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# AIRPORT REPORT

## NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT FARES AMONG MOST AFFORDABLE IN NATION

By **Iftikhar Ahmad**, Director of Aviation

The Bureau of Transportation recently released statistics for average air fares at the top 100 U.S. airports. The Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport is ranked at #79, which is in the 4th quartile, meaning that we are one of the most affordable airports to fly to and from. Our average air fare is \$360, which consists of domestic round-trip fares, including taxes and fees at the time of purchase. The top five most expensive airports were all above the \$500 mark.

This ranking reflects the Airport's success in securing new airlines, including ultra-low cost airlines, which increases competition and lowers air fares. In February 2015, the ultra-low cost carrier, Allegiant Air, began nonstop service to Indianapolis, IN (IND); Cincinnati, OH (CVG); Columbus, OH (LCK); and Orlando-Sanford, FL (SFB). Allegiant Air offers low base fares and a la carte add-ons such as vacation packages, hotels and attractions. Flights to Orlando-Sanford can be purchased for as low as \$45 each way!

Additionally, Spirit Airlines' ultra-low cost service has increased over the last year. Spirit expanded its non-stop offerings to include Dallas, TX (DFW); Fort Lauderdale, FL (FLL); Detroit, MI (DTW); Houston, TX (IAH); and Chicago, IL (ORD). Similar to Allegiant, Spirit offers an unbundled product where customers choose the amenities and services they desire. With these low fares, why drive when flights to Houston can be purchased for as low as \$35 each way!

Airline competition at Armstrong International benefits our community with greater flight options and more competitive fares, especially when airlines are competing on the same routes. For example, we now have four airlines offering non-stop service to Cancun, including Branson AirExpress operated by Orange Air, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, and Vacation Express. Delta and United offer one weekly non-stop flight on Saturdays, but customers choosing a stay shorter than one week can easily connect over their respective hubs when booking their trip. To view flight options on Delta, visit [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com). For flight options with United, visit [www.united.com](http://www.united.com).

Vacation Express offers three weekly flights to Cancun on Sundays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and customers can choose among multiple itinerary options. If you would like to explore another tropical destination, Vacation Express also provides non-stop weekly service to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (PUJ) on Thursdays. Vacation Express offers hotel packages too, so customers may book their

complete travel experience through [www.vacationexpress.com](http://www.vacationexpress.com).

Branson AirExpress operated by Orange Air is one of our newest airlines to announce service and will begin discounted flights to Cancun in May. Flights will depart New Orleans on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Branson AirExpress operated by Orange Air will also offer non-stop flights to Branson, Missouri. To learn more, visit their website at [www.BransonAirExpress.com](http://www.BransonAirExpress.com).

The Airport continues to recruit more air service to provide the most efficient opportunities for travel to and from our great city. The Airport currently has a total of 14 airlines serving 46 non-stop destinations, which are all-time Airport record highs for the number of airlines and non-stops. ✈



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