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Port Columbus passenger traffic continued rebound in 2015

By **Marla Matzer Rose** *The Columbus Dispatch* • Wednesday January 27, 2016 6:13 AM



Port Columbus

Passenger totals at Port Columbus for 2015 reached their highest level since 2008 and were the fourth-highest total in the airport's history, according to statistics released Tuesday by the Columbus Regional Airport Authority.

The number of passengers reached 6.79 million, a 6.9 percent increase compared to 2014, while the month of December was up 8.5 percent over the previous year.

Port Columbus' busiest year came in 2007, when short-lived Skybus Airlines launched there. It propelled passenger numbers to 7.7 million in 2007 and 6.9 million in 2008, the year it folded. The third-highest total was in 2000, with 6.88 million passengers.

Every airline saw passenger increases for 2015 except American Airlines, which was off 1 percent. Southwest Airlines, the airport's biggest carrier, saw an increase of 12.6 percent for the year, as it operated 10 percent more flights, including adding new destinations such as Boston and Oakland, just outside San Francisco.

American, Delta and United airlines all achieved passenger growth while trimming flights by low single-digit percentages, meaning planes were fuller. Air Canada Express, the smallest carrier at Port Columbus, increased flights by 31 percent for the year and increased passengers by 20.8 percent.

December 2015 marked the 22nd consecutive month for growth in passenger totals at Port Columbus.