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NEW DATA: NY-NJ AIRPORTS TOP LIST FOR HIGHEST RATE OF TARMAC DELAYS

GGA Calls for Full Implementation of NextGen in the New York airspace to alleviate hours-long delays

(NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY) – A new study shows that New York-New Jersey airports have the highest percentage of flights left waiting on the runway, either before takeoff or after landing, according to a new study released today by the Global Gateway Alliance (full tables below).

The study found LaGuardia, JFK and Newark were the top three airports in the country during 2014 with the highest rate of tarmac delays lasting between 61 and 300 minutes, the measure used by the FAA. At nearly 2,500 tarmac delays, LaGuardia had the highest percentage of flights disrupted. JFK saw an even greater number of flights facing the hours-long delays, at 2,660. Newark's tarmac delays accounted for over 1,600 flights.

“Our airports are the first and last impression travelers have of this region, and it is unconscionable that so many passengers’ impressions include getting stuck on the runway for hours on end,” **said Global Gateway Alliance Chairman and Founder Joe Sitt**. “It is past time for the FAA to step up and prioritize the rollout of NextGen in the New York airspace for the 117 million passengers who deserve better.”

While these numbers represent a small percentage of overall flights at these airports, the delays affected approximately 660,000 passengers over the course of the year. In other words, over half a million people either entering or departing the region were left sitting on the runway for between one and five hours.

Of the ten airports around the country with the most tarmac delays, New York-New Jersey airports also had the highest number of extreme delays, which last between 181 and 300 minutes, or three to five hours. JFK and Newark were the worst and second worst airports in this category, and between the three airports, nearly 40 flights, or 4,100 passengers, experienced these extreme tarmac delays.

The New York airspace is the most congested in the nation and often the source of the region's chronic delays. And due to the close proximity of the airports, delays at one airport often mean delays at the others. In order to get passengers off the ground and into the air, and vice versa, the FAA must first replace decades-old radar with the satellite-based technology of NextGen to clear the airways and eradicate backlogs on the runways.

However, NextGen implementation has been delayed until at least 2025 and counting. And even when the technology is in place, it remains underutilized. For example, last year a DOT report showed that less than 1 percent of aircrafts were using curved “NextGen” approaches at New York and New Jersey airports, approaches which enable smoother, more efficient landings as well as the use of more runways.

Table 1: Top 10 Airports for Tarmac Delays between 61-300 minutes in 2014, Ranked by Percentage of Flights Affected

Rank	Airport	Total Flights Delayed	Min Time Lost (mins)	% of Flights Affected	Traffic in 2014	
					Flights	Pax
1	New York, NY (LGA)	2,457	149,877	0.68%	360,834	26,954,588
2	New York, NY (JFK)	2,661	162,321	0.63%	422,912	53,254,362
3	Newark, NJ (EWR)	1,670	101,870	0.42%	398,630	35,600,108
4	Chicago, IL (ORD)	3,679	224,419	0.42%	881,933	70,075,204
5	Philadelphia, PA (PHL)	1,557	94,977	0.37%	419,253	30,740,180
6	Washington, DC (DCA)	1,005	61,305	0.35%	283,174	20,810,387
7	Detroit, MI (DTW)	1,041	63,501	0.27%	392,655	32,513,555
8	Houston, TX (IAH)	1,186	72,346	0.23%	508,935	41,251,015
9	Dallas/Fort Worth, TX (DFW)	1,373	83,753	0.20%	679,820	63,522,823
10	Atlanta, GA (ATL)	1,732	105,652	0.20%	868,359	96,178,899

