

## Columbus Regional Airport Authority

Affirmed	Rating(s)	Outlook
Airport Revenue Bonds	AA-	Stable

**Methodology:**

[U.S. General Airport Revenue Bond Rating Methodology](#)

**Analytical Contacts:**

Patricia McGuigan, Director  
(646) 731-3350  
[pmcquigan@kbra.com](mailto:pmcquigan@kbra.com)

Peter Scherer, Associate  
(646) 731-2325  
[pscherer@kbra.com](mailto:pscherer@kbra.com)

University. The regional economy has historically out-performed both the State and the U.S., and population is growing. The government and higher education sector are a stabilizing influence, and added diversification is provided by a sizable financial sector and an array of Fortune 500 companies.

A mix of airlines serves CMH, and there is no carrier concentration. Airport traffic is almost exclusively origin and destination (O&D), and therefore not vulnerable to the de-hubbing. Enplanement activity had been static but has picked up in recent years. The 2014 to 2017 CAGR is 6%, and in the first nine months of 2018, enplanements were up 7.1% compared to the same period in 2017. Financial operations are historically favorable, with ample debt service coverage levels. CRAA has been able to address the bulk of its capital needs without having to enter the capital markets, and debt levels are extremely low.

Positive financial operations provide ample support for debt service. FY 2017 coverage of 2.45x well exceeds the 1.25x rate covenant. The Authority’s signatory airline operating agreement and lease contains a revenue sharing component that necessitates a minimum of 2.0x debt service coverage and, for the final two years of the agreement, reserve levels equal to one year’s operating expenses. The five-year agreement began January 1, 2015, and includes compensatory rate-making for the terminal, and a residual for the airfield and apron. The Authority is sensitive to higher airline costs and has strived to control expenses in its financial planning. Non-airline revenue growth has been generally favorable. Average annual growth over the past five years for the two primary non-airline operating revenues, parking and concessions, is 5.3% and 3.3%, respectively.

CRAA’s capital spending is notable for the limited use of debt financing. The Authority has relied extensively on internally generated funds, Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and other grants, and Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) revenues. At FYE 2017, there was \$81 million in airport revenue bonds outstanding, consequently debt metrics are very low. All of the airport revenue bonds are privately placed. The Airport’s 2019-2020 capital program projects spending of \$230 million and includes construction of a consolidated rental car facility. Over the longer term, there may be borrowing for a new passenger terminal, with timing dependent on capacity and existing asset longevity. Debt service is level at approximately \$11.5 million through 2021, and thereafter declines. All bonds mature by 2030, allowing ample flexibility for additional debt.

The **Stable Outlook** reflects KBRA’s expectation of stable passenger traffic and continued robust debt service coverage.

**Key Rating Strengths**

- Diverse, well-performing economic base underpins airport activity.
- Absence of airline concentration and the origin and destination nature of activity aids stability.
- Satisfactory debt service coverage, with extremely low debt, and sufficient financial liquidity.

**Key Rating Concerns**

- Enplanement activity has been irregular, reflecting national recession impacts and hubbing shifts.
- Relative proximity of competing airports, which may limit potential for increased airline service.

**Drivers for Rating Change**

An accelerated passenger traffic growth trend coupled with maintenance of favorable debt metrics and positive financial results

+

Significant narrowing of debt service coverage margins

Loss of passenger enplanements to competing airports

-

<b>Key Airport Ratios</b>		
FYE December 31		
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Airport Activity</b>		
Top carrier by market share (Southwest)	36.3%	36.1%
CMH Enplanements	3,785,000	3,659,000
YOY Change	3.4%	7.8%
<b>Summary Statement of Income</b>		
Operating Revenues	\$ 112,575,123	\$ 104,218,322
YOY Change	8.0%	8.7%
Operating Expenses Before Depreciation	\$ 83,888,713	\$ 75,925,640
YOY Change	10.5%	12.5%
Net Income	\$ 28,686,410	\$ 28,292,682
YOY Change	1.4%	-0.4%
<b>Per Passenger Enplanement (PPE) Operating Ratios</b>		
Non-Airline Revenue PPE	\$ 20.46	\$ 20.22
Operating Expenditures PPE	\$ 22.16	\$ 20.75
<b>Liquidity</b>		
Days Cash on Hand <sup>1</sup>	210	254
<b>Debt and Leverage Ratios</b>		
Debt to Cash and Investments Available for DS <sup>2</sup>	1.10	1.31
Debt Per Enplanement	\$ 23.9	\$ 25.2
Debt Service Coverage		
Calculated Per Trust Indenture	2.45x	2.39x
<b>Population Growth, 2010-2017</b>		
Columbus MSA	9.0%	
United States	5.3%	

Source: Columbus Regional Airport Authority

<sup>1</sup>Operating expenses as per CAFR; calculation includes only unrestricted current C&I.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unrestricted fund balance, restricted PFC's, and bond reserves.



The Authority has a stated goal of minimizing the amount of debt outstanding prior to the design and construction of a new terminal complex that, at present, is not expected before the early-2030s. The use of interest rate swaps or any form of derivatives is prohibited. Outstanding general airport revenue bonds (GARBs) are targeted not to exceed \$40 per enplaned passenger. The airline cost per enplanement (CPE) is targeted not to exceed \$10.00. The Authority typically avoids leasing costs related equipment, vehicle, and similar assets, choosing instead to fund those costs from reserves. All debt obligations have a maximum maturity of the earlier of: (1) the estimated useful life of the capital improvement being financed; or (2) the estimated useful life of the revenue stream funding the capital improvement; or (3) thirty years; or (4) in the event of refinancing outstanding debt obligations, the final maturity of the debt obligations being refinanced. Debt may be in a fixed or variable rate mode. The preference is to have a level overall debt structure, when issuing additional debt. However, an increasing debt service structure may be considered appropriate, but must be evaluated before proceeding.

### **Enterprise Risk Management**

The CRAA has devoted significant attention to enterprise risk management (ERM) as a core function throughout the organization. A cross-functional risk management team meets quarterly to discuss new risks. Over 325 organizational risks are being managed. The Authority focuses on top risks and considers the following risks to be the most critical: (1) inability to fund capital programs; (2) project management process and communication; (3) aircraft accident or incident on the airfield; (4) training, development, and succession planning; (5) cyber risks; (6) continuity of operations, disaster recovery, and evacuation planning.

### **Budgetary Process**

The budgetary process begins in June of each year with each department manager estimating expected costs for the upcoming year. Revenues are estimated based on history, projected increases and market trends within the aviation industry. The President and CEO holds the responsibility of submitting budgets for operating revenues and expenses and capital improvements to the Board for approval at least 30 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The budget can be amended by the board subsequent to its adoption. There is a monthly look-back, revenues and expenditure performance of each department is reviewed by members of the accounting/finance team, who report back to the Board.

