

2021 Annual Report

Aviation Board

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Letter from the Airport Director

March 21, 2022

Chairwoman Richmond, Mayor Reynolds, and Members of the Aviation Board,

In reviewing the performance of the La Crosse Regional Airport in 2021, the year can be broken into thirds. In the first third, business looked much like it did in 2020 with the continued effects of the Pandemic. This dramatically changed in March of 2021, when a strong increase in passenger traffic occurred. Through the middle third of the year, a steady return in traffic was seen aided by a third flight to Minneapolis/St. Paul. As fall arrived and brought in the last third of the year, some level of expectation of what lies beyond the Pandemic became clearer. An adjusted economy will result in reduced seats available from our airline partners that will disproportionately impact airports our size. Yet, as an airport, a city, and a nation, a thread of resiliency is ever present.

Passenger traffic in January, February, and March 2021 remained 60%-70% below that of 2019; continuing a trend from the previous year. In March, life in air travel emerged, as passenger numbers increased noticeably and traffic settled in at about a 10% reduction over 2019 figures. Overall, 2021 ended with 81,702 passenger enplanements; 82% higher than 2020 and 16.25% below 2019. This was compared to a level of traffic that was budgeted to be down between 30%-40%; a welcome improvement!

The Federal Government continued ensuring our nation's economy and infrastructure were supported, including airports. La Crosse Regional Airport received \$1,302,494 of dedicated funding from the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program in April. Then in August, the American Rescue Plan resulted in a \$1,747,939 grant under the Airport Rescue Grant program. In addition to these one-time grant programs, the airport received a \$777,584 Airport Improvement Program grant to fund joint repairs on Taxiway C, design the rehabilitation of Runway 13/31, and conduct a stormwater study on the airport. Overall, this represents Federal funding dedicated to the La Crosse Regional Airport of \$3,828,017 in 2021.

Tangible progress occurred, as well. With a bulk of passenger traffic returning and the previously mentioned grants, capital projects frozen in 2020 were cleared to move forward. While not all of these projects have been completed, they include: a new airport website, two pull-behind runway brooms, a tractor, a wheeled loader, terminal signage and landscaping, information technology equipment, a fiber installation project, and terminal facility upgrades (new FIDS monitors). Notably, we eliminated the anticipated budget shortfall with effective fiscal planning and a higher than anticipated return in activity. This is great progress for only a partial year of work.

Improvements were realized elsewhere. Interest in hangar development picked up. General Aviation hangars remained at, or just above, the ideal occupancy rate of 85%. Most surprising to

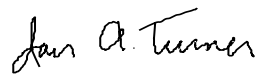
airport staff was a 41% increase in total aircraft operations, exceeding 21,000. This represents the highest number of aircraft operations locally since 2015.

The annual activity of the airport would not be complete if we did not recognize prominent events. The Blue Angels were in town in June for the 2021 Airfest. Not to be outdone by the Navy, the US Air Force brought President Biden to town two weeks later aboard Air Force One. La Crosse served as the starting point for the largest gathering of Beechcraft Bonanzas in the world. The Bonanzas to Oshkosh group met here in July prior to flying to the EAA AirVenture 2021. Closing out the summer, the US Army Golden Knights initiated its parachute jumps from the airport as they performed at events in Holmen and West Salem. Finally, through the fall and winter, the La Crosse Regional Airport supported the International Office of Migration and Fort McCoy as it met its mission to transition thousands of Afghanistan guests into the United States through Operation Allies Welcome. It is clear by these activities that the La Crosse Regional Airport serves all facets of our community and the region beyond. It was a busy year.

None of this would be possible without the staff that make it happen. We welcomed new employees, including: JD Roberts as our Airport Business Supervisor, Denise Homstad as our Airport Services Specialist, Thomas Schabacker as an Airport Maintenance Worker, and Beau Tibbitts as the Manager of Airport Operations and Maintenance. The success of the airport would not be possible without this dedicated staff, and those with longer tenure not mentioned here, that work tirelessly on a daily basis. When you see each of them, please be sure to say thank you!

The following pages provide specifics and elaborate on the data behind calendar year 2021. As we are well into a new year, I anticipate the continued need to be adaptable to be great. Challenges persist with staffing shortages, equipment availability, supply chain disruptions, and political challenges; not just within aviation, but across our society. As I have learned in my nearly three years in La Crosse, the community and airport will soar through these challenges successfully.

