



## **Preliminary Report: Memphis International Airport is world's top cargo airport**

Memphis International Airport (MEM) has regained its status as the world's busiest cargo airport, according to preliminary 2020 world airport traffic rankings released by Airports Council International (ACI). The last time MEM held the top spot in the cargo rankings was 2009.

More than 4.61 million metric tonnes of cargo were handled at MEM in 2020, an increase of 6.7% compared to 2019. MEM is the home to the FedEx Express World

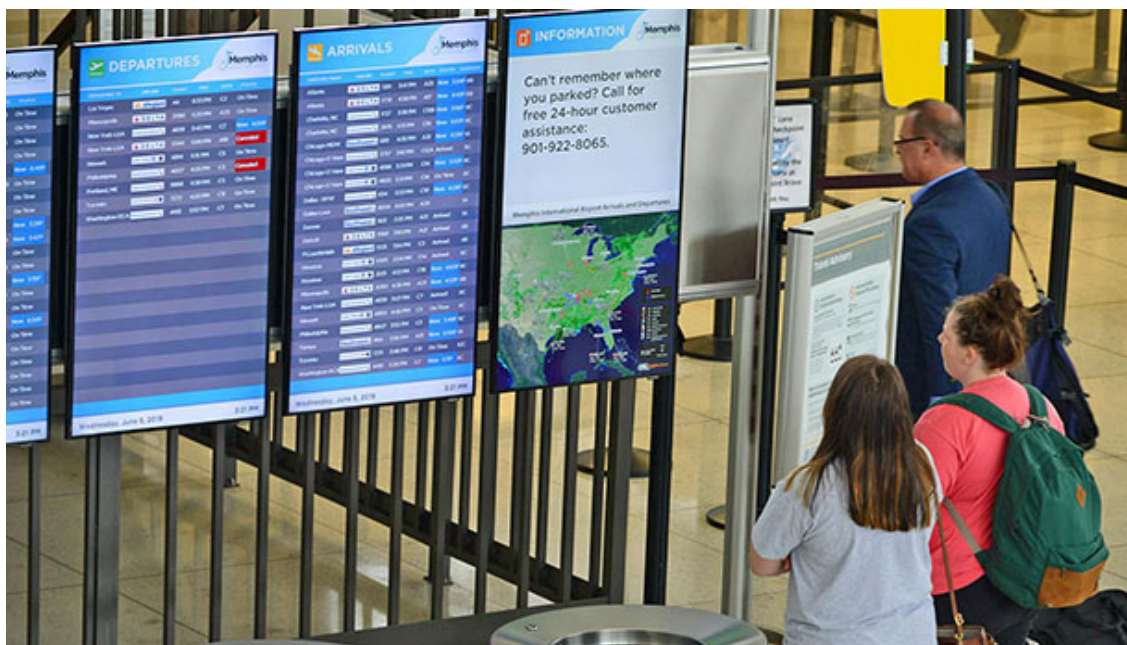
Hub, which is responsible for about 99% of the overall cargo handled at MEM and features about 450 combined arrivals and departures per day.

While the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically reduced passenger traffic across the world, the cargo industry experienced growth in many locations, including MEM.

The ACI preliminary airport cargo rankings can be found [here](#). ACI's news release about the preliminary rankings can be found [here](#).

"We take pride in our ranking in the air cargo industry, which serves as a positive reminder of the importance of FedEx and e-commerce to the Mid-South's economy," said Pace Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority. "It also illustrates the crucial role cargo has served during the pandemic. We are working diligently to facilitate continued growth by FedEx and the ongoing recovery of our passenger traffic."

[Read Full News Release](#)



## April checkpoint numbers reflect gradual return of passenger activity

April checkpoint statistics from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) reflect continued rebound of passenger traffic at MEM. A total of 143,166 passengers and employees passed through the checkpoint in April making it the busiest month at MEM since February 2020. Checkpoint traffic in April was up 3.2% compared to March.

