

IV. AIRPORT ACTIVITY OF CERTIFICATED ROUTE AIR CARRIERS

This chapter covers only the large US certificated air carriers; and thus, excludes the small certificated, commuter, and foreign-flag carriers.

The data presented were obtained from information reported to the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Office of Airline Information by the carriers on Schedules T-100 and T-3, BTS Form 41, Uniform System of Accounts and Reports for Large Certificated Air Carriers. These statistics summarize for scheduled and nonscheduled service revenue passenger enplanement; aircraft departures, and ton of freight and mail enplaned at certificated points in the 50 state, the District of Columbia and other US areas served by the carriers.

The activity information in Tables 4-7 - 4.9 is presented by "hubs". Air traffic hubs are geographical areas, and are based on the percentage of total passengers enplaned in the area. A hub may have more than one airport in it. This definition should not be confused with the definition being used by the airlines in describing their "hub and spoke" structures. The hubs constitute an primary focal point for the transportation research programs of the FAA, and the analyses of individual cities within an area are treated in relationship to the entire area.

Individual communities fall into four hub classifications as determined by each community's percentage of the total enplaned revenue passengers in all services of US certificated route air carriers within the 50 states, the District of Columbia and other US areas. Classifications for 1996 are based on 558,183,741 total enplaned revenue passengers.

The percentage and number of enplaned passengers in the hub classifications for the 12 months ending December 31, 1996 are:

Hub Classification	Percentage of Total Enplaned Passengers	Number of Enplaned Passengers
Large (L)	1.00 or more	more than 5,581,837
Medium (M)	0.25 to 0.999	1,395,459 to 5,581,837
Small (S)	0.05 to 0.249	279,092 to 1,395,459
Nonhub (N)	Less than 0.05	Less than 279,092

During 1996 there were 120 air traffic hubs representing 16% of the 742 air traffic hubs and nonhubs in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and other US areas receiving air carrier service during the year. The dominance of the hubs in air traffic patterns is brought out by the fact that almost 97% of passenger enplanements were recorded at the 120 hubs. The table below shows the number of hubs/nonhubs, the number of airports, and the number and percentage of passenger enplanements at the hubs/nonhubs.

Hub Classification	Number of Hubs/Nonhubs	Number of Airports	Passengers Enplaned	Passenger Percent
Large	29	72	417,339,694	74.77
Medium	31	55	89,018,764	15.95
Small	60	73	37,122,974	6.65
Nonhub	622	650	14,702,309	2.63
TOTALS	742	850	558,183,741	100.00

Information for each of the 850 airports may be found in *Airport Activity Statistics of Certificated Route Air Carriers*

DEFINITIONS

Air Traffic Hub - Air traffic hubs are not airports; they are cities and communities requiring aviation services. They fall into four classes as determined by each community's percentage of the total enplaned passengers in scheduled and nonscheduled service of the large certificated route air carriers in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and other US areas.

All Services -The total of scheduled and nonscheduled transport services.

Carrier Group - A grouping of large certificated air carriers determined by annual operating revenues as shown below:

Carrier Group	Annual Operating Revenues
Majors	over one billion dollars
Nationals	100 million to one billion dollars
Large regional	20 to 100 million dollars
Medium regionals	up to 20 million dollars.

Enplaned Passengers -The total number of revenue passengers boarding aircraft.

Enplaned Revenue Tons of Freight and Mail - The number of revenue tons of freight and mail loaded on an aircraft including originating and transfer tons.

Freight -Property transport by air. (Excludes mail and passenger baggage).

Large Air Traffic Hub - A community enplaning 1.00 percent or more of the total enplaned passengers in all services and all operations for all communities within the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and other US areas. Also see 'air traffic hub'.

Large Certificated Air Carrier--carrier holding a certificate issued under Section 401 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 as amended and operating aircraft designed to have a maximum passenger seating capacity of 60 seats or more or a maximum payload capacity of 18,000 pounds or more, or conducting international operations.

Medium Air Traffic Hub - A community enplaning from 0.25 to 0.999 percent of the total enplaned passengers in all services and all operations for all communities within the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and other US areas. Also see 'air traffic hub'.

Nonhub - A community enplaning less than 0.05 percent of the total enplaned passengers in all services and all operations all communities within the 50 States, and District of Columbia, and other US areas. Also see 'air traffic hub'.

Nonscheduled Service - Revenue flights that are not operated in regularly scheduled service such as charter flights.

Other US Areas - Areas under US jurisdiction, other than the 50 States and the District of Columbia, that are designated the Federal Aviation Administration to be included in the base for air traffic hub classification computations.

Revenue -Pertaining to transport activities for which remuneration is received by the carrier.

Revenue Passenger - Person receiving air transportation from an air carrier for which remuneration is received by the carrier.

Scheduled Service - Transport service operated over an air carrier's routes, based on published flight schedules, including extra sections.

Small Air Traffic Hub - A community enplaning from 0.05 to 0.249 percent of the total enplaned passengers in all services and all operations for all communities within the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and other US areas. Also see 'air traffic hub.'

These definitions only apply to this chapter.