ICE Air flights in the midst of a pandemic that continues to rage in the US and in deportation destination countries.** Both domestic and deportation flights continue to seed and spread COVID. **ICE detention centers continue to be hotbeds of infections** as evidenced by [Mesa Verde with 54 of the 104 detainees](#) recently testing positive. In response to a lawsuit the judge in the case opined on the mismanagement by saying “There is no question this outbreak could have been avoided.” And just a little over a week ago ICE reported that 1,000 detainees at La Palma in Arizona were tested and [233 were positive](#) bringing that center alone to 356 positive cases.

**A particularly disturbing case study in spreading COVID through ICE Air domestic flights is [Farmville detention center](#)** in Virginia where a detainee died from COVID and [where 339](#) detainees, almost all on 26 August, are in isolation or under monitoring for COVID. In fact, [the CDC sent in a special team](#) to Farmville to try to mitigate the tragedy. **The outbreak spiked following a [transfer in of 74 detainees](#)** from various detention centers without testing and without quarantine upon arrival. One must ponder, in the midst of a rampaging pandemic, why they would transfer people by ICE Air between centers.

**Perhaps it is for money.** [ICE’s contract with Immigration Centers of America](#), the operator of Farmville, is paid for **500 spaces as a minimum, regardless of the number of detainees in Farmville.** The city also earns a cut to ensure their complicity. It was reported that a month after the transfer there were only **360 detainees in the center, well below the minimum.** So, it would be very reasonable to assume that these health risking transfers, made 3 months after the pandemic emergency was declared, were only for the **sake of soaking up excess capacity there that was already paid for.** As with all parts of the detention/deportation machine, money greases the gears.

**In addition to the domestic shuffling of COVID between detention centers, deportations continue without abating and [without testing, even with deceptive practices](#)** that circumvent what little health controls are in place. Only Guatemala seems to periodically attempt to place some guardrails on deportations, although even they are not testing everyone on arrival and [only 263 of the 886](#) deportees there in July were tested. On 21 August there was a deportation flight to Guatemala of 60 unaccompanied children of which [8 tested positive in Guatemala.](#)

**The focus of this report is on the number of ICE Air flights, but not because we think this is more important than the number of detainees on these flights. ICE does not disclose flights or number of detainees on flights.** Unlike these flights, that we have divined through brute force a way to reasonably track, the number of detainees and deportees is still a mystery. That said, there are crumbs of information scattered around. **This month we will include some deportee statistics that we have pulled together** with hot links to the sources and we welcome additional sources others have found.

**We must start though with the [147,866 people who have been expelled](#)** since mid-March under the highly questionable CDC order (Title 42) **that has put a tourniquet around the border.** Over 42,000 were expelled in August alone. Most have been expelled within hours and all without even the illusion of due process. [Almost 9,000 unaccompanied children have been](#) expelled in violation of the Flores agreement and TVPRA **that expressly protects children from trafficking risk. Sent away alone, many into the some of the most dangerous cartel-controlled areas on**

earth. Moreover, we have no idea if, and what records are being kept by CBP/ICE to understand if these children are ever reunited with family or if they end up a chattel, or worse for the cartels that control the border.

### Mexico

The information I have from the Government of Mexico indicates that through July [repatriations from the US have totaled 103,664](#). In July, repatriation of 14,801 seems substantially below what I would have anticipated given that CBP reports that there were 34,000 enforcement encounters with Mexicans, and of course there would have also been routine deportation repatriations in addition to expulsions. **After multiple correspondences with the Mexican INM it appears that this number [includes those that are “served” by the INM upon return](#) which leads me to believe a vast number of those returned under Title 42 do not engage upon their expulsion at one of the 11 “Repatriation Modules” in the 5 Northern States.** It is interesting that US returns by air of primarily expelled Mexicans to the locations in the interior under the “Procedimiento de Repatriacion al Interior de Mexico” (PRIM) Agreement (more detail in flight analysis section) all seem to check in officially with the INM. The monthly records of repatriation in those modules is totally consistent with the flights to those locations we have witnessed since May when PRIM flights resumed.

**Assuming the 103,644 repatriations through July are representative of a much higher total**, at least since mid-March, it appears that the Region with the most is **Tamaulipas with 38%** followed by **Baja at 20%**, and **Chihuahua and Coahuila at around 10%**. Interestingly, the **4 cities in the interior that receive repatriations by air represent 9%**, even though they received none for 1 ½ months.

**With regard to sex**, 90% of those repatriated over the age of 18 were male and 80% of those under 18 were male. **With regard to age**, 94% were over 18 years, with 5% between 12 and 17 years, and 1% Under 12 years, of which 89 were unaccompanied.

**With respect to the monthly trend for total repatriations, April (9,115) and May (9,656) were about half of January (18,217), February (18,998) and March (20,259).** June and July increased, but not to the early months at 12,598 and 14,801, respectively. It should be noted that these are “events” and not “people” so those crossing multiple times would be counted multiple times, which could have influenced the increase in June and July as we know the [recidivism rates reached 34%](#). **The trends of children crossing was similar, but the drop in April and May was more pronounced.**

### Northern Triangle Countries

[Through July, 30,872 people were deported from the US to the Northern Triangle Countries \(NTC\) of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador on the 373 flights through July we witnessed, equating to about 80 deportees per flight](#) over this period. Monthly deportee data is not available at the country level, but based on our witness of flights and using some interpolation of gross country data available **we would estimate more than 16,000 people were deported on 203 flights from 14 March through August**, in the midst of the pandemic. Deported to countries permeated with poverty, organized crime, and drug trafficking exacerbated now by economic depression as a result of COVID. The level of deportees is down 55% from YTD 2019 at 69,230, but the number of children deported was actually up from 1,141 in July YTD 2019 to 3,062 (10% of deportees) in 2020. **Another 28,251 people from NTC were deported from Mexico.**

[It appears from the NTC data that deportees in the months of the pandemic \(March-July\)](#) represent about 1/3 of what they were pre-pandemic (January/February). Although we don't have visibility to the split between the US and Mexico deportees, the total decrease leaves us to question as to why deportation flights to NTC were down only about 1/2, driven importantly by Guatemala's effort to resist. It appears the deportation machine continues to run on the fuel of cash.

