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# News Release

Released: January 14, 2008  
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## Drop in Detroit Airfares Saved Consumers \$109 Million in 2007

*--Detroit's airport one of only three major U.S. hubs to see fares decline*

Detroit travelers saved an estimated \$109 million\* last year thanks to lower average domestic airfares during 2007 compared to 2005. The average cost-per-mile to fly to and from Detroit was lower than 78.7% of the nation's top 300 airports in 2007, according to data published by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

While 266 of the 300 busiest U.S. airports saw fares increase since 2005, Detroit was one of only 34 airports to experience a decrease in average air fares.

Average airfares per mile to and from Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) have declined 8.5% since 2005 when adjusted for inflation. Nominal fares declined 1.5% since 2005, making Detroit one of only two airports in Michigan--and one of only three major U.S. mainland hubs--to offer travelers lower average fares.

"Detroit's attractive airfares can be attributed to several factors," said Lester Robinson, Wayne County Airport Authority CEO. "Primarily, we have worked very hard to generate more non-airline revenue over the past several years. By supporting operations costs with non-airline revenue, DTW keeps operating costs low for airlines, providing a better bargain for airlines considering where to add new service."

"We have also encouraged low-fare carriers, such as Southwest, Frontier, AirTran and Spirit to come to Detroit and to expand here, which provides more competition in our marketplace," Robinson said.

"These results would also seem to indicate that the network airlines, such as our hub carrier, Northwest Airlines, are responding to their lower cost per enplaned passenger in Detroit with reasonable air fares," added Robinson.

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Detroit Metro Airport's decline in nominal airfare per mile of 1.5% was the largest average price drop in the state. The average airline ticket to or from Detroit cost about 15.8 cents per mile in 2007, down from 16 cents per mile in 2005.

Five other airports in the Great Lakes region classified as among the country's 300 busiest saw average fares decrease: Pittsburgh, Eau Claire, Akron/Canton, South Bend and Flint.

Among the nation's busiest hub airports, only Charlotte and Denver also experienced a drop in average nominal airfares, at 6.7% and 3.75%, respectively.

Airfare rankings were computed by the Wayne County Airport Authority Air Service Development department using origin and destination (O&D) data provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), *Form DB1B*. Rankings are based upon average cost-per-mile for all domestic tickets sold for travel to or from the nation's 300 busiest airports aboard airlines required to report sales data to the DOT.

Serving nearly 36 million passengers each year, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) is the largest airport in Michigan and among the 20 busiest air transportation hubs in the world. In addition to serving as the largest hub in the world for Northwest Airlines, the world's fifth largest airline by revenue passenger miles, DTW is home to fourteen additional airlines, including several low-cost carriers and four foreign-flag carriers. Altogether, DTW offers more than 1,200 non-stop flights per day to over 160 destinations worldwide.

*\*The savings calculation is based on a comparison between annualized 1Q data for 2005 and 2007 (the only 2007 data yet available) adjusted for inflation.*

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NR average airfares 2007