### **Capital Improvement Program Annual Financial Feasibility Analysis**

The Authority undertakes an annual financial feasibility review to determine the affordability of the capital program. The analysis incorporates all projects in the Authority's five-year capital improvement program (CIP). The current year is used as a base year with separate assumed inflation factors for airfield projects and other projects. The analysis is updated annually or more frequently if changing conditions warrant. The current year operating budget is escalated based on various inflation assumptions. The analysis produces detailed financial results that include the amount, timing, and type of debt required. Also generated are pro-forma operating results, including airline rates, cost per enplanement (CPE), cash flow, and liquidity reserves.

Based on the foregoing, KBRA continues to view Columbus Regional Airport Authority's Governance and Management as consistent with a "Favorable" Rating Determinant rating.

## **RD 2: Economics/Demographics of the Service Area**

### **Growing Population Base Supports Air Travel**

CRAA's primary service area is the Columbus metropolitan statistical area (the "MSA"), which includes 10 counties encompassing 3,170 square miles. An extended secondary air service area also exists, whose borders are based on the location of air service provided from Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton and Toledo in Ohio as well as Charleston in West Virginia. The level of competition between these air service regions appears marginal however with each of these cities located more than 100 miles from Columbus, except for Dayton which is located 70 miles away. At a minimum there is some benefit to the airport from the de-hubbing of Delta at Cincinnati and United at Cleveland. The reduction in flights at these airports makes CMH a more attractive option for travelers.

The Columbus MSA is experiencing strong population growth. It is one of the fastest growing MSAs outside of the Sun Belt and has a population of over 2 million. The City of Columbus, the largest city in Ohio and the State capital, is the fifteenth largest city in the U.S. The region’s population base and central location in the State support stable demand for O&D service at CMH.

**FIGURE 1**

	2017 Population	Chg from 2010	2017 Age Dependency Ratio <sup>12</sup>	Chg from 2010	2015 Population with B.A. Degree of Higher <sup>2</sup>	Chg from 2010	2017 Poverty Level <sup>2</sup>	Chg from 2010	2017 Income Per Capita	Chg from 2010
Columbus MSA	2,078,725	9.0%	57.7%	3.1%	35.9%	3.4%	13.1%	-2.6%	32,887	24.0%
State of Ohio	11,658,609	1.0%	63.8%	3.4%	28.0%	3.4%	14.0%	-1.8%	30,038	25.3%
United States	325,719,178	5.3%	61.8%	3.0%	32.0%	3.8%	13.4%	-1.9%	32,397	24.3%
Columbus MSA as a % of Ohio	N.A.		90.5%		128.2%		93.6%		109.5%	
Columbus MSA as a % of United States	N.A.		93.3%		112.2%		97.8%		101.5%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

<sup>1</sup>Age dependency ratio is the sum of the population under 18 yrs and over 65 yrs divided by persons age 18 to 64.

<sup>2</sup>Change since 2010 shown as nominal change in percentage points.

The MSA population has grown notably faster than the U.S. in recent years. Personal income per capita exceeds the Ohio and U.S. averages, despite this figure being depressed somewhat by the large student presence in the region. Ohio State University, with an enrollment of nearly 60,000 at the Columbus campus, has the largest student population of any campus in the U.S. The presence of more than 50 additional institutions of higher education raises total enrollment to more than 136,000 students. This large institutional presence is reflected in the relatively high level of educational attainment.

The Columbus MSA housing market has performed well since the Great Recession. Federal Housing Finance Authority data indicate that 2018Q2 home values are 25.1% above their prior 2017Q1 cyclical peak and have grown 7.3% YOY. This compares favorably to U.S. values which are 12.1% higher than their prior peak and up 6.6% YOY. This strong comparative performance underscores the strength of the service area economy which KBRA views as supportive of demand for O&D service.

**Diversified Business Environment**

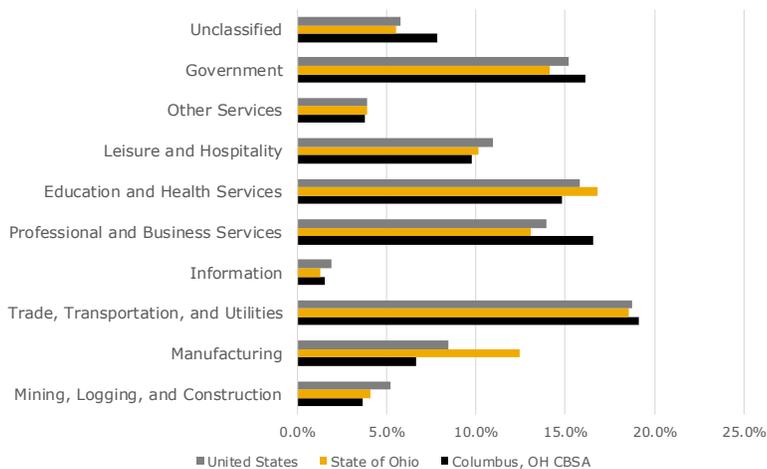
The Columbus MSA has a strong and diverse economy, where no one sector accounts for more than 20% of employment. Finance and insurance, advanced manufacturing, health, logistics, and other industries complement the presence of Ohio State University and the State capital.

Five Fortune 500 companies, are headquartered in the region including Cardinal Health, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, American Electric Power, L Brands, and Big Lots. The largest private sector employers are Ohio Health and JPMorgan Chase & Co., followed by Nationwide Insurance. The Columbus MSA has more than 450 international companies. Columbus is home to significant medical research and related institutions, such as the Battelle Memorial Institute (an applied science and technology development company), the Wexner Medical Center at Ohio State University, and the Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Ohio State University and the State of Ohio are the largest public sector employers. The region’s robust employment base is a key driver in support of O&D enplanement activity at CMH. A large educated workforce, combined with strong research capabilities has resulted in the region becoming one of the fastest growing technology hubs in the U.S.

The Columbus MSA is home to 62 college and university campuses. In addition to Ohio State, campuses include Columbus State Community College, Franklin University, Otterbein University, Denison University, and Kenyon College. Ohio State is a major center for industry-sponsored research, with leading programs in bioengineering, agricultural

**FIGURE 2**

**Employment Concentration by Sector (2017)  
Columbus, OH CBSA**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

engineering, computer engineering, and material sciences. The University holds research partnerships with over 300 companies in the State of Ohio, including over 100 in metropolitan Columbus.

The Columbus area is also a major logistics hub due to its location within 500 miles of 47% of the U.S. population, 35% of the Canadian population and about 50% of all U.S. manufacturing. Enhanced freight rail connections to East Coast ports in Norfolk, VA; Baltimore, MD; and Wilmington, NC bolster the region’s role as a vital distribution center. CRAA’s Rickenbacker International Airport, with its air and road transport companies, numerous off-airport warehouses, and intermodal rail terminal partnership was the 26<sup>th</sup> busiest air cargo hub in the U.S. by landed weight in 2017.

