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Through passengers' eyes: Delivering the "right" customer experience



Customer satisfaction is generally up among airlines, but **the bar remains low**, creating potential **opportunities** for customer experience (CX) investment

Many airlines have made investments in recent years to improve CX...











The airline industry ranks **37th of 43 industries** in customer satisfaction¹....



...which puts the industry amongst the likes of wireless telephone providers and health insurance companies¹



Additionally, four airline companies fall within the bottom ten companies of ACSI rankings²

Profitability

- Companies that make CX an executive-level priority can see 12 times the return on sales than those companies with a low emphasis on CX³
- Increasing retention by 5% can increase profits by 25% to 95%³
- A customer's perceived CX and willingness to purchase from the company again is highly correlated at 0.7323

Word of mouth

- Positive word of mouth can drive up to \$56M additional revenue/year for a large airline⁴
- Customers tend to mention a good brand experience to an average of 9 people, but will talk about a bad one to 16 people⁴
- Social media enables word of mouth to spread faster than ever, so the CX you provide one person may be felt and heard by others in real-time

Loyalty

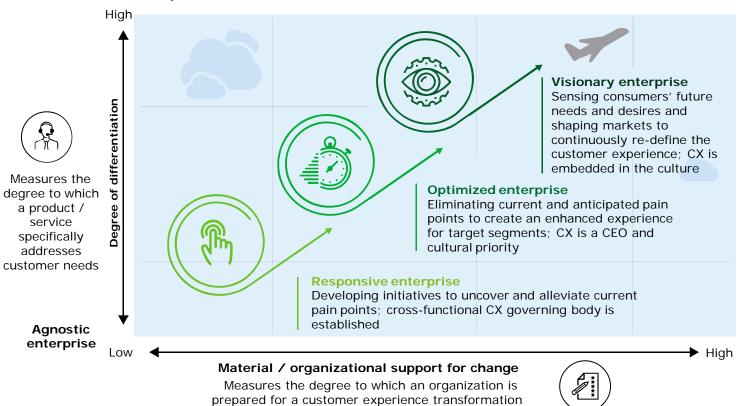
- It is 6 to 7 times more expensive to acquire a new customer than it is to keep a current one⁵
- There is a strong inverse correlation between a brand's CX and a customer's likelihood to switch business to a competitor (-0.35)⁴
- Customers who experience positive CX will likely remain customers for 5 years longer than customers with negative experiences⁶



Source: ¹American Customer Satisfaction Index, ACSI Travel Report; ²Fortune; ³HelpScout, Customer Service Facts; ⁴Forrester, The Impact of Customer Experience; ⁵HBR, Value of Keeping the Right Customers; ⁶HBR, Value of Customer Experience, Quantified

Effective CX begins with charting your **CX-specific ambition**, which will impact **where and how** to invest in developing your CX strategy The degree of differentiation and the support for change should define the position of a company in the ambition spectrum, yielding a more realistic vision of what CX can and should look like

The CX ambition spectrum



	Closer to responsive	Closer to visionary
Approach How the work gets done	Limited centralization around a common CX ambition; reactive to customer needs as they arise	Focused on a clear CX ambition; develops customer-focused initiatives that proactively anticipate customer needs and tie to the ambition
Organization Units that house the competency	CX is often addressed in silos without specific, dedicated owners / teams; limited clear and focused responsibility	Empowered CX owners who drive consistent CX efforts across the organization; customer ownership embedded into every department
Resources Funding and individuals who perform the work	Sporadic funding granted as needed; limited or no dedicated resources; resources 'double-hat' from various departments for specific projects	Separate, dedicated funds for CX enhancement initiatives and a focused team of CX resources with both operational and customer experience
Metrics Targets to guide performance	Limited tracking of customer-centric KPIs; limited use of metrics to derive insights and make improvements; may use financial metrics as a proxy for CX	Established process to measure and evaluate CX-specific KPIs that include both operational and customer-centric metrics; incorporates customer metrics in improvements and decision making

Getting started: We propose an Ambition Lab designed to help align CX thinking and accelerate action

1 Get aligned

Understand what capabilities must we have, and what we can build on, in order to deliver a leading customer experience



2 Get focused

Clarify and get focused on what we expect the future to hold by thinking about how our customers' behaviors and expectations are changing and how we can deliver for them



3 Get flying

Align on our winning ambition, what we want to accomplish next, and get the commitment to move forward with a plan

The Ambition Lab is an immersive one day session designed to inspire and align leaders, charting the course for successful customer experience

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