### **Guatemala**

[Through July, 13,684 Guatemalans were deported](#) from the US on 157 flights we witnessed, equating to about 87 per flight. The number of deportees during this period in 2020 was down 60% from 2019, but the number of children increased to 1,649 (12%) from 737 in 2019. [Through August, 15,115](#) have been deported. In the pandemic, [from 13 March to 3 September, 4,999 Guatemalans were deported](#) from the US. As will be discussed more in the flight analysis, deportations to Guatemala ramped up significantly in the last half of August. [In August and the first week of September alone, 1,755](#) people were deported on 19 flights we witnessed from the US, including 409 children of which all but 3 were unaccompanied (author, Grecia Ortiz, provided 1<sup>st</sup> week of Sept to the writer). Another 12,599 Guatemalans were deported from Mexico through July.

[The National Institute of Migration of Guatemala reports](#) that there are 2,578 Guatemalans in detention that have final orders of removal and 1,112 waiting for their cases to be decided.

A discussion of our hypothesis of why Guatemala might be accepting more flights is in the Flight Analysis section on page 8.

### **Honduras**

[Through July, 11,254 Hondurans were deported](#) from the US on 148 flights we witnessed, equating to about 75 per flight. The number of deportees was down 54% from YTD 2019, but the number of children deported increased to 1,064 (9%) from 364 in YTD 2019. Based on a different source for totals YTD August, [in August, 613 people were deported](#) on 14 flights with the per flight number dropping to 45. Of the 613, there were 158 children, most unaccompanied. Another 13,864 Hondurans were deported from Mexico through July, and [16,303 through 6 September](#).

### **El Salvador**

[Through July, 5,934 Salvadorans were deported](#) from the US on 68 flights we witnessed, equating to about 85 per flight. The number of deportees is down 45% from YTD 2019, but the number of children deported is up to 349 from 40 in YTD 2019. Another 1,828 Salvadorans were deported from Mexico.

### **Dominican Republic**

[Through August, 972 Dominicans have been deported](#) from the US on 15 flights we have witnessed, equating to 65 per flight.

## AUGUST AND AUGUST YEAR-TO-DATE FLIGHT SUMMARY

**In Aug, there were 354 likely ICE Air flights**, down 49 (12%) from July, but fairly consistent with the 9% fewer number of weekdays in August.

- 70 deportation flights, with 67 return legs, to 8 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 53 domestic flights connecting directly to deportation flights.
- 164 domestic shuffle flights between deportation locations.
- 217 domestic flights (connections and shuffle flights).

**Year-to date August, there were 3,171 likely ICE Air flights**, 51% deportation related (deportation legs, connections and returns) and 49% shuffle flights around the US.

- 610 deportation flights, with 583 return flights, to 16 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 423 domestic flights connecting directly to deportation flights.
- 1,555 domestic shuffle flights between deportation locations.
- 1,978 domestic flights (connections and shuffle flights).

## AUGUST FLIGHT INSIGHTS

**August deportation flights of 70 were 12 (15%) lower than July. Over half of the decrease can be explained by 2 fewer weekdays.**

**Likely ICE Air flights deported people to 8 different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

- **August total flights were 59 (21%) below the Pre-COVID average (1 Jan to 13 March)**. All flight categories were down similar percentages with deportation-related flights down 26% and shuffle flights down 22%. Taking into consideration the number of weekdays, August was a very similar month to the average IN-COVID month.
- **The most frequent deportations** were to Mexico (29) followed by Honduras (14), Guatemala (14), and El Salvador (4) with these 4 countries comprising over 87% of deportations in August.
- **August deportation flights are 30 below (30%) the pre-COVID average (100)**.
- **Guatemala deportation flights were up just 1 over July, but they ramped up significantly in the last part of August** not only in terms of flights, but also in terms of the number of deportees on each flight. **Beginning 18 August flights were basically 5 days a week compared to 7-8 per month in April, May and June, with July at 13**. The last week with a deportation flight each day was 9 March. [Moreover, January](#)



[through April the number of deportees on each flight was about 95](#). That dropped to about 45 in May through July before ramping back up to 100 in August.

**We are not sure what changed between Guatemala and the US**, but it was reported that the deportation [flight of 19 August included 127 deportees](#) all of whom had certificates that they recovered from COVID. Concurrently, on several dates around Guatemalan flights we observed a reduction in detainees ICE reported in isolation or monitoring, **so we wonder if Guatemala agreed to take more deportees on the basis that some, or all, would be certified to have recovered from COVID.**

In response to our inquiry, ICE responded that since 26 April, basically immediately following a two-week suspension by Guatemala, deportees must carry with them proof of a negative test. We are still attempting to validate that the documentation includes all health records which would indicate a recovery, and whether that is now being used as an alternative to a negative test thus deepening the pool of prospective deportees. [It was reported by the Institute of Migration of Guatemala](#) that **between 3 September and 7 September 224 people were repatriated on 4 flights, including 52 children, who had recovered from COVID**. It is interesting to note that **on 3 September ICE reported a drop of detainees in isolation or monitoring of 373, from 841 to 468, the largest daily drop** I have recorded. As mentioned above, this was not the only time drops in those in isolation or monitoring coincided with deportations to Guatemala.

It's interesting to note that based on information we received from a Congressional official in the Guatemalan Government that **between that policy change and 30 July, 25 deportees did test positive upon return. We also have an inquiry pending with the a Congressional official in Guatemala about any change in their requirements**. Once we have resolution to these inquiries we will include them in our weekly analysis found at [www.WitnessAtTheBorder.org](http://www.WitnessAtTheBorder.org). **Here is the response from ICE as of today:**

*“Since April 26, ICE Health Service Corps (IHSC) has tested all Guatemalan nationals scheduled for repatriation flights. When an individual does not pass the mandated temperature/medical screening (or tests positive), prior to a removal flight, they are returned to ICE detention facilities and cohorted (sic) separate from the rest of the detention population in accordance with CDC guidance.*

*Detainees have their COVID-19 test results attached with their transfer summary sheet in order to travel on a repatriation flight. A detainee must have a negative COVID-19 test, a temperature of less than 99 degrees, and not have symptoms related to COVID in order to be cleared for travel. “*

- **Prior to the ramp up there were serious concerns over positive cases exported** and the lack of testing prior to deportation and after reception. Based on information provided to me by a Congressional official in Guatemala. According to information I received from a Guatemalan Congressional office, **between 13 March and 30 July, 1,005 (28%) of the 3,542 returnees were tested, with 165 testing positive upon return from the US.**
- **Guatemala has also started to use [hotels in addition to shelters](#) to quarantine returnees which adds to their capacity.** Even [shelters for returned unaccompanied minors](#) have been strained. In June (the most recent data we have seen) there were [5,457 Guatemalans](#) in ICE custody of which at least 2,577 had their final deportation orders. [In August and the first week of September alone, 1,755](#) people

were deported on 19 flights we witnessed from the US, including 409 children of which all but 3 were unaccompanied (author, Grecia Ortiz, provided 1<sup>st</sup> week of Sept to the writer) , [with around 900 deported](#) since daily flights resumed on 15 August. Based on reports by Jeff Abbott.

