



## State of Industry

The immediate impact of COVID-19 has been substantial for the aviation industry. Public air travel has been brought to almost a virtual standstill, leaving passenger airlines across the globe scrambling to survive. In April alone, passenger traffic in the United States fell by upwards of 95%—compared to 2019 levels—with May down 91%. Airlines have been forced to reduce their flight schedules dramatically providing only minimal air service.

Airports, that once had bustling terminals and active runways, are now left quiet and near empty, though slight increases have been seen in early June. The general consensus among the aviation industry is that it will take at least 2-3 years for a full recovery. SLC’s air service development will play a crucial role as the airport works hand in hand with airline partners and respective communities to rebuild the economy.

## SLC and COVID-19

While the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly taken its toll on SLC, the reductions in air service over the last few months have not been as severe as other airports across the country. This may be due to the relatively small outbreak of the virus in Utah—March through May—as well as the state’s strong and diverse economy, which is helping to weather the storm. Airlines have begun phasing back routes and frequencies for the peak summer months.

### Scheduled Seat Capacity 2020\*

Month	SLC	US Average
January	7%	3%
February	10%	6%
March	3%	-0.7%
April	-50%	-55%
May	-69%	-76%
June	-62%	-68%

\*As compared to 2019.



Airport News & Notes

Air Service Update

WE'RE READY TO  
FLY WHEN YOU  
ARE.

Southwest Airlines extended their revised schedule from Oct. 31, 2020 through Jan. 4, 2021. This schedule is almost 90% of the airline's original schedule and is subject to change based on existing demand and the Boeing 737 MAX's return to service. The schedule includes several year-over-year frequency increases for current SLC markets including:

- **Three additional daily frequencies to Denver, for a total of seven**
- **Two additional daily frequencies to Las Vegas, for total of five**
- **One additional daily frequency to Phoenix, for total of five**

While passenger traffic is still expected to be well below 2019 levels, some U.S. airlines are noticing an increase in demand to specific domestic leisure destinations, including beaches and mountain markets. American and Delta have both announced plans to ramp up summer capacity to markets such as SLC because of its close proximity to national parks and other outdoor recreation. This will likely give a much needed boost Utah's outdoor economy.

Overall, domestic capacity is expected to return much quicker than international, though some international service is resuming this summer at SLC. Delta's service to Cancún and Mexico City begins in June and July, respectively, and service to Amsterdam and Canada is currently scheduled to restart in August, pending travel restriction terminations and increase in demand.

## Air Service Development Recovery Plan

In response to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 on the global economy and specifically the aviation industry, SLC's Air Service Development staff has established an Air Service Development Recovery Plan. The purpose of the plan is to develop an air service strategy that will guide the airport to recovery through the following four cornerstone initiatives: airport, airline, community and consumer. The objective of the plan is to restore passenger air service at SLC to pre-pandemic levels as quickly and strategically as possible, returning the hub as the superior air access point for Utah and the Intermountain West. A copy of the plan is available on the website at [slcairport.com/airservicedevelopment](https://slcairport.com/airservicedevelopment).

## Air Service Development Manager Hired

The Salt Lake City Department of Airports recently hired Nate Lavin in a newly-created position of Air Service Development manager. Prior to coming to SLC, Nate worked at Colorado Springs Airport and most recently San Antonio International Airport where his primary responsibilities were air service development and marketing. Originally from Utah, Nate is excited to be a part of the team and is looking forward to all the new opportunities The New SLC will bring.



When the first phase of the brand new Salt Lake City International Airport opens September 15th, there will be a lot for you to enjoy—the views, the technology, the efficiency, the variety of shops and restaurants. But one of the things we think you'll also like is our commitment to your safety—employing the absolute best practices in sanitization throughout the airport. As the world re-opens to travel, it's not going to be the same. When it comes to flying in and out of The New SLC, we think it will be even better. For more information about The New SLC, go to [slcairport.com/thenewslc/](https://slcairport.com/thenewslc/)

