

REPORT: AIRLINES: NORTH AMERICA

What you need to know

February 2023

This report presents a roundup of what's been happening to North America's airlines over the last month.

Major airlines

Air Canada

Doubling in Q4 passenger revenue helps cut operating losses

Air Canada increased fourth quarter 2022 revenue by **71%** year-over-year to C\$4.68 billion (US\$3.48 billion), as passenger revenue almost doubled to C\$4.06 billion. The airline managed to reduce its operating loss from 2021's C\$503 million to just C\$28 million. It also returned a net profit of C\$168 million, its first positive quarterly result since 2019.

United partnership expanded

The joint business will this summer include a new United-operated service between Washington Dulles and Calgary and a new Air Canada service from Vancouver to the same U.S. airport, both launching in the first week of **June**.

Delta Air Lines

New Dallas routes this summer

On **June 5**, Delta will launch two domestic routes from Dallas Love Field airport, offering **twice-weekly** services to both Los Angeles and New York LaGuardia. It will also increase frequency from Love Field to Atlanta to **five daily** flights.

New South American routes from JFK

Delta will launch new seasonal services from New York JFK to Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. **Daily** flights to Buenos Aires will start on **October 28**, joining a year-round service operated from Atlanta. Delta will launch **daily** flights to Rio de Janeiro on **December 16**.

Low-cost carriers

Allegiant Air

Eight new domestic routes planned for May/June

During May and June, Las Vegas-based leisure carrier Allegiant Air plans to launch eight new domestic routes. While many will be summer season only services, it will also launch **twice-weekly** year-round flights from Denver to Allentown, from Phoenix to Asheville, from Las Vegas to Lexington and from Chicago Midway to Provo in Utah.

Q4 profits more than double

The Las Vegas-based leisure carrier generated operating revenues of \$611 million in the fourth quarter of 2022, representing a 23% year-over-year increase. It more than doubled operating profits from \$33 million to \$89 million.

Breeze Airways

Expansion continues

Breeze Airways will add Portland, Maine, to its network on May 17. Over the following two weeks, it will start twice-weekly flights to Charleston, Norfolk, Pittsburgh and Tampa. Breeze will also launch a number of other routes across the U.S. focused on eight cities:

- Hartford: Fort Myers, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Tampa
- Jacksonville: Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Louisville
- Los Angeles: New Orleans, Raleigh Durham
- Norfolk: Akron-Canton, Syracuse
- Pittsburgh: Jacksonville, Long Island-Islip, Orlando
- Providence: Fort Myers, Orlando, Sarasota-Bradenton
- Raleigh Durham: Louisville, Pittsburgh
- Richmond: Cincinnati, Long Island-Islip

Canada Jetlines

First Mexican route announced

Canada Jetlines, which launched operations in September 2022, plans to add its first route to Mexico in March. It will initially offer twice-weekly flights from Toronto Pearson International airport to Cancun.

Flair Airlines

Three new Winnipeg routes announced

During June, Canadian carrier Flair Airlines will launch twice-weekly services from Winnipeg to Kelowna, London (Ontario) and Victoria. It will also introduce extra flights on existing services to Toronto Pearson International airport, Calgary and Vancouver.

New Calgary-Mexico services

From November, Flair Airlines will launch two new Mexican routes from Calgary. It will offer six weekly flights to Puerto Vallarta and a weekly service to Los Cabos.

New Edmonton domestic routes

From June 15, Flair Airlines will start a new thrice-weekly domestic service from Edmonton to Kamloops. The two cities have been without direct air services since 2016.

Frontier Airlines

Profits return in Q4 2022

Frontier Airlines lifted revenue by 49% year-over-year to \$906 million in the final quarter of 2022. The figure was also 38% above the same quarter in 2019. The airline transformed 2021's \$86 million operating loss into a \$45 million profit in 2022's fourth quarter. It also reported a \$40 million net profit having been loss-making in 2021.

Seven new routes to Puerto Rico

Starting in [May](#), Frontier plans to start flights to Puerto Rico from seven new U.S. cities. It will offer [daily](#) flights to Carolina from Baltimore and from Denver via Dallas Fort Worth. It will also start six weekly flights from Chicago and four from Cleveland.