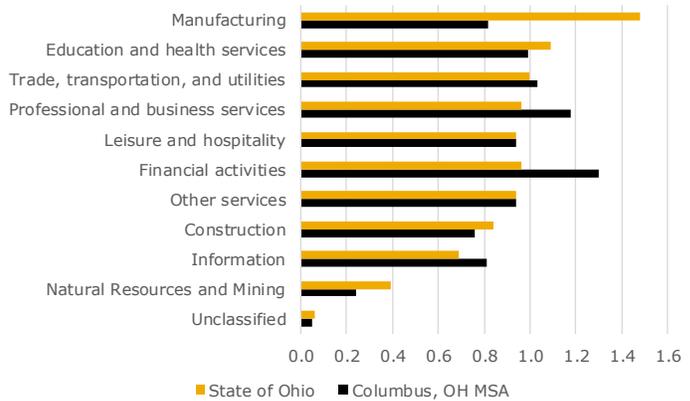
**Employment Base More Resilient Than State/Nation**

With a concentration in high skill, high wage-earning jobs, the Columbus MSA employment base differs from both the state and nation overall. Location Quotients quantify how the MSA’s employment base differs and illustrate why the MSA’s unemployment rates are historically below State and U.S. averages. The x-axis measures distinctions with the U.S., with 1.0 representing the U.S. median.

The MSA has a significantly higher concentration of employment in financial activities and professional and business services, occupations which tend to be more skilled, higher paying, and less susceptible to economic downturns. Statewide employment is in turn notably concentrated in manufacturing, a sector that was disproportionately affected by the Great Recession. This dissimilarity in employment base composition may explain historical differences in unemployment rate trends. The Columbus MSA lost relatively fewer jobs than the state and U.S. throughout the recession.

The Columbus MSA unemployment rate peaked at 10.2% in 2010 and has generally been one percentage point below the state and U.S. rates. As of September 2018, the MSA unemployment rate was a low 3.6% compared to 4.1% and 3.6% for the state and U.S., respectively. Columbus has historically recorded lower unemployment than each of the state’s other major metropolitan areas.

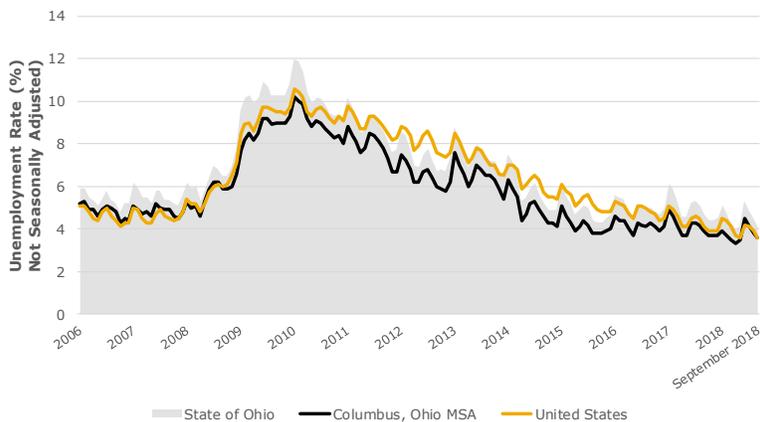
**FIGURE 3**  
**Employment Base<sup>1</sup>**  
**2017 Location Quotients**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Figures apply to private employment sector only.

**FIGURE 4**

**Unemployment Rates**  
**Columbus OH MSA, Ohio, and U.S.**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Based on the foregoing, KBRA has maintained the AA- Rating Determinant rating on Columbus Regional Airport Authority’s service area economic/demographics.

## RD 3: Airport Utilization

### Diverse Carrier Mix

CMH is a medium-sized hub, situated six miles east from downtown Columbus. It is almost exclusively origin and destination, with varied market share among its airlines. In 2017, the three largest carriers were Southwest with 36% of enplanements, American Airlines with 24%, and Delta with 22%. These three carriers together with United, Air Canada Express, and Frontier are signatory airlines. KBRA believes that carrier participation is indicative of a generally stable airline mix. In June 2016, Frontier Airlines began service at CMH, and became a signatory carrier effective July 1, 2017. Two new entrants additionally began offering service at CMH in 2018, Spirit and OneJet.

**FIGURE 5**
**Air Carrier Market Shares at CMH**  
 Years Ended December 31

	2018 First Nine Months	% Chg.	2017 First Nine Months	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Southwest Airlines</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	2,134,882	4.4%	2,044,001	2,752,826	2,645,139	2,377,201	2,033,400	1,651,723
AirTran Airways	-	-	-	-	-	-	77,415	423,509
<b>American Airlines Group</b>	1,403,585	1.8%	1,378,155	1,844,684	1,859,983	1,853,766	936,617	815,779
US Airways	-	-	-	-	-	-	935,069	944,344
<b>Delta Airlines</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	1,304,151	6.4%	1,225,415	1,632,707	1,606,157	1,557,554	1,470,983	1,425,673
Northwest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>United Airlines</b> <sup>(3)</sup>	728,483	5.8%	688,787	947,266	960,786	917,109	835,235	898,478
Continental	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Spirit</b>	247,456	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Frontier</b> <sup>(4)</sup>	129,683	-40.7%	218,845	288,602	150,504	-	472	19,113
<b>Air Canada</b>	57,007	9.1%	52,237	68,992	65,461	52,704	43,632	39,435
<b>OneJet</b>	1,559	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Commercial Total</b>	<b>6,006,806</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>5,607,440</b>	<b>7,535,077</b>	<b>7,288,030</b>	<b>6,758,334</b>	<b>6,332,823</b>	<b>6,218,054</b>
Scheduled	Unavailabe		Unavailabe	7,662	6,596	10,414	9,829	11,157
Non-Scheduled	Unavailabe		Unavailabe	33,853	29,554	27,466	13,322	7,317
<b>Charter Total</b>	<b>31,531</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>31,699</b>	<b>41,515</b>	<b>36,150</b>	<b>37,880</b>	<b>23,151</b>	<b>18,474</b>
<b>Total Passenger</b>	<b>6,038,337</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>5,639,139</b>	<b>7,576,592</b>	<b>7,324,180</b>	<b>6,796,214</b>	<b>6,355,974</b>	<b>6,236,528</b>

Source: The Authority's Accounting Department

(1) AirTran Airways was merged with Southwest in December 2014

(2) Northwest was merged into Delta in January 2010

(3) Continental was merged into United in March 2012

(4) Frontier ceased operations in January 2014, and resumed in 2016.

