Data Analysis Project

Student Information

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Library and Data Import

```
library(tidyverse)
library(lubridate)
library(ggcorrplot)
library(reshape2)
library(gridExtra)
flights_df <- readRDS(url('https://gmubusinessanalytics.netlify.app/data/dulles_flights.rds'))</pre>
```

Raw Data

Max.

:2016-12-31

```
flights df<-flights df %>%
  mutate(month = factor(month.name[month], levels = month.name)) %>%
  arrange(month)
head(flights_df,5)
# A tibble: 5 x 22
 scheduled_fligh~ month_numeric month
                                       day weekday airline tail_num flight_num
 <date>
                          <dbl> <fct> <dbl> <fct>
                                                   <fct>
                                                           <fct>
                                                                        <dbl>
1 2016-01-01
                             1 Janu~
                                        1 Friday Southw~ N569WN
                                                                          107
2 2016-01-01
                             1 Janu~
                                         1 Friday Southw~ N466WN
                                                                          449
3 2016-01-01
                             1 Janu~
                                        1 Friday Southw~ N458WN
                                                                         1502
4 2016-01-01
                              1 Janu~
                                                                         2388
                                         1 Friday Southw~ N922WN
5 2016-01-01
                              1 Janu~
                                         1 Friday Southw~ N711HK
                                                                         1396
# ... with 14 more variables: dest airport name <fct>, dest airport city <fct>,
   dest_airport_state <fct>, dest_airport_region <fct>, sch_dep_time <dbl>,
#
   dep time <dbl>, dep delay <dbl>, taxi out <dbl>, wheels on <dbl>,
   taxi_in <dbl>, arrival_time <dbl>, sch_arrival_time <dbl>,
   arrival_delay <dbl>, distance <dbl>
summary(flights_df)
scheduled_flight_date month_numeric
                                           month
                                                            day
Min.
       :2016-01-01
                   Min.
                           : 1.000
                                       July
                                              : 3120
                                                             : 1.00
                                                       Min.
August : 3092
                                                       1st Qu.: 8.00
Median: 2016-07-12 Median: 7.000
                                       June
                                              : 3071
                                                       Median :16.00
Mean
       :2016-07-08
                      Mean : 6.756
                                      October: 3051
                                                       Mean
                                                              :15.72
                                              : 2887
3rd Qu.:2016-10-04
                      3rd Qu.:10.000
                                                       3rd Qu.:23.00
                                      May
```

November: 2885

(Other) :15327

Max.

