

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Trade

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Racing



Saturday, 30 April 2022

UNITED AIRLINES' RETURN BRINGS MORE TOURISTS AND JOBS

The return of one of the world's largest airlines to Melbourne will bring more visitors, boost trade with the United States (U.S.) and create more than 500 local jobs, thanks to support from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery and Minister for Trade Martin Pakula today welcomed the decision by United Airlines to restart its direct services to Melbourne from San Francisco, beginning with three flights a week from June.

The flights will increase to a daily service by December, providing almost 200,000 new seats to and from Melbourne each year.

The extra flights are expected to boost the economy by \$54 million and create around 570 jobs in the aviation and tourism sectors.

San Francisco is United Airlines' primary hub for flights to Asia and Australia. The city is home to the country's tech sector, the world-famous Silicon Valley and serves as a gateway between the US and the world.

The U.S. is Victoria's second largest trading partner with two-way goods trade valued at \$13 billion in 2021 and its economy provides Victorian businesses with significant export opportunities.

United joins a growing list of major airlines expanding their international offering from Melbourne including Emirates, Etihad, Bamboo Airways and Qantas – which recently announced a new direct route from Dallas Fort Worth and expanded services from Los Angeles.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Industry Support and Recovery and Minister for Trade Martin Pakula

"We're backing more direct international flights to Melbourne because we know the critical role they play in supporting Victorian businesses and creating jobs."

"Having more direct flights to Victoria means it is even easier for visitors to come here and enjoy everything we are famous for – whether that's our major sporting events, food scene or cultural institutions."

Quotes attributable to United Airlines Senior Vice President of International Network and Alliances Patrick Quayle

"The fact that we retained a daily passenger service to Australia throughout the lowest points of the pandemic shows our commitment Australia."

"We are thrilled to resume our San Francisco to Melbourne service and see a bright future ahead for United, for Melbourne and for US-Australia travel."

Quote attributable to Melbourne Airport Chief of Aviation Lorie Argus

"We are thrilled to be welcoming United back. This is a huge vote of confidence in Melbourne because United's global footprint means it has a wide choice of potential cities to serve, and our proposition clearly stood out."

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