Respectfully,



Ian A. Turner, C.M.
Airport Director



Passenger Statistics

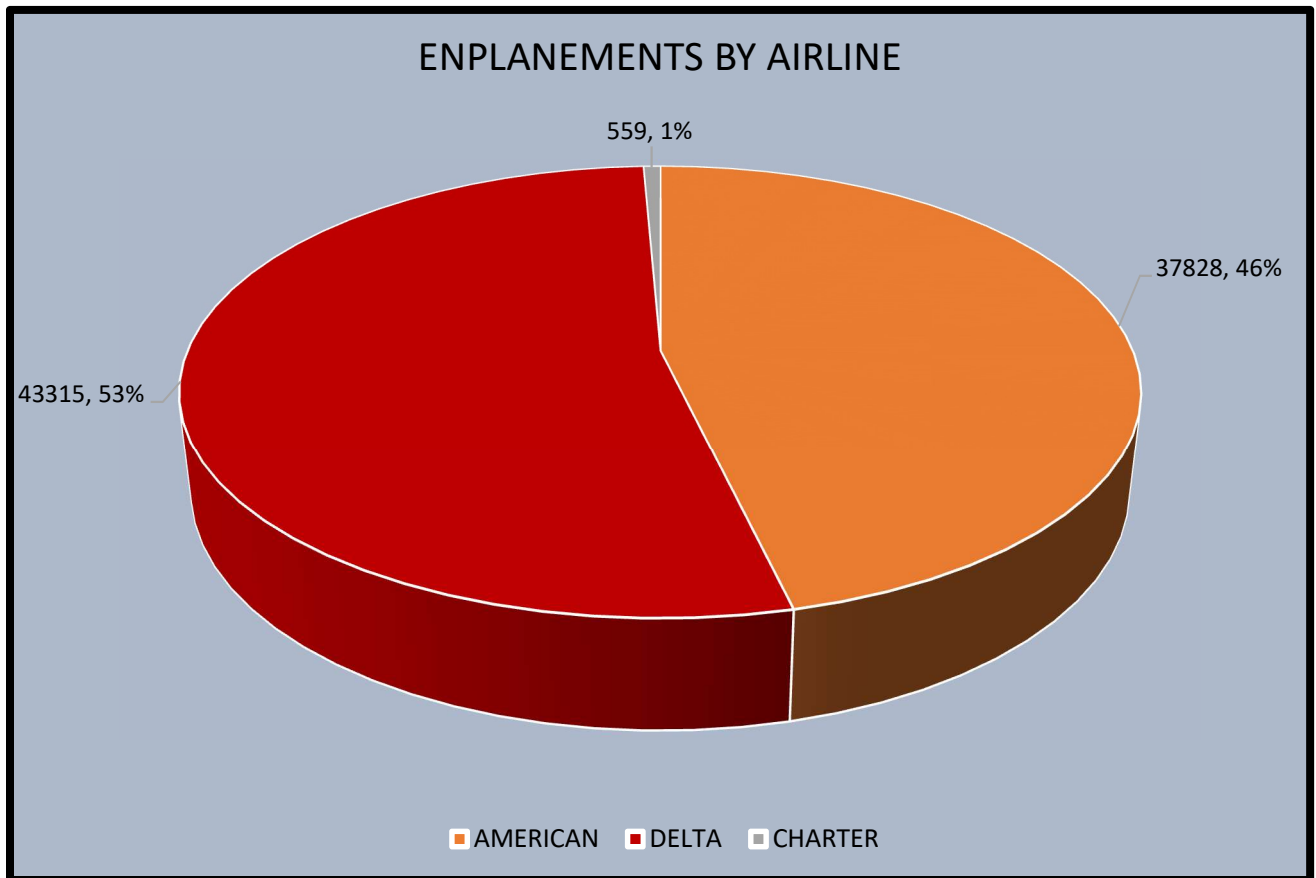
American Airlines 

 DELTA

Enplanements Change

2015	– 91,071	--
2016	– 90,051	-1.12%
2017	– 90,018	-0.04%
2018	– 98,744	+9.69%
2019	– 97,558	-1.20%
2020	– 44,853	-54.0%
2021	– 81,702	+82.2%

Breakdown



2021 Key Performance Statistics

Enplanements -	81,702 (+82.16%)
Deplanements -	79,346 (+80.89%)
Average Load Factor -	76.71% (+20.36%)
Tower Operations -	21,260 (+41.08%)
Airline Landed Weight –	96.8 million lbs. (+35.73%)
Non-Airline Landed Weight -	17.4 million lbs. (+88.1%)

Civilian Charters –	7 (-2)
Military Charters -	32 (+14)

Car Rental Gross Sales -	\$4,122,498.15 (+25.31%)
Car Rental Days -	72,871 (+7.36%)
CFC Revenues -	\$273,692 (+0.81%)

NOTE: Car rental reporting year runs August through July.

