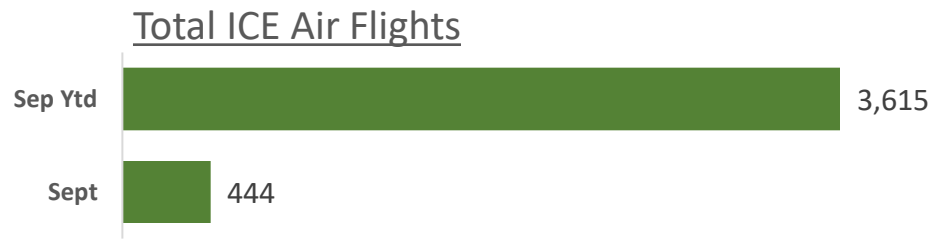
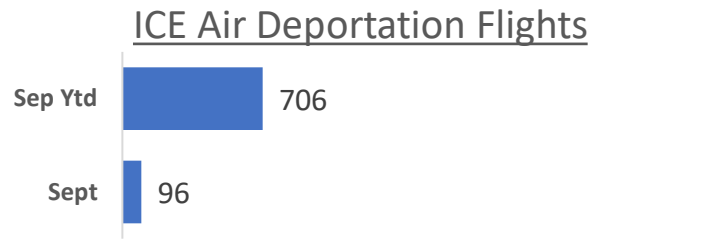
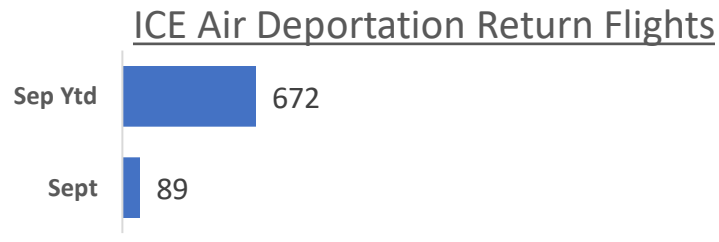
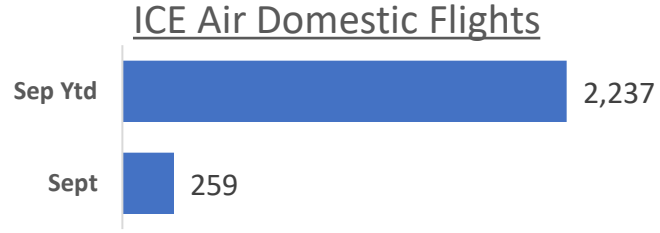
ICE Air Flights

September and September 2020 Year-to-Date









WITNESS AT THE BORDER

- October 7, 2020

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

thcartwright@gmail.com ***+1.614.208.2791 (phone, WhatsApp, Signal)***

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) – 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

WHY WE WITNESS – THE MACHINE

(Opinion)

To be sure the past month or so has been filled with horrendous events including unaccompanied **children held in hotels** by transportation specialists, **despicable medical conditions and encounters** at Irwin Detention Center, **detainee deaths** reaching an all-time annual high, and **ICE Air activity at record in-pandemic levels**, just to name a few.

While these incidents are individually abhorrent and deserve our attention, we have to stay focused on the fact that they are merely products of a corrupt system; an apprehension, detention, and deportation machine **("The Machine")** that has fueled itself for over seven decades with an amoral ideology supported by two main pillars. **These individual incidents** deserve our attention and outrage, **but not only as individual incidents, but as a thread in the fabric of a decades old corrupt system.**

Ethno-nationalism as an ideology is not new. It has been a driver of anti-immigrant policy not just in the US but across the globe for many decades. It stands on the myopic foundation that certain ethnic and racial groups should be favored within the nation. Religion is often a dimension as it may be affiliated with a certain ethnicity.

The Machine is a manifestation and an enabler of this ideology in the US and two powerful pillars have kept The Machine grinding away: profit and cruelty. They, of course, are not the only enablers, but they have been powerful and persistent over the years.

The first pillar supporting the ideology is profit, both in terms of dollars and power. There are tremendous profits available to private companies operating The Machine, detention facilities, air charter companies, guard and transportation service companies, to mention a few. All are volume driven one way or the other. **From a revenue perspective, the more activity the more the profit**. Some argue that "minimum revenue" contracts protect from volume driven abuse. The fact is there is no antidote for greed. Contract minimums only encourage contractors to drive more volume to push past the minimums into premium revenue, either in terms of the number of detainees/deportees, or the duration of detention, to drive up revenue. **Profits can also be enhanced by operating at the lowest cost possible**, even at the expense of detainees/deportees that are under the care of the for-profit contractors. Sub-standard facilities, nourishment, medical and mental care, legal aid, and training are examples we see reported every day.

It's not just the greed for profit that stokes The Machine, it's the greed for power; power for the individuals and the organizations that operate the gears of The Machine. A recent example of that is the **reward bestowed on Chad Wolf this week as the Senate Homeland Security Committee** advanced his confirmation as Secretary of DHS to the Senate: a sign of a successful guidance of The Machine in pursuit of its ethno-nationalistic ideology; personal power, augmented by the **ascendant organizational power of DHS as the administration's police force.**

The second pillar supporting the ideology is the policy and practice of deterrence by terror which has been used for over 7 decades by INS and DHS. Terror is visited not just on those who have been turned back, apprehended at the border, or detained, but on those undocumented and living in the US, some for decades. **The underlying principle is that the more cruelty that is employed the less likely people will try to seek asylum** in the US. Cruelty and inhumanity are levers of The Machine at every point. Despite the fact that deterrence by terror has not worked

over all these decades, the culture and practice persist. **It will never work. Not as long as the terror The Machine inflicts is less than the terror faced in the lands from which migrants flee. Why is that so hard to understand?**

What is curious is that these two pillars are actually opposing forces, if one has ultimate success, the other one fails ultimately. If profit prevails above all, then The Machine is fueled by an unlimited number of detainees/deportees and it gorges on what will become intolerable profits. If terror and cruelty ratchet past the limits of what asylum seekers can stand The Machine will starve. **Yet, these two countervailing forces have found a satanic equilibrium, coexisting and allowing each to thrive.**

The People have (and I hope will continue to, although I'm not sanguine about that now) provided an imperfect governor to both profit and terror. When greed for money or power go beyond what The People can stand, the remedy is to change those in power, with People in the streets and at the ballot box.

When terror becomes more egregious than The People can stand, as was the case with family separation, the remedy is outrage in the streets, in Congressional offices, and at the ballot box.

THAT IS WHY WE WITNESS.

