# STAT 184 Final Project: Exploring Flight Status During the Week of Christmas

Felicia Vijayarangam, Varsha Giridharan 2024-12-18



Figure 1: Flight Departure Board

#### Introduction

The holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year because everyone is traveling to see family, going on vacations, and getting away from the everyday chaos of life. With this, one of the biggest hurdles is transportation. Millions of individuals are either driving or flying during this time, creating an increase in traffic and delays nationwide. In particular, how many of

you have seen headlines on the news stating, "Hundreds of Flights are Delayed Due to Holiday Rush?" Whether it be for Memorial Day weekend, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or any other holiday, various factors play a part in delays such as a flight's departure delay, arrival delay, weather delay, or carrier delay. There could also be overall flight diversions or cancellations that play a part in this.

In our report, we investigated flight delays during the Christmas Season. We have two specific datasets from the United States Department of Transportation compiled by the Bureau of Transformation Statistics. One dataset is from December 2020, and the other is from December 2023.

Both these datasets adhere to the FAIR principles. The datasets are findable and accessible to the general public since it is posted on an open-platform government website: Flight Information. The website provides a way to filter through what months, years, and columns a researcher wants to look into and descriptions for each, making the dataset reusable for various purposes. Then, after selecting the desired attributes, researchers can click the download button, saving to file as T\_ONTIME\_MARKETING.csv. This CSV format makes the file interoperable.

Both these datasets adhere to the CARE principles. By looking at the dataset, there are collective benefits since there are several research questions such as what flights/airlines have the most delays, etc that could be answered, helping travelers decide what airline to fly. Since this is a government dataset, the airlines have given consent to share flight information with individuals. Our data sets do not have sensitive data, allowing it to adhere to the responsible and ethical criteria.

Within the December 2020 dataset, there are 397,208 cases, each representing individual flights. In comparison, December 2023 had 606,218 cases of flights. Notice how in December 2023 the number of flights almost doubled. This is because, in 2020, there was COVID-19, so the number of individuals traveling greatly decreased. Throughout our analysis, we want to compare these years and look at 34 attributes (later described in detail) such as delay times.

These are our main research questions:

- 1. What is the average delay time for the week of Christmas 2020 for the top 10 most popular U.S. airlines?
- 2. What is the average delay time for the week of Christmas 2023 for the top 10 most popular U.S. airlines?
- 3. How does the average delay time for the week of Christmas for both years compare to each other?

#### **Data Inventory**

In order to start answering these research questions, we first need to load the December 2020 and December 2023 data set and the libraries needed for our data visualization. In this case, we will use libraries such dplyr, tidyr, kableExtra, stringr, ggplot2, scales, knitr, readr. Once we have these libraries, we can proceed to the data exploration step.

#### **Data Exploration**

Throughout our analysis, we want to compare both these years together and look at various attributes relationships. One of the challenges we faced was that looking at the entire month of dataset was hard to do because of how big the data files are. December 2020 contains 397802 flights and December 2023 contains 606218 flights. Each of these data sets have the following 34 attributes:

| [1]  | "YEAR"                | "DAY_OF_MONTH"         | "FL_DATE"           |
|------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| [4]  | "OP_UNIQUE_CARRIER"   | "OP_CARRIER"           | "OP_CARRIER_FL_NUM" |
| [7]  | "ORIGIN_AIRPORT_ID"   | "ORIGIN"               | "ORIGIN_CITY_NAME"  |
| [10] | "DEST_AIRPORT_ID"     | "DEST"                 | "DEST_CITY_NAME"    |
| [13] | "DEP_DELAY_NEW"       | "ARR_DELAY_NEW"        | "CANCELLED"         |
| [16] | "DIVERTED"            | "FLIGHTS"              | "CARRIER_DELAY"     |
| [19] | "WEATHER_DELAY"       | "NAS_DELAY"            | "SECURITY_DELAY"    |
| [22] | "LATE_AIRCRAFT_DELAY" | "DIV_AIRPORT_LANDINGS" | "DIV_ARR_DELAY"     |
| [25] | "DIV1_AIRPORT"        | "DIV1_AIRPORT_ID"      | "DIV2_AIRPORT"      |
| [28] | "DIV2_AIRPORT_ID"     | "DIV3_AIRPORT"         | "DIV3_AIRPORT_ID"   |
| [31] | "DIV4_AIRPORT"        | "DIV4_AIRPORT_ID"      | "DIV5_AIRPORT"      |
| [34] | "DIV5_AIRPORT_ID"     |                        |                     |

Since this governmental dataset looks at all the flights traveling nationwide, we decided it was best to create a new dataset to analyze. Since we are concerned about the holiday rush, we decided to focus on the Christmas season and make a specific subset that looks at the week of Christmas.