The effects of the pandemic are still evident. The April 2021 throughput was down 30.2% compared to April 2019.

May projects to be another month of growth as schools begin to dismiss and summer travel begins. Checkpoint throughput for the week of April 25-May 1 was 33,987, MEM's busiest week since March 2020. While this number represented a decrease of 29.1% compared to the same week in 2019, MEM continues to outpace the national average, which was down by 40.9% for the week.

Airlines continue to add flights and frequencies to accommodate summer travel. For a list of all destinations served by MEM airlines, visit <https://flymemphis.com/nonstop-destinations/>.

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## **MSCAA mourns the passing of former board chairman Arnold Perl**

Arnold Perl, who served on the MSCAA Board of Commissioners from 1983-2012, passed away at the age of 81 on Tuesday, May 4. Perl was chairman of the MSCAA board for 16 years, and during his tenure oversaw many pivotal projects and milestones at MEM, including:

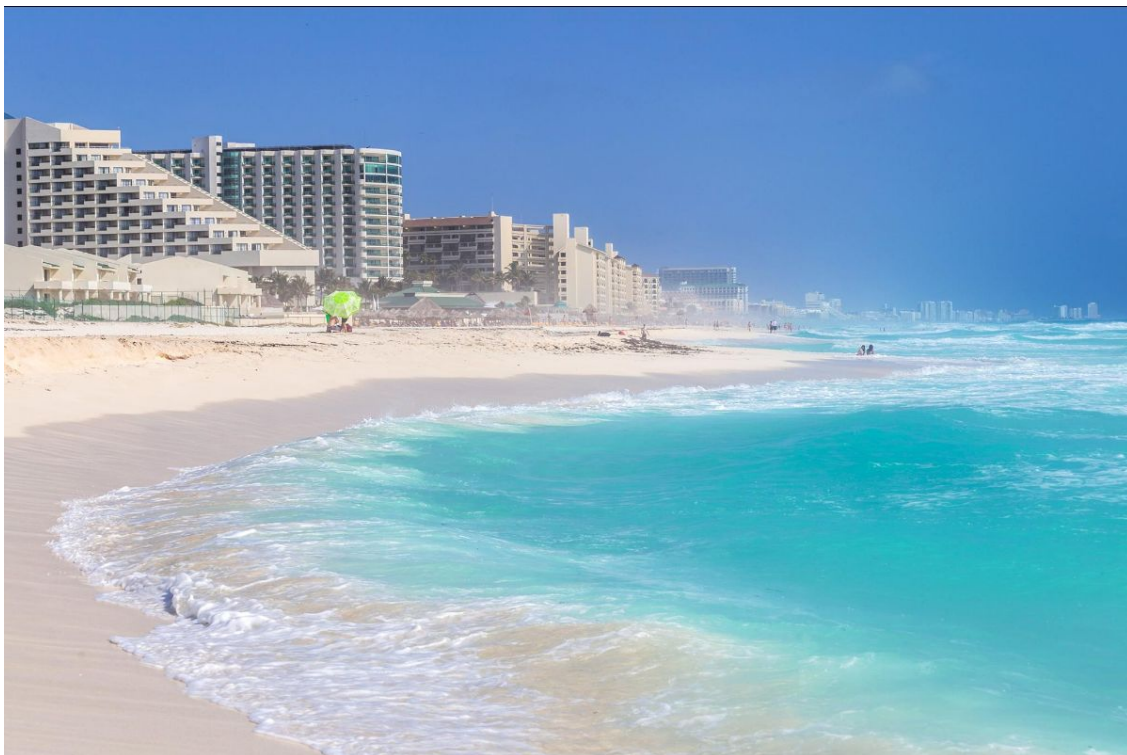
- 1995: International arrivals facility opens, inaugural Memphis-Amsterdam flight launches
- 1996: 3<sup>rd</sup> parallel north/south runway opens
- 2000: 11,100 foot world runway opens (accommodated fully loaded, wide-bodied jets that carry up to 25 percent greater maximum payloads and fly nonstop to points halfway around the globe.)
- 2000: Regional jet facility on Concourse A opens
- 2004: Tennessee Air National Guard (TANG) facility opens
- 2010: TSA checkpoint redesign completed