:31.00

Max. :12.000

```
weekday
                             airline
                                              tail_num
                                                              flight_num
                                 :20653
Sunday
          :4710
                  United
                                           N63890 : 125
                                                            Min.
                                                                   : 10
                                                            1st Qu.: 365
Monday
          :4914
                  American
                                 : 2597
                                           N69806 :
                                                     113
         :4917
                                           N66828 :
                                                            Median: 685
Tuesday
                  Delta
                                   2565
                                                     112
Wednesday: 4973
                  Southwest
                                 :
                                   2161
                                           N66841 :
                                                     109
                                                            Mean
                                                                    :1050
Thursday:4993
                                                     108
                  JetBlue
                                 : 2013
                                           N68811 :
                                                            3rd Qu.:1544
                                           N62894 :
Friday
          :5015
                  Virgin America: 1613
                                                     106
                                                            Max.
                                                                    :6840
Saturday:3911
                  (Other)
                                 : 1831
                                           (Other):32760
                  dest_airport_name
                                          dest_airport_city
San Francisco
                            : 4034
                                     San Francisco: 4034
Los Angeles
                            : 3846
                                     Los Angeles
                                                   : 3846
                              3628
Denver
                                     Denver
                                                   : 3628
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta: 3154
                                     Atlanta
                                                   : 3154
                            : 2170
                                     Boston
Logan
                                                   : 2170
Orlando
                            : 1805
                                                   : 1900
                                     Chicago
(Other)
                            :14796
                                      (Other)
                                                   :14701
                                                    sch_dep_time
    dest_airport_state
                              dest_airport_region
              :9177
                        West
                                         :15555
                                                           : 5.33
California
                                                   Min.
Colorado
              :3657
                        South
                                         : 7752
                                                   1st Qu.: 8.83
Florida
              :3511
                        Northeast
                                         : 4002
                                                   Median :14.90
Georgia
              :3154
                        Midwest
                                         : 3040
                                                   Mean
                                                           :14.00
Texas
                                                   3rd Qu.:17.75
              :2641
                        Southwest
                                         : 3001
                        Middle Atlantic:
                                                           :22.95
Massachusetts:2170
                                             83
                                                   Max.
(Other)
              :9123
   dep_time
                   dep_delay
                                        taxi_out
                                                         wheels on
Min.
       : 0.02
                 Min.
                        : -25.00
                                    Min.
                                            : 1.00
                                                      Min.
                                                              : 0.02
1st Qu.: 8.87
                 1st Qu.:
                           -5.00
                                    1st Qu.: 11.00
                                                      1st Qu.:10.53
Median :14.92
                 Median :
                           -2.00
                                    Median: 14.00
                                                      Median :15.08
       :14.08
                             9.07
Mean
                 Mean
                                    Mean
                                            : 16.95
                                                      Mean
                                                              :14.87
                 3rd Qu.:
3rd Qu.:17.98
                             3.00
                                    3rd Qu.: 18.00
                                                      3rd Qu.:19.85
Max.
       :24.00
                 Max.
                         :1244.00
                                    Max.
                                            :159.00
                                                      Max.
                                                              :24.00
   taxi_in
                    arrival_time
                                    sch_arrival_time arrival_delay
                                                              : -94.0000
       :
          1.000
                           : 0.02
                                    Min.
                                            : 0.02
Min.
                   Min.
                                                      Min.
1st Qu.:
          5.000
                   1st Qu.:10.60
                                    1st Qu.:10.77
                                                      1st Qu.: -20.0000
                   Median :15.12
                                    Median :15.28
                                                      Median : -11.0000
Median : 7.000
Mean
       : 8.872
                   Mean
                           :14.89
                                    Mean
                                            :14.94
                                                      Mean
                                                                 -0.5486
3rd Qu.: 10.000
                   3rd Qu.:19.97
                                    3rd Qu.:20.00
                                                      3rd Qu.:
                                                                  2.0000
Max.
       :178.000
                           :24.00
                                    Max.
                                            :23.98
                                                              :1228.0000
                   Max.
                                                      Max.
   distance
       : 157
Min.
1st Qu.: 534
Median:1190
Mean
       :1355
3rd Qu.:2288
Max.
       :4817
```

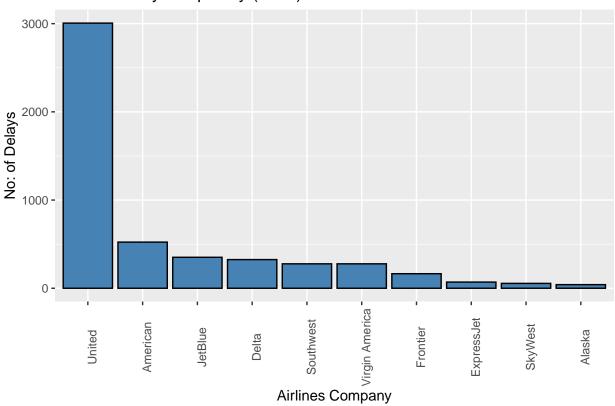
Question 1: Are certain destinations or airlines prone to delays?

Answer:United airlines are highly prone to delays with a delays more than 3000 followed by American and Jetblue with less than 500 delays with majority of them occurring in South and West regions .In addition to that, airports located in west region cities like Los Angeles,Francisco and Denver are experiencing around 700

