


GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

5500 44th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
www.flygrandrapids.org
Phone 616.233.6000



793-foot elevation above sea level
3,850 total acres of airport grounds
2nd-busiest airport in Michigan
10,000-foot-long primary E/W runway
50 million+ total passengers served
42 total buildings, hangars and other structures
300 total average daily takeoffs/landings
Top 15 percent of the busiest airports in the U.S.
240,850-square-foot terminal building
4,900 parking spaces in new ramp being built
110 avg. daily passenger flights arriving/departing
10,050 parking spaces after ramp completion
2,993 total military takeoffs/landings in 2007
678 pints of blood donated at blood drives
15 nonstop destinations
91.9 million total pounds of air cargo shipped in 2007
+5.28 percent increase in air cargo in 2007 vs. 2006
2,000 approximate number of people employed
1.991 million total passengers in 2007
\$0 tax dollars used for operations/development
\$0 charged to use wireless Internet

By the numbers

The 2008 Gerald R. Ford International Airport Profile



How does the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR) contribute to the greater well-being and success of West Michigan?

Let us count the ways. # GRR makes life better here by flying nearly 2 million people in and out of the area each year. For business and leisure. To places across the country and around the globe. # GRR significantly boosts West Michigan's business stature by making the region easily and affordably accessible. # GRR does its part for national defense by pioneering airport security measures, transporting West Michigan soldiers and providing use of its facilities to nearby military air bases for training exercises. # Finally, GRR adds immensely to the everyday life of virtually every person in West Michigan. By carrying millions of pounds of mail and cargo that keep us connected to the outside world. By bringing in world-class performers, medical professionals and cultural exhibits. By providing corporate and private aircraft operators with the facilities and support services they need. And by providing good jobs for more than 2,000 individuals who come to work at the Airport each day. # For this year's Airport Profile, we offer a detailed look at GRR by the numbers. We think you'll be impressed by some of the figures we racked up during 2007. And when you add it all up, we think you'll agree that GRR comes through with flying colors for West Michigan in the ways that count the most.





The Gerald R. Ford International Airport is a financially self-supporting public enterprise **receiving zero tax dollars** for day-to-day operations and ongoing capital development.

Dear Friends of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport,

The past year was certainly one for the books at GRR, as well as one that lent itself to being recapped in numbers.

It began with a solemn and stirring ceremony on January 2, 2007, as the Airport played a poignant part in the final homecoming of our namesake, Gerald R. Ford – Michigan's favorite son, lifetime public servant and 38th President of the United States.

On August 23, 2007, GRR reached another major landmark by serving its 50-millionth passenger at the current site. It took the Airport more than 20 years after its opening in 1963 to reach the point where we served 1 million passengers annually. Since then, we have exceeded twice that.

The year 2007 will surely also be remembered as the year we broke ground on the Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program. The project's centerpiece is a four-story, 4,900-space parking ramp. Additional improvements include a roadway canopy to protect Airport customers and their vehicles from the elements, and new pedestrian sky bridges connecting the parking ramp to the terminal. Airport patrons have long called for a covered parking option as well as more close-in parking spaces. Soon, those requests will be granted, further securing GRR's place as the region's foremost air transportation center long into the future.

And when you get right down to it, that's our only goal for this Airport. To provide you with the safest, most economical and most effective air transportation services and facilities possible. In this Profile, we'll show you how we're doing that in a number of exciting ways.