PFC Revenue -	\$327,088.98 (+56.04%)
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Airline Fuel Flow -	400,704 gal (+20.72%)
Non-Airline Fuel Flow -	770,122 gal (+93.76%)

Parking Lot Revenue -	\$515,209.52 (+62.05%)
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Car Washes Performed -	11,268 (+4,064)
	(Standard-6049; Silver-1731, Gold-1965; Platinum-1523)

Airport Operational Revenues -	\$2,883,132.09
Airport Operational Expenses -	(\$2,268,803.81)
Gross Operational Gain/(Loss) -	\$614,328.28

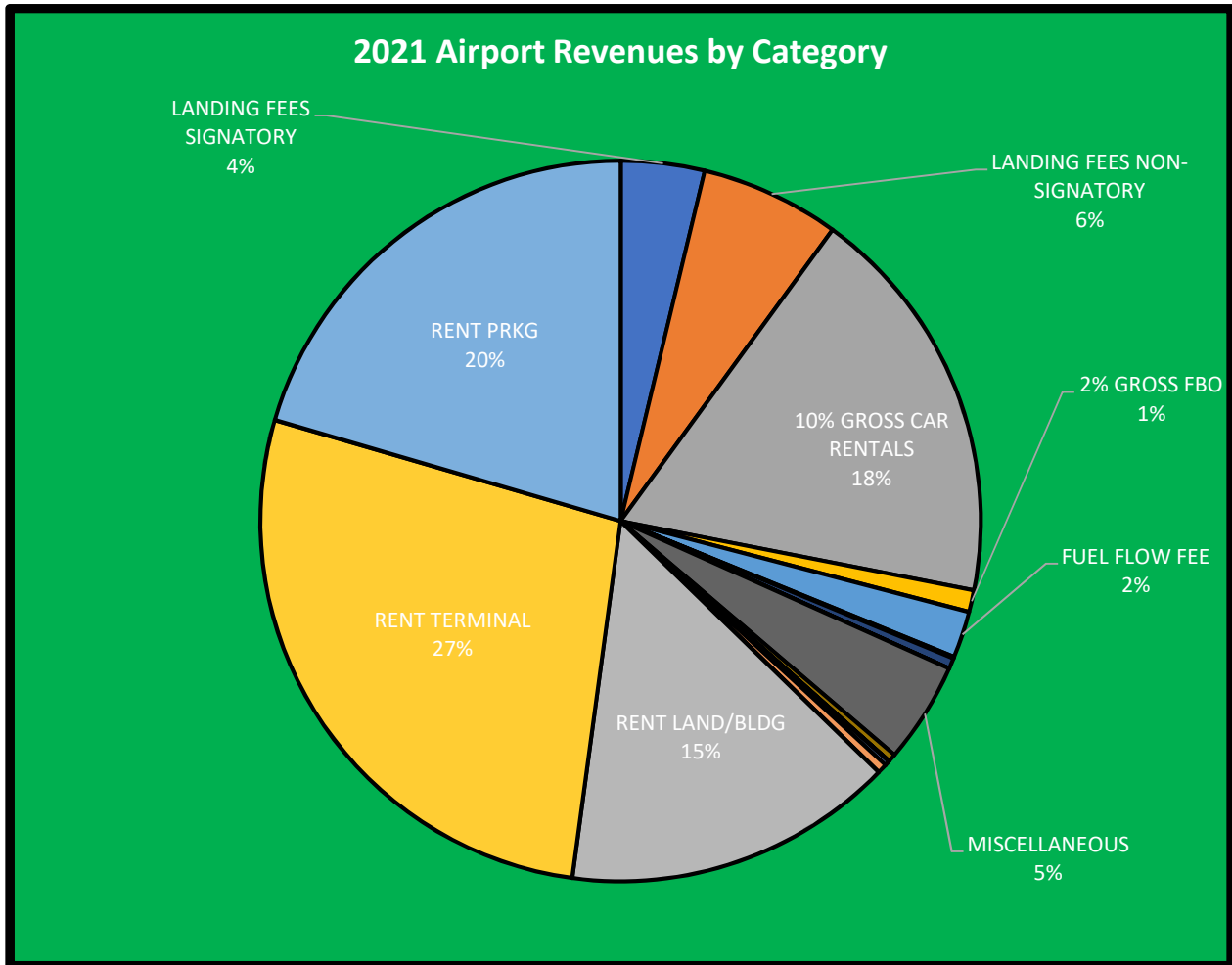
NOTE. Budgetary numbers are unaudited and do not include routine end of year transactions

CARES Grant Funds Reimbursed -	\$343,575.89
ACRG Grant Funds Reimbursed -	\$0.00
ARG Funds Reimbursed -	\$0.00

Net Fund Position Change	
From Operational Activities -	\$957,904.17

Federal/State Grants Awarded -	\$777,584 (AIP)
	\$1,302,494 (ACRG)
	\$1,747,939 (ARG)