In our subset, we want to use the filter() in order to filter the original datasets with the whole month of December to the specific week of Christmas. Based on the columns, we decided to filter based on the Day of the Month. Now, we will have two new datasets with only the flights for Christmas week.

```
#Filter December 2020:
christmas_week2020 <- flights2020 %>%
  filter(DAY_OF_MONTH >= 20 & DAY_OF_MONTH <= 27)

#Filter December 2023:
christmas_week2023 <- flights2023 %>%
  filter(DAY_OF_MONTH >= 20 & DAY_OF_MONTH <= 27)</pre>
```

We want to create summary() functions to understanding the data types and distributions of each of the attributes represented. In order to have the summary() properly formatted and have all 34 attributes fit into the pdf, we flipped the rows and the column values. With this, now the columns are the summary statistics and the rows are the data sets attributes. Therefore we used the transpose function t(). To create a summary table, we used the kable(), kable\_styling(), column\_spec(), and row\_spec() for styling. We also needed the package kableExtra().

In the first table, we see the flight summary table for the week of Christmas in 2020.

Warning in styling\_latex\_scale(out, table\_info, "down"): Longtable cannot be resized.

Table 1: Flight Summary Table of Christmas Week 2020

| YEAR              | Min. :2020     | 1st<br>Qu.:2020      | Median<br>:2020    | Mean :2020     | 3rd<br>Qu.:2020  | Max. :2020     | NA |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----|
| DAY_OF_MONTH      | Min. :20.00    | 1st<br>Qu.:21.00     | Median<br>:23.00   | Mean<br>:23.43 | 3rd<br>Qu.:26.00 | Max. :27.00    | NA |
| FL_DATE           | Length:11021   | Class<br>:character  | Mode<br>:character | NA             | NA               | NA             | NA |
| OP_UNIQUE_CARRIER | Length:11021   | 6Class<br>:character | Mode<br>:character | NA             | NA               | NA             | NA |
| OP_CARRIER        | Length:11021   | Class<br>:character  | Mode<br>:character | NA             | NA               | NA             | NA |
| OP_CARRIER_FL_NUM | Min. : 1       | 1st<br>Qu.:1108      | Median<br>:2366    | Mean :2787     | 3rd<br>Qu.:4575  | Max. :8802     | NA |
| ORIGIN_AIRPORT_ID | Min.<br>:10135 | 1st<br>Qu.:11292     | Median<br>:12884   | Mean<br>:12663 | 3rd<br>Qu.:14098 | Max.<br>:16869 | NA |
| ORIGIN            | Length:11021   | 6Class<br>:character | Mode<br>:character | NA             | NA               | NA             | NA |
| ORIGIN_CITY_NAME  | Length:11021   | Class<br>:character  | Mode<br>:character | NA             | NA               | NA             | NA |
| DEST_AIRPORT_ID   | Min.<br>:10135 | 1st<br>Qu.:11292     | Median<br>:12884   | Mean<br>:12662 | 3rd<br>Qu.:14098 | Max.<br>:16869 | NA |
| DEST              | Length:11021   | Class<br>:character  | Mode<br>:character | NA             | NA               | NA             | NA |