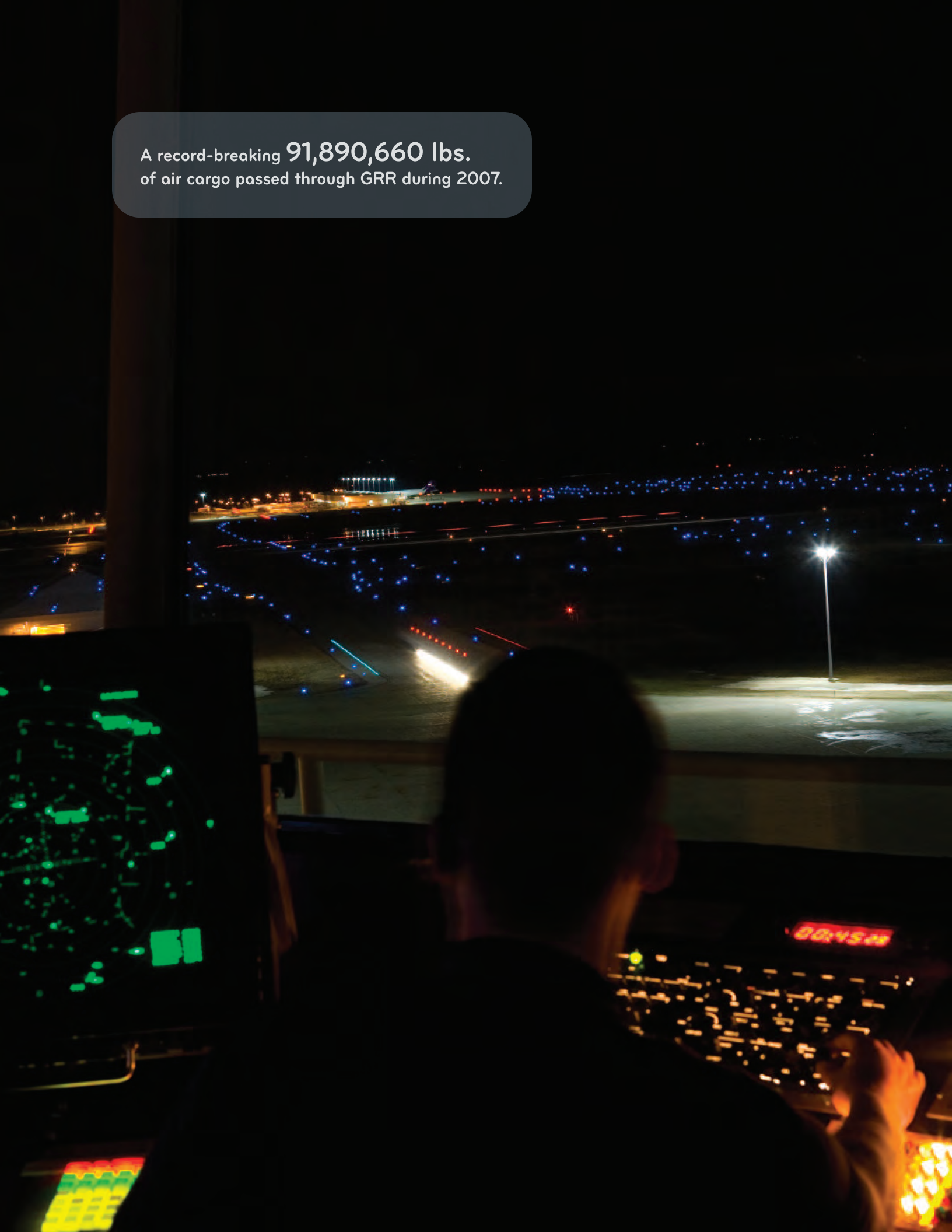
Thanks for your great support and patronage of GRR. We look forward to seeing you at the Airport again soon.

Sincerely,

James A. Koslosky, A.A.E., Executive Director
Kent County Department of Aeronautics

John Van Laar, Chairman
Kent County Aeronautics Board

A record-breaking **91,890,660 lbs.**
of air cargo passed through GRR during 2007.



Some 5,500 people pass through our gates each day, boarding or deplaning from the approximately 110 daily scheduled commercial flights.

Passenger activity remains sky high.

In 2007, just under 2 million passengers got on or off flights at GRR. That means passenger traffic on the major airlines dipped only about 1 percent from the year before and was still within 7 percent of the all-time high set in 2004. # This sustained traffic was achieved despite several factors that suppressed passenger levels much more severely at other airports across the region. Record-high fuel prices, rising airfares, reduced airline service and the downturn in Michigan's economy all dampened air travel during 2007. Yet, activity at GRR continues at a brisk, near-record pace. # Some 5,500 people pass through our gates each day, boarding or deplaning from the approximately 110 daily scheduled commercial flights. We expect those numbers to again gradually climb in years ahead.