- ***Mexico flights*** in August of 29 were 24 above their pre-COVID average of 5 as flights escalated significantly as discussed below in the year-to-date discussion. In August, Mexico added a 5<sup>th</sup> destination in the interior, Puebla. In August Mexico accepted flights in Mexico City (8), Guadalajara (8), Villahermosa (8), Morelia (4), and Puebla (1).
- ***El Salvador flights*** in August of 4 were down 5 (56%) from July at 9.
- ***Honduras flights*** in August of 14 were down 4 (22%) from July at 18.
- ***There were no flights to Nicaragua, Brazil, Jamaica, or Columbia***, each of which had normally received 1 or 2 flights per month. There has been significant pressure on the administration to stop deportations of those that fled Nicaragua following threats and torture. Seven Members of the US Congress sent a letter to the President asking to stop the deportation of those who actively opposed the repressive regime of Daniel Ortega and fled the country. They asked the administration to “**stop collaborating with the Ortega regime in the deportation of Nicaraguans.**” It is unclear if this is why August was the first month this year without a deportation flight, of which there were typically 2 per month.

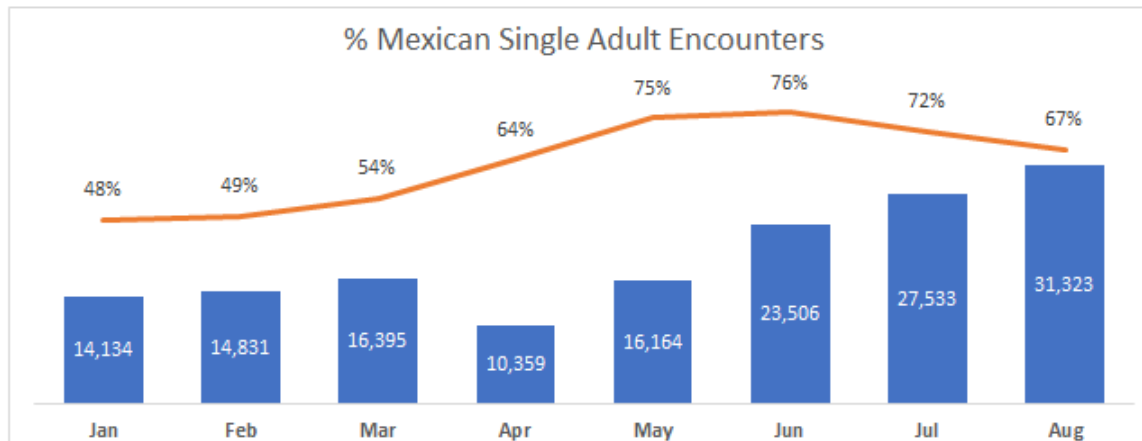
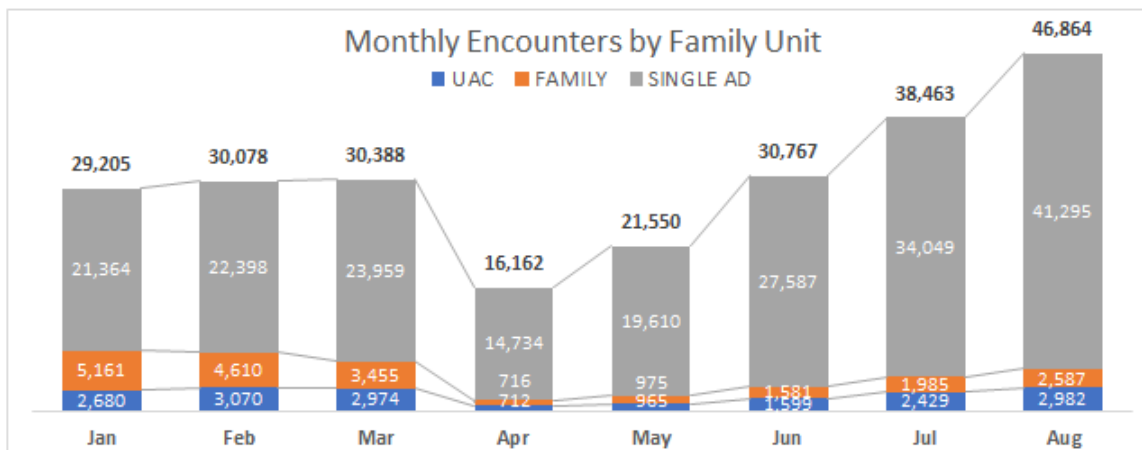
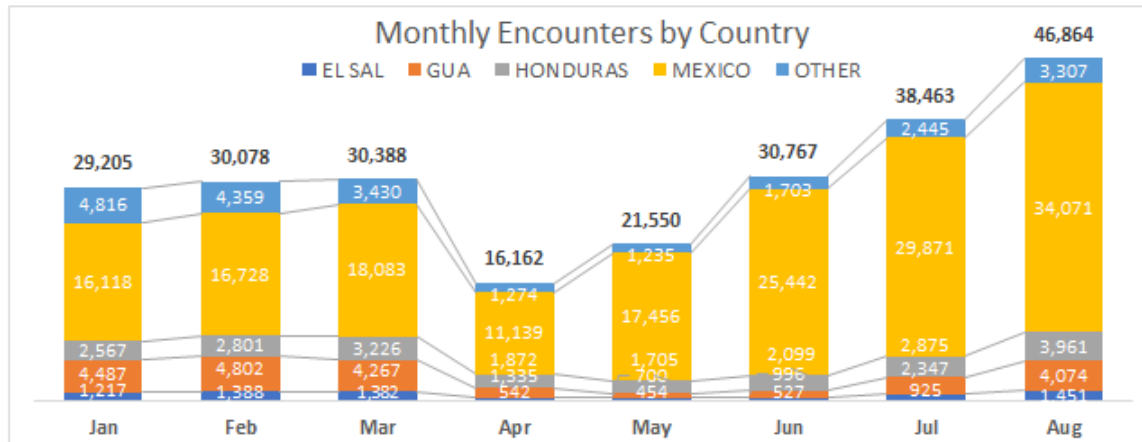
## **AUGUST YEAR-TO-DATE FLIGHT INSIGHTS**

Year-to-date August, there have been 610 likely deportation flights.

