(Approx. 508 words)

U.S. Airport Free Internet Wi-Fi Speeds Compared

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society  
<https://ckcs.org/>

lextown2 \*\* gmail.com

Tis the season for traveling by air. If you are stopping at one of the 50 busiest airports in the U.S. over the holidays, now might be a good time to check out how wireless Internet speeds stack up at the different airports.

Ookla, the company behind the popular Speedtest app (available through the various App stores) and on the web at Speedtest.net, has crunched the speed data at these airports.

In its article headlined, 17 U.S. Airports With Supersonic Wi-Fi (and 12 That Are Still Stuck At the Gate), Ookla discovered that Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport comes in second place with a download speed of 177.16 megabits per second (Mbps). This reading shows how much data an Internet connection can send in one second.

First place goes to San José International Airport (the epicenter of Silicon Valley), with a Wi-Fi Internet speed of 203 Mbps.

Rounding out the top ten airports in order with the fastest Internet (along with their airport codes):

U.S. Airports With 100+ Mbps Internet Speeds Over Free Wi-Fi

(Tested in the third quarter of 2022)

• San José Int’l (SJC) FASTEST at 203 Mbps

• Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Int’l (CVG)

• San Francisco Int’l (SFO)

• Daniel K. Inouye Int’l (HNL) Honolulu)

• Oakland Int’l (OAK)

• Louis Armstrong Int’l (MSY) (New Orleans)

• Seattle-Tacoma Int’l (SEA)

• Dallas Love Field (DAL)

• JFK Int’l (JFK)

• LaGuardia (LGA)

The ten airports in order with the slowest Internet

(along with their airport codes):

U.S. Airports With Less Than 50 Mbps

Internet Speeds Over Free Wi-Fi

• Pittsburgh Int’l (PIT) SLOWEST at 5.23 Mbps

• George Bush Intercontinental (IAH) (Houston)

• William P. Hobby (HOU) (Houston)

• Southwest Florida Int’l (RSW) (South Fort Myers)

• Logan Int’l (BOS) (Boston)

• Philadelphia Int’l (PHL)

• Tampa Int’l (TPA)

• Sacramento Int’l (SMF)

• John Glenn Columbus Int’l (CMH)

• Denver Int’l (DEN)

What about some of the busiest airports that nearly all of us have visited? Most of us in Central Kentucky think of Atlanta–Hartsfield International because so many flights in this part of the country are routed through that airport.

Atlanta Hartsfield clocks in with Internet download speeds of 78.17 Mbps.

Many travelers in the Bowling Green area or other spots in southern, south-central, and southwestern Kentucky travel through Nashville International.

Nashville airport offers free Wi-Fi speeds of 100.46 Mbps – ahead of John Wayne Airport in California (Orange County) and a bit slower than Midway International (Chicago).

Speaking of Chicago, one of the busiest airports in the country (usually competing with Atlanta for passenger traffic), O’Hare International offers 56.39 Mbps Internet speeds.

Los Angeles International, another very busy airport, provides free Internet speeds of 50.59 Mbps.

Other airports in the region include:

• Indianapolis Int’l (IND) with an

Internet speed of 74.59 Mbps

• Charlotte Douglas Int’l – 45.02 Mbps

• St. Louis Lambert Int’l – 110.38 Mbps

Ookla notes that free Wi-Fi Internet speeds at these airports dropped between the first three months and the second quarter of this year: Seattle-Tacoma, O’Hare, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Dallas/Fort Worth Airport.