

# Face-to-face at last — if you can get there!

How to find the most reliable flights during the hottest travel summer ever

Summer travel always means dodging thunderstorms, but in summer 2022 you're dodging airline, hotel and car rental staffing shortages too. [Delta](#), [Southwest](#) and [Jetblue](#) proactively cut schedules in an effort to staff their flights properly, other carriers are crossing their fingers and hoping for the best.

Because AmTrav exists to bring people together face-to-face – and getting together is tough if your flight gets canceled! – we dove into summer 2021 flight reliability data to share essential booking advice.

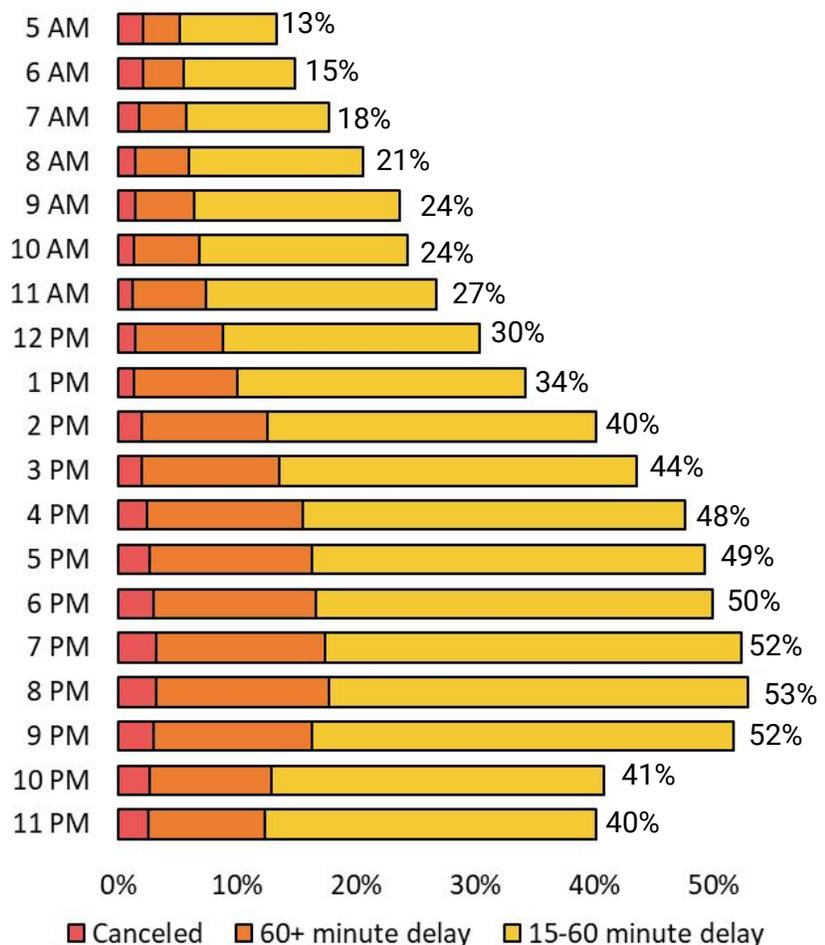
*About the data: this report is based on Department of Transportation flight reliability data from June, July and August 2021 covering more than 1.7 million flights operated by US carriers within the United States.*

## The early bird gets there.

First piece of advice: fly earlier in the day. Airline operations are like dominoes: when a flight is delayed by a storm, a staffing or maintenance issue, all the later flights are delayed too. The day starts fresh, then each subsequent flight is an opportunity for the dominoes to start falling as planes and crews are delayed. And of course summer thunderstorms usually pop up in the afternoon. So fly earlier in the day and don't be surprised that the later a flight is in the day, the more likely it is to be delayed or canceled!

How much more likely? Overall 21% of morning flights are disrupted, compared to 41% of afternoon flights and 50% of evening flights – so afternoon flights are twice as likely to be disrupted and evening flights are *2.5 times more likely* to be disrupted. And while only 6% of morning flights are delayed for more than an hour or canceled, 13% of afternoon flights and 16% of evening flights are severely disrupted, meaning a rough afternoon or stranded evening.

Flights disrupted by departure hour



## Speak with an AmTrav expert today

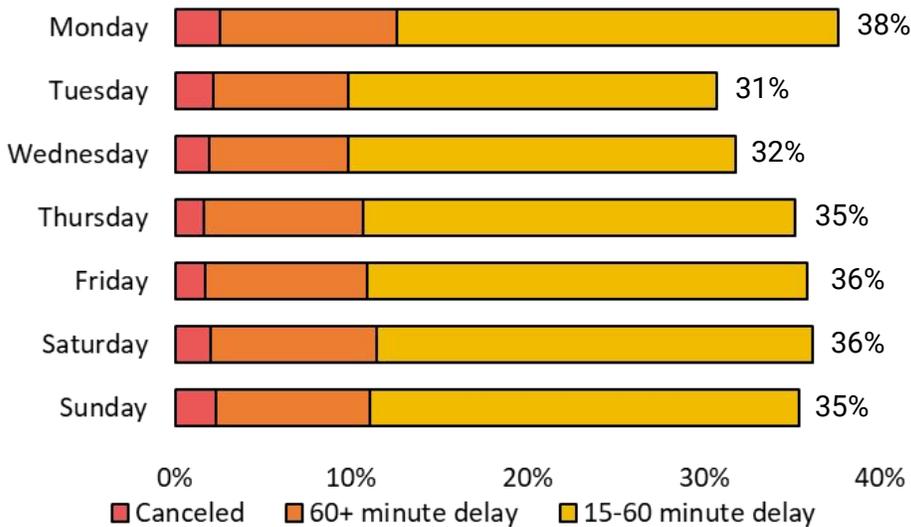
Need help? Current customers can look up their Relationship Manager [here](#). Not a customer but looking for a travel consult? We can't wait to hear from you, [reach us here!](#)

## Pick your itinerary carefully.

Second, 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, meaning twice the chance that you're stranded somewhere that's both far from home and far from where you're going!

## Flights disrupted to/from top 20 cities:

Minneapolis	20%	Washington	36%
Atlanta	22%	Phoenix	36%
Seattle	23%	Chicago	39%
Detroit	24%	Las Vegas	41%
Salt Lake City	25%	Houston	42%
San Francisco	26%	Denver	43%
Charlotte	30%	Dallas	44%
Los Angeles	30%	Miami (incl. FLL)	44%
New York City	34%	Orlando	49%
Philadelphia	35%	Newark	50%



## Some days are better than others

Finally, not only are fares on **Tuesday and Wednesday** 10% cheaper than other days, flights on Tuesday and Wednesday are also the most reliable too. 31% of Tuesday and Wednesday flights are delayed or canceled, compared to 38% of Monday flights and 35% the rest of the week. So save your company some money and give yourself the best chance of getting there on time by flying on Tuesday or Wednesday.

## Hotels and cars, too!

Airlines make the most headlines but hotel or car rental issues can ruin a business trip too. Sign up for the **loyalty programs** and **download the suppliers' apps**. While not available at every hotel or car rental office, you may be able to check in on the hotel app and grab a car without stopping at the rental desk, avoiding sellouts and long lines. Plus you'll earn valuable loyalty points for every stay or rental – for free!

## Next step: communicate!



Don't be stingy, share this insight with your bookers & travelers! Encourage your team to book and travel smart. Our bet is that by the end of this red-hot travel summer your travelers will have a good story or two to share about how this advice saved them from disaster!