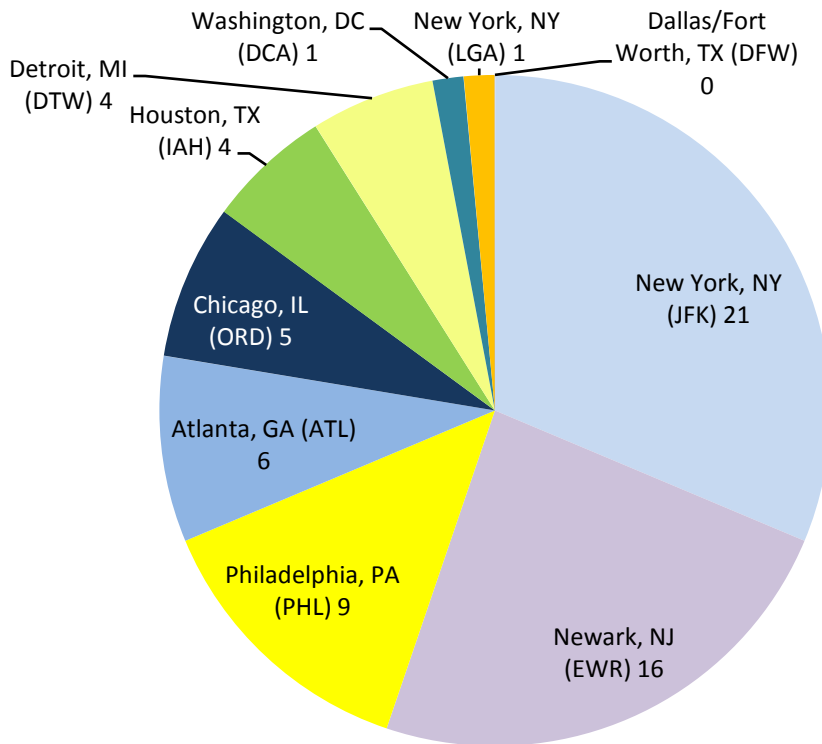
Table 2: Top 10 Airports for Tarmac Delays lasting 61-300 minutes in 2014, Ranked by total number of delayed flights

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10	Washington, DC (DCA)	1,005	61,305	0.35%	283,174	20,810,387

Table 3: Top 10 Airports for “Extreme Tarmac Delays” (lasting 181-300 mins) in 2014, Ranked by Number of Delays

Rank	Airport	Total Flights Delayed	Min Time Lost (mins)	% of Flights Affected	Traffic in 2014	
					Flights	Pax
1	New York, NY (JFK)	21	3,801	0.0050%	422,912	53,254,362
2	Newark, NJ (EWR)	16	2,896	0.0040%	398,630	35,600,108
3	Philadelphia, PA (PHL)	9	1,629	0.0021%	419,253	30,740,180
4	Atlanta, GA (ATL)	6	1,086	0.0007%	868,359	96,178,899
5	Chicago, IL (ORD)	5	905	0.0006%	881,933	70,075,204
6	Houston, TX (IAH)	4	724	0.0010%	392,655	32,513,555
7	Detroit, MI (DTW)	4	724	0.0008%	508,935	41,251,015
8	Washington, DC (DCA)	1	181	0.0004%	283,174	20,810,387
9	New York, NY (LGA)	1	181	0.0003%	360,834	26,954,588
10	Dallas/Fort Worth, TX (DFW)	0	0	0.0000%	679,820	63,522,823

Chart 1: Breakdown of “Extreme Tarmac Delays” by Airport



METHODOLOGY

Using data on the number of tarmac delays for U.S. airports between 60 and 301 minutes from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, we established the top ten airports for tarmac delays. The delay performance of these same ten airports was also analyzed for the number of delays lasting between 180 and 300 minutes, known as “extreme delays.” The number of flights delayed was crossed against the airport’s respective annual flight movements, to show the percentage of flights affected. Operations and traffic data was sourced from the Airports Council International for all available airports, and the remainder from their respective agency-issued traffic reports.

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ABOUT GGA

Global Gateway Alliance (GGA) was established to address the major challenges facing the metropolitan region’s airports and related infrastructure that, if left unaddressed, will serve as a major impediment to the long-term growth of New York City and surrounding areas. By harnessing the expertise of leaders in business, government, academia, labor and other sectors, we seek to tackle these challenges head-on and serve as the leading advocate in an effort to improve our airports and facilitate the continued growth of the region. For more information regarding the Global Gateway Alliance, please visit www.globalgatewayalliance.org. Follow GGA on Twitter @GGA_NYNJ and ‘Like’ the organization on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/UsqxGw>.

GGA’s board of directors includes: **Joseph Sitt** (Chairman), CEO, Thor Equities; **Stuart Appelbaum** (Vice President), President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; **Angelo Genova**, Founding Partner at Genova Burns and a former New Jersey Commissioner of the Port Authority; **Chris Giamo**, Regional President for TD Bank; **David Hopkins**, Senior Director of Aviation at the New York City Economic Development Corporation; **Jared Kushner**, Owner of Kushner Properties and the New York Observer; **George Miranda**, Teamsters’ International Vice President; **Mitchell Moss**, Henry Hart Rice Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University; **William Rudin**, CEO of Rudin Management Company, Inc. and Chairman of ABNY; **Joseph Spinnato**, President of the Hotel Association of New York City; **Alvin S. Trenk**, Chairman and CEO of Air Pegasus Corp; **Peter Ward**, President of the Hotel Trades Council on New York; **Tom Wright**, President of the Regional Plan Association; **Kathryn Wylde**, President of the Partnership for New York City, and **Tim Zagat**, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Zagat Survey.