It is our job to do whatever we can to witness, add transparency, and to spark righteous outrage and action. **To see what The Machine does not want us to see. To document the facts. To tell the story. To help our allies, the press, and legislators to do the same. We hope that we speak not just to those in our bubble, as we might with this opinion section, that the facts in this report speak to those who may have different views, but who are open to reconsider them when presented with a reality that is new to them.**

Transparency and outrage are necessary, but not sufficient. Unless there is a dramatic and discontinuous change in the support for the ethno-nationalist ideology and a destruction of its pillars of power, The Machine will just remain at equilibrium, a place it has been for decades. Our only hope lies in the obliteration of ethno-nationalism because only that will provide the will to destroy The Machine. It will not be sufficient to chip around the foundation of one or both of the pillars of profit and cruelty, they must be crushed under the weight of a new ideology of inclusivity and compassion.

To be honest, that feels a long way off.

But what else can we do but start?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IN SEPTEMBER, ICE AIR FLEW A RECORD NUMBER OF LIKELY DEPORTATION FLIGHTS (96) AND TOTAL FLIGHTS (444) DURING THE PANDEMIC PERIOD. Not since March have we witnessed this many deportations and total flights. THROUGH SEPTEMBER WE HAVE WITNESSED 706 LIKELY DEPORTATION FLIGHTS.

ICE AIR DEPORTED PEOPLE TO 13 COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN SEPTEMBER, WITH 3 COUNTRIES RECEIVING DEPORTEES FOR FIRST TIME BASED ON OUR OBSERVATIONS: PANAMA, BELIZE AND GUYANA. THROUGH SEPTEMBER WE HAVE WITNESSED DEPORTATION FLIGHTS TO 18 COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

Deportation flights in September of 96 significantly eclipsed the 70 in August and was the second highest month of the year. To be fair**, 38 of the flights were to the interior of Mexico** and it is our understanding that the vast majority of returnees on those flights were **expelled under Title 42 (CDC Order). However,** even if we conservatively **exclude ALL of the flights to the interior of Mexico** throughout the pandemic, the adjusted 58 in **September exceeds April, May, June and July at 53, 45, 53 and 41, respectively**.

SEPTEMBER AND SEPTEMBER YEAR-TO-DATE FLIGHT SUMMARY

In September, there were 444 likely ICE Air flights, up significantly by 90 (25%) from August.

- 96 deportation flights, with 89 return legs, to 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 67 domestic flights connecting directly to deportation flights.
- 192 domestic shuffle flights between deportation locations.
- 259 domestic flights (connections and shuffle flights).

Year-to date September, there were 3,615 likely ICE Air flights, 52% deportation related (deportation legs, connections and returns) and 48% shuffle flights around the US.

- 706 deportation flights, with 672 return flights, to 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 490 domestic flights connecting directly to deportation flights.
- 1,747 domestic shuffle flights between deportation locations.
- 2,237 domestic flights (connections and shuffle flights).

SEPTEMBER FLIGHT INSIGHTS

September deportation flights of 96 were 26 (25%) higher than August. Mexico contributed 9 to the increase and Guatemala and El Salvador, 7 and 4, respectively. There were the same number of flight days in each month.

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

- ***September total flights*** **were 25 (5%) below the Pre-COVID average (1 Jan to 13 March)**. It should be noted that 38 flights were to the interior of Mexico and we understand these are primarily expulsions under Title 42. If, conservatively, ALL Mexico flights in September were excluded the decrease would have been only 13%. All flight categories were down relatively similar percentages with deportation-related flights down 2% and shuffle flights down 9%.

- **The most frequent deportations** were to Mexico (38) followed by Guatemala (21), Honduras (15), and El Salvador (8) with these 4 countries comprising 85% of deportations in September, with Northern Triangle countries at 45% and Mexico at 40%.

- ***September deportation flights*** **are only 4 below (4%) the pre-COVID average (100).** Noting again if, conservatively, ALL 38 Mexico flights were excluded the decrease would have been 42%.

- ***Guatemala:*** **21 deportation flights in September, up 7 (50%) from August and higher than any month since March. It is, however, about half of what the monthly average was in the pre-COVID period.** Following a number of pauses, on 18 August flights increased to about 1 per day. Since 26 April, Guatemala **has required pre-flight COVID tests and now will accept those who have recovered from COVID as proved by the full medical records** deportees carry with them to Guatemala. **Despite this**, based on information furnished to me by a Guatemalan Congressional representative, **at least 208 deportees tested positive since that time through 7 September**. In September, 1,594 people have been deported to Guatemala from the US, with 16,709 deported year-to-date through September, including 1,016 unaccompanied children.
- **The Foreign Ministry of Guatemala indicated to us that, in addition to the required testing and medical records, flights were escalated because their citizens were spending between 2-4 months in ICE detention and they felt that duration was a significant COVID risk**. Ironically, they balanced the risk of COVID exportation below that of the US ability to control COVID in detention centers. Of course, neither option is a good one. On 8 September it was reported that according to data from The National Institute of Migration of Guatemala that there were **2,578 Guatemalans detained in the US with deportation orders and 1,112 with cases pending for a total of 3,690 detainees.** Based on September deportations Guatemalan detainees could **now be close to 2,475**.

- ***Mexico:*** **38 flights in September, up 9 (31%) from August (and July)**. Mexico is now accepting 9 flights per week to the interior cities. In September flights were to Mexico City (9), Guadalajara (9), Villahermosa (4), Morelia (3), Puebla (5), and Queretaro (8). With an estimate of about 115 people per flight this would be 4,350 returned by air in September. **In August there were 3,836 returned by air and my estimated returns in September would be 4,200.**
- **From past conversations with spokespeople for CBP, we believe most of the air returns are Mexican nationals that are being expelled under Title 42** with a priority on those who have attempted crossing multiple times so that it will be more difficult for them to return to the border. **We confirmed with CBP on 3 October that the recidivism rate is still around 34%**. In August, 11,635 Mexican Nationals were repatriated by land (in addition to the 3,836 returned by air) to Mexico under the repatriation agreement between Mexico and the US. It is unclear under what agreement Title 42 operates. Our inquiry to ICE received no comment based on pending litigation. By air, based on Mexico reporting, it seems all returnees are accounted for under the agreement, but given the gap between US reported expulsions and Mexico counted repatriations, **many returns seem to be outside of the repatriation agreement, perhaps 15,000 in August alone.**

- ***Honduras:*** **15 deportation flights in September, up 1 (7%) from August. Deportees to Honduras in September totaled 726**, or about 48 people per plane. **On a year to date basis 12,593 people have been deported from the US to Honduras**, including 1,320 children. **The 15 flights represent a 40% decrease from the pre-COVID monthly average.**

- ***El Salvador:*** **8 deportation flights in September, up 4 (100%) from August, and much more in line with April through July.** We are not quite sure why August was so low, perhaps there were some negotiations over COVID testing. What **was new in September was the coupling of flights to El Salvador with routes to Guatemala 3 times, and once with a route to Panama.** Guatemala requires pre-flight testing so it is curious that they would mix Guatemalans with Salvadorans unless they were tested too, which is a possibility. Another reason we think more have required testing is that in September ICE performed over 13,000 tests, the most in any month in spite of the fact that the detainee population has been declining**. In August, 270 people were deported from the US to El Salvador,** or about 34 per flight. Based on 8 flights with a lower 35 per flight, that would **be 280 people deported in September, consistent with August leading us to think that may be by agreement. F**light populations were low most likely because 4 of the flights were coupled with flights to other countries. Interestingly, in 1Q 2020 Mexico deported 1,813 people to El Salvador, but since then virtually 0.

