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Ipsos Air Travel Poll

Conducted by Ipsos using KnowledgePanel®
A survey of the American general population (ages 18+)
 Interview dates: May 8-10, 2026
 Number of interviews: 1,023
 Number of past 2-month flyer interviews: 177
 Number of total flyer interviews: 823

Margin of error: +/- 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level for all respondents
 Margin of error: +/- 7.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level for past 2-month flyer respondents
 Margin of error: +/- 3.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level for total flyer respondents

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled. Reduced bases are unweighted values.

NOTE: * = less than 0.5%, - = no respondents, N/A = not applicable

Annotated Questionnaire

1. How recently, if ever, have you flown in or out of a U.S. airport?

	Total (N=1,023)	P2M Flyers (N=177)	Total Flyers (N=823)
In the past two months	17%	100%	21%
In the past 3 – 6 months	10%	-	13%
In the past 7 – 12 months	14%	-	17%
More than a year ago	39%	-	49%
I have never flown in or out of a U.S. airport	19%	-	-
Skipped	1%	-	-

	Total May 2026 (N=1,023)	Total March 2026 (N=1,021)
In the past two months	17%	15%
In the past 3 – 6 months	10%	11%
In the past 7 – 12 months	14%	14%
More than a year ago	39%	43%
I have never flown in or out of a U.S. airport	19%	15%
Skipped	1%	1%



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2. Compared to a year ago, do you believe the current experience at U.S. airports is better, worse, or about the same?

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Better	5%	12%	5%
About the same	50%	66%	49%
Worse	43%	22%	45%
Skipped	2%	-	1%

	Total May 2026	Total March 2026
Better	5%	2%
About the same	50%	28%
Worse	43%	67%
Skipped	2%	3%

3. Compared to a year ago, do you believe the cost of flying is higher, lower, or about the same?

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Higher	77%	73%	80%
About the same	20%	23%	17%
Lower	1%	3%	2%
Skipped	2%	-	1%

4. How concerned, if at all, are you about the following?

Total Extremely/Very Concerned Summary

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Airlines increasing the cost of flights	56%	68%	62%
Airlines increasing baggage fees	50%	56%	54%
Travel delays in airports across the United States	44%	49%	48%
Airlines reducing the number of flights they offer	36%	48%	39%
More airlines going out of business	33%	36%	34%

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4. How concerned, if at all, are you about the following? (Continued)

a. Airlines increasing the cost of flights

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Extremely concerned	27%	31%	29%
Very concerned	29%	36%	33%
Somewhat concerned	25%	27%	26%
Not very concerned	8%	4%	7%
Not at all concerned	10%	1%	4%
Skipped	1%	-	1%
<i>Extremely/Very Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>62%</i>
<i>Not too/Not at all Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>11%</i>

b. Airlines increasing baggage fees

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Extremely concerned	24%	27%	25%
Very concerned	26%	28%	29%
Somewhat concerned	27%	30%	28%
Not very concerned	12%	12%	12%
Not at all concerned	10%	2%	5%
Skipped	1%	-	*
<i>Extremely/Very Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>54%</i>
<i>Not too/Not at all Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>17%</i>

c. Airlines reducing the number of flights they offer

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Extremely concerned	14%	21%	15%
Very concerned	22%	26%	25%
Somewhat concerned	33%	33%	36%
Not very concerned	18%	15%	17%
Not at all concerned	12%	4%	7%
Skipped	1%	-	*
<i>Extremely/Very Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>39%</i>
<i>Not too/Not at all Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>24%</i>

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4. How concerned, if at all, are you about the following? (Continued)

d. Travel delays in airports across the United States

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Extremely concerned	18%	20%	20%
Very concerned	26%	29%	28%
Somewhat concerned	30%	36%	34%
Not very concerned	14%	15%	13%
Not at all concerned	10%	*	5%
Skipped	2%	1%	1%
<i>Extremely/Very Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>48%</i>
<i>Not too/Not at all Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>17%</i>

e. More airlines going out of business

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Extremely concerned	15%	19%	15%
Very concerned	18%	17%	19%
Somewhat concerned	33%	37%	37%
Not very concerned	19%	21%	20%
Not at all concerned	14%	7%	9%
Skipped	2%	-	1%
<i>Extremely/Very Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>34%</i>
<i>Not too/Not at all Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>28%</i>

5. Since the start of the year, have you done any of the following?

Yes Summary

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Chose an alternative mode of transportation (e.g., car, train, bus) to flying for a trip	30%	29%	31%
Packed only a carry-on or personal item to avoid paying baggage fees	30%	56%	35%
Avoided booking trips by plane	28%	24%	30%
Postponed or canceled a trip that already had a flight booked	9%	15%	10%

a. Avoided booking trips by plane

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Yes	28%	24%	30%
No	71%	76%	70%
Skipped	1%	-	-



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5. Since the start of the year, have you done any of the following? (Continued)

b. Postponed or canceled a trip that already had a flight booked

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Yes	9%	15%	10%
No	90%	85%	90%
Skipped	1%	-	*

c. Chose an alternative mode of transportation (e.g., car, train, bus) to flying for a trip

