

# Fall is a great time for business travel

How to find the most reliable flights as the weather cools off.

The summer edition of the AmTrav travel guide was entitled “Face-to-Face at last – if you can get there” – and that was a big “if!” As we return from summer vacations, send the kids back to school, watch the leaves change colors, we can also look forward to far easier and more reliable business travel this fall.

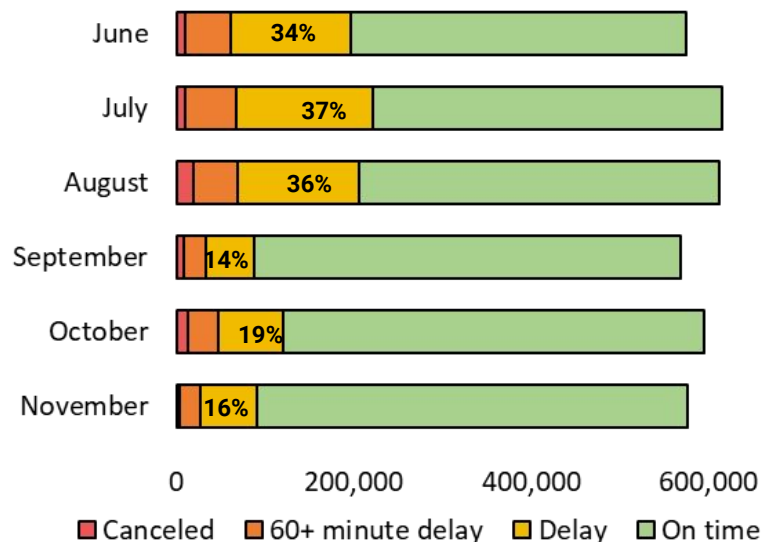
Because AmTrav exists to bring people together face-to-face – and getting together is tough if your flight gets canceled – we dove into flight reliability data and travel trends to share essential booking advice.

*About the data: this report is based on Department of Transportation flight reliability data from September, October and November 2021 covering more than 1.7 million flights operated by US carriers within the U.S.*

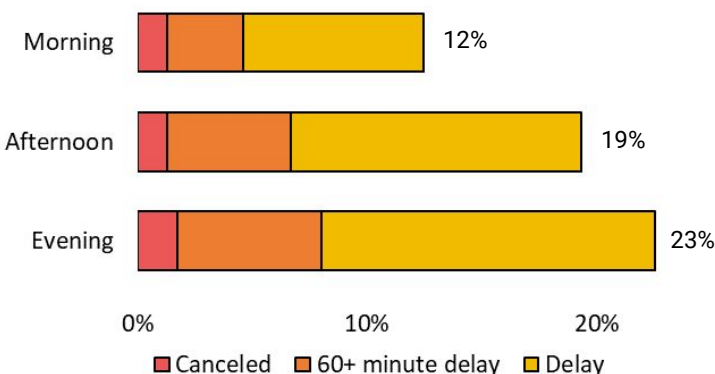
## Fall means reliable travel

How much better is fall travel than summer travel? Well, flights in the fall are **half as likely** to be delayed or canceled as flights in the summer. Less weather and fewer flights overall (see the chart to the right) mean flights are less likely to be disrupted by delays and missing crews, thus are far more likely to run on time. It is still hurricane season (remember the nor’easter last October?) but overall lower demand means better flights, better hotel service and more rental car selection – hooray!

Flights delayed, canceled and on time by month



Flights delayed and canceled by departure hour



## Morning flights are still best

This piece of advice holds from the summer. While flights are a lot less likely to be disrupted in the fall, morning flights are still the most reliable. Afternoon flights are 50% more likely to be delayed than morning flights, and evening flights twice as likely as morning flights to be delayed. But compared to 41% and 50% of summer afternoon and evening flights (respectively) delayed or canceled, fall afternoons and evenings are a lot safer.



