



For Immediate Release
Jan. 23, 2018

**John Glenn International and Rickenbacker International airports
grow in 2017 to serve thriving Columbus Region**
Airports break passenger and cargo records, more expansion on the horizon

COLUMBUS — In 2017, John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH) and Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK) helped drive the growth of Columbus, the fastest-growing metropolitan area in the Midwest, with expanded flights for both passengers and cargo.

“As our airports come off a record-breaking year for passenger and cargo service, we enter 2018 with even more growth on the horizon,” said Joseph R. Nardone, President & CEO of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority. “We value our community partners and will continue to work hard with them to fulfill our vision of connecting Ohio with the world.”

Passenger Air Service: CMH & LCK

2017 highlights:

- Passengers at CMH and LCK totaled 7.8 million, the most in the 88-year history of Columbus air service.
- More than 7.5 million passengers traveled through CMH in 2017, up 3.4 percent from 2016 and making it the airport’s second busiest year in history.
- Over 266,000 people traveled through LCK on Allegiant and passenger charter flights, up 31 percent from 2016 and making it the busiest year in the airport’s history.
- 2017 air service gains: OneJet entered CMH with service to Milwaukee while airlines such as Frontier and Southwest expanded their presence. At LCK, Allegiant also continued to expand, including the addition of service to Destin/Fort Walton Beach.

Coming in 2018:

The following growth in passenger air service is already slated for this year:

- Spirit Airlines starts service from CMH on Feb. 15 to an impressive seven destinations: Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Las Vegas, Myrtle Beach, New Orleans, Orlando and Tampa.
- New nonstop service will be provided to Austin via two airlines. Allegiant begins service on Feb. 16 from LCK while Frontier begins CMH service on April 8.
- Southwest launches service to Cancun on April 14.
- With these new flights, there will be nearly 160 daily departures to 43 destinations to serve the business and leisure travel needs of the growing Columbus Region.

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Cargo Air Service: LCK

2017 highlights:

- More than 255 million pounds of cargo flew through LCK in 2017, which represents a nearly 27 percent increase from 2016. It's also the highest in airport's history since the 2003 airport authority merger.
- International cargo grew by 65 percent while domestic cargo increased 1 percent over 2016.

Coming in 2018:

- Continued projected growth in the number of international cargo flights.
- Continued projected growth in the amount of U.S. goods exported to international destinations.
- The opening of a dedicated animal-friendly export inspection facility to support growing demand.

About the Columbus Regional Airport Authority

With its vision to connect Ohio with the world, the [Columbus Regional Airport Authority](#) oversees the operation of passenger-focused [John Glenn Columbus International Airport](#) (CMH), cargo-focused [Rickenbacker International Airport](#) (LCK) and general aviation airport Bolton Field (TZR).

An independent economic impact study found that the three airports and select businesses with direct ties to the airports account for more than 54,000 jobs, \$1.8 billion in annual payroll and \$6.6 billion in total annual economic output.

Learn more at ColumbusAirports.com.

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