

# Connecting America: The 21 Airline Companies and The Ones You Should Choose

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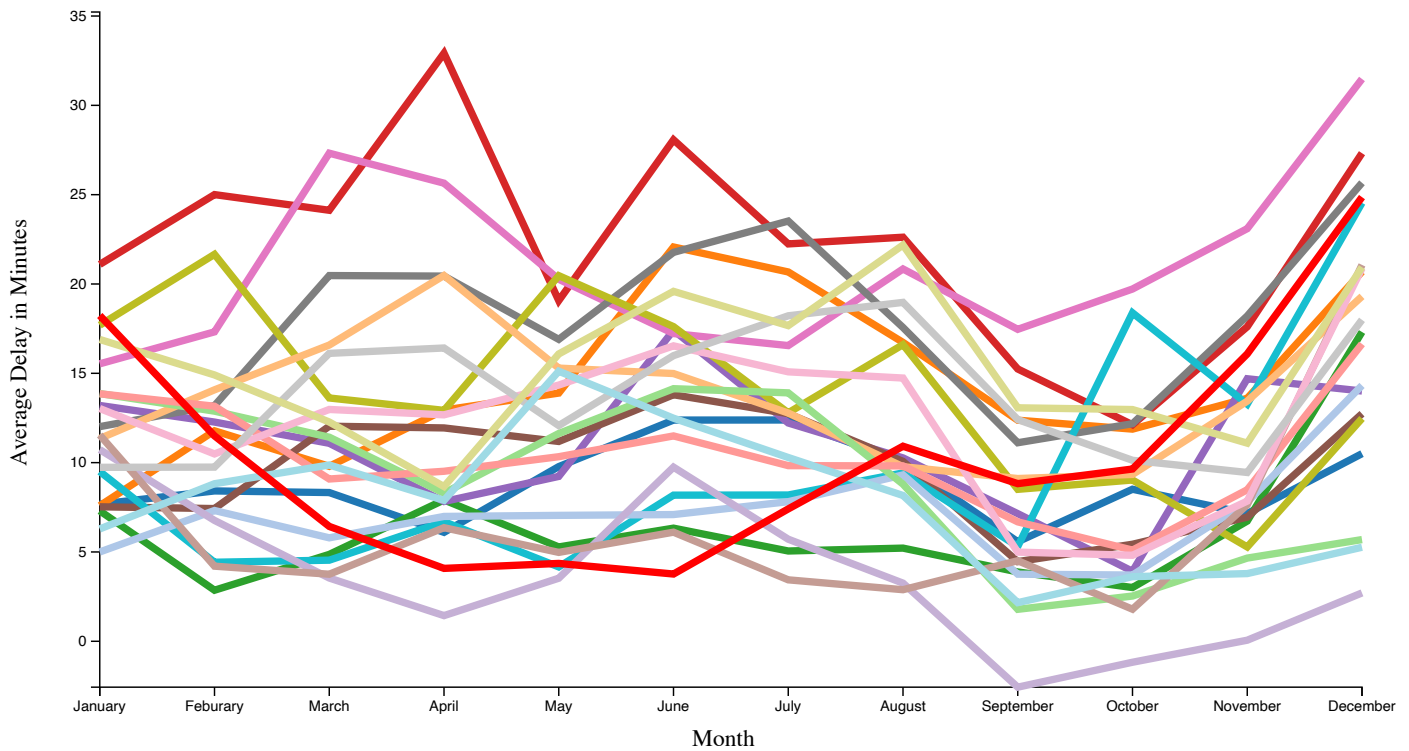
In the United States, air travel is very common as there were about 7 million flights that have been taken in the year 2022. People are constantly on the move and using the sky as means for travel and transportation. During 2022, travelers were able to choose from over 21 different airline companies when it came to domestic air travel. Now, what causes travelers to choose certain airline companies over others? We will look into certain data like cancellation rates for popular airline companies, average delay times for each airline and even routes of popular airline companies to see what airline companies are consumers using.

## Seasonal Trends In Domestic Air Travel

One of the number one things we like to know is whether the airline company we are choosing can get us from point A to point B safely and on time. Being punctual is a big plus that travelers expect from airlines. If travelers can't be sure of the reliability of an airline in terms of delays, what would make them choose such airline company? So let's examine the airlines and their average delay trends in minutes for each month for the year 2022.

If you hover over each line, you are able to see which airline company the line represents and their average delay time in minutes for the whole year

