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## **Indy Airport Makes History**

*Sets new record for passenger travel in 2016*

INDIANAPOLIS (Jan. 30, 2017) – More than 8.5 million passengers traveled through the Indianapolis International Airport (IND) last year, setting a new record for the terminal that opened in 2008, which serves as the primary location for air travel in Indiana.

The Indy airport served half a million more passengers in 2016 than in 2015, and fell short just 1 percent of setting an all-time record for Indy airport operations, previously set in 2005.

“We knew we were very likely looking at history-making news in the fall, when we saw an accumulation of record-breaking months in April, June, September and October,” said Mario Rodriguez, executive director of the Indianapolis Airport Authority. “This has become a trend for IND. In the last three years, we’ve maintained or grown passenger traffic year over year in 33 of 36 months.”

Passenger momentum started to pick up late last fall. Prior to November 2015, Indy airport had not broken a monthly passenger record since July 2008.

Carriers like Southwest, American, Delta and United carried the bulk of the passenger traffic, with Southwest taking the top spot with 33 percent of passenger travel.

“Our airline partners collectively increased seat capacity by nine percent in 2016, which means they made a strategic decision to invest in making more seats available for passengers to fly,” said Rodriguez. “Southwest alone carried enough passengers to equate to nearly half of the residential population of Indiana.”

The increase in airlines offering more nonstop destinations contributed to the record year, with new flights launched to Chicago, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, Punta Cana, and Savannah in 2016. In addition, Alaska Airlines announced in 2016 that it will begin service to Seattle in May 2017, which will broaden access for the Indiana tech sector and could help increase convention participation in Indianapolis.

Last year, the IAA operations contributed more than \$5.4 billion dollars to the Marion County economy, and supported more than 22,000 jobs.

[Click here](#) for the December 2016 Airline Activity Report.

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### **About the Indianapolis Airport Authority**

The Indianapolis Airport Authority owns and operates Indiana’s largest airport system. In addition to the Indianapolis International Airport, its facilities include the Downtown Heliport, Eagle Creek Airpark, Hendricks County Airport, Indianapolis Regional Airport and Metropolitan Airport. IND has received numerous prestigious awards recognizing it as a leader within its class, including best airport in North America in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 in Airports Council International’s annual Airport Service Quality awards. It has also been inducted into the ACI Director General’s Roll of Excellence, one of the few U.S. airports to be included in this elite group of worldwide airports. Condé Nast Traveler readers named IND the best airport in America in 2014, 2015 and 2016. IND is the first airport in the U.S. to win LEED® certification for an entire terminal campus. LEED is a green- building award for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. IND has won additional recognition for excellent customer service, concessions programs, and art and architecture.

IND generates an annual economic impact in Central Indiana of more than \$5.4 billion without relying on

state or local taxes to fund its operations. About 10,000 people work at the airport each day. IND serves more than 8.5 million business and leisure travelers each year and averages 143 daily flights, seasonally and year-round, to 46 nonstop destinations. Home of the world's second-largest FedEx Express operation and the nation's eighth- largest cargo facility, IND is committed to becoming the airport system of choice for both passenger and cargo service. For more information, visit IND's Facebook page at [Indianapolis International Airport](#) and Twitter page at [@INDairport](#).