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Airlines rake in \$27.1 billion from passenger fees

This article is based upon a report issued by IdeaWorksCompany

SHOREWOOD, Wis. — Passenger fees and other extra charges generated \$27.1 billion for 53 airlines around the world in 2012, with major carriers such as United, Delta and American Airlines leading the revenue race.

That's up from the \$22.6 billion collected by 50 carriers in 2011, according to a new report by IdeaWorks Co., a Wisconsin consultant on airline fees.

The study was sponsored by CarTrawler, an Ireland-based provider of car-rental distribution systems.

Extra charges such as baggage fees and charges to upgrade to roomier seats have become a major source of revenue for airlines since 2008, when surging fuel prices forced airlines to find another way to generate money without raising airfares.