

MEDIA RELEASE

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Chicago Rockford International Airport Named as the Fastest-Growing Cargo Airport in the World

RFD Air Cargo Traffic Grew 56.6 Percent in 2018

ROCKFORD, ILL. (September 25, 2019) – Airports Council International (ACI) recently named [Chicago Rockford International Airport](#) (RFD) as the fastest-growing airport in the world for 2018 for airports that handled more than 250,000 metric tons of air cargo.

ACI is the trade association of the world's airports and fosters cooperation among its 646 members, operating 1,960 airports in 176 countries.

In its recent ACI World Airport Traffic Report, the organization revealed the top airports for passengers, cargo and aircraft movements and highlighted the world's fastest-growing airports for 2018. ACI noted that RFD has positioned itself as an e-commerce freight hub for online retail giant Amazon and the airport's traffic grew 56.6 percent in 2018.

In 2018, RFD saw more than 2.1 billion pounds of cargo moving through the airport. That number builds on the record-breaking 50 percent increase recorded in 2017, when nearly 1.4 billion pounds of cargo traveled through the airport.

In July, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released its 2018 all-cargo data which ranked RFD as the 19th largest cargo airport in the nation. According to the FAA, RFD was the only Illinois-based airport which grew its cargo operations. Nearby Chicago O'Hare Airport saw a decrease of cargo activity by more than 35 percent.

"We're honored by this recognition and continue to move forward with additional economic development opportunities to benefit our partners and the region we serve," said Mike Dunn, RFD Executive Director. "These objective, third-party rankings continue to solidify our position to grow the initiatives for the leaders in the air cargo industry we work with while steadily employing more people in our community."

RFD is home to the second largest UPS hub in North America, which continues to increase its daily cargo flights. The airport also serves other leaders in the air cargo industry, including ABX Air, ATI, and Atlas Air. With the airport's recent cargo expansions and additional flights announced by Amazon Prime and other Amazon carriers, Rockford is quickly becoming the Midwest's premier hub for e-commerce freight.

RFD's cargo success has also had a huge economic impact for the Rockford region. Nearly 1,000 jobs were created last year, through new and existing tenants as well as construction-related jobs to support our growth. The airport expects to see an additional 1,000 jobs added throughout 2020.

[The Chicago Rockford International Airport](#) (RFD) is Chicago's low-cost airport for cargo and passenger services. RFD is served by two passenger airlines, Allegiant Air and Apple Vacations, and serves ten nonstop destinations. RFD is among the nation's Top 20 airports by cargo volume. The airport is home to the second-largest UPS hub in North America, ABX Air, ATI, Atlas Air and Southern Air, which support daily flights for Amazon. For more information on RFD and flight schedules, visit [FlyRFD.com](#).

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