



In the Media

FAA Cuts Unscheduled Ops at LaGuardia

Aviation Daily reports the FAA is cutting the number of unscheduled operations at LaGuardia from six per hour to three Aug. 28. The agency filed its rule in the Federal Register earlier this week. The change amends the 2006 rule limiting scheduled operations at LaGuardia. The amendment to the rule does not affect scheduled operations, the FAA says. The FAA is capping scheduled and unscheduled operations at JFK and Newark as part of its continuing effort to combat congestion in the New York airspace. The agency says it is concerned that limiting operations at those airports may mean operators shifting unscheduled flights to LaGuardia. The rule change does not affect helicopter or emergency flights.

Memphis Gets \$5.5 Million FAA Grant

The *Memphis Business Journal* reports the FAA announced Thursday a \$5.5 million grant for improvements at Memphis International Airport. The grant will help complete the second phase of construction on the cargo apron and help the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority update its master plan. The grant will also reimburse the airport for construction of the new airplane taxiway.

FAA Fines United for Violations

The *Associated Press* reports the FAA is proposing an \$18,000 civil penalty against United Airlines for two maintenance violations the agency said occurred before a United jet skidded off a runway and ended up in three feet of snow in February. A Feb. 25 flight with 125 people aboard slid off the runway after landing in Jackson Hole, Wyo. The National Transportation Safety Board said in March that the A320 at Jackson Hole and another United A320 that also skidded off a runway had crossed wiring in their main landing gear. It is believed that caused the wheels to lock. United checked all its A320s and found a third with the wiring problem. FAA documents alleged two violations by United.

Two U.S. Carriers Stop Guatemala Flights

Aviation Daily reports that due to record-high fuel costs and declining market demand, both United and US Airways are closing down operations to Guatemala. Earlier this year, similar action was taken by U.S. airline ATA and Mexico's Interjet and Aeromexico.

Read the full story:

employees.faa.gov/news/daily_media

Operation Metrics

Source: Aviation System Performance Metrics

System	Actuals Oct. 1 - Aug. 21	Performance Limit Oct. 1 - Aug. 21	Change	Performance Oct. 1 - Aug. 21	Actuals Aug. 21
Runway Incursions*	21	27	(6)	✓	0
Operational Errors*	326	285	41	✗	0

*Category A & B

OEP 35 Airports	Actuals Oct. 1 - Aug. 21	Minimum Performance Goal	Change	Performance Oct. 1 - Aug. 21	Actuals Aug. 21	Performance Aug. 21
Airport Average Daily Capacity	103,158	101,868	1,290	✓	103,422	✓
System Airport Efficiency Rate	94.47%	95.25%	(0.78)	✗	93.94%	✗
Adjusted Operational Availability	99.83%	99.70%	0.13	✓	99.81%	✓

OEP 35 Airports	Actuals Oct. 1 - Aug. 21	Actuals Aug. 21
On Time Gate Arrivals	73.58%	79.55%

Operational Update

In *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, the character Arthur Dent says "This must be Thursday. I never could get the hang of Thursdays." A few minutes later the planet Earth is destroyed. While yesterday was not quite that bad, it was not an easy day in the NAS, with 1,585 delays and a major equipment problem.

IAH led the delay list with more Texas-size thunderstorms delaying 487 planes. August in New York couldn't be more pleasant obviously, with volume at LGA, N90, EWR and JFK being blamed for 214, 139, 123 and 121 delays respectively. (However, these figures are still preliminary because the effects of a NADIN outage are still being counted). GDPs were needed for JFK and LGA. Operations at EWR were up 11 percent from the average Thursday of 2007. However, yesterday's EWR operations went more smoothly than on Wednesday, our command folks reported, with good use of secondary runway. CLT had compacted demand for 114 delays, while ATL joined the usual low ceiling culprit SFO for 83 and 51 delays respectively to cloud their days. Traffic was down in Florida as Fay rained on operations, although ZMA still managed 32 delays because of thunderstorms. Fay has dumped more than 30 inches of rain in some places, but has had little impact on equipment.

The aforementioned NADIN failure last evening caused more than 100 delays after flight plans were rejected. The outage is currently blamed for 134 departure delays but this figure could climb. The legacy NADIN in Atlanta crashed. Salt Lake City took over but had problems with the high queue level. Recent ICAO changes to how flight plans are filed complicated the situation. Atlanta assumed their load share at 7:30 p.m. But further problems ensued when the interface to New York, Cleveland and Memphis Centers failed. In addition, a problem occurred between the Cleveland Center and the Canadian interface. These issues were eventually resolved later in the evening. The NADIN is currently working as normal.

— Prepared by the ATO Internal Communications Staff

System Outlook

Tropical Storm Fay has started to move west over Northern Florida. South wind and rain at Chicago O'Hare may result in a ground delay program. Low ceilings at San Francisco will likely result in a ground delay program. Optimum conditions are expected for the NY area, however, volume may be a concern.