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Wilmington International Airport Has Record Year

Passenger Count Highest Since 2010

Wilmington, NC (January 9, 2017)—The Wilmington International Airport (ILM) served 817,896 passengers in 2016; setting a new record. When compared to 2015, passenger enplanements were up 6.6% (25,365) and deplanements were up 5.9% (22,722) year over year. The prior record for total passengers served was back in 2010, when ILM served 799,710 passengers.

Revenue Passengers Served*:

Year	Enplanements	Deplanements	Total
2016	411,399	406,497	817,896
2015	386,034	383,775	769,809

**Revenue Passengers include those that purchased a ticket. Additional non-revenue passengers, not included in these figures, may include those that are utilizing a frequent flyer ticket or a ticket through an airline's flight benefit.*

The most recent economic impact study, conducted by the NC Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation, indicated ILM had a \$1.6 Billion impact on the region. With the increase in passengers in 2016, ILM anticipates the next report by the NCDOT Division of Aviation will show Wilmington International Airport's economic impact on the region now *exceeds \$1.6 Billion*.

The Wilmington International Airport serves southeastern North Carolina with commercial air service on both Delta and American Airlines. Airlines evaluate each community on passenger and revenue statistics and utilize this information when evaluating the need for larger airplanes

or additional flights. Leading into 2016, “American and Delta Airlines recognized the strong market in the greater Wilmington area and they added larger aircraft with more seats to carry additional passengers to and from ILM.” stated Julie Wilsey, Airport Director. “The increased seat capacity was timely; aligning well with statistics that show the tri-county area is one of the fastest growing regions in the country and local tourism is at an all-time high.”

“ILM thanks our airline partners, American and Delta, as well as all the employees who are instrumental in our accomplishment. We also acknowledge the travelers in our community who use the local airport and thank them for their loyal support. We look forward to another great year in 2017!” stated New Hanover County Airport Authority Chairman Thomas Wolfe. With the population of the tri-county area projected to increase through 2040, and positive economic indicators, the outlook continues to look strong for air travel through ILM.

References:

- ILM Airport Statistics: <http://www.flyilm.com/business/airport-documents/airport-statistics/>
- NC Department of Transportation Division of Aviation’s Economic Impact of Airports in NC: https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/State-Airport-Aid/Documents/2016_NCAirportEconImpact.pdf
- New Hanover County Population Demographics & Projections: <http://maps.nhcgov.com/population-demographics/>
- The 2015 Economic Impact of Travel on NC Counties <https://partners.visitnc.com/contents/sdownload/62499/file/2015-County-Level-Visitor-Expenditures.PDF>

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About the Wilmington International Airport: *The Wilmington International Airport serves southeastern North Carolina with commercial air service on both Delta and American Airlines. Welcoming nearly 820,000 passengers annually, ILM services 5 non-stop hubs which allow for convenient domestic and international travel. The Wilmington International Airport is the fifth largest airport in North Carolina. The NCDOT Division of Aviation’s 2016 report estimated ILM’s economic impact at over \$1.6 billion. For more information on ILM, please visit flyILM.com*