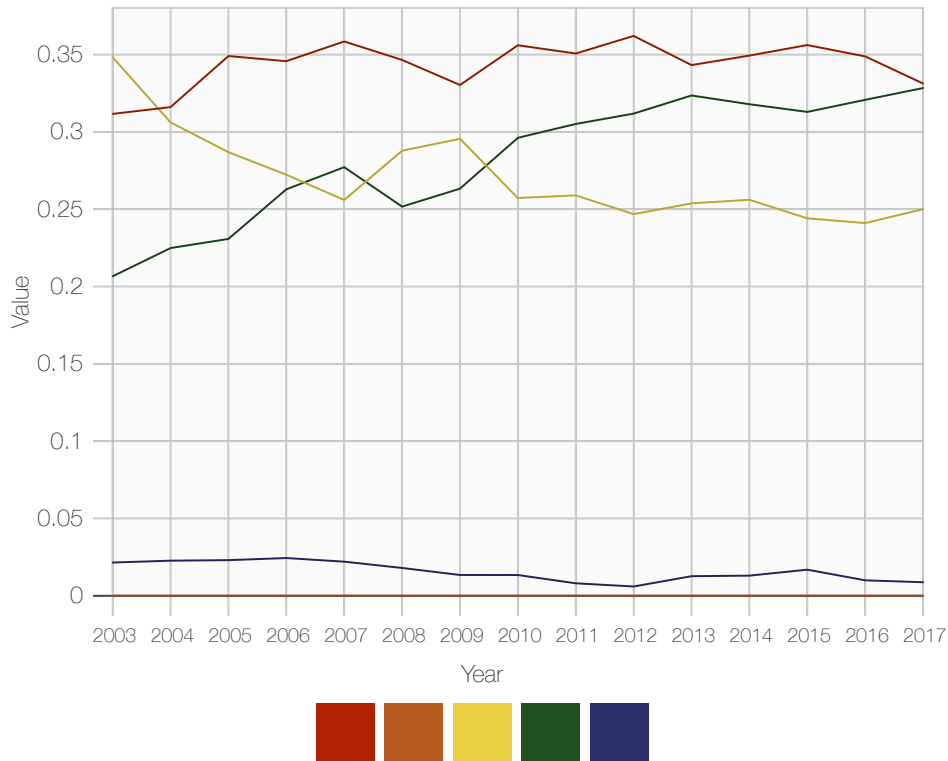# Flight delays

Flight delays are a cause of dissatisfaction for most if not all airline passengers. This story looks at the cause of flight delays using data provided by the US Bureau of Transportation Statistics, https://www.bts.gov/ (https://www.bts.gov/) throughout the years 2003 - 2017.

What's causing delays?

The majority of delays (33%) are caused by carriers (red line). The second largest group in 2003, the National Aviation System (NAS) has reduced its impact on delays from 35% in 2003 to 25% (yellow). While this indicates an efficiency gain in running the NAS, however this trend could also mean a statistical shift in the data. Consider that late arriving aircraft (green) as a cause of delays have increased dramatically and are now the cause of 33% of all delayed flights. Late arriving aircraft are reported when a previous flight with the same plane was delayed - no matter what the cause.

It is interesting that delays due to extreme weather conditions which stop any flight from departing or landing are rare and well below 5% (blue). The same is true for delays cause by security measures.