Average Delays Times Per Airline In The Year 2022



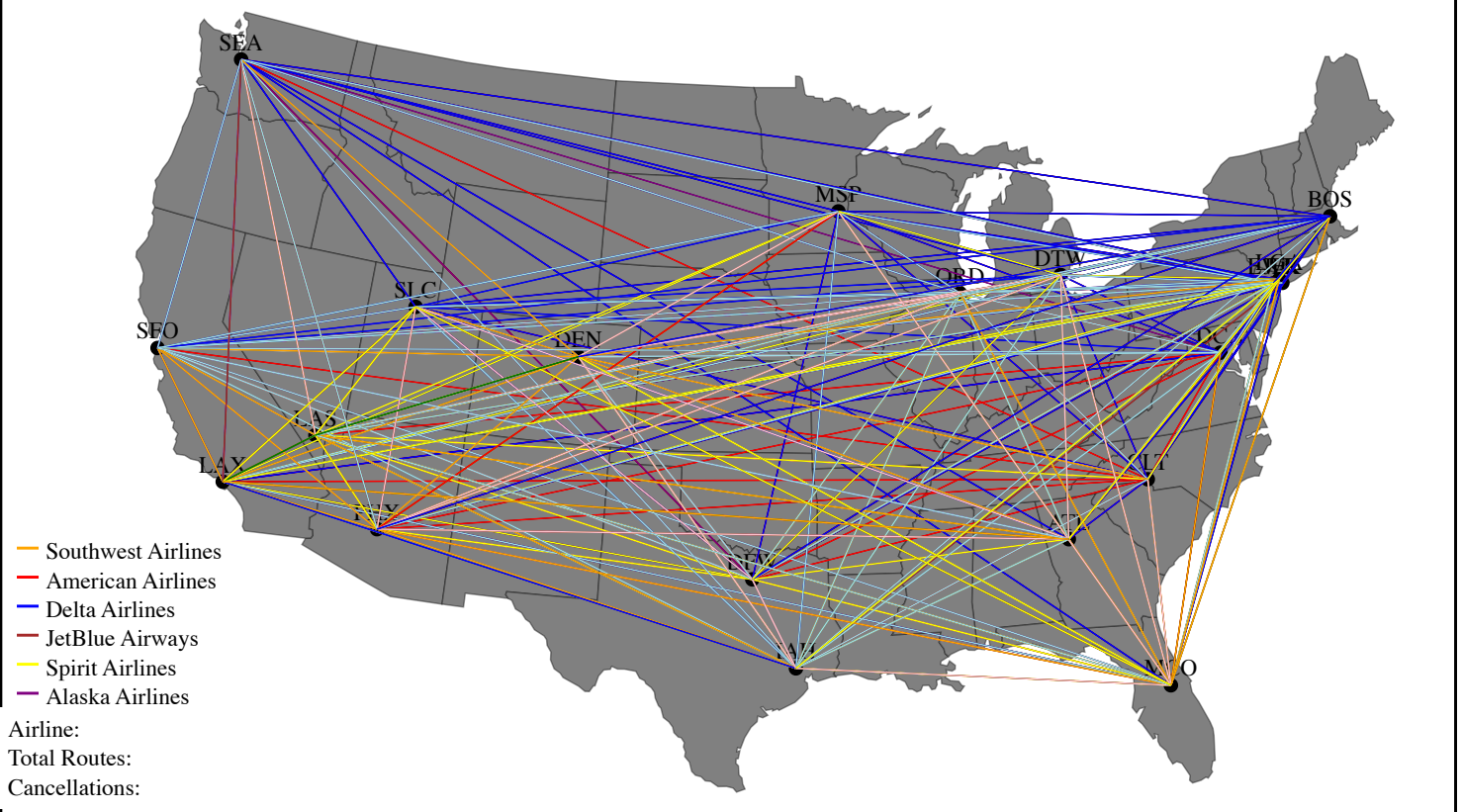
There are a couple of things to take away from this line plot. As we can see there appears to be a certain trends for almost every airline during certain months. Between the months of March and July, there is a increase in delay times. This could be due to things like spring and summer break for students which can cause increase in airline demands and staff. The other trend we can see is that between the months July and September, we can see a decline in delays potentially due to summer vacations ending and students starting to go back to school. This decline in delays doesnt last long as winter time is coming up and holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's bring more delays due to an increase in demands from the airline. Of course, we can see some potential outliers in these trends. For example, JetBlue has an abnormally high average delay time. This could have been due to higher number of failures within the airline within ground control or even aircraft failures before takeoff. Certain airlines companies like Piedmont and Horizon are subsidiaries to major airline companies like American Airline and Alaska Airlines. The number of flights these subsidiary companies might serve could be less which can attribute to less delays

## Airline Routes Throughout the United States

Now, where certain airlines operate are important when making a decision on which airline you would choose. Certain airlines go to certain places while others dont service to certain airports. Knowing this type of information is crucial when making a financial decision on which airline you want to choose for your next traveling option. So lets examine the 20 busiest airports in terms of flight traffic in the United States for 2022 and popular airline companies used by many travelers that operate in these airports.

For a better viewabilty, if you hover over the legend on certain airlines, you are able to better see where these airlines operate soley, the airlines cancellation percentage on flights and even the number of routes they offer from each of these major airports.

Airline Flight Routes From The Top 20 Busiest Airports In The Year 2022



As you can see, Delta, United and American Airlines seem to operate to almost all major airports in the US. These three airline companies have been around for a long time and have been considered very trustworthy in terms of the places they go and their track record when it comes to cancellations. Other major airline companies like Spirit, Southwest, and Allegiant operate more towards smaller sized airports which might not be shown in the map but still have plenty of route options. Another thing to keep in mind, there are about 3 major airports (JFK, LGA, and EWR) very close to each other in the New York/Jersey Area. These three airports are often very busy with flights especially coming from Delta, American, United, and even other airlines like JetBlue and Spirit Airlines.

## The Airlines To Choose

There really is no right answer. It all depends on your needs such as price, comfort and where you need to go in the United States. Of course, besides those things, I had examined potential other things like cancellation rates, the number of routes coming from the top 20 busiest airports, and even average delay times for each month for popular airlines used daily by residents of the United States. If we look at these facts, I would choose either American, United, or Delta Airlines. These three companies have been around for a long time, know what they are doing when it comes to flight reliability as they have very minimal delay times and cancellation rates during peak times, provide about 96 routes for American Airlines, 87 routes for United Airlines, 116 routes for Delta Airlines from major airports and even go across from west to east coast or the opposite. In the end, travelers have preferences and might even prefer the status of an airline to another. Ultimately, the airline you choose is up to you