Freight tonnage blows the cargo doors off old record.

Cargo operations at the Airport set a new all-time high for the fourth straight year. A whopping 91,890,660 pounds of air cargo passed through GRR during 2007 – crushing the old record by nearly 5 million pounds. An average of 250,000 pounds of air cargo is loaded or unloaded here each day, including everything from tulip bulbs to tractor parts to birthday cards. # GRR's four major cargo carriers

operate out of a dedicated, state-of-the-art cargo center located on the Airport's east side. These facilities provide 150,000 square feet of covered cargo-handling space, nearly equal to three football fields.

Thanks a million. (Make that nearly 2 million.)

For the fifth straight year, GRR said thanks to our millions of customers with a fun-filled Passenger Appreciation Days celebration. The event was again held during the first three days of spring break – the Airport's busiest time of the year – when many thousands of flyers take off to balmy climates. # It was cold and snowy outside, but travelers walked in to find the Grand Hall decked out in tropical style. (Think paper-maché palm trees and giant smiling suns.) Kent County Department of Aeronautics staffers served up thousands of complimentary refreshments and souvenirs, while the paper-airplane contest again took flight, and travelers jammed entries into boxes for a shot at winning \$100 shopping sprees at Rivertown Crossings Mall. # Special thanks go to GRR tenants AeroMed, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and FedEx for generously donating giveaway items, and to Airport concessionaire HMSHost for coordinating refreshments again this year.



On September 26, 2007, we broke ground on the much-anticipated Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program—including a new four-story, 4,900-space parking ramp.

Transforming GRR into an airport of the future.

As residents and visitors well know, Grand Rapids is a winter wonderland, averaging more than 70 inches of snowfall per year coming anytime from early November through April. That may be the biggest reason why patrons of the Airport are looking forward to the completion of close-in covered parking at GRR. Our Airport has also become a major hub for business travel – one of the largest of its kind without a covered parking garage. The official Airport Master Plan Update foresaw the addition of a covered parking ramp back in 1992. The project was on the verge of getting the go-ahead by 2000 but was sidetracked by security concerns and other priorities that arose following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. # On September 26, 2007, the long wait was finally over as we broke ground on a new four-story, 4,900-space parking ramp rising just across the main drive from the terminal building. This ramp is the centerpiece of the \$114 million Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program. The project also includes a ramp-to-terminal canopy, new elevator lobbies, enclosed sky bridges and roadway improvements. # "This isn't just about parking spaces," remarked Kent County Department of Aeronautics Executive Director James A. Koslosky. "The new structure and its accompanying features will bring a whole new level of customer service to the Airport patron. We are the first impression and the last impression that many people have

of Grand Rapids and Michigan's West Coast," Koslosky continued. "We're working hard to make sure that impression is a good one." # It's easy to see how the Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program, slated for completion in fall 2009, will transform GRR into a state-of-the-art facility that will best serve the public's needs for decades to come. With the new ramp, the Airport will increase its number of public parking spaces by 52 percent to 10,050 – the number of spaces expected to be needed through 2023 during peak times. The number of close-in long-term spaces will go up 370 percent to 3,700, while the number of short-term spaces will increase by 240 percent to 678. People who leave their cars at the Airport during trips will be spared clearing their vehicles of snow and ice. Visitors to the area will be greeted by the large Welcome Wall on the face of the ramp. Finally, everyone will benefit from the convenience of close-in, covered parking. # For a while, of course, parking at the Airport will be a little less convenient during construction. But our parking contingency and communications plan are minimizing any trouble you'll experience during the parking ramp's construction. And this temporary inconvenience will pale in comparison to the project's long-term advantages. (Updated parking and construction information is available online at www.flygrandrapids.org.)

The number of close-in, long-term spaces will go **up 370% to 3,700**, while the number of short-term spaces will **increase by 240% to 678**.



New airport advertising vendor installs eye-catching system.

