



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
*Milwaukee County*  
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 8, 2010

For more information, contact:  
Fran McLaughlin (414) 278-4244 or (414) 235-6592  
Pat Rowe (414) 747-4545 or (414) 788-1536

**WALKER ANNOUNCES JANUARY PASSENGERS UP 43%  
AT GENERAL MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
Largest Ever Single-Month Increase**

MILWAUKEE (March 5, 2010) – Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker announced today that the January passenger count soared 43.14 percent at General Mitchell International Airport, making it the busiest January on record. The total of 697,495 passengers was 210,216 more than last January's 487,279 passengers.

Walker said, "The growth reflects the new service added over the past six months by Southwest, AirTran, Midwest, Frontier, American and Delta. The airport is enjoying a great start to what promises to be a very robust 2010."

While January data from all U.S. airports has not yet been posted, Mitchell International should be top-tier among fastest-growing airports with its 43 percent increase. Nationwide, passenger traffic declined 0.4 percent in January 2010 compared with January 2009, according to the Air Transport Association. Airport Director Barry Bateman said, "This is a huge increase in passengers. Mitchell International is one of the fastest-growing airports in the nation."

Mitchell offers a great option for Wisconsin and Illinois travelers looking for low fares and reasonable parking fees. For passengers traveling to and from northern Illinois and the northern Chicago suburbs, Mitchell is just a 45-minute drive from the Lake Forest Oasis and a convenient alternative to O'Hare.

**Market Data:**

With 48 markets, Mitchell International has moved up to 28<sup>th</sup> among U.S. airports in number of markets served nonstop, according to data recently published by the Brookings Institute. Mitchell's rank in a similar 2004 study was 34<sup>th</sup>. The new ranking means that more nonstop markets are served out of Milwaukee than out of other Midwestern cities, such as Nashville; Pittsburgh; Indianapolis and Columbus, and out of medium-sized cities elsewhere in the U.S., including Portland, OR; Austin; New Orleans; San Diego; Raleigh/Durham; Albuquerque; San Antonio and Hartford, CT.

- more -



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
*Milwaukee County*  
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Mitchell Airport 2009  
page 2

The average airfare out of Milwaukee was lower than the average at 89 other U.S. airports, according to the latest U.S. Department of Transportation statistics (3rd Quarter 2009). Mitchell's average fare was about \$81 less than O'Hare's and \$60 less than the nation's average fare.

*General Mitchell International Airport is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the Department of Transportation & Public Works, Airport Division, under the policy direction of the Milwaukee County Executive and the County Board of Supervisors. The airport is entirely funded by user fees; no property tax dollars are used for the airport's capital improvements or for its day-to-day operation. For more information on Mitchell International, visit [www.mitchellairport.com](http://www.mitchellairport.com).*

###