

Winter brings the holidays and weather challenges

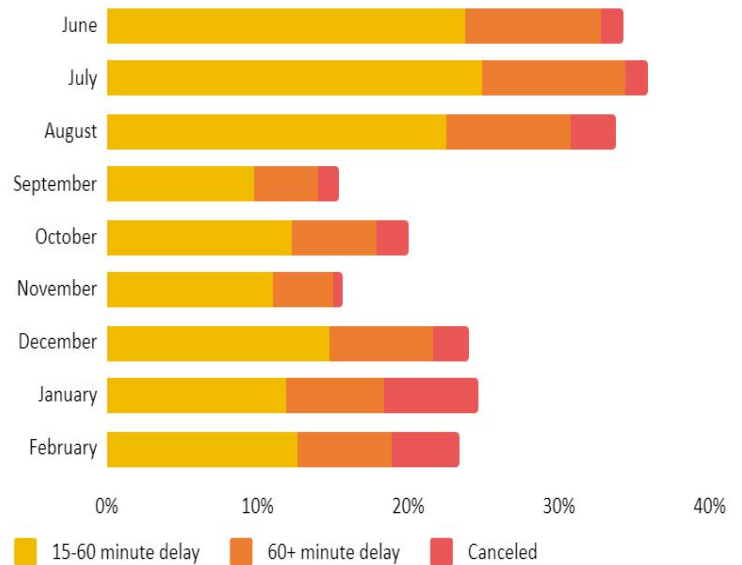
How to find the most reliable flights as the jolly season continues.

As a travel manager, you face the daunting task of ensuring your travelers have safe and reliable transportation to their destinations to get their work done. Each season brings different patterns and challenges, and in winter that's different levels of disruption across airports and airlines that impact flight reliability.

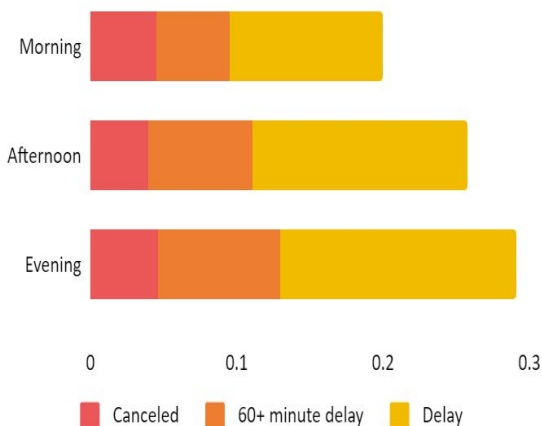
Here is what you need to know about flight reliability and connecting cities during winter when disruptions are more frequent than at other times of the year.

Winter cancellations vs. fall

It's true that winter overall is more reliable than summer when it comes to flight disruptions; however, cancellations are higher in winter months than both fall and summertime months combined. Therefore when planning trips during winter months, be sure you are aware of these potential risks so you can plan accordingly for your travelers' safety and comfort throughout their journey.



Portion of flights delayed & canceled by departure hour



Stick to morning, but less hourly variation

During winter months, there is typically less variation in hour-by-hour disruptions than in the summertime; however, there is still a 50% difference between morning flights and afternoon/evening flights in terms of delays and cancellation rates. Therefore it's important to take into account these time frames when booking a flight for your traveler during winter months as they may have a greater chance of encountering delays or cancellations during peak hours.



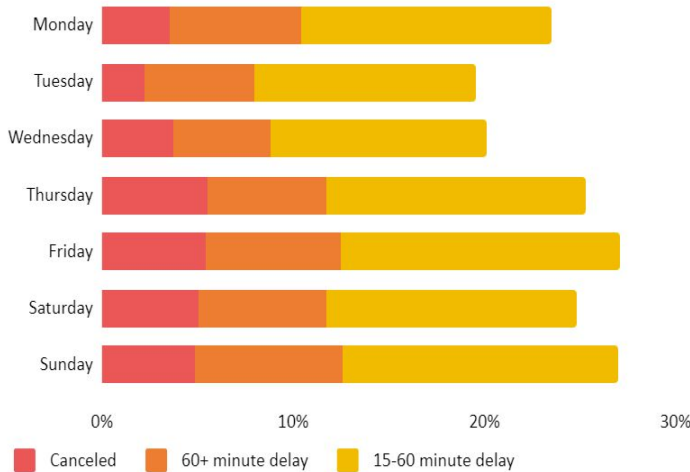
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Connecting city choice is critical

In winter it's important to select itineraries carefully since some cities are more delay-prone. Southeast cities Atlanta and Charlotte perform well, western cities Salt Lake City and Phoenix plus central cities Houston, Dallas and Detroit do well. Denver was less reliable, and Northeast cities Newark, New York City and Boston are the most delay- and cancel-prone.

Another strategy: take nonstops whenever possible (hint: update your airfare limits and lowest logical controls to allow nonstops!).



Airline reliability

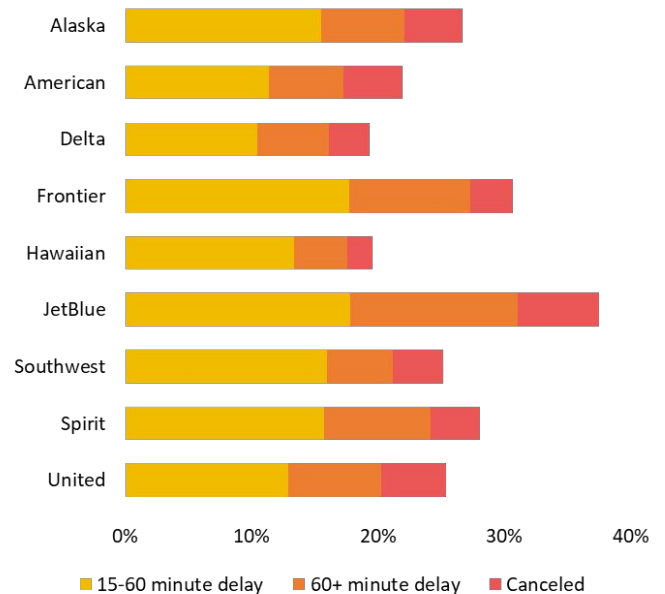
When discussing airline reliability, we have to acknowledge our inherent biases and stick to data. Picking your airlines for team travel is an important indicator of a successful trip. JetBlue, with heavy exposure to the weather-prone Northeast, performs worst while Delta and Hawaiian are the most reliable choices, followed by American and United.

Flights disrupted to & from the 20 busiest cities:

Atlanta	17%	Minneapolis	25%
Charlotte	19%	Washington	25%
San Francisco	20%	Seattle	26%
Salt Lake City	20%	Chicago	26%
Phoenix	21%	Orlando	26%
Los Angeles	22%	New York City	26%
Houston	22%	Boston	26%
Detroit	23%	Miami (incl. FLL)	27%
Dallas	23%	Denver	30%
Las Vegas	24%	Newark	31%

Some days are better

Once again, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday remain the go-to days of reliable travel. The best of these days is Tuesday by a few points. That said, if you're looking to book travel for meetings or have narrow time windows, it may be worth flying your team out closer to these days, in the mornings.



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 winter..