

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 1999

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RDU GROWTH TOPS NATIONAL AVERAGE AT 7% IN 1998

RDU AIRPORT, NC - The 1998 rate of growth for passenger usage at Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) grew at nearly 8% percent above the national average. Numbers for other key growth indicators such as cargo tonnage, aircraft operations and number of daily flights also grew.

The only number down for 1998 was the number of exiting vehicles in the airport's parking lots. This decrease is attributed to the loss of 800 spaces near the terminals to begin construction of a 2,700-space parking garage. Parking numbers may continue to decrease as the completion date of the garage exceeds its contract date.

RDU has not only increased the number of passengers passing through its doors, but also has increased the number of nonstop destinations and airlines serving the public. Midwest Express became RDU's 12th major airline when it began service to its hub Milwaukee, WI in the summer and service to Kansas City in the fall.

The upper level of the Terminal A Extension opened in July replacing an old gate area with more convenient and efficient gate space while adding a restaurant and store. This addition allowed US Airways to begin using larger aircraft and for Northwest Airlines to gain gate space.

New carpeting, wall coverings and upgraded restrooms were placed throughout Terminal A in addition to the replacement of baggage belts and opening of new baggage service offices.

The Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority administrative offices moved to a new building located in the rental car area last September.

Construction continues on a 5-year General Aviation redevelopment project which will add new corporate, conventional and t-hangars as well as a new general aviation terminal. Phase I of the project opens on time this summer when Phase II will begin.

GROWTH CONTINUES IN 1999

RDU's growth is expected to continue throughout 1999. Canadian Regional recently began service to Ottawa, Canada. MetroJet, the low-fare subsidiary of US Airways, will begin service to Washington Dulles and Orlando February 8. Durham-based Midway will begin two daily nonstop flights to New Orleans February 4 in addition to increased use of Canadair Regional Jets (CRJs) to several cities.

With these service additions, RDU will have 241 daily departures to 45 destinations on 21 airlines.

RDU FLEXES ITS MUSCLES

RDU will greet numerous athletes this summer. Athletes, media and spectators will travel through RDU when the U.S. Open is held in Southern Pines June 14 Airways, will begin service to Washington Dulles and Orlando February 8. Durham-based Midway will begmpics. An estimated 10,000 athletes, coaches, officials; 15,000 family members and 1,500 members of the will fly in and out of RDU the last week of June. The world's largest peacetime airlift on June 25 will transport 2,500 Special Olympics athletes on Cessna Citation aircraft.

RDU YEAR-END NUMBERS

January - December	1997	1998	Change
Passengers	6,696,125	7,228,653	+7.9%
Cargo - In Tons	101,539	113,545	+11.4%
Takeoffs and Landings	241,341	258,393	+7.1%
Parking	1,701,329	1,661,946	-2.3%
Taxicab Trips	100,801	114,223	+13.3%
Scheduled Flight Departures	209	248	+18.7%

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