CMH offers 150 peak daily departures to 36 airports and five seasonal destinations as of 2018. Southwest added weekly service to New Orleans and seasonal service to Houston and Cancun in 2017 as Frontier added service to Austin and seasonal service to Fort Myers and Tampa. KBRA notes that the number of daily departures at CMH has been more or less level since 2010.

The addition of routes continued in 2018 with Spirit's commencement of seasonal flights to seven cities in February and OneJet's commencement of twice-daily flights to Milwaukee in November. Frontier was the only carrier with a decline in activity in the first nine months of 2018 with a contraction of more than 40%. The decline reflects the discontinuation of service to Las Vegas and reduced flights to Denver, although KBRA understands from conversations with airport management that this level of volatility at Frontier reflects its highly dynamic operating model that is optimized to move quickly in and out of markets as perceived opportunities arise. The 2019 year is anticipated to bring further new routes with both Delta and United announcing new daily routes commencing in June 2019 to Salt Lake City and San Francisco, respectively.

**FIGURE 6**
**CMH Top Destinations, 2017**

Destination	Share of Enplanements
Chicago, IL	14.2%
Atlanta, GA	11.8%
Washington, DC	6.3%
New York, NY	5.4%
Orlando, FL	5.3%
Denver, CO	4.8%
Charlotte, NC	4.4%
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX	4.2%
Las Vegas, NV	4.2%
Baltimore, MD	3.5%
All Other	35.8%

Source: FAA, T-100 Database

**Enplanement Trends**

Airport traffic is seeing positive growth with enplanements in 2017 rising to their highest level since 2007. Airline passenger traffic increased for almost all airlines in 2017, with the largest growth by Frontier. Total FY 2017 enplanement growth was 3.4%, down from 7.8% growth in 2016, per the Authority’s financial report.

In the first nine months of 2018, enplanements were up 7.1% compared to the same period in 2017, indicating a return to strong growth attributable to Spirit’s opening of seven new seasonal routes in February 2018 as well as continued strength in the local economy.

Previously, enplanement activity was irregular, with national economic trends, exogenous events, and hubbing shifts all impacting year to year activity. The early 2000’s recession, 9/11 terrorist attacks, and Great Recession each resulted in pronounced dips in passenger activity both nationally and at CMH. Additionally observable in historic enplanement activity, is America West’s 2002 to 2003 hub closure followed by the hub establishment of start-up airline Skybus in 2007 and subsequent termination of its hubbing activity in 2008.

Enplanement activity at CMH contracted at a 0.2% CAGR over the last decade versus U.S. market growth at a 1.4% CAGR due to the aforementioned dehubbing. Growth over the last five years however was relatively strong increasing at a 1.8% CAGR versus the U.S. market at a 1.7% CAGR, reflecting the trend of strong organic O&D demand. Enplanements in 2017 are 2.1% below the 2007 historic peak.

Growth in available seats across the industry have generally been constrained as airlines have shifted to prioritizing high load factors and profitability over market share. Available seats at CMH declined at a 0.8% CAGR over the last decade versus industry-wide growth at a 0.3% CAGR. CMH’s relatively weak performance over this period largely reflects its dehubbing. Over the last five years, CMH available seat growth is a strong 3.6% CAGR versus the industry-wide 2.6% CAGR, this reflects CMH’s recent strong enplanement trends.

Additional CMH metrics underscore its relative value to its airlines. According to FAA data, CMH’s busiest airline, Southwest, achieved a carrier yield 3.7% above its system-wide average while American, CMH’s second busiest airline, achieved carrier yields approximately 13.2% below its system wide average. Load factors for the two airlines were additionally 1% to 2% below system-wide averages. KBRA notes however that these metrics likely understate the profitability for carriers operating at CMH given the extremely low cost for per enplanement. Furthermore, these metrics carry limited weight in the context of CMH’s nearly 100% O&D customer base as there is no looming risk of dehubbing.

**Strong Cargo Trends**

CRAA’s Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK), located ten miles south of downtown Columbus, is one of the world’s few cargo-dedicated airports. It is positioned next to a major multi-modal logistics hub completed by Norfolk-Southern in 2008. The Norfolk Southern Rickenbacker Intermodal Terminal is capable of handling 400,000 containers annually.

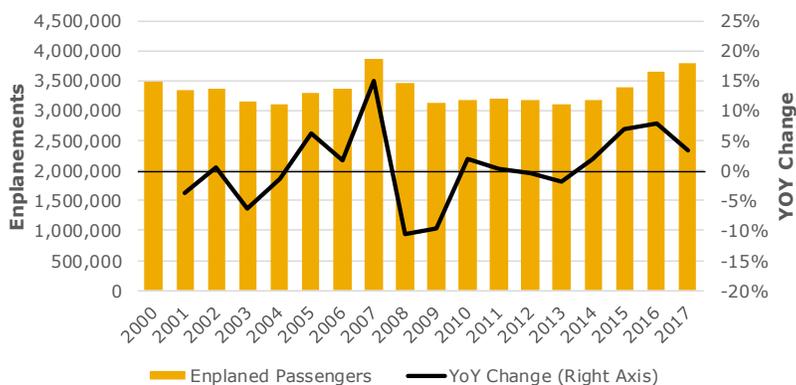
LCK and the intermodal terminal, together with the adjacent airport-sponsored Rickenbacker Global Logistics Park, are collectively known as the Rickenbacker Inland Port. While there is no natural body of water, the inland port designation reflects its role as a major logistics hub connecting several other major ports on the eastern seaboard to Chicago and the greater Midwest region. Completion of the hub and build-out of logistics facilities at the Rickenbacker Global Logistics Park have supported a trend of volatile but generally strong cargo activity at LCK.

Air cargo activity increased 16% between 2007 and 2017 to 116,000 metric tons. The 2017 year was a particularly remarkable year due to the relocation of a major air cargo operator, Trinity Logistics and its partner Etihad, to LCK. The change supported a 26.6% YOY increase in cargo weight. Cargo activity in the first nine months of 2018 is additionally up by 17.7% YOY due to continued growth of existing operators and the commencement of regular cargo flights from AirBridge Cargo and China Airlines.

LCK also offers limited passenger service through its charter terminal. As of 2018, Allegiant offers year-round service to four Florida destinations and seasonal service to another six destinations. Annual enplanement activity at LCK

**FIGURE 7**

**Columbus Regional Airport**  
Enplaned Passengers CY 2000 to 2017



Source: Columbus Regional Airport Authority

increased from a nominal 14,000 in 2012 to nearly 227,000 in 2017, although commercial service at LCK remains relatively minor at just 3.5% of that offered at CMH. KBRA understands that facilities at LCK could accommodate commercial enplanement growth of at least 50% above the current level but that CRAA does not plan to transform LCK into a major facility for commercial air travel.

Based on the foregoing, KBRA has affirmed Columbus Regional Airport Authority's A+ Rating Determinant rating on Airport Utilization.