| DEST_CITY_NAME           | Length:11021         | 6Class<br>:character | Mode<br>:character   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| DEP_DELAY_NEW            | Min.: 0.000          | 1st Qu.:<br>0.000    | Median : 0.000   | Mean: 9.032       | 3rd Qu.:<br>1.000   | Max.<br>:1779.000 | NA's :1108   |
| ARR_DELAY_NEW            | Min. : 0.000         | 1st Qu.:<br>0.000    | Median : 0.000   | Mean : 9.311      | 3rd Qu.:<br>3.000   | Max.<br>:1776.000 | NA's :1335   |
| CANCELLED                | Min.<br>:0.00000     | 1st<br>Qu.:0.00000   | Median<br>:0.00000   | Mean<br>:0.01047  | 3rd<br>Qu.:0.00000  | Max. :1.00000     | NA           |
| DIVERTED                 | Min.<br>:0.000000    | 1st<br>Qu.:0.000000  | Median<br>:0.000000  | Mean<br>:0.001642 | 3rd<br>Qu.:0.000000 | Max.<br>:1.000000 | NA           |
| FLIGHTS                  | Min. :1              | 1st Qu.:1            | Median :1  | Mean :1           | 3rd Qu.:1           | Max. :1           | NA           |
| CARRIER_DELAY            | Min.: 0.00           | 1st Qu.:<br>0.00     | Median:<br>4.00  | Mean : 27.16      | 3rd Qu.:<br>26.00   | Max.<br>:1776.00  | NA's :95279  |
| WEATHER_DELAY            | Min.: 0.00           | 1st Qu.:<br>0.00     | Median : 0.00  | Mean : 5.53       | 3rd Qu.:<br>0.00    | Max.<br>:1593.00  | NA's :95279  |
| NAS_DELAY                | Min.: 0.00           | 1st Qu.:<br>0.00     | Median:<br>1.00  | Mean: 12.47       | 3rd Qu.:<br>18.00   | Max. :1224.00     | NA's :95279  |
| SECURITY_DELAY           | Min.: 0.00           | 1st Qu.:<br>0.00     | Median : 0.00  | Mean: 0.14        | 3rd Qu.:<br>0.00    | Max.<br>:127.00   | NA's :95279  |
| LATE_AIRCRAFT_DELA       | <b>Y</b> Min. : 0.00 | 1st Qu.:<br>0.00     | $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Median}: \\ {\rm 0.00} \end{array}$ | Mean : 15.31      | 3rd Qu.:<br>14.00   | Max.<br>:1209.00  | NA's :95279  |
| DIV_AIRPORT_LANDIN       | Min.<br>:0.000000    | 1st<br>Qu.:0.000000  | Median<br>:0.000000  | Mean<br>:0.003684 | 3rd<br>Qu.:0.000000 | Max. :9.000000    | NA           |
| DIV_ARR_DELAY            | Min.: 44.0           | 1st Qu.:<br>125.0    | Median : 174.0   | Mean : 261.6      | 3rd Qu.:<br>253.0   | Max.<br>:1192.0   | NA's :110063 |
| DIV1_AIRPORT             | Length:11021         | Class<br>:character  | Mode<br>:character   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DIV1_AIRPORT_ID          | Min.<br>:10135       | 1st<br>Qu.:11282     | Median<br>:12265   | Mean<br>:12642    | 3rd<br>Qu.:14089    | Max.<br>:16101    | NA's :110010 |
| DIV2_AIRPORT             | Length:11021         | Class<br>:character  | Mode<br>:character   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DIV2_AIRPORT_ID          | Min.<br>:12889       | 1st<br>Qu.:12889     | Median<br>:12889   | Mean<br>:12889    | 3rd<br>Qu.:12889    | Max.<br>:12889    | NA's :110215 |
| DIV3_AIRPORT             | Mode:logical         | NA's:110216          | NA   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DIV3_AIRPORT_ID          | Mode:logical         | NA's:110216          | NA   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DIV4_AIRPORT             | Mode:logical         | NA's:110216          | NA   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| ${ m DIV4\_AIRPORT\_ID}$ | Mode:logical         |                      | NA   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DIV5_AIRPORT             | Mode:logical         |                      | NA   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DIV5_AIRPORT_ID          | Mode:logical         | NA's:110216          | NA   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |

In the second table, we see the flight summary table for the week of Christmas in 2023.

Warning in styling\_latex\_scale(out, table\_info, "down"): Longtable cannot be resized.

Table 2: Flight Summary Table of Christmas Week 2020

| YEAR | Min. :2023 | 1st<br>Qu.:2023 | Median<br>:2023 | Mean :2023 | 3rd<br>Qu.:2023 | Max. :2023 | NA |
|------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|----|