- 2010: New FAA tower opens
- 2011: 7 level parking garage opens

Scott Brockman, President and CEO of MSCAA, said "We at Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority are deeply saddened by the news of Arnold Perl's passing. Arnold served the Memphis community as a dedicated, passionate MSCAA board member for more than 30 years, and was chairman for more than half of that tenure. His contributions helped to build Memphis International Airport into one of the top airports in the world, and his positive impact is still evident today."

Current MSCAA Board Chairman Pace Cooper said, "Arnold's leadership inspired me and everyone involved in our airport, an enterprise that Arnold felt was a noble and central calling for our city and region."

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## **Vacation Express to resume seasonal nonstop Memphis-Cancun service on May 23**

Vacation Express will resume its summer nonstop weekly service between Memphis International Airport (MEM) and Cancun International Airport (CUN) departing every Sunday starting May 23, 2021 for six-night rotations.

The flights will allow passengers to enjoy six-night vacation packages at a variety of all-inclusive and boutique resorts in Cancun, Riviera Maya and the Costa Mujeres area. The weekly flight to Cancun will be operated by Volaris and will feature 180-seat Airbus 319/320 aircraft.

"The pandemic has greatly impacted the aviation industry, especially as it relates to

international air service,” said Pace Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority. “The return of Vacation Express is a huge step forward in our ongoing efforts to restore popular options for our passengers.”

“There has never been a better time to plan for summer travel to Cancun than now. Resorts are eager for the return of travelers and offering enticing deals such as prices as low as \$1699 for a family of four. That price includes round-trip, non-stop airfare on Vacation Express exclusive, non-stop flights and a stay at an all-inclusive resort for two adults and two children. With peak travel dates still available and demand for travel increasing every day, it’s important for travelers to take advantage of this market!” said Michele Olson, Director of Marketing for Vacation Express.

[Read Full News Release](#)



## **American Airlines to launch seasonal nonstop Memphis-Orlando service June 5**

American Airlines has announced that it will launch seasonal weekly nonstop service between Memphis International Airport (MEM) and Orlando International Airport (MCO) starting June 5, 2021. The airline will utilize a 76-seat Embraer 175 aircraft for the route, which will operate on Saturdays through September 4. Tickets will go on sale Monday, April 19 at [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com).

With the addition of Orlando, American Airlines will offer service between Memphis and seven destinations, including Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, Phoenix, and Washington, D.C.

"American Airlines' seasonal service to Orlando is sure to be a welcome addition to MEM's summer travelers," said Pace Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority. "We hope to continue this momentum as we continue to work diligently to restore air service affected by the pandemic."

"We are thrilled to offer new nonstop service between Memphis and Orlando in time for summer, giving local travelers the opportunity to experience the wonder of Orlando and its endless outdoor adventures," said Brian Znotins, American Airlines Vice President of Network Planning. "We look forward to welcoming more Memphis travelers to fly with us and further connecting them to our global network."

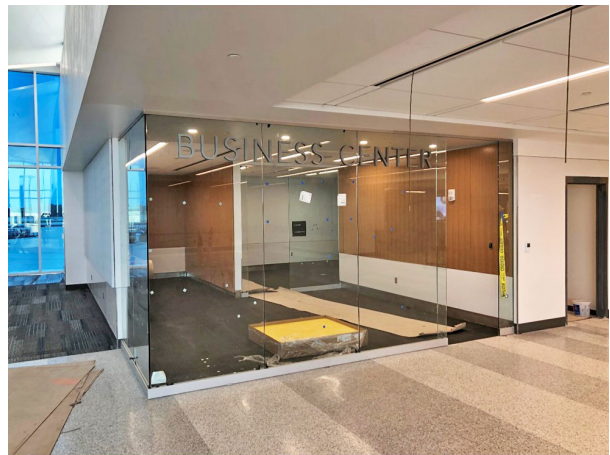
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## **Latest modernization photos offer look at the future of the MEM travel experience**

Major progress on the modernization of the B concourse continues as we get closer to the reopening. The new concourse will reinvent the travel experience at MEM with wider walkways, higher ceilings, and technological improvements such as seats with wireless phone charging capabilities.