## **RD 4: Airport Debt/Capital Needs**

### **Debt Issuance Approach**

The Authority's debt issuance adheres to a written debt management policy. KBRA views the Authority's capital planning as comprehensive, with a focus on minimizing borrowing. The analysis is updated annually or more frequently if project changes occur.

Outstanding debt is largely general airport revenue bonds (GARBs), secured by a lien on net airport revenues of CMH and Bolton Field. The Authority has been an infrequent participant in the capital markets; the last GARB new money issuance was in 1998. In March 2015, the Authority directly placed \$40 million of Series 2015A and 2015B Revenue Bonds that are on parity with the Authority's Series 2013 general airport revenue bonds. Proceeds partially refunded the Authority's subordinated Revolving Bank Loan and Credit Facility (see below). In 2016 the Authority refunded the Series 2007 Bonds through a direct placement, generating substantial net present value savings. The refunding maintained the level aggregate annual debt service of \$11.5 million while significantly shortening the repayment period by applying approximately \$7.4 million in debt service reserve fund amounts to reduce required borrowing.

The Authority has funded the majority of its capital needs from internal funds, federal and state grants, and passenger facility charges (PFC). All GARB debt is fixed rate and matures in 2030. There are no swaps, as the use of these instruments and derivatives in general, is prohibited by the Authority's Debt Policy. Nor is there any special facility debt outstanding.

Under a Subordinated Obligations Trust Indenture and Credit Facility Agreement dated June 14, 2012, the Authority is authorized via a revolving loan in the form of Credit Facility Bonds to borrow up to \$70 million of subordinated debt from PNC Bank, the credit facility provider. The authorized maximum commitment is now \$40 million, and the agreement expires on December 31, 2018, and a new facility is expected. Outstanding principal, currently \$9.5 million, bears interest at a variable rate equal to the sum of LIBOR for that one-month LIBOR period multiplied by 0.72 plus 85 basis points (0.85%). The commitment fee is 10 basis points (0.1%) on the unused portion of the facility.

### **Capital Program Overview**

The Authority's 2019/2020 capital budget totals \$230 million. Of this total, approximately \$200 million (87%) is for CMH and \$22 million (10%) is for Rickenbacker; the balance is for Intermodal Industrial Development and Bolton Field. The primary capital projects are the first phase of the Midfield Development Program at the John Glenn International Airport which includes a Consolidated Rental Car Facility (CONRAC); construction of a second on-airport hotel; and apron and taxiway rehabilitation. Funding sources are CFCs (51%), PFCs (7%), CRAA resources (35%) and FAA grants (6%). The authority plans to use a subordinate lien credit facility for interim financing, to be repaid with airport revenues and PFCs.

### **Future Borrowing Plans**

No additional GARB borrowing is expected until the early 2030s, at the earliest. A determination may be made to construct a new passenger terminal, and it is likely that additional debt will be issued for the new terminal. However, at the time of such issuance, the Authority is expected to have no general airport debt outstanding, as its outstanding GARB debt matures in 2030. While the amount of future borrowing has not been quantified, KBRA believes the Authority will be well-positioned to take on the additional debt at that juncture.

### **History of Internal Capital Funding Contributes to Favorable Debt Ratios**

The use of system-generated funds and reserves, supplemented by PFC and grant funding, results in low Authority debt ratios. In KBRA's opinion the Authority's operations are well positioned in relation to outstanding debt. At FYE 2017, GARB debt outstanding per 2017 enplanements is a very low \$21.40. Annual debt service was \$11.3 million in FY 2017 and is essentially flat through 2021, declining thereafter. All outstanding Bonds mature on January 1, 2030. Maximum annual debt service per enplanement was \$3.01 for FY 2017, which is also extremely low based on KBRA's Airport Methodology. As previously stated, the Authority managed to fund even large capital projects like the south runway and terminal modernization with very little borrowing.

Based on the foregoing, KBRA has affirmed Columbus Regional Airport Authority’s AAA Rating Determinant rating on Airport/Debt Capital Needs.

**RD 5: Airport Finances**

**Cost Center and Account Structure**

The Authority’s financial operations are largely governed by the master trust indenture adopted July 1994, which establishes the flow of funds and the rate covenant, among its provisions. Operations are also a function of the signatory airline operating agreement and lease which lays out the financial obligations of both the airport and airlines, and determines the airport’s rate setting and cost recovery mechanism.

The operating agreement and lease are hybrid in nature, with a compensatory rate-making structure in the terminal based on leasable square footage, and a residual agreement covering the airfield and apron. Direct and indirect cost centers account for revenues and expenses, and related rentals, fees, and charges. The direct cost centers are the airfield, terminal building, apron, parking and ground transportation, other leased properties, and Bolton Field. The indirect cost centers are administration, general support facilities, and cost center additions and subtractions.

**Operating Agreement and Lease**

The present Agreement’s term is January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019 and follows an agreement of similar duration and framework. A key change is connecting airline enplanement activity with revenue sharing, as a means of encouraging increased passenger activity. The revenue sharing calculation, referred to as the General Airline Credit (GAC) now includes an average rate of \$1.60 per enplaned passenger, and \$250,000 additional sharing for each 0.5% of overall enplanement growth. Revenue sharing is contingent on maintaining at least one year’s operating expenses in the general purpose fund in years four and five of the Agreement, and debt service coverage of 2.0x or greater. The revenue sharing component is credited to the landing fee calculation. KBRA believes that the coverage condition results in ample historical margins that are well in excess of the 1.25x rate covenant.

The Agreement provides for preferential leasing of airline space, periodic leased space adjustments to reflect changes in airline activity, and in KBRA’s opinion, strong Authority control of capital project approvals. Carriers have limited rights to defer for one-year projects over \$2.5 million in the airfield and apron cost centers. Airlines have no input for capital project decisions in the terminal or other cost centers.

**FIGURE 8**

**Fiscal 2017 Financial Performance**

Fiscal 2017 financial position remains satisfactory and cash position strong. FY2017 net income before depreciation remained stable at \$27 million, with debt service coverage a still healthy 2.45x (as calculated per the trust indenture). Coverage calculated as per indenture requirements exceeded 2.00x over the past several years. On a GAAP basis, coverage has been even stronger, 2.81x in FY 2017. Favorable operating results have been achieved even during periods of static enplanement, and with significant revenue sharing. Airline revenues have been consistently below 40% of total operating revenues, which KBRA views as positive.

Non-airline revenue growth has been favorable, the five-year average annual growth for the two primary non-airline operating revenues, parking revenues and concession revenues, is 5.3% and 3.3%, respectively (per CAFR). In fiscal 2017, non-airline revenues increased 4.7%. Parking remains the largest component of non-airline revenues. An Authority-owned hotel on airport property opened in August 2014, diversifying the non-airline revenue stream. The hotel facility had a FY 2017 net operating surplus of \$2.0 million.

