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Travelers should budget for extra time at Hartsfield-Jackson over Memorial Day Weekend

Holiday weekend to draw more than 1.8 million travelers; officials encourage passengers to arrive two hours before departure for domestic flights and three hours early for international flights

ATLANTA – As millions prepare to fly this Memorial Day weekend, officials at the world's busiest airport encourage passengers to arrive early at Hartsfield-Jackson.

"Memorial Day weekend is the traditional beginning of the summer travel season and we anticipate high volumes of travelers over the next few days," said Hartsfield-Jackson General Manager Miguel Southwell. "We encourage our customers taking domestic flights to arrive at least two hours prior to their scheduled departure and three hours prior to the departure time for international destinations."

The AAA is forecasting more than 37 million Americans will travel during the five-day Memorial Day travel period, which runs from Thursday through Tuesday. That number would represent the highest travel volume for the holiday in 10 years.

During the same five-day period, Hartsfield-Jackson is expected to be the origin, destination or connecting airport for more than 1.8 million people.

Historically, Friday and Tuesday are the busiest travel days over the Memorial Day weekend. According to estimates provided by the airlines and the TSA's Atlanta office, 62,350 passengers are expected to board domestic and foreign flights originating from Hartsfield-Jackson on Friday, May 22. Because those travelers need to pass through the Airport's security checkpoints, travelers should build extra time into their schedule to allow for delays.

Travelers also are encouraged to take advantage of Hartsfield-Jackson's new online parking reservation system, which allows travelers to reserve a space in selected parking lots before arriving. Travelers can book spaces by logging onto the airport website's new reservation page, www.atlanta-airport.com/Passenger/Parking/PRCSPassthrough.aspx.

Travelers can keep track of security wait times by going to the airport website at www.atlanta-airport.com/Passenger/Waittimes/default.aspx. Or, they can sign up for ATL's free Trak-a-Line service, which provides email notifications about the real-time status of the security lines. Register here: www.atlanta-airport.com/Passenger/Waittimes/register.aspx.

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Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Hartsfield-Jackson (ATL) is the world's busiest and most efficient airport, serving more than 96.1 million passengers annually with nonstop service to more than 150 U.S. destinations and nearly 70 international destinations in more than 45 countries. ATL boasts a direct economic impact of \$34.8 billion in metro Atlanta and a total direct economic impact of \$70.9 billion in Georgia. The Airport is the largest employer in Georgia, with more than 63,000 employees. The Airport is a frequent recipient of awards of excellence for concessions, operations, architectural engineering and construction – including the 2013 Global Efficiency Excellence Award from the Air Transport Research Society, 2013 Project of the Year, Architectural Category for the Maynard H. Jackson Jr. International Terminal from the American Association of Airport Executives Southeast chapter and the 2012 Best Airport in North America, Business Travel Award from the Business Traveler Magazine. ATL has completed more than \$6 billion worth of capital improvements, including a new, energy-efficient rental car center, a gold LEED-certified international terminal and aesthetic and functional upgrades to its concourses, people movers and parking services. For more information, go to www.atlanta-airport.com. Check out the Airport's YouTube channel by visiting www.youtube.com/AtlantaHartsfield, follow us on Twitter (@Atlanta_Airport) and become a fan on Facebook (Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport).

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