| DAY_OF_MONTH       | Min. :20.00         | 1st<br>Qu.:21.00               | Median<br>:23.00   | Mean<br>:23.45    | 3rd<br>Qu.:26.00    | Max.:27.00        | NA           |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| FL_DATE            | Length:15721        |                                | Mode<br>:character   | NA<br>NA          | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| OP_UNIQUE_CARRIER  | Length:157219       |                                | Mode<br>:character   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| OP_CARRIER         | Length:15721        | Class<br>:character            | Mode<br>:character   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| OP_CARRIER_FL_NUM  | Min. : 1            | 1st<br>Qu.:1090                | Median<br>:2115  | Mean :2423        | 3rd<br>Qu.:3502     | Max. :9658        | NA           |
| ORIGIN_AIRPORT_ID  | Min.<br>:10135      | 1st<br>Qu.:11292               | Median<br>:12889   | Mean<br>:12674    | 3rd<br>Qu.:14057    | Max.<br>:16869    | NA           |
| ORIGIN             | Length:157219       | 9Class<br>:character           | Mode<br>:character   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| ORIGIN_CITY_NAME   | Length:15721        |                                | Mode<br>:character   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DEST_AIRPORT_ID    | Min.<br>:10135      | 1st<br>Qu.:11292               | Median<br>:12889   | Mean<br>:12674    | 3rd<br>Qu.:14057    | Max.<br>:16869    | NA           |
| DEST               | Length:15721        | Class<br>:character            | Mode<br>:character   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DEST_CITY_NAME     | Length:157219       | 9Class<br>:character           | Mode<br>:character   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DEP_DELAY_NEW      | Min.: 0.00          | 1st Qu.:<br>0.00               | Median:<br>0.00  | Mean : 15.11      | 3rd Qu.:<br>10.00   | Max.<br>:3786.00  | NA's :1157   |
| ARR_DELAY_NEW      | Min.: 0.00          | 1st Qu.:<br>0.00               | Median: 0.00   | Mean: 13.96       | 3rd Qu.:<br>8.00    | Max.<br>:3795.00  | NA's :1660   |
| CANCELLED          | Min.<br>:0.000000   | 1st<br>Qu.:0.000000            | Median   | Mean<br>:0.007684 | 3rd<br>Qu.:0.000000 | Max.<br>:1.000000 | NA           |
| DIVERTED           | Min.<br>:0.000000   | 1st<br>Qu.:0.000000            | Median<br>:0.000000  | Mean<br>:0.002875 | 3rd<br>Qu.:0.000000 | Max.<br>:1.000000 | NA           |
| FLIGHTS            | Min. :1             | 1st Qu.:1                      | Median :1  | Mean :1           | 3rd Qu.:1           | Max. :1           | NA           |
| CARRIER_DELAY      | Min.: 0.0           | 1st Qu.:<br>0.0                | Median:  | Mean: 22.6        | 3rd Qu.:<br>21.0    | Max.<br>:3786.0   | NA's :127460 |
| WEATHER_DELAY      | Min. : 0.00         | 1st Qu.:<br>0.00               | Median: 0.00   | Mean : 5.36       | 3rd Qu.:<br>0.00    | Max.<br>:1496.00  | NA's :127460 |
| NAS_DELAY          | Min.: 0.00          | 1st Qu.:<br>0.00               | $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Median}: \\ {\rm 0.00} \end{array}$ | Mean : 11.06      | 3rd Qu.:<br>15.00   | Max.<br>:1260.00  | NA's :127460 |
| SECURITY_DELAY     | Min. : 0.00         | 1st Qu.:<br>0.00               | Median : 0.00  | Mean : 0.19       | 3rd Qu.:<br>0.00    | Max.<br>:242.00   | NA's :127460 |
| LATE_AIRCRAFT_DELA | <b>Y</b> Min. : 0.0 | 1st Qu.:<br>0.0                | Median:  | Mean : 28.4       | 3rd Qu.:<br>31.0    | Max.<br>:1606.0   | NA's :127460 |
| DIV_AIRPORT_LANDIN | Min.<br>:0.000000   | 1st<br>Qu.:0.000000            | Median<br>:0.000000  | Mean<br>:0.004929 | 3rd<br>Qu.:0.000000 | Max.<br>:9.000000 | NA           |
| DIV_ARR_DELAY      | Min. : 41.0         | 1st Qu.:<br>154.5              | Median : 220.0   | Mean : 366.5      | 3rd Qu.:<br>452.5   | Max.<br>:1388.0   | NA's :156872 |
| DIV1_AIRPORT       | Length:15721        | Class<br>:character            | Mode<br>:character   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DIV1_AIRPORT_ID    | Min.<br>:10140      | 1st<br>Qu.:11292               | Median<br>:12953   | Mean<br>:12887    | 3rd<br>Qu.:14492    | Max.<br>:15380    | NA's :156732 |
| DIV2_AIRPORT       | Length:15721        | Class                          | Mode   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DIV2_AIRPORT_ID    | Min.<br>:10466      | :character<br>1st<br>Qu.:11041 | :character<br>Median<br>:11941                             | Mean<br>:12284    | 3rd<br>Qu.:13351    | Max.<br>:14869    | NA's :157203 |
| DIV3_AIRPORT       | Mode:logical        | NA's:157219                    | NA   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |
| DIV3_AIRPORT_ID    | Mode:logical        | NA's:157219                    | NA   | NA                | NA                  | NA                | NA           |