GRR signed a new advertising-space concession agreement with industry leader Clear Channel Interspace Airport Advertising in 2007. Within a short period of time, the company had transformed the advertising space throughout the terminal, replacing existing posters with many fewer displays, some of which can scroll through as many as 10 advertisements per display. # Fewer advertisement positions in the terminal mean less clutter – with more attention paid to each advertiser's artwork. The new displays also catch your eye when they are rotating between artwork, so the ads work harder for advertisers. And since we can now sell more ads in a given time – even with fewer displays – the airport expects to realize a notable increase in advertising revenue over the term of the agreement.

FAA awards GRR another perfect score.

In August, the Federal Aviation Administration performed its annual FAR Part 139 Airport Certification Inspection at GRR – and once again we aced the test. In fact, this was the fifth straight year that the FAA found "zero discrepancies" at GRR. # These extensive, several-day-long inspections scrutinize everything from runway lighting and markings to perimeter fencing to airport firefighting and rescue operations. Not a single thing was found that required repair, modification or even rechecking. # This report is a huge credit to the men and women who work hard to keep this Airport in tiptop shape.

Dozens of carols and hundreds of toys fill GRR during the holidays.

For the 12th consecutive year, the Airport's Grand Hall swelled with the sound of young voices during the **Airport Holiday Music Festival**. More than a dozen chorales and instrumental groups from area middle and high schools performed throughout the day from December 3 through 7, to the enjoyment of travelers and airport workers alike. # Meanwhile, collection boxes in the Airport fire station overflowed as the Airport firefighters again hosted our annual **Toys For Tots** drive. Several hundred new toys were donated and distributed to needy children in our community as part of the effort that gives out 10 million toys in 300 cities each year.



Spirits soar at pair of special events at GRR.

The Airport once again hosted two uplifting events that raised spirits and funds for those in need. The 10th Annual **Dreams and Wings Young Eagle Fly Day** brought 50 physically disabled youngsters to GRR for a morning of fun, education and flight. After a brief ground school, the kids left their wheelchairs and crutches behind to enjoy 20-minute flights in private aircraft piloted by volunteers – many who are disabled themselves. It was the first time in the air for many of these kids, and none will soon forget the thrill of flying up front in the co-pilot's seat. The event was again sponsored by Dreams and Wings for Kids, with help from Northern Air and Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. For more information, go online to www.dreamsandwings.us. # The 4th Annual **Wings of Mercy CareAffaire** drew more than 400 people to GRR on a beautiful Saturday in June. The morning kicked off with a delicious pancake breakfast hosted by the Grand Rapids Lions Club. Corporate jets, a Black Hawk helicopter and other aircraft were parked around Rapid Air for attendees to see close-up. For a small donation, you could also take off in a hot-air balloon, corporate jet or even an open-cockpit vintage biplane. More than 100 of these flights were enjoyed (including one by honored guest U.S. Representative Vern Ehlers) raising more than \$30,000. Wings of Mercy uses the funds to offer free air transportation to disadvantaged people who must fly to distant medical centers for treatment. For more information, visit wingsofmercy.org or call 888.786.3729.

The 4th Annual Wings of Mercy CareAffaire drew **more than 400 people** to GRR on a beautiful Saturday in June.

Corporate and private aviation are integral components of the aviation mix at GRR, accounting for nearly **50,000 takeoffs and landings** during 2007.

XJet raises the bar for private aviation services at GRR.

In May 2007, the Airport signed an agreement with XJet to provide Fixed Base Operation (FBO) services at GRR. XJet is an up-and-coming FBO whose vision is to provide ultra-premium services for private aircraft owners and frequent users of charter aircraft while offering clients substantial savings on jet fuel, aircraft, insurance, maintenance and related services. # The company is scheduled to open its new \$10 million facility at the end of 2008 on the east side of the Airport grounds. # XJet appeals to an elite, business-travel clientele with a wide range of first-class services and amenities, ranging from upscale lounges to at-cost fueling to its XJet Concierge Team staffed by graduates of The Ritz-Carlton® Leadership Training program. GRR is the second of eight XJet FBOs slated to open in the next few years; the company's first opened at Centennial Airport in Denver in 2007. # A big part of XJet's strategy is to attract select, business-jet owners with its distinctly higher class of services – even to the extent of enticing more people to purchase private jets in the first place. Similarly, the selection of GRR for the next XJet oasis stands to make West Michigan an even more alluring locale for doing business.

