



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WALKER ANNOUNCES A RECORD NOVEMBER FOR GENERAL MITCHELL
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
Passenger Traffic Up Nearly 40 Percent**

MILWAUKEE – Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker announced today that the November 2009 passenger count was the busiest on record for that month at General Mitchell International Airport. The November total of 725,048 passengers was an increase of 37.96 percent over last November's 525,565 passengers, and was the first time more than 700,000 passengers used the airport in the month of November.

Walker noted that there were 34 percent more airline seats into and out of Milwaukee this November compared to last, and almost 200,000 more passengers. "Southwest Airlines started service to Mitchell in November, and attracted many new passengers from Wisconsin and northern Illinois with its popular, well-known brand," he said.

Airport Director Barry Bateman said, "The northern Chicago suburbs now have low-fare air service just a 45-minute drive away. With 12 airlines and nearly 220 daily departures, Mitchell has become one of the most price-competitive airports in the nation."

Market Data:

With 48 markets, Mitchell International has moved up to 28th among U.S. airports in number of markets served nonstop, according to new data published by the Brookings Institute. Mitchell's rank in a similar 2004 study was 34th. 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.

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The average airfare out of Milwaukee was lower than the average at 75 other U.S. airports, according to the latest U.S. Department of Transportation statistics (2nd Quarter 2009). Mitchell's average fare was about \$44 less than O'Hare's and \$28 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.

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