

CAPACITY

Average Daily Airport Capacity (7 Metro Areas)



Federal Aviation
Administration

FY 2009 Performance Target

"Achieve an average daily airport capacity for the seven major metropolitan areas of 39,484 arrivals and departures per day."

Flight Plan Objective and Performance Target

Objective 1: Increase capacity to meet projected demand and reduce congestion.

Performance Target: Achieve an average daily airport capacity for the seven major metropolitan areas of 39,484 arrivals and departures per day by FY 2009, and maintain through FY 2013.

	FY 2005 ¹	FY 2006 ²	FY 2007 ³	FY 2008 ⁴	FY 2009
Target	43,080	68,750	63,080	33,676	39,484
Actual	44,324	69,630	62,351	35,990	

¹ This measure was redefined in FY05 to include departures as well as arrivals.

² In FY 2006, the measure was redefined – Boston was replaced by South Central Florida. The target was revised.

³ In FY 2007, the measure was redefined and the target revised again to remove the Atlanta area.

⁴ In FY 2008, the measure was redefined to remove Washington/Baltimore and South Central Florida and to add Las Vegas and Charlotte. The target was also revised.

Definition of Measure

Unit of Measure: Average of daily arrival and departure rates.

Computation: Average Daily Airport Capacity is the sum of the daily hourly-called arrival and departure rates at the relevant airports per month, divided by the number of days in the month. The annual capacity level is the weighted sum of the monthly capacity levels.

Formula:

$$\frac{\text{Daily Hourly Called Arrival \& Departure Rates}}{\text{Number of Days in the Month}}$$

Scope of Measure: For FY 2009, selected airports in these seven areas are included in this measure: New York, Philadelphia, Charlotte, Chicago, Las Vegas, the Los Angeles Basin, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Each airport facility determines the number of arrivals and departures it can handle for each hour of each day, depending on conditions, including weather. These numbers are the called arrival and departure rates of the airport for that hour. Data are summed for daily, monthly, and annual totals.

Why the FAA Chooses this Measure

Growth in air travel has generally been accomplished by increasing the number of flights. Measuring the growth of airport capacity indicates the limit at which increased service can be accommodated without affecting delay. The selected seven metropolitan areas contain both the most congested airspace and the airports with the greatest constraints on airport expansion. Airport improvements, measured by increases in capacity at these airports, are likely to contribute the most to reduce the causes of system delay.

Source of the Data

The Aviation System Performance Metrics (ASPM) database, maintained by the FAA's Office of Aviation Policy and Plans, provides the data for this metric. The individual air traffic facilities for the 7 major metropolitan areas provide arrival and departure rates. APO staff feed this information into the ASPM database.

Statistical Issues

None.

Completeness

Fiscal year data is finalized approximately 90 days after the close of the fiscal year.

Reliability

The reliability of ASPM is verified on a daily basis by the execution of a number of audit checks, comparison to other published data metrics, and through the use of ASPM by over 1500 registered users.