Northern Air takes customer experience to new heights.

Fixed Base Operator (FBO) Northern Air recently completed a major renovation of its GRR facilities that has taken the business to a new level. The quarter-million-dollar project has completely transformed Northern Air's west building with everything from new carpeting to new furniture and flat-screen TVs. # Customer reaction has been quite favorable, with compliments on every part of the building, from the spruced-up reception area to the VIP lounges, where customers often spend hours at a time. The redecorated conference room, which customers may book for meetings, is seeing steady demand. All these changes, and more, are one more way Northern Air has demonstrated its commitment to GRR and the flying public.

Rapid Air improves its hangar at GRR.

It took GRR Fixed Base Operator (FBO) Rapid Air only six months to complete a major \$1.2 million reconstruction of its facilities at the Airport. The improvements include a first-class conference center with wireless Internet access, a deluxe pilot lounge with sleeping quarters and a weather room. # Rapid Air came to GRR in 1988 and has been a major FBO player here ever since, providing fueling, hangar services, aircraft maintenance and related support to owners and operators of private aircraft.



GRR flies past 50-million mark.

GRR – then known as Kent County Airport – opened on its current site in 1963, relocating from its original site a few miles down the road on 44th Street. It took more than 20 years before the Airport served over 1 million passengers in a single year. That number topped 2 million passengers per year for the first time in 2004. And on August 23, 2007, GRR passed another historic landmark when we served the 50-millionth passenger at our current location. # Today, GRR is the second-busiest airport in Michigan and ranks among the 15 percent busiest airports nationwide. The six passenger airlines serving GRR take off or land on average of 110 times per day here, offering nonstop flights to 15 major markets and literally hundreds of one-connection destinations worldwide. In addition, GRR is a popular general aviation airport. Private and corporate aircraft made nearly 50,000 takeoffs and landings at GRR during 2007 – more than 130 per day. Finally, GRR serves as a major air cargo hub. Nearly 92 million pounds of air cargo passed through GRR in 2007 on thousands of flights operated by the four major cargo carriers based here.

On August 23, 2007, GRR reached another major landmark by serving its **50-millionth passenger** at the current site.

Highlights

Each year, GRR works with Michigan Community Blood Centers to hold **two blood drives at the Airport**. A total of 39 generous people donated a pint each during last year's drives on May 18 and September 28, bringing the total amount of blood collected at our drives to 678 pints (that's 84.75 gallons for everyone who's forgotten their conversion factors) – enough blood to fill 56.5 individuals' circulatory systems or last through hundreds of typical surgeries.

