

## The world's most punctual airlines

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: November's global punctuality data reveals that the world's most reliable airlines aren't simply flying fewer routes—they're managing complex schedules at scale with impressive precision.

### Leading the Punctuality Rankings

Hainan Airlines led the pack among major carriers, achieving an on-time performance rate of approximately 88.6pc, despite operating over 21,000 flights in a single month.

This high level of punctuality at such a large volume signals robust fleet reliability and strong coordination with airports.

In the large-airline category, Aeromexico stood out, with 91.7pc of its flights arriving on time across 15,000+ flights.

This exceptional result highlights the airline's ability to manage a busy

hub network efficiently.

Copa Airlines, renowned for its on-time performance, maintained an impressive 88.9pc punctuality, further cementing its reputation for schedule discipline.

The airline's tightly scheduled connections through Panama City played a crucial role in this achievement.

Other airlines close to the top include Shandong Airlines and Wizz Air, both recording punctuality rates in the mid-to-high 80pc range, thanks to their well-managed regional networks.



Why These Results Matter

Achieving on-time performance at such a high level, particularly with large-scale operations, reflects much more than quick turnarounds. Several key factors contribute to these results:

**Fleet Commonality:** Airlines that use similar aircraft across their fleets experience fewer maintenance delays.

**Buffer Planning:** Strategic planning for weather disruptions and airspace congestion allows airlines to absorb delays without significant impact.

**Crew and Aircraft Positioning:** Efficient crew and aircraft management ensures minimal knock-on delays.

**Hub Design & Slot Discipline:** Well-structured hub designs and strict slot management help maintain stable arrival waves, preventing cascading delays.

An airline operating over 20,000 flights a month with nearly 90pc punctuality is not simply “on time” — it is running an efficient system that can recover from disruptions faster than they can spread.

## The Bigger Picture

November is historically a challenging month for airlines, with increased weather variability, rising airspace congestion, and greater operational pressure due to the upcoming peak travel season.

This makes punctuality rankings especially significant within the industry, as they reflect an airline's structural reliability, not just a stroke of good luck.

For airlines, punctuality isn't about a single flight arriving early. It's about consistently arriving on time, day after day, with thousands of flights running according to plan.

As the airline industry prepares for the busy holiday season, these rankings offer valuable insight into which carriers are best positioned to meet the challenges ahead.