Likely ICE Air flights deported people to 16 different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- ***Flights to Central America and Mexico*** (508) comprise 83% of all deportation flights. Flights to Central America (405) comprise 66% of all deportation flights.
- ***The top 5 deportation destinations*** are Guatemala (171), Honduras (162), Mexico (103), El Salvador (72) and Ecuador (27), accounting for 88% of deportation destinations.
- ***The most frequent deportation routes*** were Brownsville to Honduras (58), Brownsville to Guatemala (50), Phoenix to Guatemala (34), and Alexandria, LA to Honduras (31).
- ***The most frequent deportation departures*** were from Brownsville and Alexandria with 148 and 126, respectively, comprising 45% of all deportation departures. El Paso, Phoenix, and Houston follow with 68, 61, and 41 flights, respectively, rounding out the top 5 with 73% of deportation departures.

- **Mexico flights have escalated significantly** with flights in March, April, May, June, July, and August of 5, 0, 8, 23, 29, 29, respectively. In August, flights to Mexico represented 41% of all deportation flights. **It is very important to note that the primary reason for these flights is for expulsions under the CDC order (Title 42), and NOT traditional deportations from detention centers.**
- **A CBP spokesman told us that Mexico chooses the destination locations.** We asked Mexico Immigration and Nationalization about how destinations are chosen and they referred us to the Foreign Ministry which has yet to answer our inquiry. We assume the number of locations has expanded with the number of flights so as not to overwhelm any one location in the midst of the pandemic with an estimated 500-600 repatriated Mexican Nationals. **Our hypothesis is that the dominant reasons for deportations/expulsions by air is to relieve pressure on Mexican border towns and, equally important, to punish migrants for multiple crossing attempts (34% recidivism reported in July), something landing in the south of Mexico would help accomplish.**
- **CBP reported** that the number of single Mexican adults entering has increased significantly. I estimate 2020 (FY Sept-Oct) encounters of Mexican Nationals will increase to 250,000 from 166,457 in 2019 as a result of a significant acceleration in recent months. **That's an increase of 50% while at the same time encounters from the Northern Triangle countries (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador) will be down in the range of 80 – 85% in 2020.**
- **Likely reasons include escalating turf and drug wars and the impacts of COVID, both of which have contributed to the already challenging economic conditions in Mexico. Moreover, and perhaps counterintuitively, the CDC order (Title 42), that has put a tourniquet around the border for those who want to go through the asylum process may be encouraging more Mexican nationals to cross. Expulsion does not carry the same penalty as deportation so recidivism has escalated with CBP reporting 34% of encounters are from repeat crossers.**
- **In August, CBP reported that 90% of all Border Patrol (BP) encounters at the southwest border were expelled under the CDC order (Title 42).** In August, 93% of the 46,864 encounters were with migrants from Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries, which has been reasonably consistent over the last 4 years. However, in 2020, there has been a precipitous drop in the number of BP encounters from 851,508 in FY2019 to my estimated 335,000 in FY2020. **Moreover, there has been a dramatic shift in the mix of both the country of origin and the type of family unit encountered.**
- **Based on monthly numbers provided to me by CBP (Please see charts on next page), from January to August 2020 CBP southwest border encounters increased from 29,205 to 46,864 (17,659 or 60%), after dipping to only 16,162 in April. No doubt, some of the 17,659 increase from January may be seasonal, but all of it can be explained by the significant increase in Mexican national encounters of 17,953 (111%). And all of the Mexican increase is the result of an increase in Mexican single adult encounters of 17,189 (122%).**
- **In January, Single adults comprised 73% (21,364) of encounters and that increased to 88% (41,295) in August. In April single adults fell to 14,734, but the mix percent was 91%. Mexican national encounters comprised 55% (16,115) of encounters compared to 73% (34,071) in August, and single Mexican adults 48% (14,134) in January compared to 67% (31,323) in August.**



- **Resumption of flights to Mexico under the December 2019” Procedimiento de Repatriacion al Interior de Mexico” (PRIM) agreement**, and the subsequent escalation of these flights are reflective of the [increase of border encounters attributed to single Mexican Nationals](#).
- **Guatemala’s sporadic reluctance to accept deportation flights** because of concerns over COVID exportation is starkly evident in the trend numbers over the first eight months. Beginning in **January and ending in August likely deportation flights to Guatemala were 42, 45, 33, 10, 7, 7, 13, and 14**. As discussed above, if the pattern of the last weeks of August and the first week of September hold we will see around 20 flights in September.
- **Honduras and El Salvador’s flight reductions** in August will bear watching. From July, Honduras and El Salvador are down 22% and 56%, respectively. And from the pre-COVID period Honduras and El Salvador flights are down 44% and 68%, respectively.