| DIV4_AIRPORT    | Mode:logical NA's:1 | 157219 NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |  |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|--|
| DIV4_AIRPORT_ID | Mode:logical NA's:1 | 157219 NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |  |
| DIV5_AIRPORT    | Mode:logical NA's:1 | 157219 NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |  |
| DIV5_AIRPORT_ID | Mode:logical NA's:1 | 157219 NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |  |

At a high level, this table helps us pinpoint what attributes are most meaningful for us to analyze and compare performance against. There are various categorical variables such as year, day of the month, OP unique carrier, OP carrier, OP carrier flight number, origin, city name, destination, and such. For numerical values, keep in mind what they represent. For example, ID is a numerical value, but it is categorical in this case. Each airport has a specific ID number, so the mean, median, and such do not mean anything. However, the numerical numbers such as departure delays, arrival delays, flights carrier delays, weather delays, NAS delays, security delays, late aircraft delays, and diverted airport delays do matter. In our research questions, we can use these numerical attributes as checkpoints to see how airlines performance is compared to each other.

With these thoughts in mind, let us begin answering our research questions.

# Research Question 1: What is the Average Departure Delay time for the week of Christmas 2020 for the top 10 most popular U.S. airlines?

Before we answer this question. Let us understand what we are being asked to do. We want to find the average departure delay time for each day of Christmas week based on the top ten airlines. In the dataset that we have, the airlines are represented by the OP\_UNIQUE\_CARRIER column. However, our dataset does not provide a key to what letters and numbers represents a specific airline. Therefore, we found a new data source with two column, one of airline codes and the other with airline names.

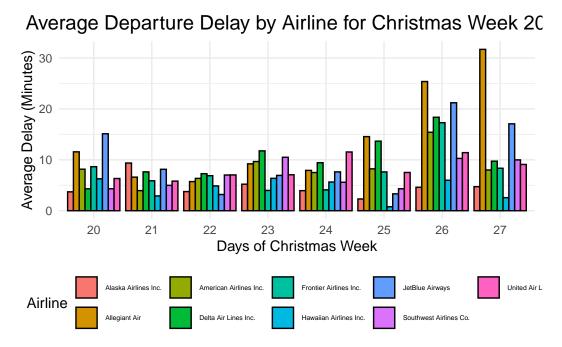
With this information, we could use the left\_join() to create a new dataset with a new column of airline names. The logic behind this was that we needed to left\_join() by the condition that the new data sources code matched the original's **unique carrier code**.

```
# Merge the datasets based on the airline code
airlineInfo2020 <- christmas_week2020 %>%
left_join(airlineCode, by = c("OP_UNIQUE_CARRIER" = "Code"))
```

Now that we have the specific airline names, we need to calculate the average airline delay based on the top 10 airlines. We need to group\_by() the airline name and days of the week because we want to differentiate what departure delays the various airlines are experiencing the week of Christmas.

The average delay can be found by applying the mean() to departure delay. In order to ensure that our graph is clear to read, we decided to only plot a few airlines. In this case, we choose the top ten airlines according to the based on the https://airadvisor.com/en/top-us-airlines-rating website.

Then, we created a bar graph using ggplot that filtered the graph based on the airline name and graphed 10 various colored bars for each day represents a different airline.



