



# **Unclaimed Money at Airports in Fiscal Year 2020**

*April 23, 2021*

Fiscal Year 2021 Report to Congress



**Homeland  
Security**

*Transportation Security Administration*

# Message from the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Administrator

April 23, 2021

I am pleased to present the following report, “Unclaimed Money at Airports in Fiscal Year 2020,” which has been prepared by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

This report responds to a requirement in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-334). The report provides the amount of unclaimed money recovered from each airport and the total amount recovered during FY 2020, as well as an explanation of how unclaimed money is being used for civil aviation security.

Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

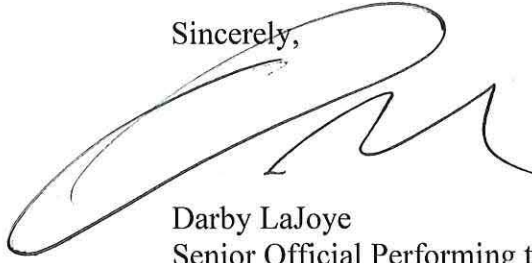
The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation



If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (571) 227-2801.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DL', with a large, sweeping initial stroke.

Darby LaJoye  
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Administrator

# Executive Summary

Congress has directed TSA to provide an annual accounting of the amount of unclaimed money recovered in total and at each individual airport. TSA also is directed to describe how that money is being used to provide civil aviation security. This report provides the amount of unclaimed money recovered during FY 2020.

In FY 2020, TSA carried over \$1,518,696 in prior-year resources and collected a total of \$517,978.74. The same year, TSA obligated and expended \$1,101,021.59 on its Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic mitigation efforts such as masks, gloves, plexiglass shields, and other protection measures for travelers and TSA's frontline workers.



# Unclaimed Money at Airports in Fiscal Year 2020

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# I. Legislative Requirement

This document is the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) annual report on the collection of unclaimed money at airports during Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and the expenditure of those funds as required by the FY 2005 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-334).

Specifically, section 515(b) of P.L. 108-334 states:

(b) ANNUAL REPORT – Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate; and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, a report that contains a detailed description of the amount of unclaimed money recovered in total and at each individual airport, and specifically how the unclaimed money is being used to provide civil aviation security.

## II. Background

Unclaimed money is money that passengers leave behind at airport screening checkpoints. In most cases, this money consists of coins that passengers remove from their pockets while undergoing security screening. During FY 2020, TSA collected \$517,978.74 in unclaimed money. These funds are deposited into a special fund so that collection and spending can be tracked easily.

Section 44945 of title 49, United States Code, grants TSA statutory budget authority to expend unclaimed money:

- (a) Disposition of Unclaimed Money.—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, unclaimed money recovered at any airport security checkpoint shall be retained by the Transportation Security Administration and shall remain available until expended for the purpose of providing civil aviation security as required in this chapter.

### III. Data Report

#### A. Money Collected

**Figure 1** lists the amount of unclaimed money collected from each hub airport,<sup>1</sup> the total amount of unclaimed foreign currencies collected, and the grand total of collections during FY 2020.

Although spoke airports are not listed in the chart, they also collect unclaimed money at their checkpoints. This money is deposited to their respective hub airport, which then submits a deposit of its total collection with receipt to TSA Headquarters.

All unclaimed foreign currency is collected from airports and combined before it is exchanged into U.S. dollars to save conversion costs. During FY 2020, \$19,536.21 was collected in foreign currency.

**Figure 1: Amount of Unclaimed Money Collected in FY 2020**

<b>Airport Code</b>	<b>Hub Airport</b>	<b>Amount</b>
ABQ	Albuquerque International Sunport Airport	\$ 3,524.84
ALB	Albany International Airport	\$ 2,500.02
ANC	Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport	\$ 3,642.93
ATL	Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport	\$ 9,187.05
AUS	Austin-Bergstrom International Airport	\$ 3,513.47
BDL	Hartford - Bradley International Airport	\$ 3,230.89
BHM	Birmingham International Airport	\$ 840.45
BIL	Billings Logan International Airport	\$ 1,453.47
BIS	Bismarck Airport	\$ 598.71
BNA	Nashville International Airport	\$ 8,667.50
BOI	Boise Air Terminal/Gowen Field	\$ 1,044.60
BOS	Logan International Airport	\$ 10,913.08
BTV	Burlington International Airport	\$ 510.58
BUR	Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport	\$ 1,763.08
BWI	Baltimore-Washington International Airport	\$ 6,475.49
CHS	Charleston International Airport/Air Force Base	\$ 3,715.90
CLT	Charlotte Douglas International Airport	\$ 4,998.36
CMH	Port Columbus International Airport	\$ 7,136.17

<sup>1</sup> A hub airport is a central airport through which flights are routed, and spokes are the routes that planes take out of the hub airport.



