

Additionally, the table below presents the reconciliation of total operating costs (GAAP measure) to total operating costs excluding special items and fuel (non-GAAP measure). Management uses total operating costs excluding special items and fuel to evaluate our current operating performance and for period-to-period comparisons. The price of fuel, over which we have no control, impacts the comparability of period-to-period financial performance. The adjustment to exclude aircraft fuel and special items allows management an additional tool to understand and analyze our non-fuel costs and core operating performance. Amounts may not recalculate due to rounding.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Reconciliation of Total Operating Costs per Available Seat Mile (CASM) Excluding Special Items and Fuel:			
(In millions)			
Total operating expenses - GAAP	\$ 41,885	\$ 38,391	\$ 35,082
Special items ⁽¹⁾ :			
Special items, net	(787)	(712)	(709)
Regional operating special items, net	(6)	(22)	(14)
Fuel:			
Aircraft fuel and related taxes - mainline	(8,053)	(6,128)	(5,071)
Aircraft fuel and related taxes - regional	(1,843)	(1,382)	(1,109)
Total operating expenses, excluding special items and fuel	<u>\$ 31,196</u>	<u>\$ 30,147</u>	<u>\$ 28,179</u>
(In millions)			
Total Available Seat Miles (ASM)	282,054	276,493	273,410
(In cents)			
Total operating CASM	14.85	13.88	12.83
Special items per ASM ⁽¹⁾ :			
Special items, net	(0.28)	(0.26)	(0.26)
Regional operating special items, net	—	(0.01)	(0.01)
Fuel per ASM:			
Aircraft fuel and related taxes - mainline	(2.86)	(2.22)	(1.85)
Aircraft fuel and related taxes - regional	(0.65)	(0.50)	(0.41)
Total CASM, excluding special items and fuel	<u>11.06</u>	<u>10.90</u>	<u>10.31</u>

⁽¹⁾ See Note 2 to AAG's Consolidated Financial Statements in Part II, Item 8A for further information on special items.