- ***Guyana:*** **The first observed deportation flight to Guyana** of the year was 22 September. The Minister of Citizenship of Guyana said in May that there were no deportations pending, but that they would assess as necessary in the future. **Just 3 days before, on 18 September, Secretary Pompeo made a visit to Guyana** to solidify opposition to Maduro and to strengthen ties with American companies. Interesting timing. In FY2019, 125 people were deported to Guyana from the US.

- ***Panama:*** **The first observed deportation flight to Panama of the year** was 4 September. In FY 2019, 55 people were deported to Panama from the US.

- ***Belize:*** The first observed deportation flight of the year to Belize was 25 September. In FY 2019, 90 people were deported to Belize from the US.

Africa: **On 17 September, an Omni Air charter flight flew to Kenya** with men and women deportees. Once in **Kenya, the deportees that were not disembarked there were put on different commercial planes with Kenyan police, rather than ICE, to Somalia, Sudan and Sri Lanka.** These deportations to Africa are very hard to see on this different charter unless an advocate contacts us. Therefore, we have not included this flight in the totals. One did so in this case so we were able to find the plane and track. **Over 20 hours on the plane. Over 8 hours to Africa then a stop for fuel before another 8 hours to Kenya. Shackled hands and feet the entire way, even when eating or going to the toilet.** Without a doubt a COVID spreading and exporting opportunity to countries that are in no way capable of handling. **Barbaric.** In FY 2019, The US deported 151, 83, 122, and 112 people to Somalia, Sudan/South Sudan, Kenya and Sri Lanka, respectively.

- **But this gave Trump something to brag about in Minnesota,** and was perhaps the reason for the deportation despite the protestations of Rep. Omar over spreading COVID to Somalia.

"*Trump began his speech with the topic of refugees and immigration.*

"I'm the difference and I'm the wall," Trump said after railing against refugees and bragging about the latest deportations of Somali nationals. "I'm the wall between the American dream and chaos."

- ***The Dominican Republic:*** There were no deportation flights in September which is unusual. Since January there have been 2 flights per month except for March when there was 1.
- ***There were no flights to:*** Peru, Trinidad, Bahamas, or St. Vincent-Grenadine which is not unusual for any month.

SEPTEMBER YEAR-TO-DATE FLIGHT INSIGHTS

Year-to-date September, there have been 706 likely deportation flights.

Likely ICE Air flights deported people to 18 different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- ***Flights to The Northern Triangle and Mexico*** (590) comprise 84% of all deportation flights. Flights to Northern Triangle (449) comprise 64% of all deportation flights.
- ***The top 5 deportation destinations*** are Guatemala (192), Honduras (177), Mexico (141), El Salvador (80) and Ecuador (29), accounting for 88% of deportation destinations.
- ***The most frequent deportation routes*** were Brownsville to Honduras (62), Brownsville to Guatemala (53), Phoenix to Guatemala (37), and Alexandria, LA to Honduras (35).
- ***The most frequent deportation departures*** were from Brownsville and Alexandria with 165 and 150, respectively, comprising 45% of all deportation departures. El Paso, Phoenix, and Houston follow with 79, 67, and 44 flights, respectively, rounding out the top 5 with 72% of deportation departures.
- ***Mexico flights have escalated significantly*** with flights in March, April, May, June, July, August and September of 5, 0, 8, 23, 29, 29, and 38, respectively. In August, flights to Mexico represented 40% 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 4,200 repatriated Mexican Nationals in September. **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.**

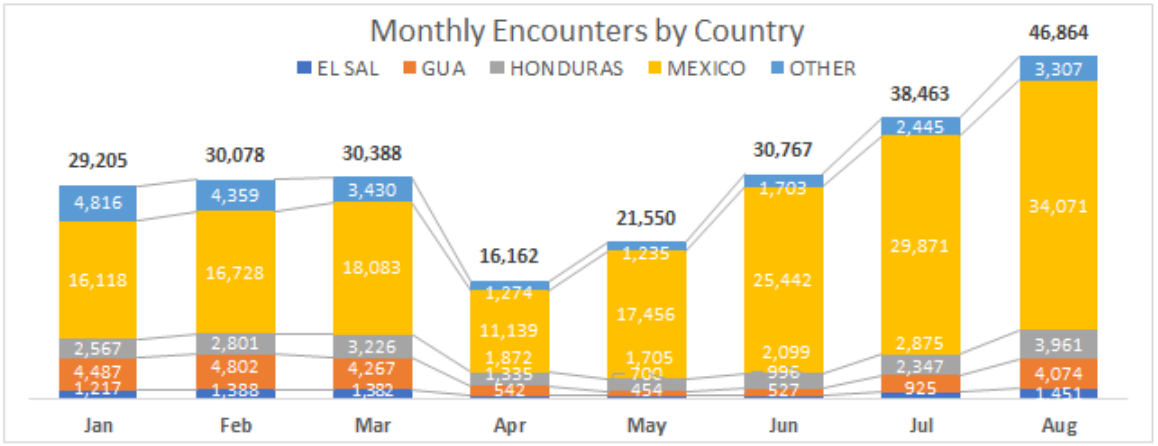
- **Based on monthly numbers provided to me by CBP (Please see charts on next page), from January to August 2020 CBP southwest border encounters increased from 29,205 to 46,864 (17,659 or 60%), after dipping to only 16,162 in April.** No doubt, some of the 17,659 increase from January may be seasonal, 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.

- ***Cuba:*** **Based reporting from Ben Schamisso of Newsy, ICE has stated that Cuba continues to deny landing rights for deportation flights** based on the risk of COVID. This official denial began on 28 February. Unfortunately, because of tourist flights before that it was difficult to discern any charter deportation flights so to be conservative we have included none in this analysis. They continue to be on the ICE "recalcitrant country" list which generally means that countries who do not accept repatriations may be subject to visa restrictions. As of 19 September, there were 1,805 Cuban Nationals in detention, of which 1,043, or 58%, have final orders of removal.

- ***Nicaragua:*** On 11 September there was 1 deportation flight, but that was the first since 22 July, over 7 weeks without a flight. Prior to that, flights were for the most part every other week. That leads us to wonder if there was a pause instituted by Nicaragua. We have made an inquiry to ICE. At the beginning of September, some Members of Congress wrote to ICE to ask them to stop flights out of fear for deportees that may have opposed the Ortega regime. Less than 10 days later ICE operated a deportation flight.

Year-to-date, the busiest cities for combined departure and destination for domestic flights (connection and shuffle) are Alexandria (786), Brownsville (707) and Phoenix (460).