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Yes	30%	29%	31%
No	69%	70%	69%
Skipped	1%	*	*

d. Packed only a carry-on or personal item to avoid paying baggage fees

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Yes	30%	56%	35%
No	69%	44%	65%
Skipped	1%	-	*

6. How likely are you to do the following in the next six months? *

Total Likely Summary

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Choose an alternative mode of transportation (e.g., car, train, bus) to flying for a trip	52%	39%	55%
Pack only a carry-on or personal item to avoid paying baggage fees	52%	65%	57%
Avoid booking trips by plane	51%	37%	53%
Postpone or cancel a trip that you have already booked a flight for	20%	13%	18%

	Total May 2026	Total March 2026
Choose an alternative mode of transportation (e.g., car, train, bus) to flying for a trip	52%	53%
Avoid booking trips by plane	51%	54%
Postpone or cancel a trip that you have already booked a flight for	20%	33%

*Prior to May 2026, this question was asked as “Based on what you have seen, read, or heard about the current situation at U.S. airports, how likely are you to do the following in the next six months?”





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6. How likely are you to do the following in the next six months? (Continued)

a. Avoid booking trips by plane

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Very likely	27%	12%	26%
Somewhat likely	24%	24%	27%
Not too likely	21%	32%	22%
Not at all likely	27%	32%	24%
Skipped	2%	-	1%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	51%	37%	53%
<i>Not Likely (Net)</i>	47%	63%	46%

	Total May 2026	Total March 2026
Very likely	27%	35%
Somewhat likely	24%	19%
Not too likely	21%	20%
Not at all likely	27%	23%
Skipped	2%	2%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	51%	54%
<i>Not Likely (Net)</i>	47%	44%

b. Postpone or cancel a trip that you have already booked a flight for

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Very likely	9%	7%	8%
Somewhat likely	11%	6%	11%
Not too likely	26%	36%	28%
Not at all likely	52%	51%	52%
Skipped	2%	1%	1%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	20%	13%	18%
<i>Not Likely (Net)</i>	78%	87%	81%

	Total May 2026	Total March 2026
Very likely	9%	19%
Somewhat likely	11%	13%
Not too likely	26%	24%
Not at all likely	52%	40%
Skipped	2%	3%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	20%	33%
<i>Not Likely (Net)</i>	78%	65%



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6. How likely are you to do the following in the next six months? (*Continued*)

c. Choose an alternative mode of transportation (e.g., car, train, bus) to flying for a trip

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Very likely	27%	14%	28%
Somewhat likely	25%	25%	27%
Not too likely	20%	31%	22%
Not at all likely	26%	29%	23%
Skipped	2%	-	1%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	52%	39%	55%
<i>Not Likely (Net)</i>	46%	61%	45%

	Total May 2026	Total March 2026
Very likely	27%	31%
Somewhat likely	25%	22%
Not too likely	20%	19%
Not at all likely	26%	25%
Skipped	2%	3%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	52%	53%
<i>Not Likely (Net)</i>	46%	44%

d. Pack only a carry-on or personal item to avoid paying baggage fees

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Very likely	29%	36%	32%
Somewhat likely	23%	29%	26%
Not too likely	17%	17%	18%
Not at all likely	29%	18%	24%
Skipped	2%	-	1%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	52%	65%	57%
<i>Not Likely (Net)</i>	46%	35%	42%

[INFO] Earlier this month, Spirit Airlines officially announced that they were shutting down all operations. In their announcement, the airline's CEO claimed that a rise in fuel prices in recent weeks left them with no alternative but to shut down.

7. How much of an impact, if any, do you believe the current war in Iran had on Spirit Airlines shutting down?

	Total	P2M Flyers	Total Flyers
Major impact	46%	47%	48%
Minor impact	23%	26%	24%
No impact	11%	15%	12%
Don't know	19%	12%	15%
Skipped	1%	-	*



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About the Study

This Ipsos poll was conducted May 8-10, 2026, by Ipsos using the probability-based KnowledgePanel®. This poll is based on a nationally representative probability sample of 1,023 general population adults aged 18 or older. The sample includes 177 Americans who have flown in or out of a U.S. airport in the past two months, and 823 adults who have flown in or out of a U.S. airport in their life.

The study was conducted in English. The data were weighted to adjust for gender by age, race and ethnicity, census region, metropolitan status, education, household income, and political party identification. Political party identification benchmarks are from the 2025 NPORS annual survey, with a midyear adjustment estimated across aggregated KnowledgePanel surveys accounting for changes in panelists' party identification over time. The demographic benchmarks came from the 2025 March supplement of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

- Gender (Male, Female) by Age (18–29, 30–44, 45-59 and 60+)
- Race/Hispanic Ethnicity (White Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Other, Non-Hispanic, Hispanic, 2+ Races, Non-Hispanic)
- Education (Less than High School, High School, Some College, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree or higher)
- Census Region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West)
- Metropolitan status (Metro, non-Metro)
- Household Income (Under \$25,000, \$25,000-\$49,999, \$50,000-\$74,999, \$75,000-\$99,999, \$100,000-\$149,999, \$150,000+)
- Political Party ID (Democrat, Lean Democrat, Republican, Lean Republican, Independent/Something else)

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of adults. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.07. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on sub-samples. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total substantially more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.





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