**Year-to-date, the busiest cities for combined departure and destination for domestic flights (connection and shuffle) are Alexandria (688), Brownsville (624) and Phoenix (394).**

- **The most frequent domestic flight routes** are consistent and are Alexandria LA to Brownsville (121), Brownsville to Alexandria (88), Miami to Columbus GA (64), Phoenix to El Paso (67) San Antonio to Brownsville (66).
- **Alexandria LA** had a very balanced mix of flights originating to Central America with 31 to Honduras, 32 to Guatemala, and 25 to 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	Jul	Aug	Year to Date	% of Flights	Current Month		Current Month		Current Month	
											H/(L) Pr Mth	% H/(L) Pr Mth	H/(L) Pre-COVID Mth Avg	% H/(L) Pre-COVID Mth Avg	H/(L) In-COVID Mth Avg	% H/(L) In-COVID Mth Avg
<b>1</b> Deportation	91	100	91	47	61	68	82	70	610	19%	(12)	(15%)	(30)	(30%)	5	7%
<b>2</b> Deportation Connection Total Outbound	<u>61</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>423</u>	13%	(8)	(13%)	(12)	(18%)	6	12%
<b>3</b> Deportation	152	166	142	84	110	113	143	123	1,033	33%	(20)	(14%)	(42)	(25%)	10	9%
<b>4</b> Deportation Return	<u>88</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>583</u>	18%	(15)	(18%)	(26)	(28%)	3	5%
<b>5</b> Total Deportation Related	240	259	225	128	167	182	225	190	1,616	51%	(35)	(16%)	(68)	(26%)	13	8%
<b>6</b> Domestic Shuffle	191	210	264	152	192	204	178	164	1,555	49%	(14)	(8%)	(47)	(22%)	(23)	(12%)
<b>7</b> Total Flights	<b>431</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>3,171</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(49)</b>	<b>(12%)</b>	<b>(115)</b>	<b>(24%)</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(3%)</b>
<b>8</b> Total Domestic (Deport Connect + Shuffle)	<b>252</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>1,978</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>(9%)</b>	<b>(59)</b>	<b>(21%)</b>	<b>(17)</b>	<b>(7%)</b>
<b>9</b> # Week Days (non-Holiday)	21	19	22	22	20	22	23	21	170		(2)	(9%)	1	5%	(1)	(4%)

**NB: Each month we send our flight totals, by category, to ICE to confirm or deny that our results are within a reasonable range based on their records. Each month they choose not to confirm, and importantly, they choose not to deny our results. If anything changes this month we will update with a comment.**

Pre-COVID = Jan 1 to Mar 13  
In-COVID = Mar 14 to Aug 31

## ICE Air Deportation Destination Cities YTD 2020

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Year to Date	% of Flights	Current Month		Current Month		Current Month		
											H/(L) Pr Mth	% H/(L) Pr Mth	H/(L) Pre-COVID Mth Avg	% H/(L) Pre-COVID Mth Avg	H/(L) In-COVID Mth Avg	% H/(L) In-COVID Mth Avg	
<b>Deportation Destination Cities</b>																	
1	Guatemala City, Guatemala	42	45	33	10	7	7	13	14	171	28%	1	8%	(29)	(68%)	3	22%
2	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	27	24	19	18	23	19	18	14	162	27%	(4)	(22%)	(11)	(44%)	(4)	(22%)
3	San Salvador, El Salvador	11	11	14	8	9	6	9	4	72	12%	(5)	(56%)	(8)	(68%)	(3)	(46%)
4	Mexico City, Mexico	0	0	0	0	8	12	10	8	38	6%	(2)	(20%)	8	n/a	1	16%
5	Guadalajara, Mexico	2	7	5	0	0	5	9	8	36	6%	(1)	(11%)	3	54%	4	91%
6	Ecuador	2	4	10	2	2	2	2	3	27	4%	1	50%	(2)	(42%)	0	18%
7	Villahermosa, Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	8	21	3%	1	14%	8	n/a	4	110%
8	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	17	3%	1	50%	1	50%	1	38%
9	Santo Domingo, DR	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	15	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	10%
10	Managua, Nicaragua	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	12	2%	(2)	(100%)	(2)	(100%)	(1)	(100%)
11	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	0	1	4	2	2	0	1	0	10	2%	(1)	(100%)	(2)	(100%)	(1)	(100%)
12	Morelia, Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	7	1%	1	33%	4	n/a	3	214%
13	Bogota, Colombia	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	7	1%	(1)	(100%)	(1)	(100%)	(1)	(100%)
14	Kingston, Jamaica	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	6	1%	(1)	(100%)	(1)	(100%)	(1)	(100%)
15	Manaus, Brazil	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	0%	1	n/a	1	n/a	0	83%
16	Callao, Peru	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0%	(1)	(100%)	0	n/a	(0)	(100%)
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	4	1%	0	0%	1	n/a	1	n/a
17	<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>(15%)</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(30%)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7%</b>
18	Mexico Total	2	7	5	0	8	23	29	29	103		0	0%	24	458%	13	77%
19	# Week Days (non-Holiday)	21	19	22	22	20	22	23	21	170		(2)	(9%)	1	5%	(1)	(4%)

Pre-COVID = Jan 1 to Mar 13  
 In-COVID = Mar 14 to Aug 31

## ICE Air Deportation Departure Cities YTD 2020

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Year to Date	% of Flights	Current Month		Current Month Pre-COVID		Current Month In-COVID		
											H/(L) Pr Mth	% H/(L) Pr Mth	H/(L) Mth Avg	% H/(L) Mth Avg	H/(L) Mth Avg	% H/(L) Mth Avg	
<b>Deportation Departure Cities</b>																	
1	Brownsville, TX	23	27	20	13	13	13	18	21	148	24%	3	17%	(5)	(18%)	6	38%
2	Alexandria, LA	18	17	13	13	14	18	22	11	126	21%	(11)	(50%)	(7)	(38%)	(4)	(26%)
3	El Paso, TX	9	10	11	5	3	5	11	14	68	11%	3	27%	4	35%	6	83%
4	Phoenix, AZ	15	18	8	0	4	10	4	2	61	10%	(2)	(50%)	(13)	(87%)	(2)	(52%)
5	Houston, TX	7	9	8	6	7	3	1	0	41	7%	(1)	(100%)	(8)	(100%)	(4)	(100%)
6	Laredo, TX	6	4	4	1	2	1	6	6	30	5%	0	0%	1	15%	3	94%
7	Miami, FL	4	5	8	2	0	3	3	1	26	4%	(2)	(67%)	(4)	(79%)	(2)	(61%)
8	San Diego, CA	0	0	5	0	4	6	5	5	25	4%	0	0%	3	213%	1	31%
9	Dallas, TX	5	3	4	0	2	2	5	4	25	4%	(1)	(20%)	(0)	(9%)	1	57%
10	San Antonio, TX	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	14	2%	0	0%	1	150%	(0)	(8%)
11	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	0	1	0	0	3	2	3	2	11	2%	(1)	(33%)	2	400%	0	10%
12	San Juan, Puerto Rico	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	1	8	1%	1	n/a	1	n/a	(0)	(31%)
13	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	7	1%	(1)	(100%)	(2)	(100%)	(0)	(100%)
14	Ecuador	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	1%	0	n/a	(2)	(100%)	0	n/a
15	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	1%	0	n/a	(2)	(100%)	0	n/a
16	Harlingen/San Benito, TX	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	0%	0	n/a	0	n/a	(1)	(100%)
17	Manaus, Brazil	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0%	(1)	(100%)	0	n/a	(0)	(100%)
18	Other	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	7	1%	1	n/a	0	25%	0	10%
19	<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>(15%)</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(30%)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7%</b>
20	# Week Days (non-Holiday)	21	19	22	22	20	22	23	21	170		(2)	(9%)	1	5%	(1)	(4%)