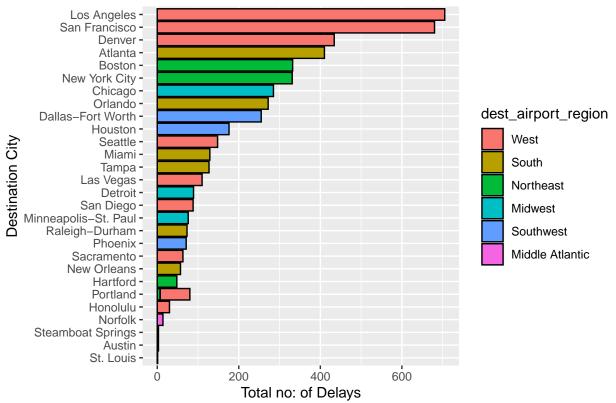
delays followed by cities in northeast and South regions close to 400 delays.

```
#Total Arrival Delays By Airlines
delay_summary<-flights_df %>% filter(arrival_delay > 15) %>%
  group_by(airline,dest_airport_region) %>% summarise(total_delays=n()) %>% mutate(percent_of_delays=ro
delay_summary
# A tibble: 24 \times 4
           airline [10]
# Groups:
  airline dest_airport_region total_delays percent_of_delays
   <fct>
                                       <int>
                                                         <dbl>
1 United
           West
                                        1639
                                                         54.5
2 United
           South
                                         444
                                                         14.8
3 United
           Northeast
                                         366
                                                         12.2
4 United
           Southwest
                                         282
                                                          9.38
5 United Midwest
                                                          8.68
                                         261
6 United Middle Atlantic
                                                          0.47
                                         14
7 American Southwest
                                         223
                                                         42.6
8 American West
                                         172
                                                         32.9
9 American South
                                         128
                                                         24.5
10 Delta
                                                         87.1
           South
                                         283
# ... with 14 more rows
flights_df %>% filter(arrival_delay > 15) %>%
  count(airline, sort = TRUE, name = 'total_delays') %>% ggplot(aes(x=reorder(airline,-total_delays,),y
  geom_bar(fill="steelblue",stat="identity",color="black") +
  labs(title = "Airlines Delay Frequency (2016)",
       y = "No: of Delays",
       x = "Airlines Company")+theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 90))
```





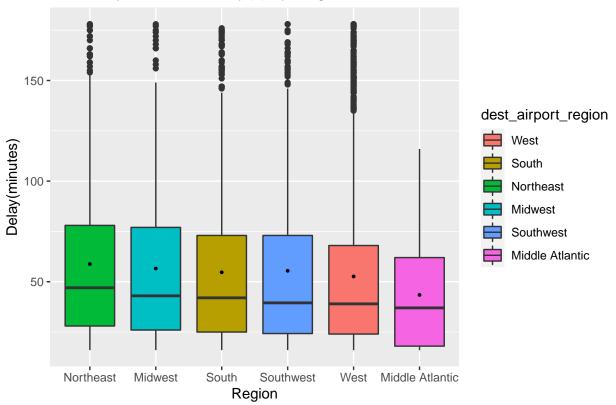




Question 2: How the delay times are varying in different regions and which airports are experiencing more arrival delay times in each region?

Answer: The median arrival delay time is highest in Northeast region(~48minutes) and lowest in Middle Atlantic region(~37minutes). The top 3 airports exhibiting higher delay times with respect to each region are Daniel K Inouye, McCarran , Seattle-Tacoma , Orlando , Tampa, Raleigh-Durham, Bradley , Logan , Newark Liberty , Chicago OHare, Minneapolis-St Paul, Detroit Metro Wayne County, Dallas-Fort Worth , Phoenix Sky Harbor, George Bush Intercontinental, Norfolk.





#Top 3 airports with higher delay times in each region
x %>%
select(dest_airport_region,arrival_delay,dest_airport_name) %>%
filter(arrival_delay > 15) %>%
group_by(dest_airport_region,dest_airport_name) %>%
summarise(arrival_delay_time=median(arrival_delay),total_arrival_delays=n()) %>%
filter(total_arrival_delays >10) %>% top_n(3, `arrival_delay_time`) %>%
arrange(dest_airport_region,desc(arrival_delay_time))