- **The most frequent domestic flight routes** are consistent and are Alexandria LA to Brownsville (138), Brownsville to Alexandria (102), Phoenix to El Paso (80), San Antonio to Brownsville (73), and Miami to Columbus GA (68).
- **Alexandria LA** had a very balanced mix of flights originating to Central America with 41 to Guatemala, 35 to Honduras, and 29 to El Salvador, reinforcing their role as a major concentration point for detainees.


Monthly Encounters by Country
EL SAL
GUA
HONDURAS
MEXICO
OTHER
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
29,205
30,078
30,388
16,162
21,550
30,767
38,463
46,864
4,816
16,118
2,567
4,487
1,217
4,359
16,728
2,801
4,802
1,388
3,430
18,083
3,226
4,267
1,382
1,274
11,139
1,872
1,335
542
1,235
17,456
1,705
700
454
1,703
25,442
2,099
996
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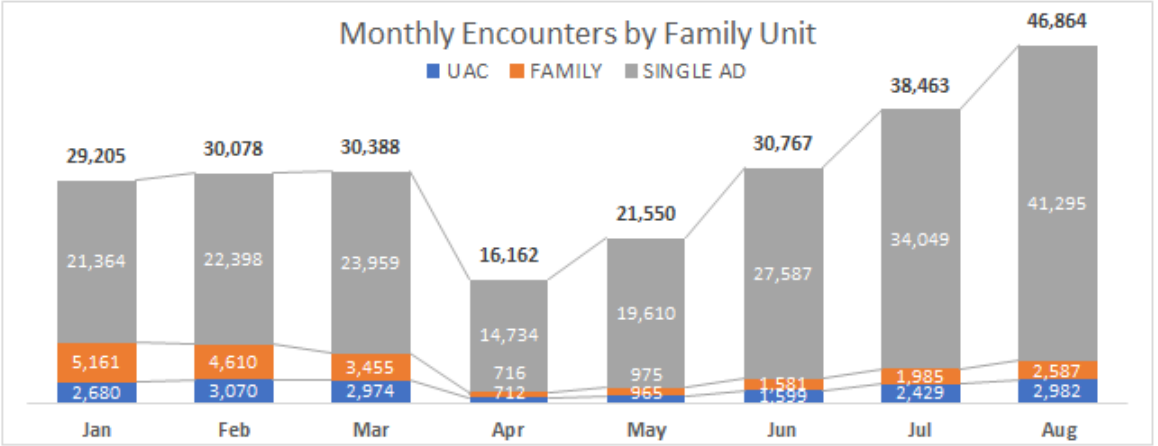
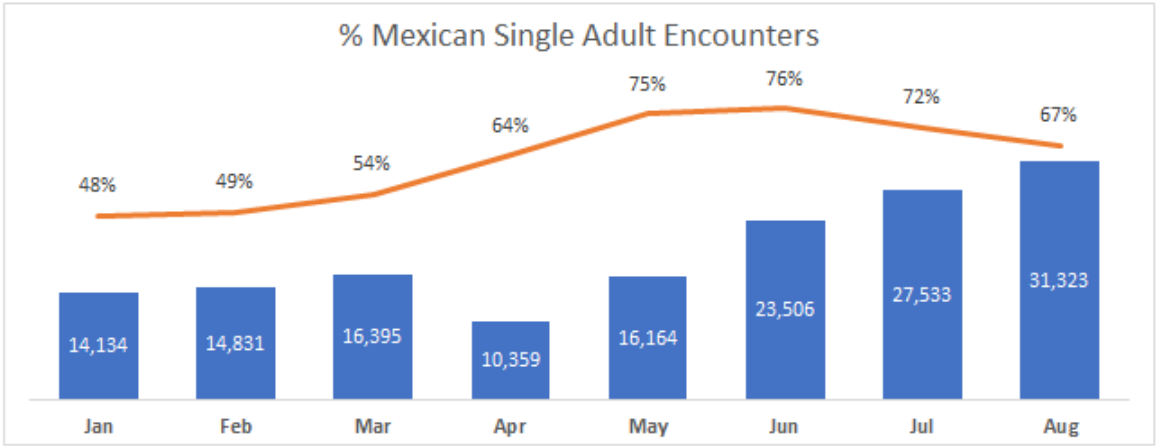
2,445
29,871
2,875
2,347
925
3,307
34,071
3,961
4,074
1,451


Monthly Encounters by Family Unit
UAC
FAMILY
SINGLE AD
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
29,205
30,078
30,388
16,162
21,550
30,767
38,463
46,864
21,364
5,161
2,680
22,398
4,610
3,070
23,959
3,455
2,974
14,734
716
712
19,610
975
965
27,587
1,581
1,599
34,049
1,985
2,429
41,295
2,587
2,982


% Mexican Single Adult Encounters
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
48%
49%
54%
64%
75%
76%
72%
67%
14,134
14,831
16,395
10,359
16,164
23,506
27,533
31,323

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.**

Total ICE Air Flights YTD 2020 – Deportation and Domestic

	Flight Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Year to Date	% of Flights	Current Month H/(L) Pr Mth	Current Month % H/(L) Pr Mth	Current Month H/(L) Pre-COVID Mth Avg	Current Month % H/(L) Pre-COVID Mth Avg	Current Month H/(L) In-COVID Mth Avg	Current Month % H/(L) In-COVID Mth Avg
1	Deportation	91	100	91	47	61	68	82	70	96	706	20%	26	37%	(4)	(4%)	26	37%
2	Deportation Connection	61	66	51	37	49	45	61	53	67	490	14%	14	26%	2	3%	17	33%
3	Total Outbound Deportation	152	166	142	84	110	113	143	123	163	1,196	33%	40	33%	(2)	(1%)	42	35%
4	Deportation Return	88	93	83	44	57	69	82	67	89	672	19%	22	33%	(4)	(4%)	21	31%
5	Total Deportation Related	240	259	225	128	167	182	225	190	252	1,868	52%	62	33%	(6)	(2%)	64	34%
6	Domestic Shuffle	191	210	264	152	192	204	178	164	192	1,747	48%	28	17%	(19)	(9%)	4	2%
7	**Total Flights**	**431**	**469**	**489**	**280**	**359**	**386**	**403**	**354**	**444**	**3,615**	**100%**	**90**	**25%**	**(25)**	**(5%)**	**68**	**18%**
8	**Total Domestic** (Deport Connect + Shuffle)	**252**	**276**	**315**	**189**	**241**	**249**	**239**	**217**	**259**	**2,237**	**62%**	**42**	**19%**	**(17)**	**(6%)**	**21**	**9%**
9	# Week Days (non-Holiday)	21	19	22	22	20	22	23	21	21	191		0	0%	1	5%	(1)	(3%)

