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In Transit

Trans-Atlantic Traffic Lanes Are Getting Busy

By MICHELLE HIGGINS

As the peak European travel season approaches, a number of major airlines are adding flights across the Atlantic.

Next month, Continental Airlines plans new flights from [Newark](#) to Cologne, [Germany](#); [Barcelona](#); and [Copenhagen](#), bringing the total of European cities it flies to from Newark to 26. It is also adding flights on existing Newark routes, including to [Edinburgh](#) and [Glasgow](#), and Manchester, [England](#).

With new service from [Atlanta](#) to Düsseldorf, Copenhagen, [Athens](#) and Edinburgh, among others, by summer, Delta will have more than 50 flights daily to 26 European cities. This summer, Lufthansa plans 227 flights a week from the [United States](#) to Germany, site of the World Cup, up from 214 last year.

Though the number of British Airways flights is only up slightly from last year, it is using bigger planes on certain European routes. On its three daily flights from [Boston](#) to [London](#), for example, it is replacing Boeing 777's with 747's, raising capacity about 8 percent.

In all, the number of departures to [Europe](#) for June, July and August is rising about 7 percent to 35,223, according to Back Aviation Solutions, an industry-consulting firm, with Delta offering more than any other carrier. The number of seats to Europe is up 5.7 percent.

Despite the added capacity, fares are higher than last year. The average roundtrip economy fare from the United States to Europe booked in early April for summer travel was \$898, up from \$882 in the same period last year, according to [Harrell Associates](#), an air-fare analysis firm. And with demand high, don't count on a major price drop.