



Airlines for America®

We Connect the World

2016 Thanksgiving Travel Forecast *Fri., Nov. 18 – Tues., Nov. 29 travel period*

Airlines for America (A4A), the industry trade organization for the leading U.S. airlines, today projected that 27.3 million passengers will travel globally on U.S. airlines during the Thanksgiving travel period, up 2.5 percent, or an additional 55,000 passengers per day over last year's estimated 26.6 million passengers. Highly affordable airfare is driving that increase, and airlines are ready for more holiday travelers, **offering 2.58 million seats per day, an increase of 74,000 from 2015.**

- ✈ U.S. airlines are expected to **carry 2.27 million passengers per day**, on average, over the 12-day travel period.
- ✈ **10 busiest airports by seats:** ATL, LAX, ORD, DFW, JFK, DEN, SFO, LAS, CLT, PHX
- ✈ **Sunday, Nov. 27** is expected to be the busiest travel day; Thursday, Nov. 24 will be the lightest

YTD 3Q16 Operational Performance

Customer Service:

- ✈ 99.7 percent of passengers have had their bags properly handled.
- ✈ U.S. airlines completed 98.7 percent of their flights; 80.5 percent of flights arrived on time.

Airfares:

- ✈ Airfares are at their lowest in seven years. In fact, through the first nine months of 2016, airfares are down 5.9 percent system wide (4.9 percent domestic; 9.1 percent international).

Capital Expenditures:

- ✈ U.S. airlines reinvested an average of \$1.4 billion per month in the product and customer experience, this equates to approximately \$20 per enplaned passenger.

Earnings:

- ✈ During the first nine months of 2016, nine U.S. passenger carriers (*Alaska, Allegiant, American, Delta, Hawaiian, JetBlue, Southwest, Spirit and United*) reported combined pre-tax earnings of \$18.3 billion, resulting in a margin of 15.5 percent – down slightly from 15.6 percent in 2015.

Operating Revenues and Expenses:

- ✈ Total operating revenues for the first nine months of the year fell 1.8 percent on lower fares and cargo.

Employment:

- ✈ U.S. passenger airlines have seen year-over-year job growth for 34 straight months. Through August, U.S. passenger airline employment averaged 408,800 full-time equivalents, an increase of more than 30,500 jobs (or 8.1 percent) since 2010.
- ✈ Airlines are spending \$3.6 billion per month on the workforce, which is up 42 percent from 2010.