<b>Columbus Regional Airport Authority</b>	
<b>Debt Service Coverage Calculated per Trust Indenture</b>	
<b>FY Ending December 31</b>	
<i>(\$ in thousands)</i>	<b>2017</b>
<b>GROSS REVENUES</b>	<b>\$99,252</b>
DIRECT OPERATING EXPENSES	71,566
Net Revenues Available for Debt Service	27,686
Interest Income on Reserves	-634
Amount Available for Debt Service - Bond Covenant	<b>\$27,052</b>
Principal	9,378
Interest	<u>1,643</u>
<b>Total Debt Service Requirements</b>	<b><u>11,021</u></b>
<b>DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE</b>	<b>2.45</b>

*Source: Columbus Regional Airport*

Operating expenses (per indenture) before depreciation per enplaned passenger equaled \$18.91 in 2017. Operating margins, which have been within 20% to 35%, are also in an acceptable range. Authority management is focused on, and has taken action, to moderate the growth in operating expenditures.

### Passenger Airline Cost Per Enplanement (CPE)

Fiscal 2017 cost per enplaned passenger was \$7.82, well below the medium hub average as calculated by the FAA. Over the past five years, CRAA's CPE has averaged \$7.90 per enplanement. The Authority's May 2017 Feasibility Report projected cost per enplanement rising to \$8.46 in 2019, then declining to \$7.80 in 2022. KBRA does not expect this metric to rise sharply as there is no currently planned GARB borrowing, and anticipated capital spending is on the low side.

**FIGURE 9**  
**Columbus Regional Airport Authority**  
**Airline Cost Per Enplanement (CMH)**  
**Fiscal Years Ending December 31**

(\$ in thousands)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>								
Airline Cost for the Airfield Area	\$16,060	\$16,403	\$16,458	\$16,404	\$16,400	\$16,278	\$16,585	\$15,813
Airline Cost for the Terminal Building	9,820	11,007	12,014	11,977	12,735	13,464	15,044	16,610
Airline Cost for the Aircraft Parking Area	2,639	2,913	3,404	3,732	3,880	3,903	4,156	4,072
General Airline Credit	-3,953	-5,853	-4,431	-4,461	-7,377	-4,804	-5,638	-5,884
Supplemental Airline Credit	0	0	0	0	0	-3,250	-3,750	-1,000
<b>Total Airline Cost</b>	<b>\$24,566</b>	<b>\$24,470</b>	<b>\$27,445</b>	<b>\$27,652</b>	<b>\$25,638</b>	<b>\$25,591</b>	<b>\$26,397</b>	<b>\$29,611</b>
Enplanements (000)	3,184	3,190	3,175	3,115	3,173	3,393	3,659	3,785
<b>Airline Cost per Enplaned Passenger</b>	<b>\$7.72</b>	<b>\$7.67</b>	<b>\$8.64</b>	<b>\$8.88</b>	<b>\$8.08</b>	<b>\$7.55</b>	<b>\$7.17</b>	<b>\$7.82</b>

Source: Columbus Regional Airport Authority

### System Liquidity

The Authority has historically maintained substantial unrestricted cash, which complements its favorable coverage levels. As of December 31, 2017, the current assets unrestricted cash and investments was \$40.1 million and \$8.2 million, respectively. Unrestricted, noncurrent investments totaled \$33.6 million. Thus, total unrestricted C&I was \$81.9 million, relative to trust-indenture calculated operating expenses of \$71.6 million. Restricted cash and investments totals \$83.7 million, and includes \$54.0 million restricted for customer facility charges and \$15.6 million restricted for passenger facility charges.

### Budget: Fiscal 2018 and Fiscal 2019

Fiscal 2018 enplanements were projected at 4.5% growth, while actual enplanement growth through August is 7.1% and estimated growth for the year is 8%. Cost per enplaned passenger was \$8.14 at budget, but the estimate is a more modest \$7.90. The 2018 General Airline Credit is estimated to be \$7.7 million.

In the FY 2019 draft budget, enplaned passengers are projected to increase to 4.22 million, 3.4% growth. CMH's operating expenses are budgeted at \$68.4 million, a modest 1.4% growth from the 2018 estimated expenses. Cost per enplaned passenger is budgeted at \$8.20, a 3.8% increase over the FY 2018 estimate. Landing fees are budget to increase \$4.1 million due to salary and benefit cost increases as well as TSA required staffing of the security lanes by law enforcement officials. The FY 2019 CPE is budgeted at \$8.20. The FY 2019 budget reflects \$2.4 million in growth in concessionaire and miscellaneous lease revenue. The biggest contributors are a \$1 increase for ride sharing pickups and a new \$4 drop off fee, which starts in April 2019. In addition, a new management agreement with Towne Parking contributes to revenue growth.

Given the authority's practices of conservative budgeting, and the level debt service profile, KBRA does not expect material changes in debt service coverage.

### Retirement Benefits

All Authority employees are required to participate in the state-wide Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) and the authority's proportion of the net pension liability was \$39 million, as reported in the Authority's FY 2017 annual financial report. The traditional plan was 77% funded, and the actuarial assumed rate of return was 7.5%. Fiscal 2017 employer contributions billed to the Authority were \$4 million. Employee pension contributions equal 10% of compensation. The Authority has historically contributed a share of employee contributions; however, this subsidy is being gradually be phased out. By 2019 employees will assume the full 10% contribution. Full-time employees hired on April 1, 2011 and thereafter already pay the full employee contribution. Other post-employment benefits (OPEB) for health care costs are provided by OPERS as well. The Authority's fiscal 2017 OPEB contribution was \$281,964.

Based on the foregoing, KBRA has affirmed Columbus Regional Airport Authority's AA+ Rating Determinant rating on Airport Finances.

## **RD 6: Legal Mechanics and Security Provisions**

### **Bond Security**

The GARBs are special obligations of the Authority, payable solely from and secured by a pledge of the net revenues of John Glenn International Airport and Bolton Field, and a lien upon the revenue fund, debt service fund and the debt service reserve fund. Rickenbacker is not designated as an airport for purposes of the trust indenture. No indebtedness of Rickenbacker is secured by the trust indenture, and Rickenbacker's revenues are not pledged to repayment of bonds issued pursuant to the indenture. Neither the revenues or expenses of Rickenbacker are included for purposes of calculating compliance with the rate covenant nor additional bonds test.

### **Rate Covenant**

Amounts available for debt service (net revenues plus debt service fund investment earnings) at least equal to the greater of: (1) 100% of the amounts required to pay GARB debt service, the debt service reserve deficiency, subordinated debt service charges and the repair and replacement (\$1 million requirement) deficiency during the fiscal year; or (2) 125% of the GARB debt service requirement. The second component of the two-prong test is currently operative. According to the master indenture, PFCs must be pledged by Authority Board resolution to be included in the amounts available for debt service in the calculation of coverage. No PFCs are currently pledged for this purpose.

