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## **Philadelphia International Ranked Among Nation's Most Affordable Airports**

*PHL ranks 6<sup>th</sup> among 101 airports surveyed in Cheapflights.com Airport Affordability Index*

**PHILADELPHIA** -- Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) is one of the most affordable airports in the country, according to a new report by a popular travel website.

Cheapflights.com ranked PHL sixth out of 101 U.S. airports that the site surveyed in its sixth annual Airport Affordability Index. Cheapflights.com is a travel search engine that helps travelers find the best deals for their destination.

"For our annual index, we look at average airfares travelers found on our site during the month of June to a mix of popular domestic and international destinations and use the data to rank the 101 airports on the list," Cheapflights.com stated on its website. "Cheaper fares from major airports means more affordable travel for many coming from these popular departure points."

With an average airfare of \$267, PHL improved its ranking by 42 spots from last year when the average fare came in at \$386.

"PHL's affordability is the result of the hard work of the Airport and our airline partners," said Airport CEO Mark Gale. "In the past couple of years, new service and more flights on popular routes by several carriers have spurred competition, which has reduced average fares, and has made PHL even more attractive to the flying public. Affordable fares are a win for everyone."

American Airlines, PHL's hub carrier, offers more than 450 daily nonstop departures to 127 domestic and international destinations. Additionally, since last fall, low-cost carrier Frontier Airlines has added service from PHL to Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago O'Hare, Minneapolis and Houston Bush Intercontinental as well as Cancun. Spirit Airlines, another low-fare carrier, has added service to Chicago O'Hare and Atlanta on top of service to Las Vegas, Myrtle Beach and Dallas-Fort Worth. Low-cost Southwest Airlines, already serving 11 destinations from PHL, will start service to Dallas Love Field next month and JetBlue Airways will add to its daily Boston service with flights to Fort Lauderdale in the fall.

Gale said the key to maintaining PHL's cost-friendliness is the great working relationship with its airline partners. Last month, the City of Philadelphia, which owns and operates PHL, signed a new five-year Airport-Airline Use and Lease Agreement between the City and each airline that provides service to PHL.

**More**



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“We have all worked to ensure that our Airport runs efficiently and provides a pleasant passenger experience,” Gale said.

In September, PHL expects a significant increase in passengers who will be flying to Philadelphia to see Pope Francis who will be making his first visit to the United States. And, next summer, Philadelphia will host the Democratic National Convention.

This year, Philadelphia International Airport celebrates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its commercial air service. In 1940, the Airport served 40,000 passengers flying to a handful of cities. Today, more than 30 million passengers travel annually to 131 destinations around the world.

*Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for more than 141,000 jobs.*