A tibble: 16 x 4

# Groups: dest_airport_region [6]				
	${\tt dest_airport_region}$	dest_airport_name	arrival_delay_ti~	total_arrival_de~
	<fct></fct>	<fct></fct>	<dbl></dbl>	<int></int>
1	West	Daniel K Inouye	51	25
2	West	McCarran	47	101
3	West	Seattle-Tacoma	45.5	138
4	South	Orlando	49	247
5	South	Tampa	47.5	118
6	South	Raleigh-Durham	45	69
7	Northeast	Bradley	55	45
8	Northeast	Logan	49	302
9	Northeast	Newark Liberty	48	131
10	Midwest	Chicago OHare	46	237
11	Midwest	Minneapolis-St Paul	44	66
12	Midwest	Detroit Metro Wayne ~	40.5	76
13	Southwest	Dallas-Fort Worth	41	229

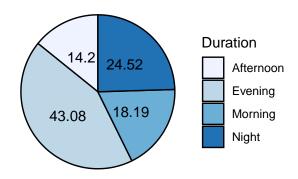
14 Southwest	Phoenix Sky Harbor	38	65
15 Southwest	George Bush Intercon~	37	153
16 Middle Atlantic	Norfolk	37	13

Question 3: Are certain times of the day or year problematic?

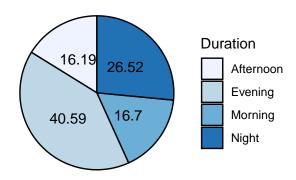
Answer: Operations happening in the Evening(after 7pm) and Night(before 5am) seems to be problematic as they are accounting for 68.3% of total arrival delays as well as 67.11% of departure delays respectively. While the departure delays tend to be constant over the months, the arrival delay is high in the months from June-August and December.

```
flights_df <- flights_df %>%
  mutate(time_period = case_when(
    sch_arrival_time >= 5 & sch_arrival_time <12 ~ 'Morning',</pre>
    sch_arrival_time >= 12 & sch_arrival_time <17 ~ 'Afternoon',</pre>
    sch_arrival_time >= 17 & sch_arrival_time <21 ~ 'Evening',</pre>
    TRUE ~ 'Night'))
dt1<-flights_df %>% group_by(time_period) %>% filter(arrival_delay > 15) %>%
  summarize(total_delays=n()) %>% ungroup() %>%
  mutate(percent_of_delays = round(100*(total_delays/sum(total_delays)),2))
dt2<-flights df %>% group by(time period) %>% filter(dep delay > 15) %>%
  summarize(total_delays=n()) %>% ungroup() %>%
  mutate(percent_of_delays = round(100*(total_delays/sum(total_delays)),2))
fig1<- ggplot(dt1, aes(x = "", y = percent_of_delays, fill = time_period)) +
  geom_col(color = "black") +guides(fill=guide_legend(title="Duration"))+
  geom_text(aes(label = percent_of_delays),
            position = position_stack(vjust = 0.5)) +
  coord_polar(theta = "y")+theme_void() + scale_fill_brewer() +
  labs(title = "Dist. of Total Arrival Delays within a Day(%)")
fig2<- ggplot(dt2, aes(x = 2, y = percent_of_delays, fill = time_period)) +
  geom_col(color = "black") +guides(fill=guide_legend(title="Duration"))+
  geom_text(aes(label = percent_of_delays),
            position = position_stack(vjust = 0.5)) +
  coord_polar(theta = "y")+theme_void() + scale_fill_brewer() +
  labs(title = "Dist. of Total Departure Delays within a Day(%)")
grid.arrange(fig1, fig2, nrow = 2)
```

Dist. of Total Arrival Delays within a Day(%)



Dist. of Total Depature Delays within a Day(%)



```
monthly_dep_delay_percentage<-flights_df %>% group_by(month) %>%
summarize(total_dep_delays=n()) %>% ungroup() %>%
mutate(percent_of_delays = round(100*(total_dep_delays/sum(total_dep_delays)),2)) %>% arrange(desc(perc monthly_dep_delay_percentage)
```

```
# A tibble: 12 x 3
```

	month	total_dep_delays	<pre>percent_of_delays</pre>
	<fct></fct>	<int></int>	<dbl></dbl>
1	July	3120	9.33
2	August	3092	9.25
3	June	3071	9.19
4	October	3051	9.13
5	May	2887	8.64
6	November	2885	8.63
7	${\tt September}$	2877	8.61
8	December	2768	8.28
9	April	2700	8.08
10	March	2554	7.64
11	January	2245	6.71
12	February	2183	6.53

```
monthly_arr_delay_percentage<-flights_df %>% group_by(month) %>%
filter(arrival_delay > 15) %>% summarize(total_arr_delays=n()) %>%
ungroup() %>%
mutate(percent_of_delays = round(100*(total_arr_delays/sum(total_arr_delays)),2)) %>% arrange(desc(perc
```