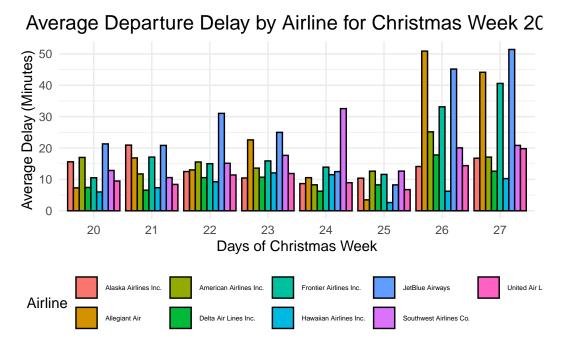
Graphical Insight: Looking at our x and y axis, we can see that Alaska Airlines Inc. had consistently low average departure delays that were less that 5 minutes. the Hawaiian Airlines Inc were also on the low end when it came to average departure delays since they were less than 10 minutes. The the other hand, Allegiant Air had the most delays by far, leading to an average more than 30 minutes on December 27. JetBlue Airways flight delays were also high compared to other flights, especially since they had an average departure delay of more than

20 minutes on December 27. Another aspect to consider is that the the average delays across airlines were the lowest on the 22. Also, the average delay rates spiked Christmas day and the days after.

# Research Question 2: What is the Average Departure Delay time for the week of Christmas 2023 for the Top 10 most popular U.S. airlines?

To answer this research question, we follow a similar format as the previous question. First, we need to merge the 2023 Christmas week using the left\_join() to get the airline name that corresponded to the existing columns airline code.

The next step is to use the group\_by() and summarize() to find the average delay each day based on the airlines in 2023.



#### **Graphical Insight:**

In the graph above, the Hawaiian Airlines had the lowest average delays by far. Their average was consistently below 10 minutes throughout the entire week. Next, Alaska Airlines Inc. had consistently low average departure delays that are normally below 10-20 minutes. The airlines with high average delays seemed to occur after Christmas was Allegiant Air with more than 50 minutes delays on Christmas. JetBlue Airways flight was also up there with delays that were consitently higher than other airlines throughout the week and delays that were on average 40-50 minutes the days after Christmas. Delta's average delays were less throughout the week,

and hit around 20 minutes the day after Christmas. Another aspect to consider is that on Christmas day the average delays across all airlines were below 20 minutes. However, average delay rates spiked immediately after Christmas.

#### Reflection on Research Question 1 and 2:

In 2020, the majority of airlines experienced average delay around 4-10 minutes leading up to Christmas day. One of the exceptions to this is the JetBlue Airways who had an average delay time around 15 minutes on December 20th. Even with these exceptions, the average delay time is significant less that the average delay time in 2023. The majority of airlines experienced an average delay time around between 8-15 minutes. JetBlue Airways repeatedly surpassed this, having a average departure delay around above 20 minutes for the weeks leading up to Christmas. From a broad lens, the rush after Christmas is high for both years. However, the top airlines who had the most average departure delays were consistently JetBlue Airways and Allegiant Air. In 2020, Allegiant Air had an average departure delay of 25 minutes on the 26th and 32 minutes on the 27th. In 2023, Allegiant Air had an average departure delay of 50 minutes on the 26th and 50 minutes on the 27th. Continuing onto JetBlue Airways, the average departure delay was around 21 minutes on the 26th and 17th minutes on the 27th. However, in 2023, they experienced an average departure delay time of 45 minutes on 26th and 51 minutes on the 27th.

We must also keep in mind that the number of people flying in 2020 was severely reduced due to COVID-19 restrictions and uncertainty. So, could conclude that in 2023, along with the overall U.S. welfare and economy, there was a higher average delay times for the majority of the top ten airlines compared to 2020.

### Research Question 3: In 2023, what were the types of delays on average that the Top 10 airlines experienced the week of Christmas?

In our dataset, we are given various types of delays such as departure, arrival, carrier, weather, NAS, security, late aircraft, and diverted. We were curious to see what the average delay time in minutes would be for each airline. In order to do this, we want to create a dataset using the filter(), group(), and summarize(). The filter() filters by the top ten airlines that we previously discussed. The group\_by() can be used to group our main dataset based on the airline names. Then, with the summarize(), we can use the mean() to get the average delay values.

```
# Calculate average delays for Allegiant Air
avgDelayAlleg2023 <- airlineInfo2023 %>%
  filter(Description %in% specific_airlines2023) %>%
  group_by(Description) %>%
  summarize(
```

```
Departure = mean(DEP_DELAY_NEW, na.rm = TRUE),
Arrival = mean(ARR_DELAY_NEW, na.rm = TRUE),
Carrier = mean(CARRIER_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
Weather = mean(WEATHER_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
NAS = mean(NAS_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
Security = mean(SECURITY_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
LateAircraft = mean(LATE_AIRCRAFT_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
Diverted = mean(DIV_ARR_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
.groups = "drop")
```

Once we create this subset, we can use the kable() and kable\_styling() to adjust the table format, font size, and etc. Once we do this, we will get the following table:

Warning in styling\_latex\_scale(out, table\_info, "down"): Longtable cannot be resized.