Pre-COVID = Jan 1 to Mar 13  
 In-COVID = Mar 14 to Aug 31

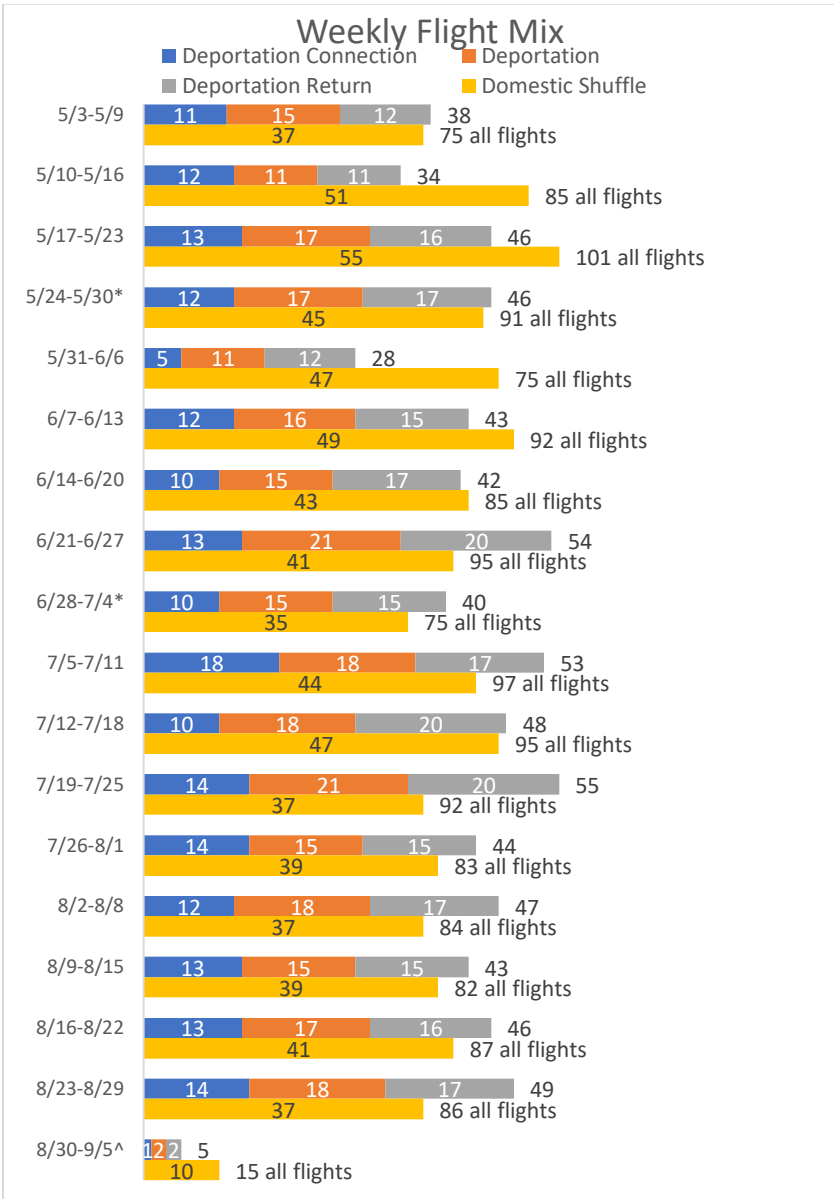
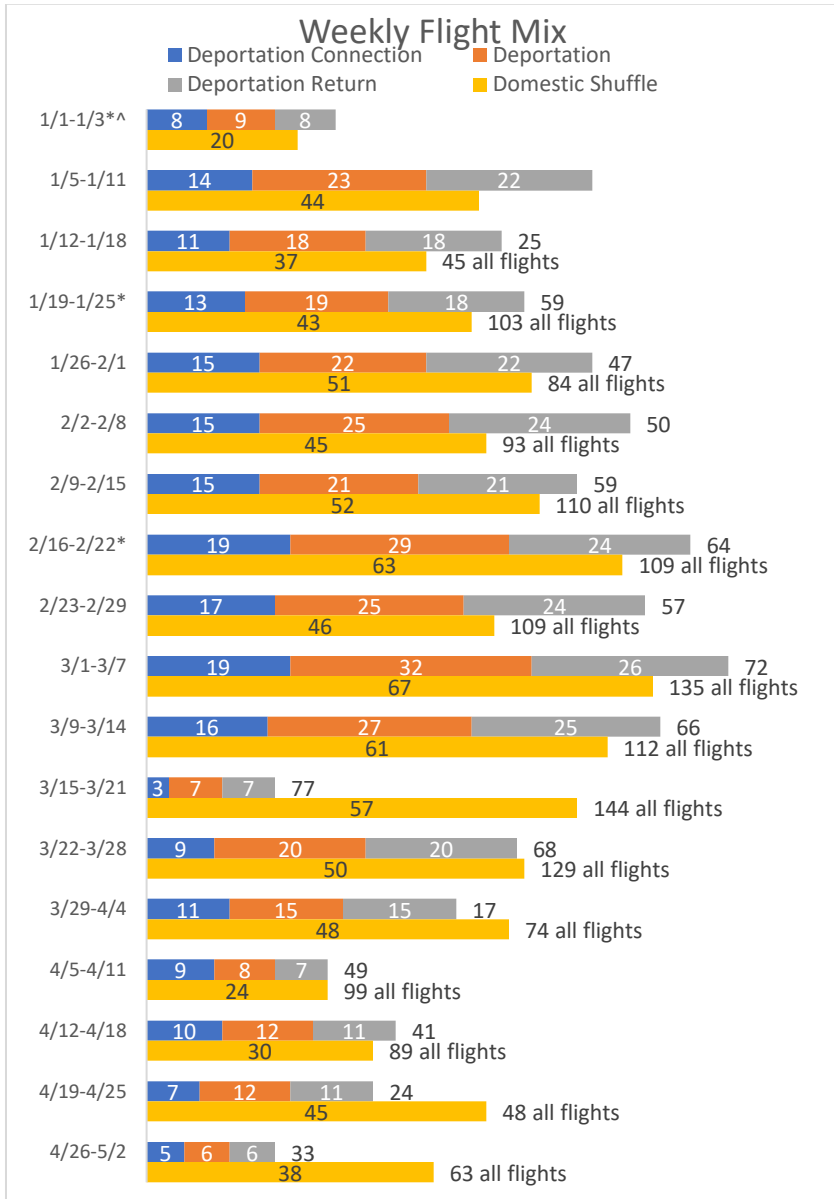