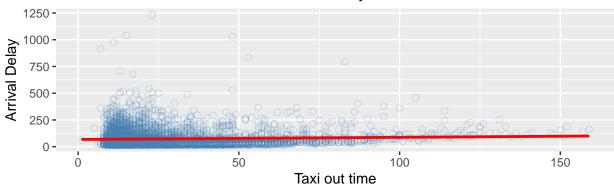
monthly_arr_delay_percentage

```
# A tibble: 12 x 3
  month
         total_arr_delays percent_of_delays
   <fct>
                        <int>
                                           <dbl>
 1 July
                          729
                                           14.3
 2 June
                          665
                                           13.1
3 December
                          640
                                           12.6
4 August
                          529
                                           10.4
5 October
                          393
                                            7.72
6 May
                          385
                                            7.56
7 September
                          373
                                            7.33
8 March
                          316
                                            6.21
9 April
                                            6.19
                          315
10 February
                          264
                                            5.19
11 November
                          256
                                            5.03
                          225
12 January
                                            4.42
```

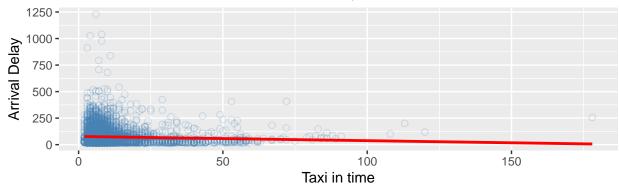
Question 4:Are flight delays affected by taxi-out and taxi-in time?

Answer: Based on the results from the scatter plot it is evident that flight delays are not affected by taxi in/out times.

Relation b/w Taxi out time & arrival delay



Relation b/w Taxi in time & arrival delay

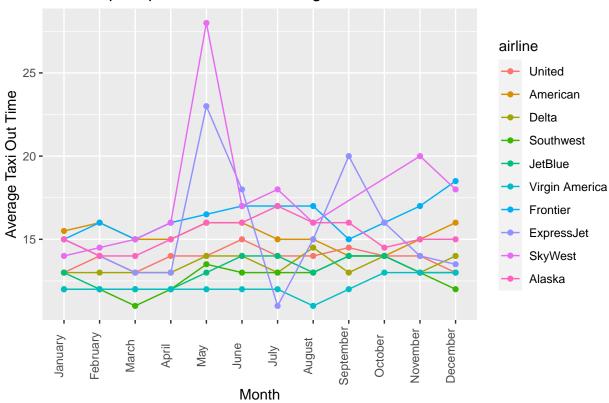


Question 5: Do certain airlines or time of year lead to greater taxi out times (i.e. traffic jams on the runways)?

Answer: Alaska airlines is showing higher taxi out between January and July whereas Skywest is experiencing increased taxi out time from January before reaching a peak time of 30mins in May. While, Frontier is showing greater taxi out times from September; Express Jet is showing higher taxi out times in the month of May with a peak time of 25mins before increasing again in September.

```
flights_df %>% group_by(airline,month) %>%
   summarize(avg_taxi_out=median(taxi_out)) %>%
   ggplot(aes(x=month,y=avg_taxi_out,color =airline,group=airline)) +
   geom_line() +geom_point()+
   labs(title = "Line Graph representation of Average Taxi Out Time",
        y = "Average Taxi Out Time",
        x = "Month") +theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 90, vjust = -0.1))
```



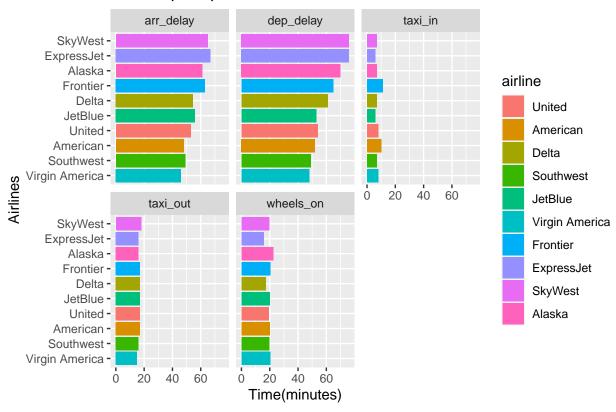


Question 6: How various airlines are performing on the runway and with respect to delay times?

