



LARGE HUB AIRPORTS LEAD THE WAY IN FLORIDA

When the average person thinks about an airport, chances are they will imagine a big, multi-runway facility with dozens of widebody jets, halls filled with ticket counters, and terminals packed with shops and restaurants. These airports are called commercial service airports and they are usually how the general public interacts with the aviation industry. The Federal Aviation Administration classifies the biggest of the commercial service airports as “large hubs.” Large hub airports are airports which account for one percent or more of all passenger enplanements in the United States. There are only 30 of these types of airport in the entire country, but Florida is home to four of them. In order of total enplaning passengers in 2017, those airports are Orlando International Airport, Miami International Airport, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, and Tampa International Airport. According to a 2014 study commissioned by the Florida Department of Transportation, these four large hub airports alone are home to more than 50 percent of Florida’s 1.3 million airport-related jobs. Additionally, they accommodate about 80 percent of Florida’s 81 million annual passengers, showing just how important large hubs are to aviation in Florida.



Orlando International Airport - Direct to Disney World

Orlando International Airport (MCO) is the busiest airport in Florida in terms of passenger traffic, having hosted about 21.6 million enplaning passengers in 2017. Its location near some of the country’s most popular tourist destinations, such as Disney World and Universal Studios, ensures that the airport has a steady supply of passengers year round. In fact, 75 percent of all passengers at MCO are visitors to Florida. Disney World alone averages 52.5 million visitors per year and many of these guests travel through MCO to reach their destination. The airport is also home to almost 16,000 on-airport jobs. When accounting for the total economic impact of MCO, the airport supports approximately 270,000 direct and indirect jobs.



Miami International - Florida’s Gateway to the World

The second busiest airport in Florida for passenger enplanements is Miami International Airport (MIA); however, Miami is first when it comes to international flights. Among Florida airports, MIA has the largest share of international travel: almost 50 percent of its passengers were on international flights in 2017. The airport offers non-stop flights to 52 destinations in Central and South America, as well as 38 destinations in the Caribbean, proving that MIA is an important gateway to Florida as well as the rest of the United States. The airport provides almost 43,000 on-airport jobs, while its total economic impact supports more than 260,000 direct and indirect jobs in the Miami region.





Fort Lauderdale/ Hollywood International Airport - Florida's Fastest Growing Large Hub

In 2017, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport (FLL) was the third busiest airport in Florida, serving 15.8 million passengers. FLL was Florida's fastest growing large hub airport in 2017, especially for international travel, which has grown by double digits in recent years at the airport. International passengers accounted for 18.6 percent of all passengers at FLL in 2017. According to the most recent analysis, FLL supports almost 13,500 direct jobs. When indirect employment is included, that number grows to almost 140,000.

Tampa International Airport - A Domestic Destination

While other large hub airports in Florida support a significant amount of international passengers, Tampa International Airport (TPA) is just as important for domestic travelers. The airport hosted about 9.5 million passenger enplanements in 2017, with almost 91 percent of those passengers traveling domestically. Additionally, about 94 percent of passengers use TPA as the starting or ending point of their trip, making the airport a true gateway to Florida's West Coast. A recent study has shown that TPA provides about 10,000 on-airport jobs, while the airport supports an additionally 80,000 direct and indirect jobs in the Tampa area.

BY THE NUMBERS

Orlando International Airport

- 21.6 million enplanements in 2017
- 16,000 on-airport jobs
- 270,000 direct and indirect jobs

Tampa International Airport

- 9.5 million enplanements in 2017
- 5,300 on-airport jobs
- 80,000 direct and indirect jobs

Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport

- 15.8 million enplanements in 2017
- 11,000 on-airport jobs
- 140,000 direct and indirect jobs

Miami International Airport

- 20.7 million enplanements in 2017
- 43,000 on-airport jobs
- 260,000 direct and indirect jobs



Overview

With more large hub commercial service airports than any other state, Florida is truly a national leader in commercial aviation. Altogether, these large hubs provide Floridians with hundreds of thousands of jobs, while the numerous out-of-state visitors that pass through their doors ensure that Florida's economy continues to grow.

Image Sources: Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, Michael Curi