If the rate covenant is not met in any fiscal year, the Authority covenants to employ an airport consultant, within 30 days following receipt of the annual financial statements, to make recommendations within 45 days as to a revision in rates, fee and charges or operating expenses, or methods of operation of the Airports, if any, that will result in the rate covenant being met in the current fiscal year. Failure to meet the rate covenant in two consecutive years constitutes an event of default.

### **Additional Bonds Test**

- i. A Certificate of an airport consultant that amounts available for debt service will be sufficient to satisfy the rate covenant for (A) each of the five full fiscal years following the issuance of the series of Bonds, or (B) each of the two full fiscal years following the completion of the improvements financed by the issuance of bonds, whichever is later; provided that (1) if the aggregate of the debt service charges for all bonds outstanding (including the proposed series of bonds, all expected series of bonds necessary to complete the improvements) in any fiscal year will be greater than 120% of the aggregate of the debt service charges for all bonds during the test periods described in (A) or (B) above, then the fiscal year with highest aggregate debt service charges for all bonds is deemed to be the last fiscal year of the test period; or (2) if interest on any bonds or any subordinated obligations in the last fiscal year for the test periods described in (A) or (B) above has been or will be capitalized, the projected amounts available for debt service will be sufficient to satisfy the rate covenant for each of the first two succeeding full fiscal years for which no interest on any bonds or any subordinated obligations has been or will be capitalized, or
- ii. The certificate of the authority fiscal officer that amounts available for debt service for each of the two full fiscal years preceding the issuance of the series of bonds were not less than 125% of (A) the aggregate of debt service charges for bonds outstanding, plus (B) in any future fiscal year the highest aggregate of debt

service charges for the proposed series of bonds and all expected series of bonds necessary to complete such improvements, or

- iii. The certificate of the Authority fiscal officer that the aggregate principal amount of all bonds issued or to be issued to finance the improvements will not exceed 115% of the aggregate principal amount of all bonds originally expected to be issued to finance the improvements as determined by the Board in the series resolution authorizing the first series of such bonds.

### **Debt Service Reserve Fund Requirement**

The master trust indenture establishes a debt service reserve fund to be funded at maximum annual debt service. Each series is separately secured. The sixth, seventh and eight supplemental trust indentures, pursuant to which the Series 2013 A and B, Series 2015, and Series 2016 bond are issued, do not require debt service reserve funds and consequently do not have any.

### **Flow of Funds**

All revenues are deposited into the revenue fund, when received. Then transferred monthly, on the first business day to the following Funds in the following order of priority: (1) operations and maintenance fund, sufficient to pay the Authority's estimated operating expenses for that month; (2) interest payment account of the debt service fund in an amount equal to one-sixth of the next due interest payment; (3) principal payment account of debt service fund in amount equal to one-twelfth of next due principal amount; (4) debt service reserve fund – amounts and deposit times are provided in supplemental trust indenture. Deficiencies are remedied with one-twelfth payment amounts; (5) operation and maintenance reserve- one twelfth of the budgeted increase in O&M expenses over prior year, plus one-twelfth of the aggregate withdrawn amount, if any, in the preceding 12 months until the account equals the reserve requirement (one-sixth of O&M); (6) subordinated obligations; debt service fund; (7) repair and replacement fund – an amount equal to one-twelfth the repair and replacement fund deficiency; (8) rebate fund; (9) airport general purpose fund – from time to time at the discretion of the Authority, any amount of the funds remaining in the revenue fund, which the Authority has determined will not be needed to make deposits required in the waterfall above. Funds may be used for any lawful purpose of the Authority.

Based on the foregoing, KBRA has affirmed Columbus Regional Airport Authority's AA Rating Determinant rating on Legal Mechanics and Security Provisions.

### **Bankruptcy Assessment**

KBRA has consulted outside counsel and the following represents KBRA's understanding of the relevant bankruptcy process issues for the Authority. To be a debtor under the municipal bankruptcy provisions of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (Chapter 9), a local governmental entity must, among other things, qualify under the definition of "municipality" in the Bankruptcy Code, and must also be specifically authorized to file a bankruptcy petition by the State in which it is located. It is KBRA's understanding that the Authority is a port authority and political subdivision of the State of Ohio, and thus it is a municipality under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. As to authorization, KBRA understands that Ohio currently permits local government entities in the State to file for Chapter 9 relief with the permission of the State Tax Commissioner. KBRA also is informed that Ohio law provides, in addition, a fiscal emergency program for municipal corporations, counties, and townships, under which a commission is appointed to develop a plan to remedy a municipality's fiscal distress, and the commission oversees the financial activity of the government until the emergency is terminated. However, it is not entirely clear that this program applies to Ohio port authorities such as the Authority.

#### **A. Statutory and Special Revenues Liens under the Bankruptcy Code**

The authorizing statute (Ohio Rev. Code Section 4582.48) for the Authority's revenue bonds, as a port authority, provides for the immediate imposition of a lien on port authority revenues pledged to payment of the Bonds. KBRA understands that such provisions may create a statutory lien under applicable U.S. Bankruptcy law, which would mean that bondholders would likely be treated as secured creditors in a bankruptcy proceeding of the Authority, independently of whether there is a special revenues lien (discussed below). However, to KBRA's knowledge this Ohio statutory lien provision, which is not as clear as more recent statutory lien legislation, has yet to be applied by any reported bankruptcy court decision, and thus this potential result for bondholders in such a case remains uncertain. In addition, unlike a special revenues lien, a statutory lien is not exempted from the automatic stay arising on the filing of a Chapter 9 petition. Accordingly, a statutory lien does not prevent default. Nonetheless, a statutory lien should reduce the ultimate

bankruptcy risk of non-recovery on the Bonds if, by having a statutory lien, the owners were treated as secured creditors in a bankruptcy proceeding of the Authority.

Separate from the matter of a statutory lien, because the Net Revenues pledged for payment of the Bonds are generated by the various charges, landing fees, rentals, use charges, concession and other revenues of John Glenn International Airport (CMH) and Bolton Field (collectively the "Airports"), KBRA understands, based on consultation with external counsel, that such Net Revenues would likely qualify as "special revenues" as that term is defined in the Bankruptcy Code. There are separate protections in Chapter 9 for revenue bonds that fall within those special revenues definitions. Assuming there is no shortfall of funds to make debt service, given that the Bonds are revenue bonds secured by a pledge of special revenues it is KBRA's understanding that, if the Authority were authorized to file for protection under Chapter 9, it would generally be expected that such filing should have little to no effect on the payment of the Bonds during the bankruptcy case.