Answer: During taxi-in American and Frontier are experiencing higher delay times. In terms of delay in arrivals and departures Alaska, Skywest, Express Jet and Frontier are highest when compared to other airlines.

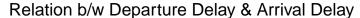
```
flights_df %>% group_by(airline) %>% filter(dep_delay >0 & arrival_delay>15) %>%
  summarize(arr_delay=median(arrival_delay),
                        dep_delay=median(dep_delay),
                        taxi_in=median(taxi_in),
                      wheels_on=median(wheels_on),
                        taxi out=median(taxi out)) %>%
                        arrange(desc(taxi_out)) %>%
  pivot_longer(cols = c(arr_delay, dep_delay,taxi_in,taxi_out,wheels_on),
             names_to = 'value_type',
             values_to = 'total_count') %>%
  ggplot(aes(x=reorder(airline,total_count),y=total_count,fill =airline)) +
  geom_bar(stat="identity",position = "dodge") + facet_wrap(~value_type) +
  coord_flip() +
  labs(title = "Bar Graph representation of Performance of US Airlines",
             x = "Airlines",
             y = "Time(minutes)")
```

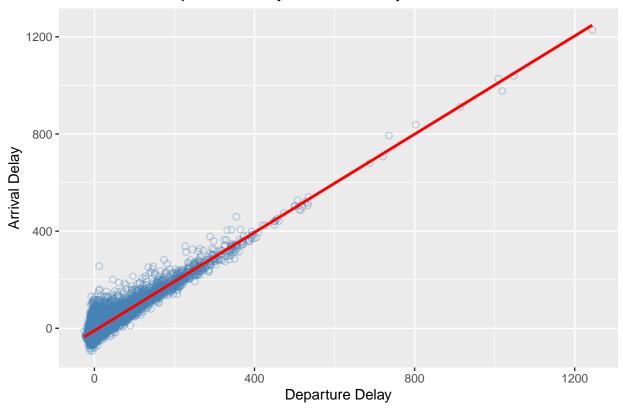
Bar Graph representation of Performance of US Airlines



Question 7: Does delay in departures cause arrival delay in destination?

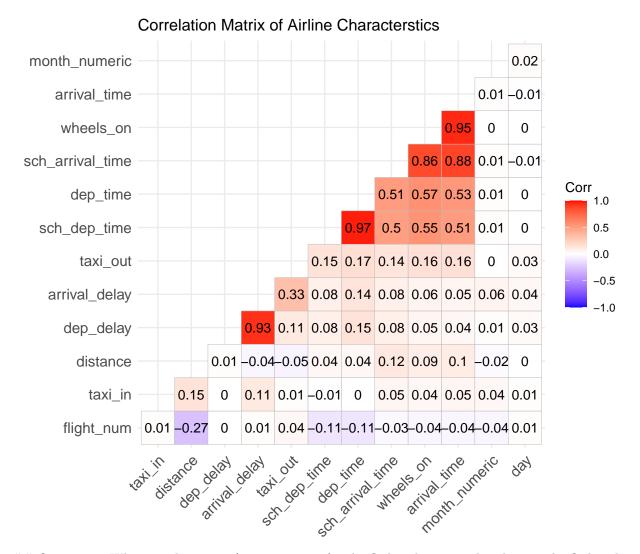
Answer: Yes, from the scatter plot it can be observed that the arrival delay is increasing linearly with respect to the increase in departure delay.





Question 8:How are the airline characteristics related to each other**

Answer:The heat map explains that the wheels on time is highly correlated with the arrival time and moderately correlated with the departure time.It also explains that departure delay is positively correlated with arrival delay.It is interesting to note that delays are not affected by distance variable.