Speak with an AmTrav expert today

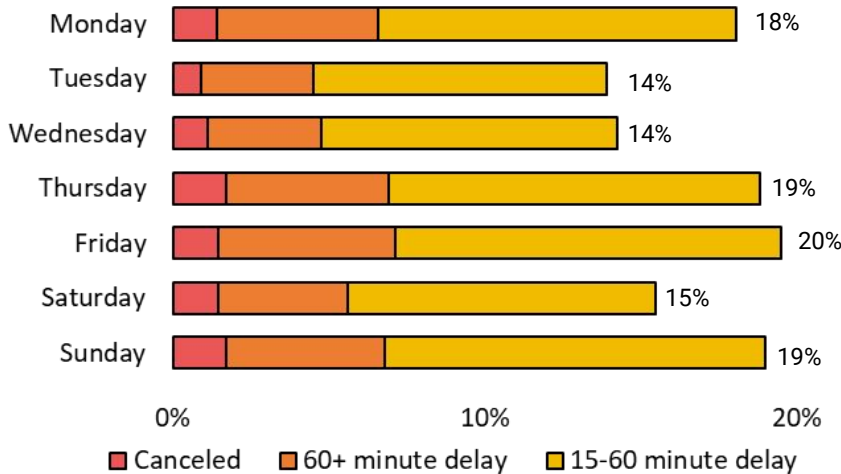
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## Some cities are better

As in the summer, you're most likely to arrive on time if you either take a **nonstop flight** or pick a **good connecting city**. Fundamentally, a nonstop is half as likely to get delayed or canceled as a connecting itinerary, so take the nonstop when you can. But if you can't – the nonstop is at the wrong time of day or too expensive – be smart about where your flights connect. As you can see, some cities are worse than others, with flights twice as likely to be disrupted than flights in other cities.

## Flights disrupted to/from top 20 cities:

Minneapolis	11%	Los Angeles	17%
Atlanta	12%	Chicago	18%
Charlotte	13%	Denver	19%
Salt Lake City	13%	Houston	20%
Detroit	13%	Phoenix	20%
Boston	14%	Orlando	20%
Seattle	15%	Dallas	21%
San Francisco	15%	Miami (incl. FLL)	22%
New York City	16%	Newark	22%
Washington	16%	Las Vegas	23%

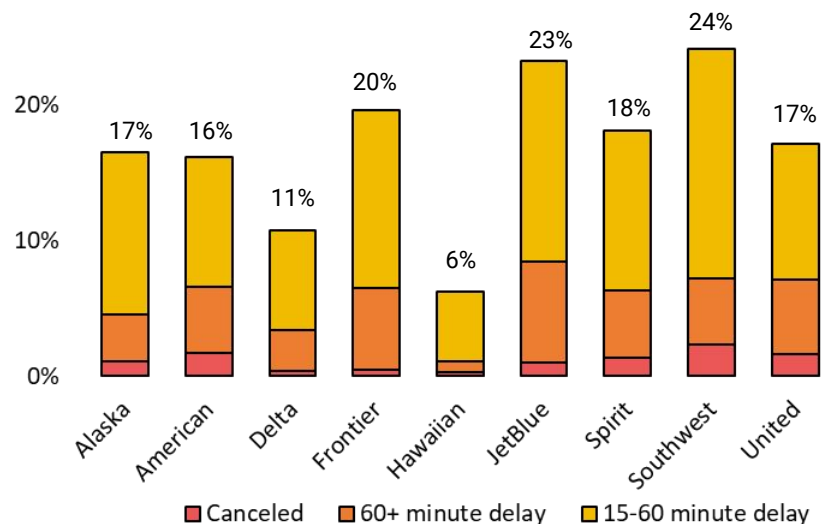


## Some days are better

As in the summer, flights on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday are not only 10% cheaper than other days, but also more likely to arrive on time. So if you're planning travel or a meeting, consider saving your company some money and giving everyone the best chance of getting there on time by flying on Tuesday or Wednesday.

## Airline reliability

We didn't report on this in the summer report, but you may have guessed this from the city data above: some airlines are more reliable than others. That said, what happened in 2021 may not predict what happens in 2022: example Delta and Hawaiian on-time rates dropped 10 points while Southwest improved 10 points in June 2022 vs. 2021. Time will tell if these trends continue or reverse this fall.



## Next step: communicate

In addition to using this data to pick the best suppliers for your program you can share this insight with your bookers & travelers. Encourage your team to book and travel smart this fall.