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Gary / Chicago International Airport Celebrates 600th International Arrival

600th International Arrival Boosted by Increased 2024 International Traffic to Premier Airport

(Gary, IN – December 23rd, 2024) – The [Gary / Chicago International Airport \(GCIA\)](#) observed a key milestone bolstering its growing international offerings by welcoming its 600th international arrival. Since opening its [state-of-the-art U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(CBP\) facility](#) in late 2018, GCIA has seen significant interest as the sector continues to mature and is averaging two (2) international arrivals weekly. Since its opening, it has been visited by aircraft originating from nearly 50 countries and travelers have hailed from Asia, Africa, Europe, Central and South America as well as the Middle East. 2024 has been a particularly strong year as GCIA [announced its 500th international arrival in late May 2024](#), demonstrating the continued strength of the airports international offerings.

"It is great to see the increasing international traffic into the Gary / Chicago International Airport, which further demonstrates appeal the airport has to business and general aviation travelers accessing the Chicago region," said **GCIA Executive Director Dan Vicari**. "The increasing international arrivals demonstrate the importance of GCIA to the economy of both Northwest Indiana and the larger Chicago Metropolitan Area."

The availability of an on-site, permanent state-of-the-art Customs facility provides GCIA with a significant competitive advantage, given the airport's proximity to Chicago's Central Business District, or Loop. The convenient location of the airport, located just 25 miles to downtown Chicago, has been a key driver in attracting international air travelers, as they are able to fly into the airport from any global destination without needing to stop elsewhere to clear customs.

In 2015 the airport extended its main runway to nearly 9,000 feet, and it is now the second longest runway in the region after O'Hare International Airport and is capable of servicing larger and heavier aircraft, up to and including a 777, one of the largest planes operating globally. 2020 saw GCIA began cargo service operations via UPS, and cargo operations have quickly scaled, now ranking 3rd overall in the State of Indiana in terms of its freight volume, with further growth anticipated in future years.

In 2022, GCIA received formal FAA approvals for its Master Plan, a planning document that will guide the next several decades of airport development and growth. In late 2023, the airport announced the acquisition of the Griffith – Merrillville Airport, making GCIA one of only three (3) aviation systems in the State of Indiana.

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About Gary/Chicago International Airport

Located minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan and just 25 miles from downtown Chicago, Gary/Chicago International Airport (GYY) is a full-service airport and a premiere destination for corporate and weekend flyers in the Chicago metropolitan region and Northwest Indiana. To learn more, visit the airport's new website at FlyGYY.com.