Question 9:What are the taxi in/taxi-out times for the flights that arrived early over the flights that are delayed? **Answer**:Airlines that are delayed are experiencing additional taxi out, wheels on time of 5 to 10minutes when compared to the flights that arrived early. For taxi in time there has been any major difference expect for Jet and Frontier airlines which have taxi in time greater than 10minutes.

```
flights_df %>%
  mutate(arrival_state = case_when(
    arrival_delay <=15 ~ 'Early/Ontime',</pre>
    TRUE ~ 'Delayed')) %>% group_by(airline,arrival_state) %>%
  summarise(taxi_out_time=median(taxi_out),taxi_in_time=median(taxi_in),wheels_on=median(wheels_on)) %>
  arrange(arrival_state)
# A tibble: 20 x 5
# Groups:
            airline [10]
   airline
                  arrival_state taxi_out_time taxi_in_time wheels_on
                                         <dbl>
                                                       <dbl>
                                                                 <dbl>
   <fct>
                  <chr>>
```

19.3

20.0

16.8

19.8

20.2

8

11

7

7

6

18

19

19

20

19

1 United

3 Delta

2 American

4 Southwest

5 JetBlue

Delayed

Delayed

Delayed

Delayed

Delayed

6	Virgin America	Delayed	15	8	20.3
7	Frontier	Delayed	18	12	20.8
8	ExpressJet	Delayed	17	6	16.4
9	SkyWest	Delayed	23	7	19.7
10	Alaska	Delayed	17	7	22.4
11	United	Early/Ontime	14	7	14.9
12	American	Early/Ontime	14	10	13.5
13	Delta	Early/Ontime	13	6	13.0
14	Southwest	Early/Ontime	12	7	14.6
15	JetBlue	Early/Ontime	13	6	12.1
16	Virgin America	Early/Ontime	12	8	12.6
17	Frontier	Early/Ontime	16	12	18.9
18	ExpressJet	Early/Ontime	15	6	14.1
19	SkyWest	Early/Ontime	16	7	13.6
20	Alaska	Early/Ontime	15	7	21.3

Bonus Question: Does weather have any impact on delay of airlines**

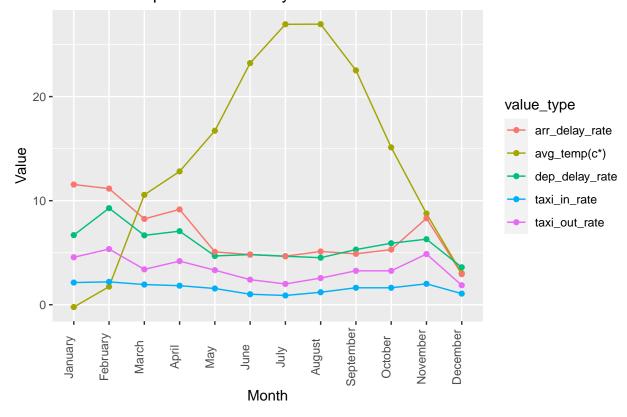
Answer: Yes, weather has a great impact on the airline delays and it is evident from the increasing delay, arrival and taxi out between July and November when temperatures are falling down. On the other hand from January, when the temperature are slowly rising, the delay rates are decreasing gradually.

```
temp df<-read.csv("temperature.csv")</pre>
#Parsing Dates
flights_df$scheduled_flight_date<- ymd(flights_df$scheduled_flight_date)
temp_df$Date<- ymd(temp_df$Date)</pre>
temp_df$Average<-(temp_df$Average-32)*5/9
#Joining Temperature dataset by Date column
final_df<-left_join(flights_df, temp_df,</pre>
                    by = c("scheduled flight date" = "Date"))
#Checking for NA rows after joining
sum(is.na(final_df))
Γ1 0
weather_df<-final_df %>% group_by(month) %>% filter(dep_delay >0,arrival_delay>0) %>%
  summarize(`avg temp(c*)`=round(mean(Average),2),
            total_flights=n(),
            dep delay rate=round((median(arrival delay)/total flights)*100,2),
            arr_delay_rate=round((median(dep_delay)/total_flights)*100,2),
            taxi_in_rate=round(median(taxi_in)*100/n(),2),
            taxi_out_rate=round(median(taxi_out)*100/n(),2)) %>%
pivot_longer(cols = c(`avg_temp(c*)`,dep_delay_rate,arr_delay_rate,taxi_in_rate,taxi_out_rate),
               names_to = 'value_type',
               values_to = 'values')
weather_df
# A tibble: 60 x 4
```

```
month
        total_flights value_type
                                        values
  <fct>
                  <int> <chr>
                                         <dbl>
1 January
                     329 avg_temp(c*)
                                         -0.22
2 January
                     329 dep_delay_rate
                                          6.69
3 January
                     329 arr_delay_rate 11.6
4 January
                     329 taxi_in_rate
                                          2.13
5 January
                     329 taxi out rate
                                          4.56
```

```
318 avg_temp(c*)
                                            1.74
 6 February
7 February
                      318 dep_delay_rate
                                            9.28
8 February
                      318 arr_delay_rate
                                           11.2
                      318 taxi_in_rate
                                            2.2
9 February
10 February
                      318 taxi_out_rate
                                            5.35
# ... with 50 more rows
ggplot(weather_df,aes(x=month,y=values,color =value_type,group=value_type)) +
  geom_line() +geom_point()+
  labs(title = "Effect of Temperature on Delay times",
       y = "Value",
       x = "Month") +theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 90, vjust = -0.1))
```