Which carriers cause the most delays?
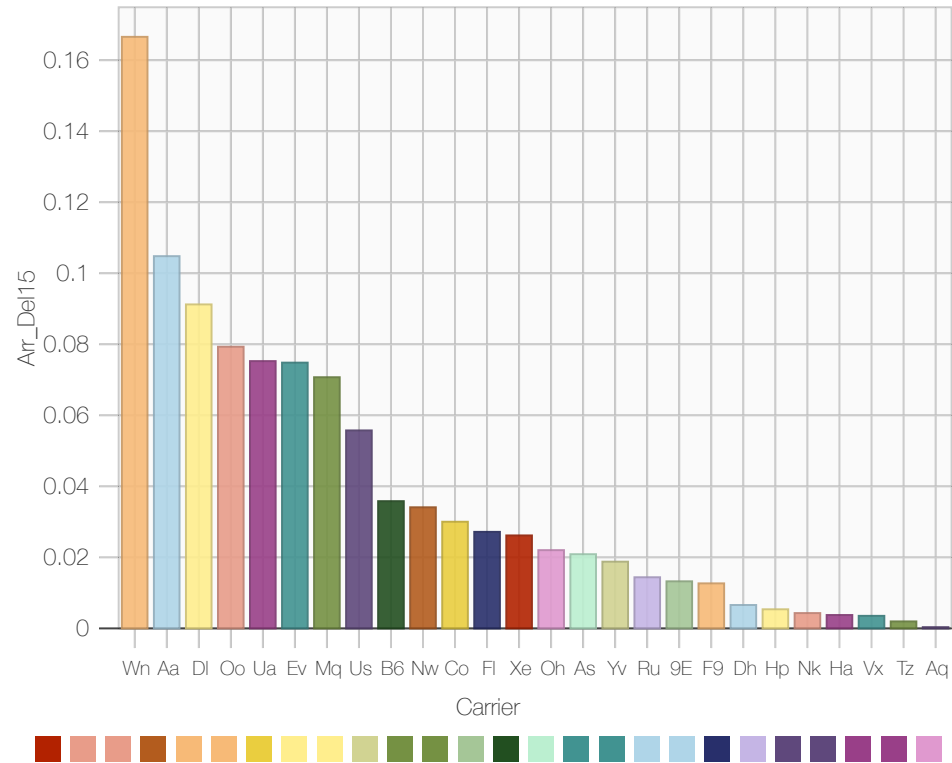
One third of all delays between 2003 and 2017 have been caused by just three airlines. The next third is caused by 5 airlines. The remainder 18 airlines have caused the remainder of delays.

Where (regions) do most delays happen?
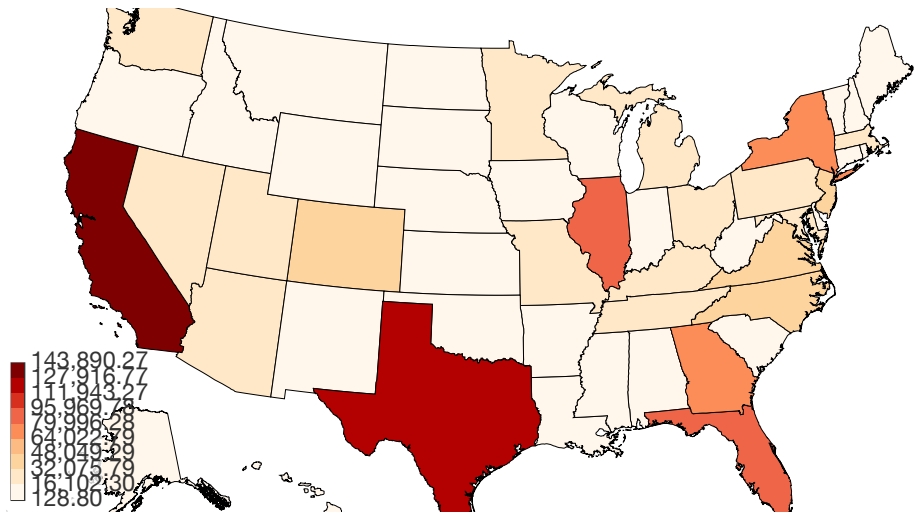
On average most delays happen where there are the most flights:

- California (Los Angeles, San Francisco): 721'675 flights p.a., 143'890 delays (19.9%)
- Texas (Dallas): 677'255 flights p.a., 124'937 delays (18.4%)
- Illionois: 399'980 flights p.a., 87'741 delays (21.9%)