

Fleet Analysis: Lufthansa Group airlines

Posted on March 19, 2023 by Brian Davidson



Lufthansa Group announced last week it will launch its latest airline, [City Airlines](#). The airline will focus on short and medium-haul routes, expanding the European route network, and plans to operate with an Airbus fleet.

Will [Lufthansa](#) use its existing fleet for City Airlines, or use incoming jets, or combine it with Lufthansa CityLine fleet?

Lufthansa operates a mainline fleet consisting of Airbus narrow and widebody and Boeing widebody aircraft. At the end of 2022, the Lufthansa Group fleet comprised 710 aircraft (previous year: 713 aircraft). The average age of the aircraft in the fleet was 13.1 years (previous year: 12.7 years).

The fleet shrank by three aircraft year-on-year, when 24 aircraft were added, while 27 were disposed of. The additions to the fleet comprised 16 new aircraft (two Boeing 787-9s, five Airbus A321neos and nine A320neos) and eight used aircraft (four A350-900s, two A321P2Fs and one A320-200, each leased, and one Boeing 777F).

On the other hand, in 2022 twelve older, comparatively inefficient aircraft were sold (three A321s, six A320s and three Bombardier CRJ900s) and the leasing agreements for 15 aircraft were ended. Since the start of the coronavirus crisis, 110 aircraft have been retired. In the same period, i.e. since the end of 2019, 57 aircraft have been added.

Lufthansa German Airlines fleet including regional airlines: Lufthansa CityLine (LH), [Eurowings Discover](#) (LH), Germanwings and [Eurowings](#) (EW), [SWISS](#) including Edelweiss (LX), [Austrian Airlines](#) (OS), [Brussels Airlines](#) (SN), and Lufthansa Cargo (LCAG) as of Dec 31, 2022.

AIRCRAFT TYPE	LUFTHANSA	SWISS	AUSTRIAN	BRUSSELS	EUROWINGS	CARGO	GROUP FLEET
Airbus A220		30					30

AIRCRAFT TYPE	LUFTHANSA	SWISS	AUSTRIAN	BRUSSELS	EUROWINGS	CARGO	GROUP FLEET
Airbus A319	37			15	36		88
Airbus A320	94	31	31	16	59		231
Airbus A321	78	9	6		1	2 ¹⁾	96
Airbus A330	25	16		9			50
Airbus A340	34	9					43
Airbus A350	21						21
Airbus A380	14						14
Boeing 747	27						27
Boeing 767			3				3
Boeing 777		12	6				18
Boeing 787	2						2
Boeing 777ERF Cargo						16 ²⁾	16
Bombardier CRJ	28						28
Bombardier Q-Series							0
Embraer	26		17				43
Total aircraft	386	107	63	40	96	18	710

1) A321P2F operated by Lufthansa CityLine.

2) Partly operated by AeroLogic, of which two aircraft attributed pro rata.

Fleet orders Lufthansa Group

At year-end 2022, there were 174 aircraft on the Lufthansa Group's order list. There are also options to buy a further 58 aircraft.

AIRCRAFT TYPE	ORDERS ¹⁾	OPTIONS	DELIVERY
Long-haul fleet			
Airbus A350	28		2023 to 2029
Boeing 787	30	20	2022 to 2026
Boeing 777X	20	24	2025 to 2028
Boeing 777-200ERF Cargo	9		2023 to 2030
Short-haul fleet			
Airbus A220		14	
Airbus A320	57		2023 to 2027

AIRCRAFT TYPE	ORDERS ¹⁾	OPTIONS	DELIVERY
Airbus A321	30		2023 to 2027
Total aircraft	174	58	2023 to 2030

1) Excluding contracted leases. Data from Lufthansa annual report Dec. 2022.

The new City Airlines will focus on short to medium-haul routes operating an all-Airbus fleet, it will most likely include the Airbus A319 model, which can seat a maximum of 160 passengers. It will operate from Munich airport.

The groups' Lufthansa CityLine is based at Munich Airport and at Frankfurt Airport. The airline offers more than 360 daily flights to more than 72 destinations using a fleet of Bombardier CRJ aircraft and Embraers E 190's and 195's using the Lufthansa CityLine brand.

The airline said the new member aims to combine the quality of Lufthansa with the expertise of another subsidiary, Lufthansa CityLine. "We are thrilled to fly daily from our home base in Munich to major European cities and remote regions. As a new airline in the Lufthansa Group, we combine the quality of Lufthansa and the experience of Lufthansa CityLine with the dynamism of a new young company."

Lufthansa had planned to hire former Germanwings pilots under contracts with lower wages compared to those offered by other airlines in the group. But the plan was met with opposition. It is worth noting that Germanwings ceased operations in 2020, and its fleet was incorporated into Eurowings.

It is still too early to predict, but we could assume that the new airline will operate a combination of A319s and A320s, or it might eventually combine the operations of Lufthansa CityLine and City Airlines and eliminate the older CRJs and E190/195s. This solution would create a more fuel efficient single aircraft operations with Airbus A320neo series short to medium-haul jets.