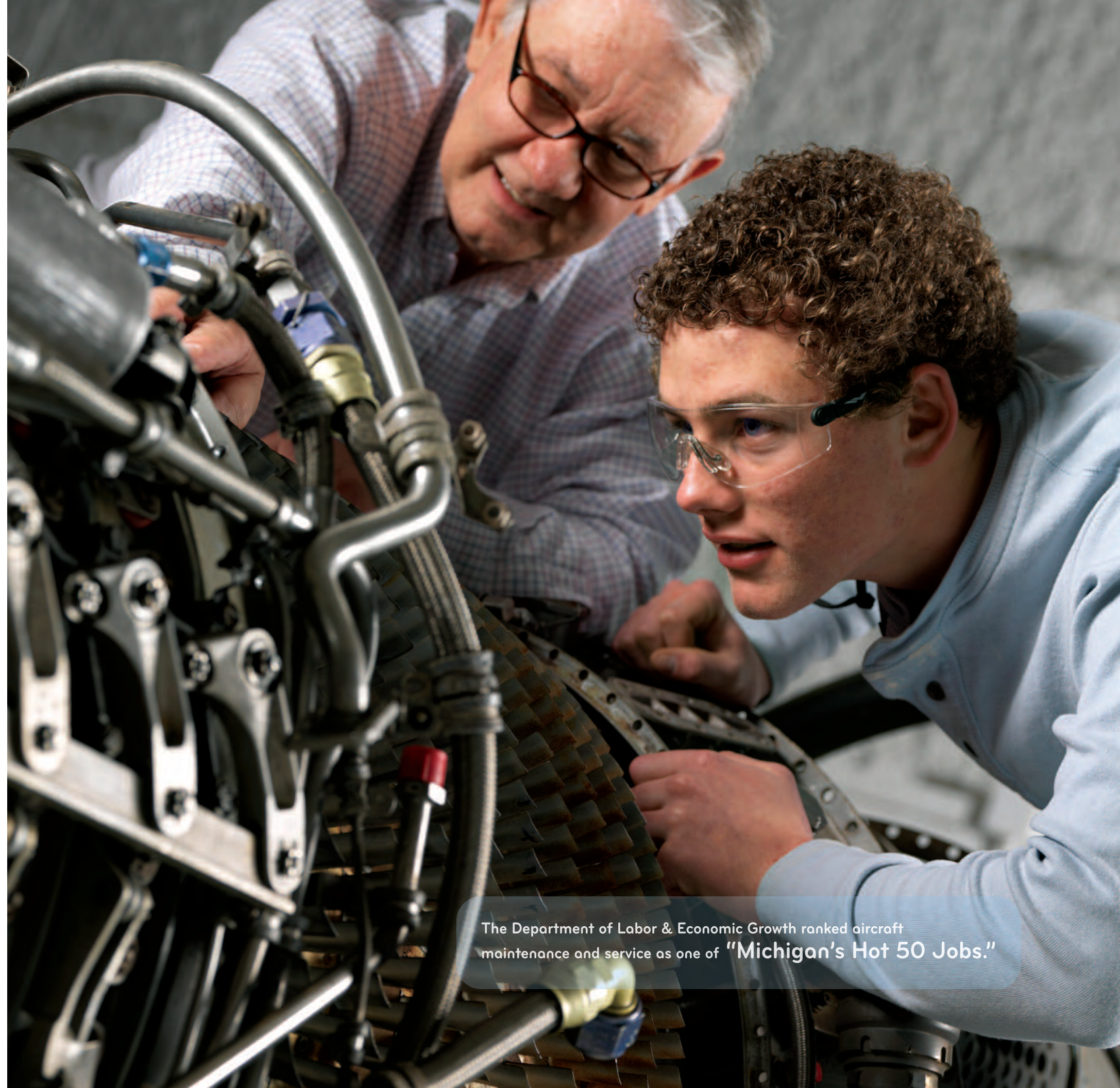
The Airport continues its involvement in the on-airport **Kent Career Technical Center's (KC/TC) Aviation Maintenance Technology program**, which offers hands-on training in aircraft maintenance and related careers to KC/TC juniors and seniors. Several airlines, FBOs and corporate flight departments at GRR pitch in to offer students one-on-one instruction, job shadowing and internship opportunities. The Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth recently ranked aircraft maintenance and service technicians as one of "Michigan's Hot 50 Jobs."

GRR Airfield Maintenance held its **fourth annual Airfield Maintenance Workshop and Open House** on August 9, 2007. At this event, personnel from GRR and several other airports got a close-up look at new practices and technologies that could benefit their airfield maintenance operations.

HMSHost, GRR's food and beverage concessionaire, added a **Quiznos® restaurant** to the Airport food court in spring of 2008. The popular eatery offers submarine sandwiches, soups, salads and a range of breakfast items.

HMSHost also offers **convenient services to travelers** who arrive at the Airport without Transportation Security Administration-approved carry-ons. You can pick up a free, quart-sized resealable plastic bag at the terminal gift shop to pass travel-sized toiletries through the security checkpoints. And if you have items that are not approved to carry-on by the TSA (such as a prized pocket knife), HMSHost lets you mail these items home instead of having to surrender them to security. (There is a charge for this service, and all illegal items are strictly prohibited.)

