



The Partnership sends updates for the most important economic indicators each month. If you would like to opt-in to receive these updates, please click [here](#).

For the latest data, click [here](#).

October 15, 2020

The Houston Airport System (HAS) handled 1.6 million passengers in August '20, a 69.7 percent drop from the 5.1 million passengers handled during August '19; nonetheless, August numbers are more than a fivefold increase from April's 242,000 passengers.

The global COVID-19 pandemic continues to depress air travel. Consumers are choosing to either stay home or drive to their destination to minimize their exposure to the virus. The marginal increase in passenger traffic is coming from weekend flights, which tend to be leisure travel, and not during the week, which tends to be corporate travel. International traffic is expected to pick up as more domestic and foreign-flag carriers restore overseas service. The expansion of Southwest Airlines service to George Bush Intercontinental Airport in the first half of '21 will likely contribute to an uptick in traffic as well.

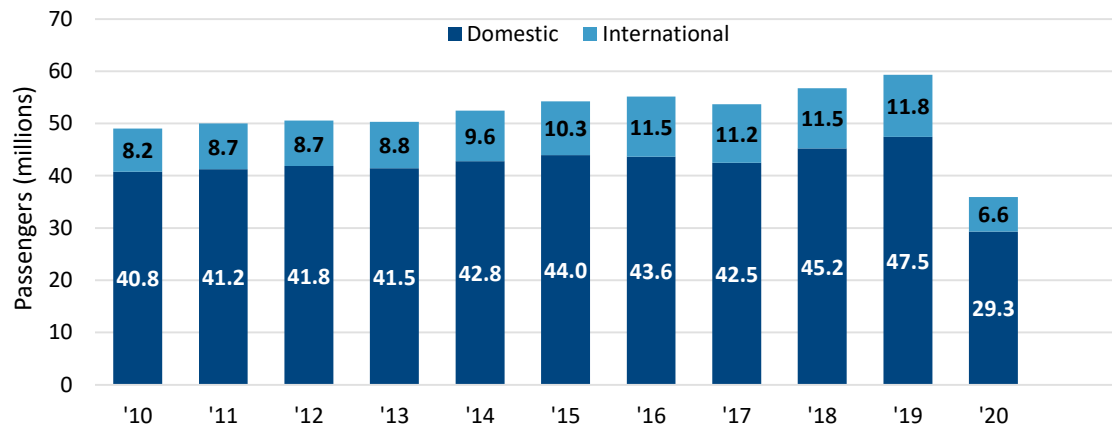
SUMMARY HOUSTON AIRPORT ACTIVITY – AUGUST			
	'20	'19	% Change
Total Passengers	1,560,353	5,147,325	-69.7
<i>Domestic</i>	<i>1,400,969</i>	<i>4,072,733</i>	<i>-65.6</i>
<i>International</i>	<i>159,384</i>	<i>1,074,592</i>	<i>-85.2</i>
Total Air Cargo (metric tons)	36,547	42,533	-14.1
<i>Enplaned</i>	<i>16,961</i>	<i>19,632</i>	<i>-13.6</i>
<i>Deplaned</i>	<i>19,586</i>	<i>22,901</i>	<i>-14.5</i>
Source: Houston Airport System			

HAS handled 35.9 million passengers in the 12 months ending August '20. That's a 39.4 percent decrease from the 59.3 million handled over the same period in '19.

- The 12-month international passenger volume totaled 6.6 million, down 44.3 percent from 11.8 million in the preceding 12 months.
- Domestic volume totaled 29.3 million, a 38.2 percent decrease from 47.5 million.

The 12-month totals will continue to decline as both business and leisure travelers remain reluctant to resume air travel. The International Air Transport Association (IATA), a global trade group representing most of the world's major airlines and cargo carriers, doesn't expect the industry to recover before '24.

HOUSTON AIRPORT SYSTEM TRAFFIC 12-Months Ending in August



Source: Houston Airport System

Prepared by Greater Houston Partnership Research

Heather Duran
Manager, Research
713-844-3654
hduran@houston.org

Patrick Jankowski, CERP
Senior Vice President, Research
713-844-3616
pjankowski@houston.org