



# Megahubs **United States Index** 2018

The Most Connected Airports in the US

# About OAG Megahubs US Index 2018

**Published alongside the OAG Megahubs International Index, this special US edition takes account of the unique nature of the US aviation market, focusing on domestic connectivity.**

Using a similar methodology as the International Index, the OAG Megahubs US Index reveals the top 25 most connected airports in the US for domestic services. OAG has calculated the total number of all possible connections between inbound and outbound flights at each airport within a three-hour window, where both flights are domestic services.

The Index measures more than just the size of an airport's route network, taking into account the number of connections which are possible within a specific time frame and the relative attractiveness of each airport as a connecting point for scheduled domestic air passengers.

This year the Index includes the dominant carrier at each hub, and the share of flights operated by that carrier.

## **The following customizable criteria were used for this edition:**

- Single connections only to/from the chosen airports;
- Maximum circuitry of 120<sup>1</sup>;
- Minimum Connection Time (MCT) varies by individual airport. OAG holds the MCT information for every commercial airport in operation;
- Maximum Connection Window of 3 hours<sup>2</sup>;

OAG Connections Analyser harnesses the power of the OAG Schedules database to dynamically build connections and is further enhanced by including OAG's MCT Exceptions Table. At any one time, there are typically over 120,000 exceptions globally. These are typically less than published MCTs and it is the responsibility of the airlines involved to ensure that the connection time remains realistic for passengers to make the connection.

<sup>1</sup> The OAG Megahubs International Index 2018 uses maximum circuitry of 150.

<sup>2</sup> The OAG Megahubs International Index 2018 uses a maximum connection window of 6 hours.

# Top 25 US Megahubs

The top 25 Megahubs are those airports with the highest ratio of possible scheduled connections to the number of destinations served by that airport.

Online and interline connections are included and utilizing the power of Connections Analyser, low-cost carrier (LCC) connections are also included.

Rank	Airport	Airport Name	Connectivity Index	Dominant Carrier	Share of Flights at Hub
1	ORD	Chicago O'Hare	479	United Airlines	50%
2	ATL	Atlanta	396	Delta Air Lines	78%
3	CLT	Charlotte	236	American Airlines	90%
4	DFW	Dallas/Fort Worth	228	American Airlines	84%
5	DEN	Denver	187	United Airlines	53%
6	DTW	Detroit	139	Delta Air Lines	76%
7	LAX	Los Angeles	135	American Airlines	24%
8	MSP	Minneapolis/St Paul	121	Delta Air Lines	74%
9	PHX	Phoenix	95	American Airlines	51%
10	PHL	Philadelphia	95	American Airlines	78%
11	SEA	Seattle-Tacoma	94	Alaska Airlines	52%
12	IAH	Houston	94	United Airlines	83%
13	SLC	Salt Lake City	85	Delta Air Lines	72%
14	LGA	New York LaGuardia	84	Delta Air Lines	48%
15	HNL	Honolulu	82	Hawaiian Airlines	61%
16	SFO	San Francisco	81	United Airlines	52%
17	MDW	Chicago Midway	81	Southwest Airlines	93%
18	BOS	Boston	78	JetBlue	28%
19	DAL	Dallas Love Field	71	Southwest Airlines	89%
20	LAS	Las Vegas	66	Southwest Airlines	44%
21	DCA	Washington	61	American Airlines	58%
22	IAD	Washington Dulles	59	United Airlines	79%
23	OGG	Kahului	56	Hawaiian Airlines	41%
24	EWR	Newark Liberty	55	United Airlines	74%
25	BWI	Baltimore Washington	53	Southwest Airlines	64%

## Key Highlights

- **Chicago O'Hare Airport (ORD)** is ranked 1st again in the 2018 US Megahubs. The airport increased its Connectivity Index on the busiest day for domestic US aviation in 2017 from 455 last year to 479 this year. This was achieved through a combination of more domestic destinations being available and a rise in the number of possible flight connections in a three-hour window to 81,913.
- Ranked 2nd as a US Megahub, **Atlanta (ATL)** operated with the highest volume of annual domestic seats of any US airport in 2017. With small increases in the number of flights operated, the number of potential connections and the number of domestic destination, the Connectivity Index rose from 390 to 396.
- **Charlotte Airport (CLT), Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport (DFW)** and **Denver Airport (DEN)** are ranked 3rd, 4th and 5th again as Megahubs. While not changing its place in the rankings, Dallas/Ft Worth Airport improved its Connectivity Index from 207 to 228 due to an increase in destinations served and the number of potential connections.
- **Los Angeles Airport (LAX)** rose up the rankings to take 7th place with a 20 percent rise in the number of potential flight connections within a three-hour window. United Airlines are amongst the carriers driving growth at LAX, adding frequency on existing routes, in turn increasing potential connections.
- Another airport to rise up the Megahubs rankings is **Philadelphia Airport (PHL)** which went from 14th to 10th place, while **New York LaGuardia Airport (LGA)** rose more rapidly, improving its position from 24th to 14th.
- While nine of the top 10 US Megahubs this year were also in the top 10 last year, **Honolulu Airport (HNL)** is the only one slipping down the rankings, moving from 9th place last year to 15th place this year. Despite a relatively unchanged volume of flights and destinations served, connectivity has decreased.
- **Hawaii's Kahului Airport (OGG)** enters the top 25 this year, in 23rd place. It is the smallest airport in the top 25 but manages a high ratio of potential connections to its domestic destinations in part due to increased competition between Hawaiian Airlines, Alaska Airlines and United Airlines.



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