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 Sep 30

ICE Air Deportation Destination Cities YTD 2020

	Deportation Destination Cities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Year to Date	% of Flights	Current Month H/(L) Pr Mth	Current Month % H/(L) Pr Mth	Current Month H/(L) Pre-COVID Mth Avg	Current Month % H/(L) Pre-COVID Mth Avg	Current Month H/(L) In-COVID Mth Avg	Current Month % H/(L) In-COVID Mth Avg
1	Guatemala City, Guatemala	42	45	33	10	7	7	13	14	21	192	27%	7	50%	(22)	(51%)	8	63%
2	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	27	24	19	18	23	19	18	14	15	177	25%	1	7%	(10)	(40%)	(3)	(14%)
3	San Salvador, El Salvador	11	11	14	8	9	6	9	4	8	80	11%	4	100%	(4)	(35%)	0	6%
4	Mexico City, Mexico	0	0	0	0	8	12	10	8	9	47	7%	1	13%	9	n/a	2	24%
5	Guadalajara, Mexico	2	7	5	0	0	5	9	8	9	45	6%	1	13%	4	73%	4	83%
6	Ecuador	2	4	10	2	2	2	2	3	2	29	4%	(1)	(33%)	(3)	(62%)	(0)	(19%)
7	Villahermosa, Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	8	4	25	4%	(4)	(50%)	4	n/a	0	4%
8	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	20	3%	0	0%	1	50%	1	30%
9	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	0	15	2%	(2)	(100%)	(2)	(100%)	(2)	(100%)
10	Managua, Nicaragua	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	1	13	2%	1	n/a	(1)	(38%)	(0)	(28%)
11	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	0	1	4	2	2	0	1	0	1	11	2%	1	n/a	(1)	(38%)	(0)	(7%)
12	Morelia, Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	3	10	1%	(1)	(25%)	3	n/a	1	95%
13	Bogota, Colombia	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	9	1%	2	n/a	1	150%	1	86%
14	Kingston, Jamaica	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	8	1%	2	n/a	1	150%	1	117%
15	Queretaro, Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	1%	8	n/a	8	n/a	7	550%
16	Puebla, Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	6	1%	4	400%	5	n/a	4	442%
17	Manaus, Brazil	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	0%	(1)	(100%)	0	n/a	(0)	(100%)
18	Callao, Peru	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0%	0	n/a	0	n/a	(0)	(100%)
19	Belize City, Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0%	1	n/a	1	n/a	1	550%
20	Timehri, Guyana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0%	1	n/a	1	n/a	1	550%
21	Panama City, Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0%	1	n/a	1	n/a	1	550%
22	Piarco, Trinidad	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0%	0	n/a	0	n/a	(0)	(100%)
23	Nassau, Bahamas	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0%	0	n/a	0	n/a	(0)	(100%)
24	Argyle, Saint Vincent	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0%	0	n/a	0	n/a	(0)	(100%)
25	**Total**	**91**	**100**	**91**	**47**	**61**	**68**	**82**	**70**	**96**	**706**	**100%**	**26**	**37%**	**(4)**	**(4%)**	**26**	**37%**
26	Mexico Total	2	7	5	0	8	23	29	29	38	141		9	31%	33	631%	18	93%
27	# Week Days (non-Holiday)	21	19	22	22	20	22	23	21	21	191		0	0%	1	5%	(1)	(3%)

Pre-COVID = Jan 1 to Mar 13
In-COVID = Mar 14 to Sep 30

ICE Air Deportation Departure Cities YTD 2020

	Deportation Departure Cities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Year to Date	% of Flights	Current Month H/(L) Pr Mth	Current Month % H/(L) Pr Mth	Current Month H/(L) Pre-COVID Mth Avg	Current Month % H/(L) Pre-COVID Mth Avg	Current Month H/(L) In-COVID Mth Avg	Current Month % H/(L) In-COVID Mth Avg
1	Brownsville, TX	23	27	20	13	13	13	18	21	17	165	23%	(4)	(19%)	(9)	(34%)	1	9%
2	Alexandria, LA	18	17	13	13	14	18	22	11	24	150	21%	13	118%	6	36%	8	47%
3	El Paso, TX	9	10	11	5	3	5	11	14	11	79	11%	(3)	(21%)	1	6%	3	35%
4	Phoenix, AZ	15	18	8	0	4	10	4	2	6	67	9%	4	200%	(9)	(61%)	2	34%
5	Houston, TX	7	9	8	6	7	3	1	0	3	44	6%	3	n/a	(5)	(63%)	(1)	(19%)
6	Laredo, TX	6	4	4	1	2	1	6	6	10	40	6%	4	67%	5	92%	6	141%
7	San Diego, CA	0	0	5	0	4	6	5	5	12	37	5%	7	140%	10	650%	7	136%
8	Miami, FL	4	5	8	2	0	3	3	1	2	28	4%	1	100%	(3)	(58%)	(0)	(19%)
9	Dallas, TX	5	3	4	0	2	2	5	4	1	26	4%	(3)	(75%)	(3)	(77%)	(1)	(57%)
10	San Antonio, TX	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	16	2%	0	0%	1	150%	(0)	(7%)
11	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	0	1	0	0	3	2	3	2	2	13	2%	0	0%	2	400%	0	8%
12	San Juan, Puerto Rico	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	1	1	9	1%	0	0%	1	n/a	(0)	(28%)
13	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	1%	0	n/a	(2)	(100%)	(0)	(100%)
14	Guatemala City, Guatemala	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5	1%	2	200%	3	650%	2	388%
15	Ecuador	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1%	0	n/a	(2)	(100%)	0	n/a
16	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1%	0	n/a	(2)	(100%)	0	n/a
17	Harlingen/San Benito, TX	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	0%	0	n/a	0	n/a	(0)	(100%)
18	Manaus, Brazil	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0%	0	n/a	0	n/a	(0)	(100%)
19	Other	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	7	1%	2	n/a	2	400%	1	117%
20	**Total**	**91**	**100**	**91**	**47**	**61**	**68**	**82**	**70**	**96**	**706**	**100%**	**26**	**37%**	**(4)**	**(4%)**	**26**	**37%**
21	# Week Days (non-Holiday)	21	19	22	22	20	22	23	21	21	191		0	0%	1	5%	(1)	(3%)

