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MIA SURPASSES ANNUAL PASSENGER RECORD, CHARGES TOWARD 44 MILLION IN 2015

(MIAMI, December 11, 2015) – Miami International Airport yesterday eclipsed its 2014 total of 40.9 million passengers, and with 3.2 million more passengers than at the same point last year, the airport now has its sights set on a new record-breaking milestone: 44 million annual passengers.

Prior to the busy Thanksgiving Day travel week, MIA's passenger total had already grown by 8.6 percent through October, bolstered by 11.5 percent in domestic growth and a 5.6-percent rise in international passengers. This year's eight-day Thanksgiving travel period strengthened that growth even further, rising 10 percent over last year's holiday travel week for a total of 969,206 passengers. The airport's impressive performance validated a [New York Times study](#) that found MIA to be the busiest airport in America for airline bookings the week of Thanksgiving Day. MIA's busiest day of the travel period continued to be the Sunday after Thanksgiving, when the gateway airport saw more than 138,000 passengers.

"MIA continues to exceed even our own expectations and draw more and more passengers and airlines to our community from across the globe," said Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez. "Congratulations to Director González and the MIA team on another record-breaking year. With MIA forcefully driving our local economy forward, we have much to be thankful for this holiday season."

An impressive mix of new carriers, new routes and new superjumbo aircraft in the fourth quarter of 2015 has also contributed to MIA's sharp increase in passenger traffic. Since October, MIA has welcomed new carriers Turkish Airlines, Austrian Airlines and VivaColombia, new A380 superjumbo service by British Airways and Air France, and increased frequencies by international carriers airberlin, Lufthansa, Qatar, SWISS, Virgin Atlantic and WestJet. Year to date, MIA had added eight new carriers and five new international routes. Hub carrier American Airlines has been responsible for 50

percent of MIA's growth, while other existing carriers have contributed 25 percent and new carriers have generated the remaining 25 percent.

With December being MIA's busiest month for passengers, yielding more than four million in 2014, the last 21 days of the year could take MIA over the 44 million passenger threshold.

"I can think of no better way to ring in the New Year than by setting a new annual record of 44 million passengers," said Miami-Dade Aviation Director Emilio T. González. "Regardless of the final tally, MIA has already had its best year ever for passenger growth, and we expect our upward trend to continue with more new international routes and carriers slated for 2016."

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[Miami International Airport](#) offers more flights to Latin America and the Caribbean than any other U.S. airport, is America's second-busiest airport for international passengers, boasts a lineup of 100 air carriers and is the top U.S. airport for international freight. MIA, along with its general aviation airports, is also the leading economic engine for Miami-Dade County and the state of Florida, generating business revenue of \$33.7 billion annually and welcoming 70 percent of all international visitors to Florida. MIA's vision is to grow from a recognized hemispheric hub to a global airport of choice that offers customers a world-class experience and an expanded route network with direct passenger and cargo access to all world regions. MIA is committed to sustainable practices. Learn more at www.MIAefficiency.com.

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