The latest photo gallery is available on the [Modernization Images](#) page of the redesigned flymemphis.com.





# Homeland Security

## DHS Announces Extension of REAL ID Full Enforcement Deadline

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas announced the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has extended the REAL ID full enforcement date by 19 months, from October 1, 2021 to May 3, 2023, due to circumstances resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has significantly impacted states' ability to issue REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards, with many driver's licensing agencies still operating at limited capacity. DHS will publish an interim final rule in the coming days to effectuate this enforcement date change.



"Protecting the health, safety, and security of our communities is our top priority," said Secretary Mayorkas. "As our country continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, extending the REAL ID full enforcement deadline will give states needed time to reopen their driver's licensing operations and ensure their residents can obtain a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card."

Beginning May 3, 2023, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or another TSA-acceptable form of identification at airport security checkpoints for domestic air travel.

[Read Full News Release](#)



# Transportation Security Administration

## TSA extends face mask requirement at airports and throughout the transportation network

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is extending the face mask requirement for individuals across all transportation networks throughout the United States, including at airports, onboard commercial aircraft, on over-the-road buses, and on commuter bus and rail systems through September 13.

TSA's initial face mask requirement went into effect on February 1 with an expiration date of May 11.

"The federal mask requirement throughout the transportation system seeks to minimize the spread of COVID-19 on public transportation," said Darby LaJoye, the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the TSA Administrator. "Right now, about half of all adults have at least one vaccination shot and masks remain an important tool in defeating this pandemic. We will continue to work closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to evaluate the need for these directives and recognize the significant level of compliance thus far."

The CDC recently announced that fully vaccinated travelers with an FDA-authorized vaccine can travel safely within the U.S., but the CDC guidelines still require individuals to wear a face mask, socially distance, and wash their hands or use hand sanitizer. The extension of the face mask requirement is consistent with this most recent CDC guidance. TSA encourages all commuters, and airline and bus travelers, including people considering international travel, to stay up to date with any changes to these requirements by checking the [TSA](#) and [CDC websites](#) prior to taking their trip.



[Read Full News Release](#)

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

## CDC Issues Updated Guidance on Travel for Fully Vaccinated People

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its travel guidance for fully vaccinated people to reflect the latest evidence and science. Given [recent studies](#) evaluating the real-world effects of vaccination, CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people can travel at low risk to themselves. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last recommended dose of vaccine.

Fully vaccinated people can travel within the United States and do not need COVID-19 testing or post-travel self-quarantine as long as they continue to take COVID-19 precautions while traveling – wearing a mask, avoiding crowds, socially distancing, and washing hands frequently.

“With millions of Americans getting vaccinated every day, it is important to update the public on the latest science about what fully vaccinated people can do safely, now including guidance on safe travel,” said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. “We continue to encourage every American to get vaccinated as soon as it’s their turn, so we can begin to safely take steps back to our everyday lives. Vaccines can help us return to the things we love about life, so we encourage every American to get vaccinated as soon as they have the opportunity.”

[Read Full CDC News Release](#)

### MEM and COVID-19 (Coronavirus):

Learn more at:

[www.flymemphis.com/covid-19](http://www.flymemphis.com/covid-19)



## Keeping the Public Informed

We have created and continue to update a page on our website to keep the public informed of the steps being taken at MEM in response to COVID-19. Screens like the graphic above are currently in rotation in baggage claim and on the jumbotrons.

Visit the page here, and pass along to any of your contacts who may ask what the airport is doing: <https://flymemphis.com/covid-19>

[Read More](#)



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