Effect of Temperature on Delay times



Executive Summary

1.Introduction

Delays is one of the important factors that needs to be considered by Airline authority as they cause great inconvenience to the passengers forcing them to spend more spend more money and also to the airports thereby affecting overall annual profits and reputation. The goal of this analysis is to identity the airports/airlines that are more prone to delays and are experiencing higher delay times in the runways. It also tries to identify the percentage of delays caused within a day and also over the year with the help of weather data. Identifying above problems and providing solutions through in-depth analysis will help the airports to streamline operations effectively and airline companies to hold their positions.

2.Kev Findings

Some of the key findings from my analysis reveal that United Airlines are more prone to arrival delays than followed by American and Jetblue and it is due to fact that it has more domestic operations than any other airlines. Flights that are delayed are experiencing additional taxi out, wheels on time of 5 to 10 minutes when compared to the flights that arrived early/on time. Airports located in West, Northeast, south region cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Boston, Network are experiencing delays in several hundreds annually with an average delay time greater than 35 minutes. It should be noted that around 67% of these delays are occurring during Evenings and Night times and they show up to increase between June-August. When it comes to traffic on runways, the taxi-out time doesn't tend to show any impact on the flight arrival delay but airlines such as Skywest, Alaska are facing increased taxi out times between January and April whereas Frontier and ExpressJet are showing higher taxi out times during September along with median delay time greater than 60minutes. Based on summary from the operations, it is observed that Alaska, Skywest, Express Jet and Frontier are exhibiting more delay and arrival times while the taxi in and taxi out times among airways are almost identical. Some of the features such as arrival delay, departure delay and wheels on time are highly correlated with each other and delay in one of these variables affects other significantly. It should be noted that delays and taxi out times are increasing as the temperature starts to drop between July and November and decrease from January as it starts to raise.

3. Recommendations

Based on my analysis, I would recommend FAA to initially reschedule some of the flights operating between Evenings and Nights to Morning and Afternoon as these account for about majority of delays as well as increase flights operations in Summer as this period is more susceptible to delays. It has been observed that majority of delays are happening in cities located in West, South and Northeast regions with a median arrival delay time greater than 37 minutes. While the tax-out and taxi-in times are considerably similar for all the airlines, some of the less popular airlines are experiencing overall delays and taxi-out times especially in Spring and Fall seasons. To overcome above mentioned issues, it is necessary to expand terminals and runways for the corresponding airports/construct additional domestic airports if necessary. Since, arrival delay, departure delay and wheels on time are dependent on one other, addressing one of the issues would eliminate existing problems. It is also important to hire more airport staff to meet the increasing demand in airport operations. Considering delays due to climatic conditions, airlines should take necessary actions such as halting operations during extreme weather conditions, providing reschedules and refunds without any extra charges.