<b>Airport Code</b>	<b>Hub Airport</b>	<b>Amount</b>
CPR	Natrona County International Airport	\$ 367.52
CRW	Yeager Airport	\$ 321.98
CVG	Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport	\$ 3,837.97
DCA	Reagan Washington National Airport	\$ 13,176.91
DEN	Denver International Airport	\$ 12,412.53
DFW	Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport	\$ 22,747.25
DSM	Des Moines International Airport	\$ 1,165.97
DTW	Detroit Metro Wayne County Airport	\$ 12,621.40
ELP	El Paso International Airport	\$ 871.57
EWR	Newark International Airport	\$ 27,345.74
FLL	Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport	\$ 7,451.80
FSD	Sioux Falls Airport	\$ 185.50
GRR	Gerald Ford Airport	\$ 1,132.73
HNL	Honolulu International Airport	\$ 13,822.49
HOU	Houston - Hobby Airport	\$ 2,090.84
IAD	Washington Dulles International Airport	\$ 7,327.66
IAH	George Bush Intercontinental Airport	\$ 14,383.11
ICT	Wichita Mid-Continent Airport	\$ 473.51
IND	Indianapolis International Airport	\$ 3,459.37
JAN	Jackson Evers International Airport	\$ 122.42
JAX	Jacksonville International Airport	\$ 3,592.41
JFK	John F. Kennedy International Airport	\$ 31,164.06
LAS	McCarran International Airport	\$ 37,611.61
LAX	Los Angeles International Airport	\$ 20,384.54
LGA	LaGuardia Airport	\$ 24,221.64
LIT	Bill and Hillary Clinton Airport	\$ 1,410.11
MCO	Orlando International Airport	\$ 16,582.45
MHT	Manchester Boston Regional Airport	\$ 486.44
MIA	Miami International Airport	\$ 14,309.42
MKE	General Mitchell International Airport	\$ 1,732.54
MSP	Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport	\$ 6,888.00
MSY	New Orleans International Airport	\$ 3,974.17
OAK	Metropolitan Oakland International Airport	\$ 3,358.00
OKC	Will Rogers World Airport	\$ 1,469.29
OMA	Omaha - Eppley Airfield	\$ 1,427.15
ORD	O'Hare International Airport	\$ 17,848.51

<b>Airport Code</b>	<b>Hub Airport</b>	<b>Amount</b>
PBI	Palm Beach International Airport	\$ 2,430.00
PDX	Portland International Airport	\$ 1,507.34
PHL	Philadelphia International Airport	\$ 6,944.47
PHX	Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport	\$ 9,067.22
PIT	Pittsburgh International Airport	\$ 1,951.26
PVD	T. F. Green State Airport	\$ 757.69
RDU	Raleigh-Durham International Airport	\$ 4,640.27
RIC	Richmond International Airport	\$ 1,842.92
RSW	Southwest Florida International Airport	\$ 3,060.00
SAN	San Diego International Airport, Lindbergh	\$ 5,148.61
SAT	San Antonio International Airport	\$ 3,774.41
SEA	Seattle-Tacoma International Airport	\$ 8,352.59
SFO	San Francisco International Airport	\$ 14,087.86
SJC	San Jose International Airport	\$ 7,460.50
SJU	Luis Munoz Marin International Airport	\$ 299.15
SLC	Salt Lake City International Airport	\$ 3,922.01
SMF	Sacramento International Airport	\$ 4,656.79
STL	Lambert St Louis International Airport	\$ 5,059.11
TPA	Tampa International Airport	\$ 7,985.13
Total	Subtotal - U.S. Currency	\$ <b>498,442.53</b>
	Subtotal - Foreign Currency	\$ 19,536.21
	<b>Grand Total</b>	\$ <b>517,978.74</b>

## B. Expenditures of Unclaimed Money

In FY 2020, TSA carried over \$1,518,696 in prior-year resources and collected \$517,978.74<sup>2,3</sup>. With these funds, TSA obligated and expended \$1,101,021.59 on Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic mitigation efforts in FY 2020, which included the purchase of masks, gloves, plexiglass shields, and other protection measures for travelers and TSA's frontline workers. At the end of FY 2020, TSA had \$925,457.32 in unobligated resources available for use.

<sup>2</sup> A Civil Penalty collection in the amount of \$1,960 was erroneously posted as Unclaimed Monies in FY 2020. TSA is working to have this transaction reclassified to the civil penalty line of accounting. TSA has excluded this transaction from the report.

<sup>3</sup> At the end of each fiscal year, the Collections in Transit are recorded in summary by Treasury Symbol. For Unclaimed Money, the airport code is not available at this time. Therefore, \$12,155.95 from the FY 2019 Collections in Transit did not have associated airport codes at the time they were accrued at year-end. These collections were not included in the FY 2019 Unclaimed Money Report. In FY 2020, these collections were recorded with the full detail, including the associated airport codes; therefore, TSA included them in the FY 2020 report.

## VI. Conclusion

TSA aims to return traveler property, including loose change, to the owner; however, in the event that money is left behind, it will be used only for purposes authorized by law. TSA is committed to protecting the Nation's transportation systems to ensure the freedom of movement for people and commerce with minimal inconvenience to travelers. TSA will continue to inform Congress on the use of unclaimed money in carrying out its civil aviation security mission.