

## Chicago Department of Aviation

### Chicago's Airports See Substantial Growth in 2010

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.

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."