That stated, there are several additional issues that arise. If the Authority were to become a debtor in a proceeding under Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code, the bankruptcy court could possibly find that the automatic stay exception for special revenues does not apply or is limited to amounts then on hand with the Authority or the Trustee, and the parties to the proceedings may thus be prohibited for an unpredictable amount of time from taking any action to collect any amount from the Authority, or from enforcing any obligation of the Authority, without the bankruptcy court's permission. However, it is KBRA's understanding that such a ruling would be contrary to historical experience in Chapter 9, and the intent of Congress regarding the continued payment of municipal revenue bonds post-bankruptcy, as expressed in the legislative history for the special revenues amendments to Chapter 9 and as interpreted in properly-reasoned existing (albeit limited) case precedent under Chapter 9.

Assuming the pledged Revenues are in fact determined to be "special revenues," the Bankruptcy Code provides that, to keep revenue-generating municipal assets operating, special revenues can be applied to necessary operating expenses of the project or system ahead of all other obligations – including bondholder payments. This rule applies regardless of contrary provisions of the transaction documents, if such governing documents do not adequately provide for payment of necessary operating expenses. In determining necessary operating expenses for the Airports, in a Chapter 9 case the bankruptcy court thus may not be limited by the provisions defining Operating Expenses, or otherwise governing the flow of funds, in the Indenture or other bond issuance documents.

One other issue bears mention. While there is no case law from which to make a definitive judgment, assuming the existence of a special revenues lien and/or statutory lien in favor of holders of the Bonds, KBRA understands that it is possible – in the context of confirming a Plan of adjustment in a Chapter 9 case where the Plan has not received the requisite consent of the holders of the Bonds – a bankruptcy court may confirm a plan that adjusts the timing of payments on the Bonds or the interest rate or other terms of the Bonds provided that (i) the bondholders retain their lien on the Net Revenues, and (ii) the payment stream has a present value equal to the value of the revenues subject to the statutory lien or special revenues lien, if applicable, and (iii) the bankruptcy court finds that these and any other adjustments to the Bonds' terms are fair and equitable.

#### B. Possible effect of an airline bankruptcy

Given that a substantial portion of the Net Revenues to be deposited in accordance with the Indenture is derived from rentals, fees and charges imposed upon the Signatory Airlines pursuant to their Airline Lease Agreements, the bankruptcy of a Signatory Airline could have an effect on the ability of the Authority to make debt service. KBRA understands that in the event a bankruptcy case is filed with respect to an airline operating at the Airports, the Airline Lease Agreements, other leases or permits governing such airline's use of space at the Airports would constitute an executory contract or unexpired lease pursuant to the United States Bankruptcy Code. In Chapter 11 cases, the debtor in possession (or a trustee, if one is appointed) has 120 days from the date of filing of the bankruptcy petition to decide whether to keep ("assume") or jettison ("reject") a nonresidential lease, such as the Airline Lease Agreement. The 120-day period may be extended by court order for an additional 90 days for cause. Any additional extensions are prohibited unless the debtor airline or trustee obtains the Authority's consent and a court order.

KBRA understands that under the Bankruptcy Code, were a bankruptcy trustee or the airline as debtor in possession to elect to reject an executory contract or unexpired lease of non-residential real property, the rejection is deemed to be a default immediately before the date of the filing of the bankruptcy petition. Under the Bankruptcy Code, upon rejection of an unexpired lease the airline debtor must surrender the relevant non-residential real property to the lessor. KBRA understands that as a result, rejection of an unexpired lease by an airline debtor may result in the Authority unexpectedly regaining control of the applicable facilities (including gates and boarding areas). The Authority could then lease or permit such facilities to other airlines. The Authority's ability to lease such facilities to other airlines may of course depend on the state of the airline industry in general, on the nature and extent of the increased capacity at the Airport resulting from the departure of the debtor airline, and on the need for such facilities.

KBRA understands that under the Bankruptcy Code, any rejection of a lease or other agreement could also result in a claim by the Authority for rejection damages against the debtor airline. Such claim would be in addition to all pre-bankruptcy amounts owed by the debtor airline. With respect to leases involving real property, a rejection damages claim for the rent due under a lease is capped under the Bankruptcy Code at the greater of one year, or 15%, not to exceed three years, of the remaining term of the lease. KBRA understands that rejection damages claims are generally treated as a general unsecured claim of the airline debtor, and could be considerably less than the cap. However, the Authority may have rights against any faithful performance bond or letter of credit required of an airline to secure its obligations under the Airline Lease Agreement and/or the right to set off against credits owed to the airline under relevant agreements.

Alternatively, KBRA understands that under the Bankruptcy Code an airline debtor can “assume” its executory contracts and unexpired leases. The Bankruptcy Code further provides for an airline debtor to assume and assign its executory contracts and leases to a third party, subject to certain conditions. KBRA understands that if the bankruptcy trustee or the airline assumes its executory contracts or unexpired leases as part of reorganization, the airline debtor must “cure” or provide adequate assurance that the airline debtor will promptly cure its prepetition defaults, including arrearages in amounts owed. Even if all such amounts owed are eventually paid, the Authority could experience delays of many months or more in collecting them.

## **Conclusion**

KBRA has affirmed the long-term rating of **AA-** with a **Stable** Outlook on the Columbus Regional Airport Authority’s Airport Revenue Bonds.

© Copyright 2018, Kroll Bond Rating Agency, Inc., and/or its licensors and affiliates (together, “KBRA”). All rights reserved. All information contained herein is proprietary to KBRA and is protected by copyright and other intellectual property law, and none of such information may be copied or otherwise reproduced, further transmitted, redistributed, repackaged or resold, in whole or in part, by any person, without KBRA’s prior express written consent. Information, including any ratings, is licensed by KBRA under these conditions. Misappropriation or misuse of KBRA information may cause serious damage to KBRA for which money damages may not constitute a sufficient remedy; KBRA shall have the right to obtain an injunction or other equitable relief in addition to any other remedies. The statements contained herein are based solely upon the opinions of KBRA and the data and information available to the authors at the time of publication. All information contained herein is obtained by KBRA from sources believed by it to be accurate and reliable; however, all information, including any ratings, is provided “AS IS”. No warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose of any rating or other opinion or information is given or made by KBRA. Under no circumstances shall KBRA have any liability resulting from the use of any such information, including without limitation, for any indirect, special, consequential, incidental or compensatory damages whatsoever (including without limitation, loss of profits, revenue or goodwill), even if KBRA is advised of the possibility of such damages. The credit ratings, if any, and analysis constituting part of the information contained herein are, and must be construed solely as, statements of opinion and not statements of fact or recommendations to purchase, sell or hold any securities. KBRA receives compensation for its rating activities from issuers, insurers, guarantors and/or underwriters of debt securities for assigning ratings and from subscribers to its website. Please read KBRA’s full disclaimers and terms of use at [www.kbra.com](http://www.kbra.com).