



## Airlines

### Airlines' On-time Performance is Best in Two Years

U.S. airlines reported their best on time performance in two years in April, according to the Department of Transportation's latest figures. Just over 86 percent of flights arrived within 15 minutes of their scheduled arrival time, the best since November 2009. And, airlines are getting better at keeping track of your bags. April's mishandled baggage report was down to 2.63 reports per 1,000 passengers from 3.3 in April 2011 and 3.09 in March 2012. Airlines also reported no tarmac delays of more than three hours on domestic flights or more than four hours on international flights. (Source: DOT press release).

### U.S. Air Passenger Traffic Up Slightly

The number of passengers U.S. airlines carry continues to increase, according to the latest statistics from the Department of Transportation. The first three months of 2012 continued the growth trend of 2011, when system and domestic load factors hit an all-time high. U.S. airlines carried 2.8 percent more passengers in the first quarter of 2012 than in the first quarter of 2011. That meant that overall, passenger numbers were up 1.4 percent. The March 2012 passenger total was 3.6 percent above March 2010. Delta Air Lines carried the most total passengers. Southwest Airlines carried more domestic passengers. United Airlines, which merged with Continental Airlines, carried the most international passengers. (Source: DOT press release).

### U.S. Air Capacity Dips

Airlines might be carrying more passengers, but they're flying fewer seats as U.S. carriers continue to trim capacity. In March, domestic capacity decreased by .6 of a percent and capacity system wide was down .3 of a percent. This is an ongoing trend; in late June both Delta Air Lines and United Airlines reduced their total seats by about 1 percent, anticipating slackening demand after Labor Day. (Source: DOT press release, news reports).

### Delta to Offer In-flight Wi-Fi on Its International Fleet

Delta Air Lines, the airline that has more planes equipped with Wi-Fi than any other domestically, said that it will start offering in-flight Internet service on its long-haul international fleet in early 2013. Once it completes installing Wi-Fi on all of its international aircraft in 2015, it will have more than 1,000 planes with Wi-Fi. Lufthansa now offers Wi-Fi on some transatlantic flights; Virgin Atlantic is introducing it later this year. (Source: Delta, Lufthansa press releases, news reports).

### Aviation Continues to Work on Biofuel Development

KLM flew the longest commercial biofuel flight ever to the Rio+20 sustainable development conference in Rio de Janeiro late last month. It's part of an ongoing aviation industry effort to develop use of biofuel. Lufthansa just wound up a six-month trial in which it used a 50-50 blend of biofuel and regular fuel on its planes. Air New Zealand has flown biofuel test flights and is working on developing biofuel production in New Zealand. British Airways said it plans to use a fuel derived from waste by 2015, while Virgin Atlantic said it will use fuel derived from waste gases by 2014, cutting its carbon footprint by 50 percent. European carriers, biofuel producers and the EU commission last year signed a pact to produce 2 million tons of biofuel by 2020. In the U.S., United Airlines, Boeing, Honeywell's UOP, the Chicago Department of Aviation and the Clean Energy Trust have formed the Midwest Aviation Sustainable Biofuels initiative. Its goal: to promote biofuel development in a 12-state region. (Source: press releases)

## Hotels

### Hotels Standardize “Green” Rating System

Wondering what the carbon footprint is of your hotel stay? Until now, the hospitality industry hasn't had a consistent way of measuring a hotel or resort's carbon footprint. A resort in Hawaii or the Colorado mountains may well have a bigger carbon footprint than a New York or Los Angeles hotel, because providing energy to those locations may require burning more fossil fuel. But you can't generalize by location, since energy use can vary hotel by hotel. Now, there's a new methodology for calculating the carbon footprint for hotel stays and meetings in a consistent and transparent way. The new methodology was formulated through the collaboration of the International Tourism Partnership, the World Travel & Tourism Council and 23 major hotel companies. The group, the Hotel Carbon Measurement Initiative Working Group, was formed in 2011 to address inconsistencies in measuring a property's carbon footprint. It launched the new methodology, which has been tested at a variety of hotel types in many different locations, earlier this summer. (Source: HCMI press release)

### Analyst Company is Bullish on Hotel Outlook for Later in the Year

PKF Hospitality Research expects the hotel industry to stay strong, forecasting the revenue per available room (RevPAR) will gain 4.9 percent in the second half of the year. It's a little less than the 6.9 percent growth the industry saw during the first six months of the year. Demand for lodging has grown since 2010 and there have been limited increases in hotel supply. The fact that it is a presidential election year does have a chilling effect. Nonetheless, PKF expects hotels in 29 of the 50 major markets to hit occupancy levels above their long-term averages. (Source: press release)



## Spotlight On... *Traveling 'Green'*

*Sustainable travel is becoming increasingly important when it comes to managing travel, according to new research by the Global Business Travel Association Foundation. It surveyed travel buyers in the United States, Europe and Australia for their opinion on sustainable or “green” efforts. Companies see focusing on sustainability as a way to save money and influence traveler behavior. It found major regional differences:*

- *56 percent of European and Australian managers and buyers already participate in one travel-related sustainability initiative compared to 41 percent of American companies.*
- *59 percent of European and Australian managers expect to use environmental sourcing criteria compared to 34 percent of American managers.*
- *More than a third of European travel buyers expect to change suppliers in the next two years to comply with sustainable travel policies.*

*Source: GBTA press release*