At the same time, Frontier will start flights to Mercedita International airport from Orlando to Rafael Hernandez International airport from Tampa and to Luis Munoz Marin International airport from Detroit.

From [May 25](#), Frontier will also start [thrice-weekly](#) service from Cancun, Mexico, to Puerto Rico's Luis Munoz Marin International airport.

JetBlue Airways

Fort Lauderdale expansion post-merger

Once it completes its proposed merger with Spirit Airlines, JetBlue plans to offer flights from Fort Lauderdale to 30 markets not currently served by either airline. It will also add frequencies in 30 other existing markets. It will start the process in [January 2024](#), with the start of flights to Tallahassee.

Southwest Airlines

Five new routes from Long Beach

Southwest has announced plans for five new domestic routes from Long Beach. [Daily](#) flights will start to Kansas City on [March 9](#), to Colorado Springs and El Paso on [July 11](#), and to Albuquerque on [September 5](#). [Weekly](#) flights to Orlando will start on [July 15](#).

Spirit Airlines

Losses widen in Q4

Spirit Airlines lifted its Q4 2022 revenue by [41%](#) year-over-year to \$1.4 billion, a figure that was also 43% higher than in 2019. However, its operating loss widened from \$62 million in 2021 to \$306 million.

Merger decision expected in March

Ted Christie, CEO of Spirit Airlines, expects the US Department of Justice to update on its antitrust review of the airlines proposed merger with JetBlue Airways by [mid-March](#). JetBlue CEO Robin Hayes believes the merger will be completed by the start of [2024](#).

Five new Puerto Rico routes

Spirit Airlines plans to launch five new routes to the U.S. from Puerto Rico. On [May 5](#), it will start [daily](#) flights from San Juan to Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and Detroit, with [thrice-weekly](#) flights to Hartford starting on [June 7](#).

Sun Country

Profits return in Q4

Sun Country increased fourth quarter 2022 revenue by [32%](#) year-over-year to \$227 million. Passenger revenue rose by [36%](#) to \$199 million. Operating profits increased by [48%](#) to \$15.1 million. After reporting a \$1.08 million net loss in 2021, Sun Country delivered a \$7.28 million net profit for the 2022 quarter.

Other airlines

Alaska Airlines

Three new routes join San Diego network

On [June 15](#), Alaska Airlines will add two new routes from San Diego. It will offer [daily](#) services to Washington DC and Eugene in Oregon, with the latter route operated by Embraer E175s. It will also start [daily](#) flights to Tampa from [October 5](#). These new routes will expand Alaska Airlines' network from San Diego to 35 non-stop destinations.

Hawaiian Airlines

Q4 loss reduced

Revenue at Hawaiian Airlines during the fourth quarter of 2022 climbed by [47%](#) year-over-year, rising from \$495 million to \$731 million. This was also [3%](#) higher than in the same quarter in 2019. The increase was driven by higher demand on flights to the U.S. mainland. Hawaiian Airlines managed to narrow its Q4 operating loss from \$71 million in 2021 to \$33 million.

Porter Airlines

New Toronto-Vancouver service launched

Canadian carrier Porter Airlines has launched 132-seat all-economy Embraer 195-E2 flights from Toronto Pearson airport to Vancouver. Initially operated [daily](#), flights will increase to [three](#) per day by [March 22](#).

New domestic route from Ottawa

On [May 17](#), Porter Airlines planned to start a new [daily](#) domestic service from Ottawa International airport to Charlottetown. It will use De Havilland Dash 8-400 turboprop aircraft on the route.

WestJet

Mid-year expansion planned

Canadian airline WestJet plans to launch 20 new domestic and transborder routes during May and June. The expansion will increase mainline service by 50% from Edmonton, 30% from Calgary and 10% from Vancouver. New transborder routes will connect to Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis, Nashville, Seattle and Washington Dulles airport.

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at February 28, 2023. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please email mike.eggleson@bcdtravel.co.uk to share your thoughts.