Pre-COVID = Jan 1 to Mar 13
In-COVID = Mar 14 to Sep 30

ICE Air Flights: Pre-COVID and In-COVID

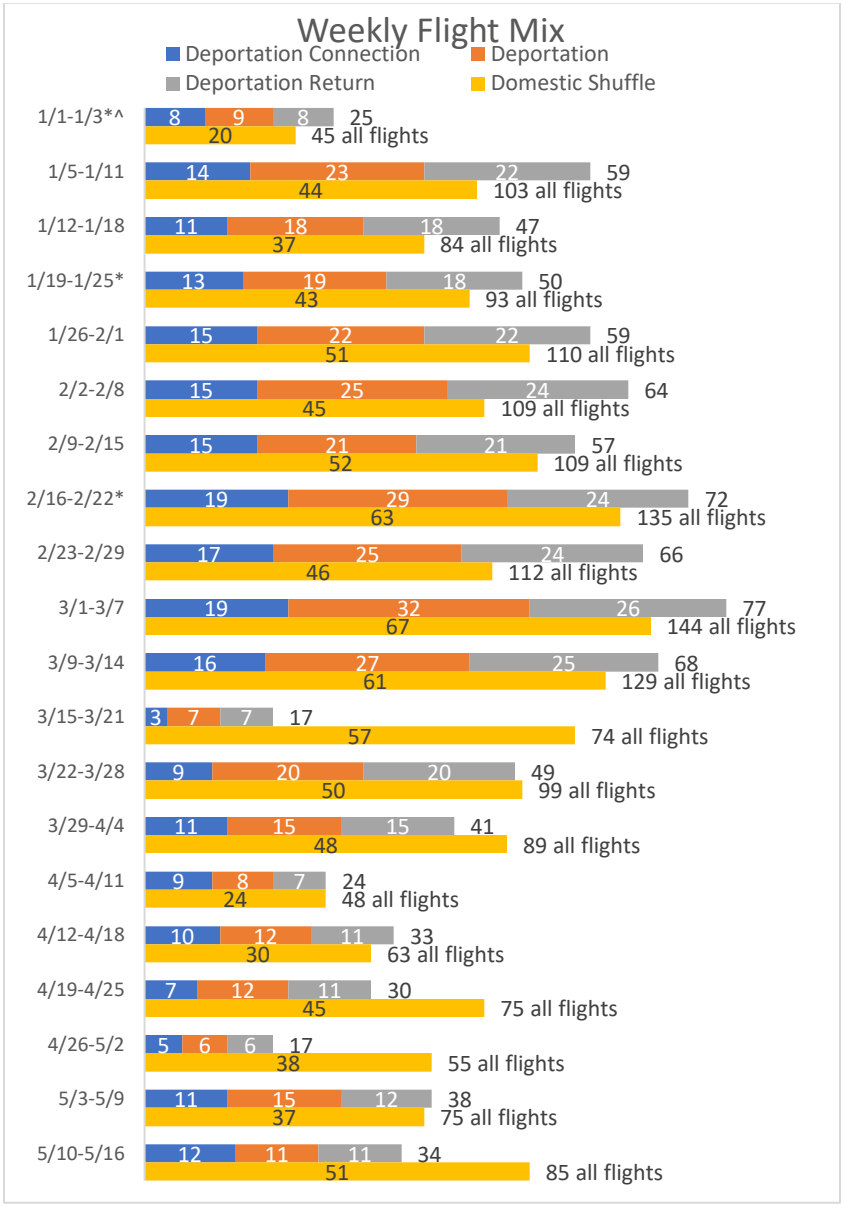
	Flight Category	Total ICE Air Pre-COVID	Total ICE Air In-COVID	Total ICE Air Total
1	Deportation	250	456	**706**
2	Deportation Connection	162	328	**490**
3	Total Outbound Deportation	412	784	**1,196**
4	Deportation Return	232	440	**672**
5	Total Deportation Related	644	1,224	**1,868**
6	Domestic Shuffle	528	1,219	**1,747**
7	**Total Flights**	**1,172**	**2,443**	**3,615**
8	**Total Domestic** (Deport Connect + Shuffle)	**690**	**1,547**	**2,237**
9	# Week Days (non-Holiday)	50	141	**191**

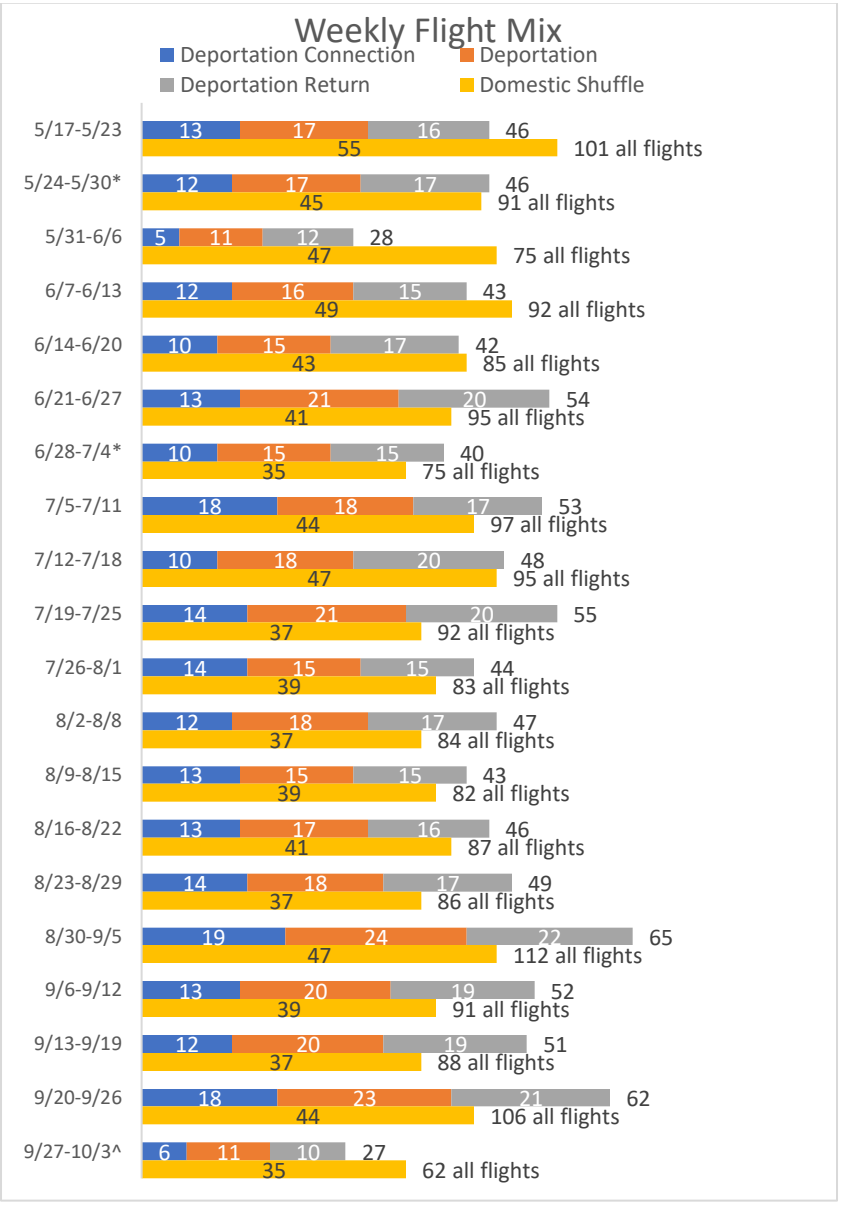
	Deportation Destination Cities	Pre-COVID	In-COVID	Total
1	Guatemala City, Guatemala	108	84	**192**
2	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	63	114	**177**
3	San Salvador, El Salvador	31	49	**80**
4	Mexico City, Mexico	0	47	**47**
5	Guadalajara, Mexico	13	32	**45**
6	Ecuador	13	16	**29**
7	Villahermosa, Mexico	0	25	**25**
8	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	5	15	**20**
9	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	5	10	**15**
10	Managua, Nicaragua	4	9	**13**
11	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	4	7	**11**
12	Morelia, Mexico	0	10	**10**
13	Bogota, Colombia	2	7	**9**
14	Kingston, Jamaica	2	6	**8**
15	Queretaro, Mexico	0	8	**8**
16	Puebla, Mexico	0	6	**6**
17	Manaus, Brazil	0	3	**3**
18	Callao, Peru	0	2	**2**
19	Belize City, Belize	0	1	**1**
20	Other	0	6	**6**
21	**Total**	**250**	**456**	**706**
22	Mexico Total	13	128	**141**
23	# Week Days (non-Holiday)	50	141	**191**