# ICE Air Flights: Pre-COVID and In-COVID

Total ICE Air								Deportation Destination Cities								Deportation Departure Cities				
				Pre-COVID	In-COVID	Total					Pre-COVID	In-COVID	Total					Pre-COVID	In-COVID	Total
<b>Flight Category</b>																				
<b>1</b>	Deportation	250	360	<b>610</b>	<b>1</b>	Guatemala City, Guatemala	108	63	<b>171</b>	<b>1</b>	Brownsville, TX	64	84	<b>148</b>						
<b>2</b>	Deportation Connection	<u>162</u>	<u>261</u>	<b>423</b>	<b>2</b>	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	63	99	<b>162</b>	<b>2</b>	Alexandria, LA	44	82	<b>126</b>						
<b>3</b>	Total Outbound Deportation	412	621	<b>1,033</b>	<b>3</b>	San Salvador, El Salvador	31	41	<b>72</b>	<b>3</b>	El Paso, TX	26	42	<b>68</b>						
<b>4</b>	Deportation Return	<u>232</u>	<u>351</u>	<b>583</b>	<b>4</b>	Mexico City, Mexico	0	38	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	Phoenix, AZ	38	23	<b>61</b>						
<b>5</b>	Total Deportation Related	644	972	<b>1,616</b>	<b>5</b>	Guadalajara, Mexico	13	23	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	Houston, TX	20	21	<b>41</b>						
<b>6</b>	Domestic Shuffle	528	1,027	<b>1,555</b>	<b>6</b>	Ecuador	13	14	<b>27</b>	<b>6</b>	Laredo, TX	13	17	<b>30</b>						
<b>7</b>	<b>Total Flights</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>1,999</b>	<b>3,171</b>	<b>7</b>	Villahermosa, Mexico	0	21	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	Miami, FL	12	14	<b>26</b>						
<b>8</b>	<b>Total Domestic</b> (Deport Connect + Shuffle)	<b>690</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>1,978</b>	<b>8</b>	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	5	12	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	San Diego, CA	4	21	<b>25</b>						
<b>9</b>	# Week Days (non-Holiday)	50	120	<b>170</b>	<b>9</b>	Santo Domingo, DR	5	10	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	Dallas, TX	11	14	<b>25</b>						
					<b>10</b>	Managua, Nicaragua	4	8	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	San Antonio, TX	2	12	<b>14</b>						
					<b>11</b>	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	4	6	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	1	10	<b>11</b>						
					<b>12</b>	Morelia, Mexico	0	7	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	San Juan, Puerto Rico	0	8	<b>8</b>						
					<b>13</b>	Bogota, Colombia	2	5	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	5	2	<b>7</b>						
					<b>14</b>	Kingston, Jamaica	2	4	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	Ecuador	4	0	<b>4</b>						
					<b>15</b>	Manaus, Brazil	0	3	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	4	0	<b>4</b>						
					<b>16</b>	Callao, Peru	0	2	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	Harlingen/San Benito, TX	0	3	<b>3</b>						
					<b>17</b>	Other	0	4	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	Manaus, Brazil	0	2	<b>2</b>						
					<b>18</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>18</b>	Other	2	5	<b>7</b>						
					<b>19</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>610</b>						
					<b>19</b>	Mexico Total	13	90	<b>103</b>											
					<b>20</b>	# Week Days (non-Holiday)	50	120	<b>170</b>	<b>20</b>	# Week Days (non-Holiday)	50	120	<b>170</b>						