Table 3: Average Delay in Minutes Based on Types of Delays for the Top Ten Airlines Christmas Week 2023

| Description            | Departure | Arrival   | Carrier  | Weather    | NAS        | Security  | LateAircraft | Diverted |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Alaska Airlines Inc.   | 13.741430 | 12.726664 | 17.92800 | 1.4906667  | 11.1884444 | 0.4168889 | 21.00800     | 208.5789 |
| Allegiant Air          | 23.910235 | 23.532888 | 25.06926 | 14.3997114 | 16.9206349 | 0.0952381 | 41.54113     | 499.6000 |
| American Airlines Inc. | 15.492561 | 15.486012 | 25.23402 | 1.4374534  | 9.2835116  | 0.2767968 | 33.51206     | 249.5455 |
| Delta Air Lines Inc.   | 10.152833 | 8.699815  | 40.05097 | 4.3948100  | 10.1510658 | 0.0532901 | 19.69184     | 504.0000 |
| Frontier Airlines Inc. | 19.518681 | 19.003910 | 21.05888 | 1.1959391  | 15.6690355 | 0.0000000 | 37.03249     | 423.0000 |
| Hawaiian Airlines Inc. | 8.173349  | 8.933333  | 29.43985 | 0.6428571  | 0.7518797  | 0.0000000 | 12.55263     | 200.0000 |
| JetBlue Airways        | 27.382237 | 25.120263 | 33.46903 | 1.6159910  | 11.1891892 | 0.0833333 | 32.29054     | 284.2857 |
| Southwest Airlines Co. | 17.649189 | 15.119734 | 15.06974 | 0.7081888  | 7.8356465  | 0.1767291 | 29.28799     | 251.4576 |
| United Air Lines Inc.  | 11.446092 | 10.855868 | 19.06123 | 0.7793998  | 15.0750203 | 0.0000000 | 27.10178     | 411.8500 |