	Deportation Departure Cities	Pre-COVID	In-COVID	Total
1	Brownsville, TX	64	101	**165**
2	Alexandria, LA	44	106	**150**
3	El Paso, TX	26	53	**79**
4	Phoenix, AZ	38	29	**67**
5	Houston, TX	20	24	**44**
6	Laredo, TX	13	27	**40**
7	San Diego, CA	4	33	**37**
8	Miami, FL	12	16	**28**
9	Dallas, TX	11	15	**26**
10	San Antonio, TX	2	14	**16**
11	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	1	12	**13**
12	San Juan, Puerto Rico	0	9	**9**
13	Port-au-Prince, Haiti	5	2	**7**
14	Guatemala City, Guatemala	1	4	**5**
15	Ecuador	4	0	**4**
16	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	4	0	**4**
17	Harlingen/San Benito, TX	0	3	**3**
19	Other	1	6	**7**
20	**Total**	**250**	**456**	**706**
21	# Week Days (non-Holiday)	50	141	**191**

Pre-COVID = Jan 1 to Mar 13
In-COVID = Mar 14 to Sep 30

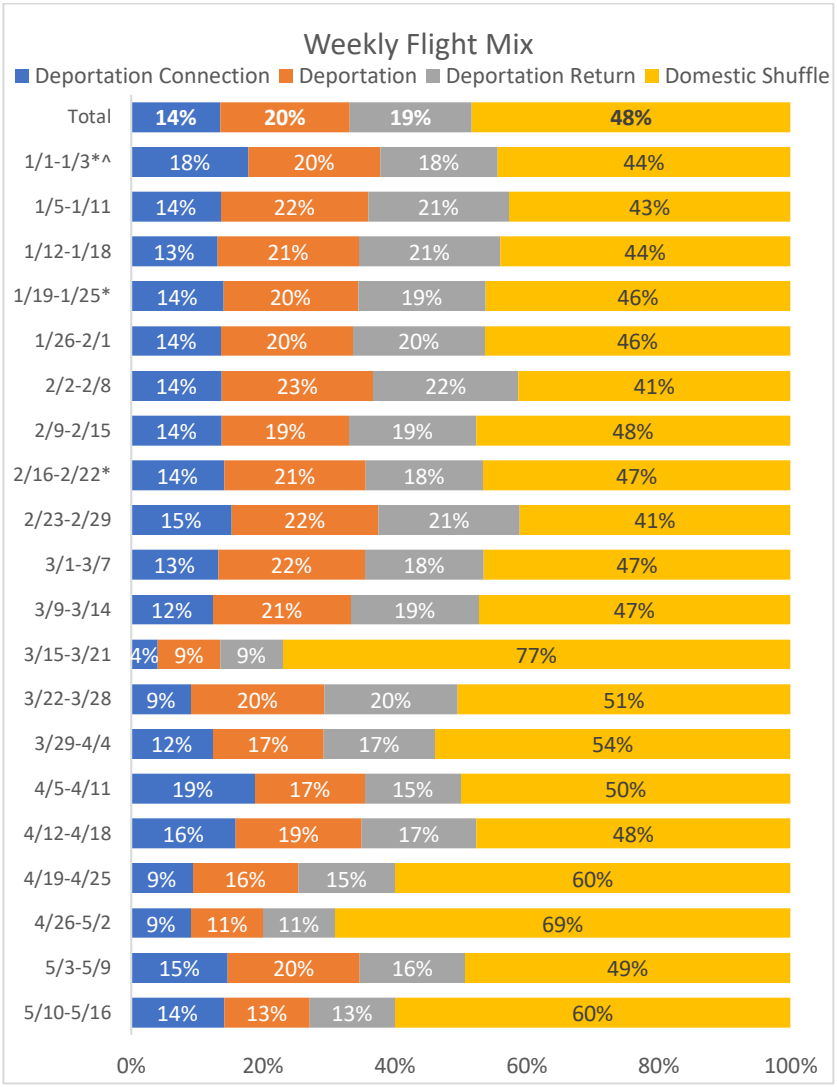
ICE Air Weekly Flight Mix -

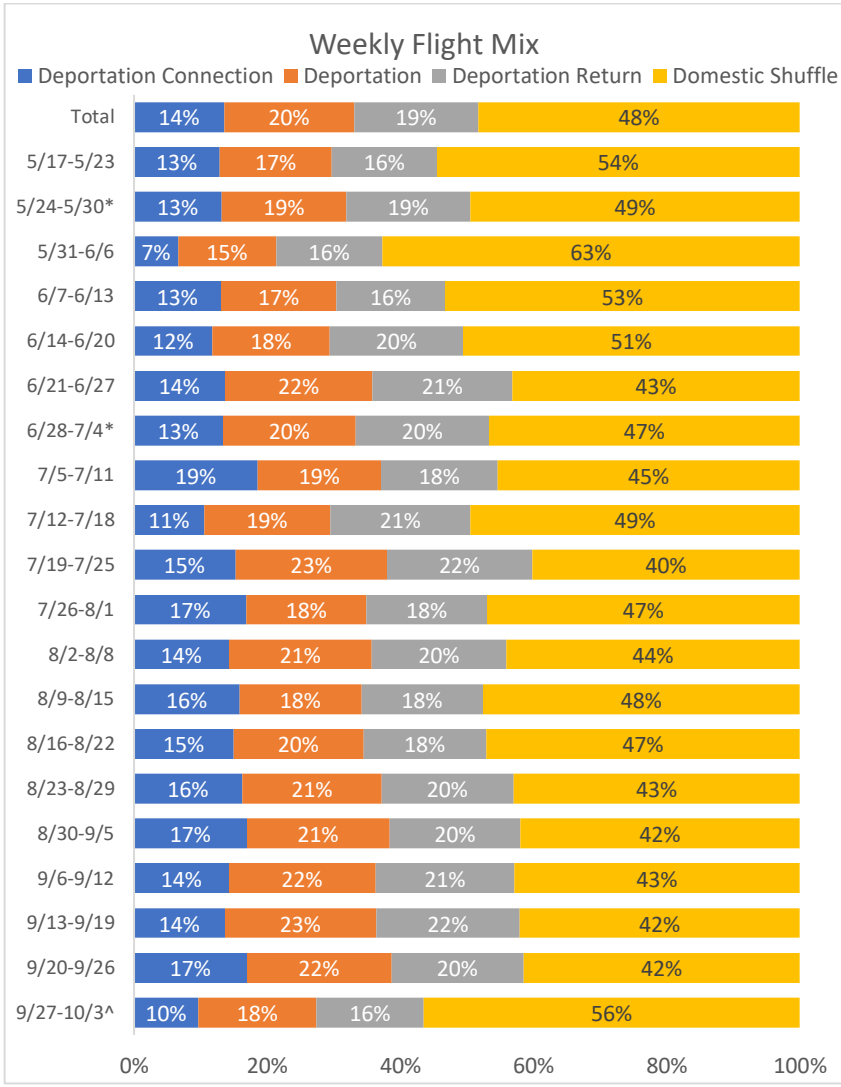




^ short week
* Holiday

Ice Air Weekly Flight Mix - %



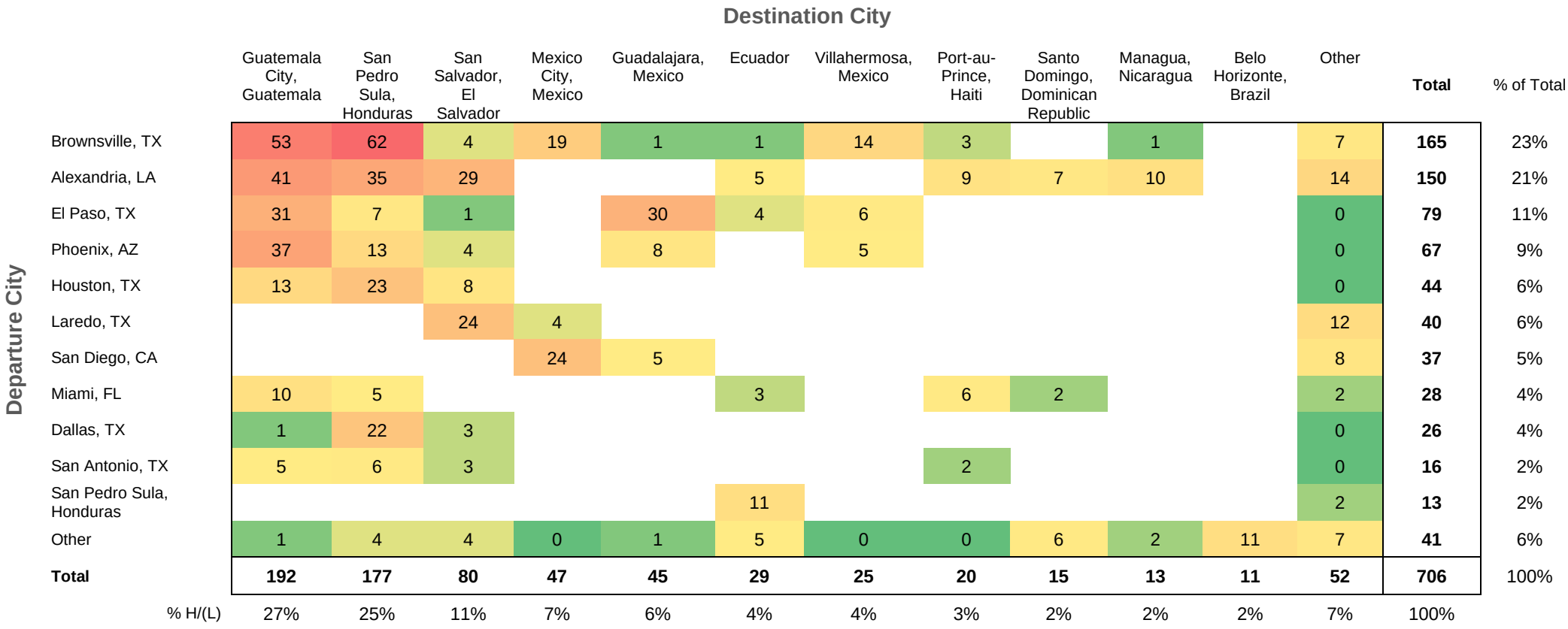


^ short week
* Holiday

ICE Air Domestic YTD 2020

Departure City	Alexandria, LA	Brownsville, TX	Phoenix, AZ	El Paso, TX	Columbus, GA	Miami, FL	San Diego, CA	Laredo, TX	San Antonio, TX	Houston, TX	Richmond, VA	Other	**Total**	% of Total
Alexandria, LA		138	33	9	9	31		3	9	12	1	142	**387**	17%
Brownsville, TX	102		13	18	11	38	1	17	39	7		93	**339**	15%
