



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

News Release

January 5, 2011

Eve Rodriguez

(773) 462-7365

everodriguez@cityofchicago.com

CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS SEE SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN 2010

O'Hare experiences most growth out of the 10 busiest U.S. Airports

CHICAGO – O'Hare and Midway International Airports have experienced increases in passenger volume, aircraft operations, non-airline revenue generation, and cargo tonnage in 2010 over 2009, according to figures from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA).

The FAA reported that Chicago O'Hare's aircraft operations (arrivals and departures) increased 6.5 percent year-over-year through October 2010, representing the largest growth in traffic out of the 10 busiest U.S. airports*.

Through November 2010, O'Hare experienced a four percent increase in passenger volume and a 34 percent increase in cargo tonnage over the same period in 2009. In addition, O'Hare's non-airline revenue (concessions, parking and car rental) increased nearly 11 percent year-over-year through October 2010.

Midway International Airport also experienced growth in 2010 with a nearly four percent increase in passenger volume, as well as increases in aircraft operations and non-airline revenue.

"These substantial increases at O'Hare and Midway affirm Chicago's leading position in the global aviation system and are very positive signs for our industry," said CDA Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. "Increased passenger volume and aircraft operations translate to increased economic activity for our region. It also reinforces the need to complete the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) to ensure Chicago is ready when the economy and aviation industry fully recover."

The CDA continues to aggressively pursue new passenger and cargo service at Chicago's airports. In 2010, O'Hare and Midway have added new passenger and cargo service from national and international carriers.

At O'Hare, six new international nonstop services were added this year including, American Airlines to Beijing, China; Air India to Delhi, India; Pakistan International Airlines to Barcelona, Spain with continuing service to Karachi, Pakistan; and TACA Airlines to San Salvador City, El Salvador. Qatar Airways initiated cargo service from O'Hare to Doha, via Amsterdam. Cathay Pacific Airways announced it will begin nonstop passenger service from O'Hare to Hong Kong in September 2011. In addition, more than 20 nonstop domestic services were added at O'Hare this year including new carrier Air Choice One to Burlington, Iowa and Decatur, Illinois.

- More -

INCREASES AT CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS /page two

At Midway International, Volaris Airlines, a new international carrier, initiated operations between Chicago and Guadalajara, Mexico. Branson AirExpress also began new seasonal service to Branson, Missouri. In 2011, Southwest Airlines will add two flights to both Charleston and Greenville-Spartanburg from Midway, as well as six flights to Newark International Airport. With these increases, Midway is the number one market in Southwest's network.

As a further sign of growth, the CDA has expanded concessions offerings at both O'Hare and Midway International Airports. The CDA is constantly exploring new ways to provide customers with unique and distinctive options that showcase Chicago's diverse culture through new concession choices at its airports.

"We continue to introduce new dining and retail concepts at O'Hare and Midway International Airports," said Commissioner Andolino. "We are providing a more expansive shopping and dining experience for global travelers with a wide range of concessions – from fresh, authentic seafood and sushi to local favorites."

In 2010, several new concessions opened at O'Hare.

- Eli's Cheesecake Café unveiled an expanded location featuring its famous cheesecakes, desserts, sandwiches, salads and specialty items in Terminal 1 at O'Hare.
- Wicker Park Seafood and Sushi Bar debuted last month in Terminal 2 at O'Hare offering sushi, oysters and specialty salads.
- America's Dog has just opened its fifth Chicago location in Terminal 1.
- Award-winning chef-restaurateur Rick Bayless signed a license agreement to bring two new restaurants to O'Hare this year in Terminals 1 and 3.
- At International Terminal 5, plans are underway to redesign the terminal's concessions program and food court to include new food and beverage options, news and gifts, specialty retail, and duty-free locations. This re-design will provide a more expansive shopping experience for international travelers to Chicago as well the potential for increased revenue generation.

At Midway, the CDA welcomed Sprigs, a fresh, contemporary, salad concept offering a variety of healthy choices; and Red Mango, featuring nutritious and healthy frozen yogurt desserts.

**10 busiest U.S. airports include: Chicago O'Hare International, Los Angeles International, Detroit Metro, Denver International, Charlotte, Dallas Ft. Worth, Las Vegas, Houston Bush, Atlanta Hartsfield, and Philadelphia International. (According to the FAA).*

~ ~ ~ ~

The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, and concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM) Version 2.0, released in November 2010. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the SAM, please visit www.airportgoinggreen.org.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), introduced by Mayor Richard M. Daley in June 2001, transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit www.oharemodernization.org to learn more about the OMP.

###