### Methodology

#### **Results**

#### **Conclusions**

#### References

### **Code Appendix**

```
#Load December Datasets and Additional Packages
library(ggplot2)
library(dplyr)
library(tidyr)
library(knitr)
library(readr)
original2020 <- "C:/Users/felic/Downloads/DL_SelectFields (4)/DecDataset2020.csv"
flights2020 <- read.csv(original2020)</pre>
original2023 <- "C:/Users/felic/Downloads/DL_SelectFields (3)/DecDataset2023.csv"
flights2023 <- read.csv(original2023)</pre>
colnames(flights2023)
#Filter December 2020:
christmas_week2020 <- flights2020 %>%
  filter(DAY_OF_MONTH >= 20 & DAY_OF_MONTH <= 27)
#Filter December 2023:
christmas_week2023 <- flights2023 %>%
  filter(DAY_OF_MONTH >= 20 & DAY_OF_MONTH <= 27)
# Load required libraries
library(kableExtra)
# Flight Summary of Christmas week in 2020
summary2020 <- summary(christmas_week2020)</pre>
summary2020_transposed <- t(summary2020)</pre>
```

```
# PDF output Table
kable(summary2020 transposed, caption = "Flight Summary Table of Christmas Week 2020") %%
  #Style the format such as table heading font and position
  kable_styling(
    latex_options = c("striped", "scale_down"),
    font_size = 8,
    position = "center"
  ) %>%
  #Looks at the columns and rows and adjust the lengths accordingly
  column_spec(1, bold = TRUE, width = "4cm") %>%
  column_spec(2:ncol(summary2020_transposed), width = "1.5cm") %>%
  row_spec(0, bold = TRUE, background = "#D3D3D3")
# Flight Summary Table for Christmas week in 2023
summary2023 <- summary(christmas_week2023)</pre>
summary2023_transposed <- t(summary2023)</pre>
# PDF output Table
kable(summary2023_transposed, caption = "Flight Summary Table of Christmas Week 2020") %%
  kable_styling(
    latex_options = c("striped", "scale_down"), # Use LaTeX-specific options
    font_size = 8,
                                                  # Adjust font size
    position = "center"
                                                  # Align to center by default
  ) %>%
  column_spec(1, bold = TRUE, width = "4cm") %>% # Adjust the first column width
  column_spec(2:ncol(summary2023_transposed), width = "1.5cm") %>% # Adjust other columns
  row_spec(0, bold = TRUE, background = "#D3D3D3") # Style header row
code <- "C:/Users/felic/Downloads/L_UNIQUE_CARRIERS.csv"</pre>
airlineCode <- read.csv(code)
# Merge the datasets based on the airline code
airlineInfo2020 <- christmas_week2020 %>%
  left_join(airlineCode, by = c("OP_UNIQUE_CARRIER" = "Code"))
# Calculate the average delay time by airline
avgDelay_airlineDay2020 <- airlineInfo2020 %>%
  group_by(Description, DAY_OF_MONTH) %>%
  summarize(AverageDelay = mean(DEP_DELAY_NEW, na.rm = TRUE), .groups = "drop")
specific_airlines <- c("Delta Air Lines Inc.", "Alaska Airlines Inc.", "Hawaiian Airlines Inc."
                       "United Air Lines Inc.", "American Airlines Inc.", "JetBlue Airways",
                       "Southwest Airlines Co.", "Spirit Airlines", "Allegiant Air",
                       "Frontier Airlines Inc.")
#Plotting Average
```

```
ggplot(avgDelay_airlineDay2020 %>% filter(Description %in% specific_airlines),
       aes(x = factor(DAY_OF_MONTH), y = AverageDelay, fill = Description)) +
 geom_bar(stat = "identity", position = "dodge", color = "black") +
 labs(title = "Average Departure Delay by Airline for Christmas Week 2020",
      x = "Days of Christmas Week",
      y = "Average Delay (Minutes)",
      fill = "Airline") +
 theme minimal() +
 theme(
    plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5, size = 15),
    legend.position = "bottom",
     legend.text = element_text(size = 5))
# Merge the datasets based on the airline code
airlineInfo2023 <- christmas_week2023 %>%
 left_join(airlineCode, by = c("OP_UNIQUE_CARRIER" = "Code"))
# Calculate the average delay time by airline
avgDelay_airlineDay2023 <- airlineInfo2023 %>%
 group_by(Description, DAY_OF_MONTH) %>%
 summarize(AverageDelay2023 = mean(DEP_DELAY_NEW, na.rm = TRUE), .groups = "drop")
specific_airlines2023 <- c("Delta Air Lines Inc.", "Alaska Airlines Inc.", "Hawaiian Airlines
                       "United Air Lines Inc.", "American Airlines Inc.", "JetBlue Airways",
                       "Southwest Airlines Co.", "Spirit Airlines", "Allegiant Air",
                       "Frontier Airlines Inc.")
#Plotting Average
ggplot(avgDelay_airlineDay2023 %>% filter(Description %in% specific_airlines2023),
       aes(x = factor(DAY_OF_MONTH), y = AverageDelay2023, fill = Description)) +
 geom_bar(stat = "identity", position = "dodge", color = "black") +
 labs(title = "Average Departure Delay by Airline for Christmas Week 2023",
      x = "Days of Christmas Week",
      y = "Average Delay (Minutes)",
      fill = "Airline") +
 theme_minimal() +
 theme (
   plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5, size =15 ),
   legend.position = "bottom",
   legend.text = element_text(size = 5)
 )
# Calculate average delays for Allegiant Air
avgDelayAlleg2023 <- airlineInfo2023 %>%
 filter(Description %in% specific_airlines2023) %>%
```

```
group_by(Description) %>%
  summarize(
   Departure = mean(DEP_DELAY_NEW, na.rm = TRUE),
   Arrival = mean(ARR_DELAY_NEW, na.rm = TRUE),
   Carrier = mean(CARRIER_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
   Weather = mean(WEATHER_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
   NAS = mean(NAS_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
   Security = mean(SECURITY_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
   LateAircraft = mean(LATE_AIRCRAFT_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
   Diverted = mean(DIV_ARR_DELAY, na.rm = TRUE),
    .groups = "drop"
  )
# PDF output Table
kable(avgDelayAlleg2023, caption = "Average Delay in Minutes Based on Types of Delays for the
 kable_styling(
   latex_options = c("striped", "scale_down"), # Use LaTeX-specific options
   font_size = 8,
                                                 # Adjust font size
   position = "center"
                                                 # Align to center by default
 )
```