

IMPACTS OF FLIGHT DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS ON TRAVEL FROM SMALL COMMUNITY AIRPORTS

ABSTRACT

Recently, airlines have cut service to many small community airports. Perceived lack of airline reliability has been suggested by residents as a reason that they do not fly from the local community. This paper investigated reliability of small airport service by studying flight interruptions (delays and cancellations) at four small commercial airports. It addressed the net impact of initial flight interruptions on the arrival time at the final destination across many non-stop and connecting itineraries. When combining the percentage of cancellations and flight delays with the average length of delay on each route, it was found that initial delays are magnified across itineraries. Fliers from these small airports would miss their connecting flight in about one of every six itineraries. Recommendations for airport managers and suggestions for future study are presented.