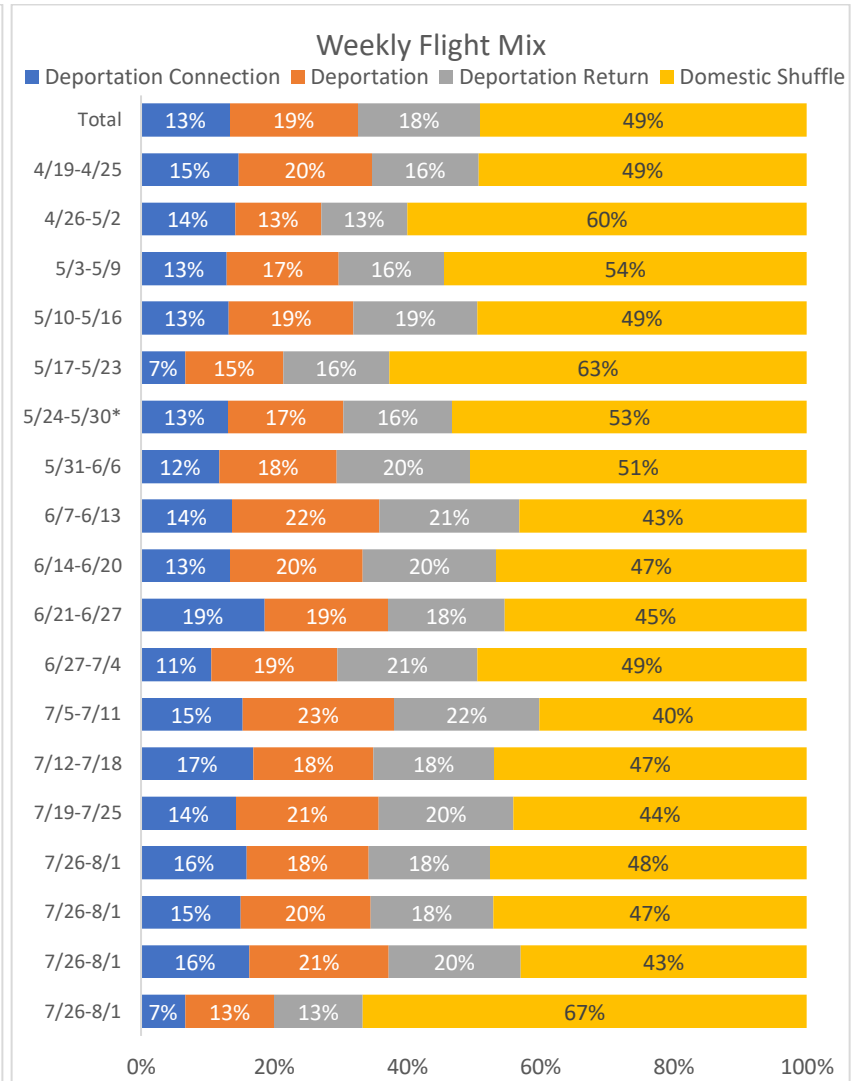
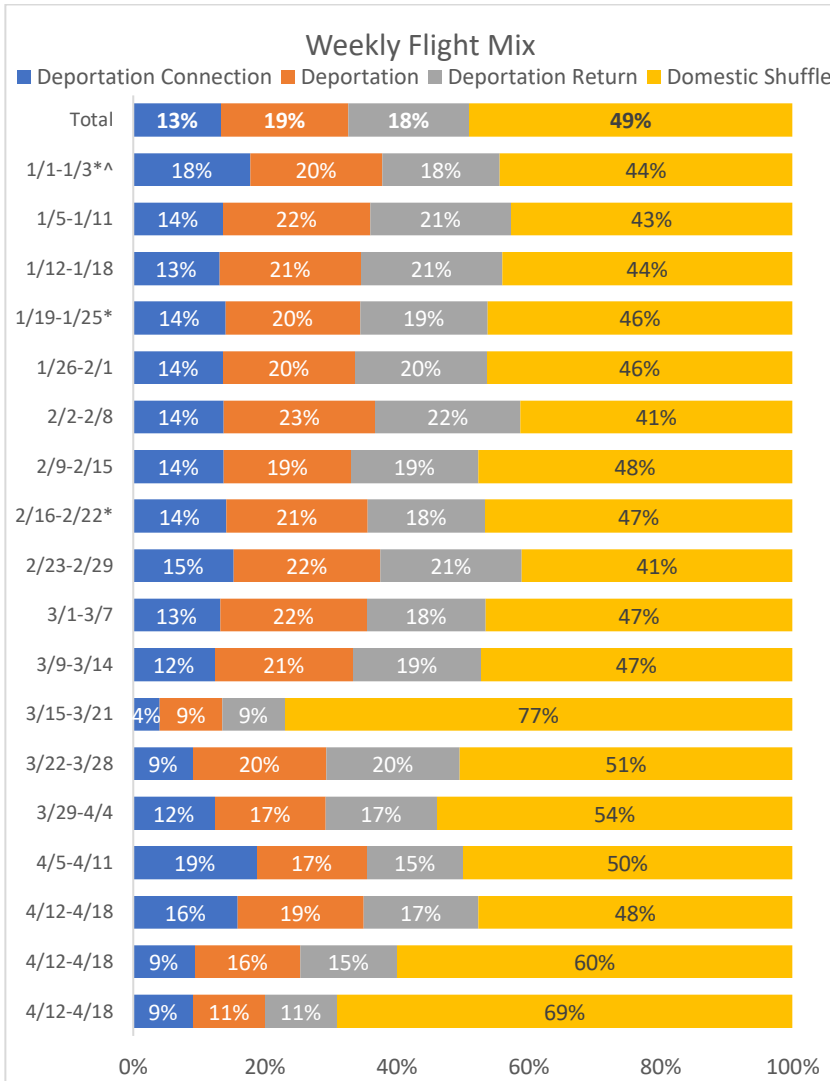
Pre-COVID = Jan 1 to Mar 13  
 In-COVID = Mar 14 to Aug 31

# 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 Diego, CA	San Antonio, TX	Laredo, TX	Houston, TX	Dallas, TX	Other		
Alexandria, LA		121	29	8	8	26		9	2	12	18	110	<b>343</b>	17%
Brownsville, TX	88		11	18	9	34	1	37	8	7	1	82	<b>296</b>	15%
Phoenix, AZ	31	10	1	67		2	38	2	1	1	16	74	<b>243</b>	12%
San Antonio, TX	28	66	4	5	20	3	5		20	2	1	11	<b>165</b>	8%
Miami, FL	20	12	7		64		1	4		2		7	<b>117</b>	6%
Columbus, GA	36	30				12		2		20	3	4	<b>107</b>	5%
El Paso, TX	18	6	40		1	3				1		8	<b>77</b>	4%
San Diego, CA			34	5		5				1		5	<b>50</b>	3%
Richmond, VA	34					1		1				1	<b>37</b>	2%
Harrisburg, PA	5	30									1	1	<b>37</b>	2%
Omaha, NE		4										32	<b>36</b>	2%
Other	85	49	25	36	4	8	28	8	30	4	1	192	<b>470</b>	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>1,978</b>	100%
% of Total	17%	17%	8%	7%	5%	5%	4%	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	Mexico City, Mexico	Guadalajara, Mexico	Ecuador	Villahermosa, Mexico	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	Managua, Nicaragua	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	Other	Total	% of Total
	Brownsville, TX	50	58	4	19	1	1	10	2		1		2	148
Alexandria, LA	32	31	25			5		7	7	9		10	126	21%
El Paso, TX	29	7	1		21	4	6					0	68	11%
Phoenix, AZ	34	10	4		8		5					0	61	10%
Houston, TX	10	23	8									0	41	7%
Laredo, TX			23									7	30	5%
Miami, FL	9	5				3		6	2			1	26	4%
San Diego, CA				19	5							1	25	4%
Dallas, TX	1	21	3									0	25	4%
San Antonio, TX	5	4	3					2				0	14	2%
San Pedro Sula, Honduras						9						2	11	2%
Other	1	3	1	0	1	5	0	0	6	2	10	6	35	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>100%</b>

% H/(L)

28%	27%	12%	6%	6%	4%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	5%	100%
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