Phoenix, AZ	36	13	1	80	1	2	51	1	2	1	1	100	**289**	13%
San Antonio, TX	37	73	4	5	22	3	5	20		5		12	**186**	8%
Miami, FL	23	13	8		68		1		4	3	1	6	**127**	6%
Columbus, GA	41	34				13			2	20		7	**117**	5%
El Paso, TX	19	6	45		1	3				1		9	**84**	4%
San Diego, CA			40	5		5				1		5	**56**	3%
Richmond, VA	39					1			1			1	**42**	2%
Omaha, NE		4										37	**41**	2%
Harrisburg, PA	5	34										2	**41**	2%
Other	97	53	27	40	4	9	33	35	9	4	39	178	**528**	24%
Total	**399**	**368**	**171**	**157**	**116**	**105**	**91**	**76**	**66**	**54**	**42**	**592**	**2,237**	100%
% of Total	18%	16%	8%	7%	5%	5%	4%	3%	3%	2%	2%	26%	100%	

ICE Air Deportation YTD 2020



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	53	62	4	19	1	1	14	3		1		7	**165**	23%
Alexandria, LA	41	35	29			5		9	7	10		14	**150**	21%
El Paso, TX	31	7	1		30	4	6					0	**79**	11%
Phoenix, AZ	37	13	4		8		5					0	**67**	9%
Houston, TX	13	23	8									0	**44**	6%
Laredo, TX			24	4								12	**40**	6%
San Diego, CA				24	5							8	**37**	5%
Miami, FL	10	5				3		6	2			2	**28**	4%
Dallas, TX	1	22	3									0	**26**	4%
San Antonio, TX	5	6	3					2				0	**16**	2%
San Pedro Sula, Honduras						11						2	**13**	2%
Other	1	4	4	0	1	5	0	0	6	2	11	7	**41**	6%
Total	**192**	**177**	**80**	**47**	**45**	**29**	**25**	**20**	**15**	**13**	**11**	**52**	**706**	100%
% H/(L)	27%	25%	11%	7%	6%	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	7%	100%	