The **City of Grand Rapids Clean Indoor Air Ordinance** went into effect at GRR in October 2007. Smoking has been prohibited in the passenger terminal since 1998. The new policy also prohibits smoking within 10 feet of any door, window or ventilation system that allows air into the terminal.



The Department of Labor & Economic Growth ranked aircraft maintenance and service as one of "Michigan's Hot 50 Jobs."

2007 Awards & Recognition

Department of Aeronautics Executive Director James Koslosky, A.A.E., received a **Transportation Security Administration Partnership Award** for his work on the Baggage Screening Investment Work Group, recognizing the program's significance in advancing the interests of the United States and the traveling public. Mr. Koslosky was also named "**Airport Manager of the Year**" by the Michigan Association of Airport Executives.

The Department of Aeronautics was awarded its 13th consecutive **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** from the Government Finance Officers Association for the Department's annual Financial Report.

A previous edition of the GRR Profile, "Flight Log," was awarded a **Gold ADDY Award** by the Ad Club of West Michigan, as well as a **Gold ADDY Award** at the American Advertising Federation's Fifth District competition. "Flight Log" also received an **Adrian Award** from the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International, where it competed against more than 1,200 entries from more than 30 countries.

Airport management and leadership

THE KENT COUNTY AERONAUTICS BOARD is a six-member body appointed by the Kent County Board of Commissioners with responsibility for setting policy and providing general oversight of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. The Aeronautics Board is made up of three Kent County Commissioners and three citizen members, each serving staggered three-year terms. The Aeronautics Board maintains two standing committees: Aeronautical, Facilities and Marketing; and Finance, Administration and Public Relations.

THE AIRPORT IS MANAGED AND OPERATED by the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, a four-person management team heading the Airport's four primary functional areas and a 120-member Department of Aeronautics staff.

AERONAUTICS BOARD

JOHN VAN LAAR
Chairman
THOMAS G. O'HARE
Vice Chairman
DEAN A. AGEE*
JOSEPH D. JONES
RICHARD A. VANDER MOLEN*
THEODORE J. VONK*

*County Commissioner

AERONAUTICS DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE STAFF

JAMES A. KOSLOSKY, A.A.E.
Executive Director
PHILLIP E. JOHNSON, A.A.E.
Deputy Executive Director
BRIAN PICARDAT, A.A.E.
Finance and Administration Director
ROBERT W. BENSTEIN, A.A.E.
Public Safety and Operations Director
THOMAS R. ECKLUND, P.E.
Facilities Director
BRUCE L. SCHEDLBAUER, APR
Marketing and Communications Manager

VISION: To be the leading commercial service airport serving the West Michigan region.

VALUES: Safe, secure, customer friendly, with continuous improvement.

MISSION: To provide safe, efficient, environmentally sensitive and economically self-sustaining air transportation facilities that are responsive to regional needs.

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport is a financially self-supporting public enterprise receiving no general tax revenues for day-to-day operations or ongoing capital development.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	2007*	2006	2005
OPERATING REVENUE			
Airline Payments	\$ 9,982,327	\$ 9,892,673	\$ 9,702,981
General Aviation	1,398,757	1,388,140	1,393,718
Concessions	715,479	747,250	780,477
Air Cargo	2,364,576	2,455,920	2,521,443
Ground Transportation	11,638,578	11,562,774	10,893,974
Other	734,538	784,496	841,560
Total Operating Revenue	\$26,834,255	\$26,831,253	\$26,080,153
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Personnel Costs	\$ 8,803,760	\$ 7,801,658	\$ 7,578,929
Supplies	1,021,634	723,028	759,351
Contractual	7,641,186	6,823,512	7,520,312
Depreciation	10,780,845	10,553,432	9,956,762
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 28,247,425	\$25,901,630	\$ 25,815,354
NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	(\$ 1,413,170)	\$ 929,623	\$ 264,799

* Unaudited figures. A comprehensive Annual Financial Report, including audited figures for 2007, will be available from the Kent County Department of Aeronautics as of June 2008.