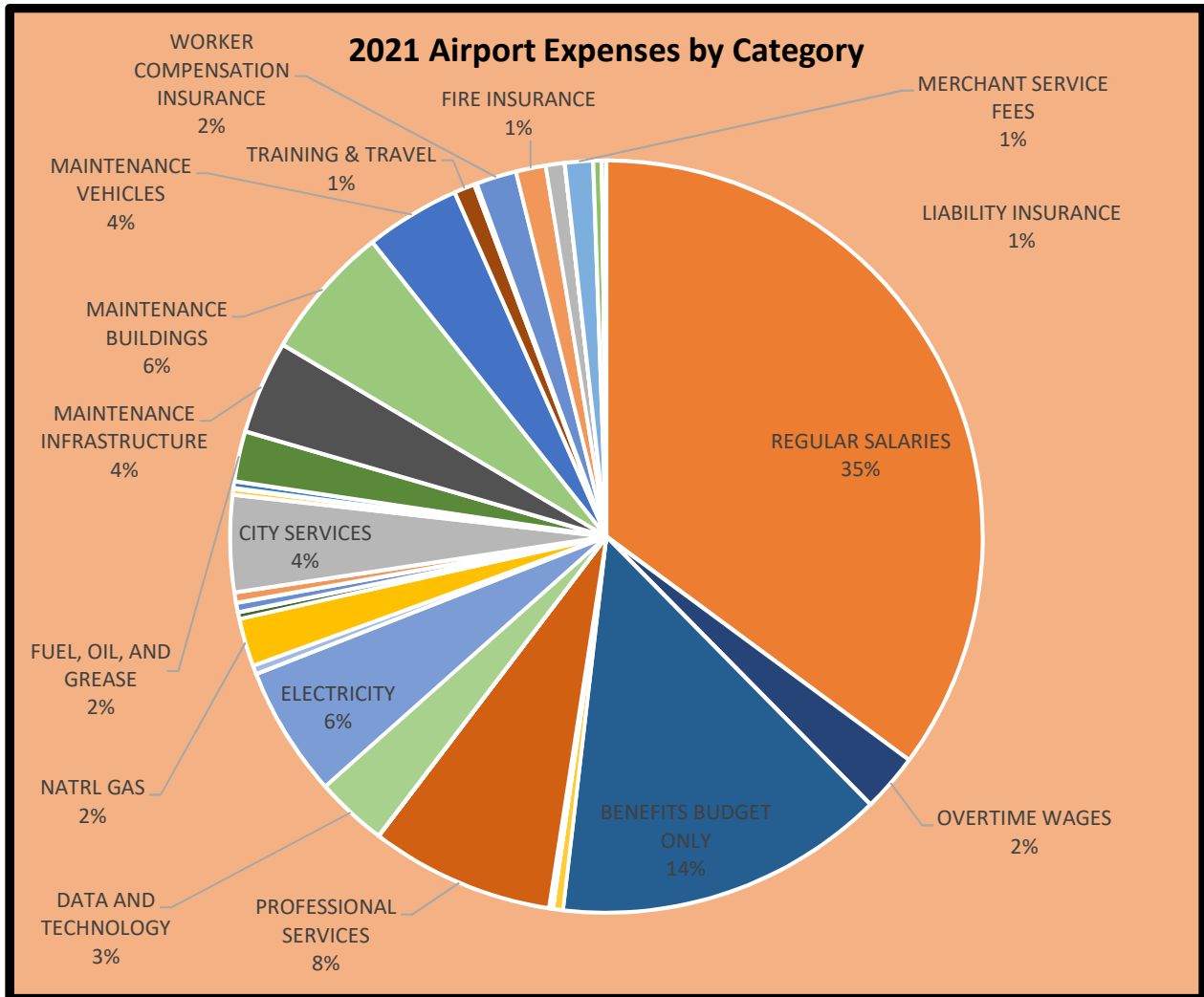
Revenue Chart



NOTE: Multiple categories less than 1.0% of total expenses are omitted for readability of chart.



Expense Chart



NOTE: Multiple categories less than 1% of total expenses are omitted for readability of the chart.



Achievements of 2021

- Hosted the 2021 Airfest, the US Navy Blue Angels, and well over 10,000 spectators.
- Planned for one Presidential visit and hosted one.
- Served as the launch point of Bonanzas to Oshkosh, the largest gathering of Beechcraft Bonanzas in the world.
- Received a \$1,302,494 Airport Coronavirus Response Grant.
- Received a \$1,747,939 Airport Rescue Grant.
- Received \$777,584 in Airport Improvement Program funding to repair joints on Taxiway C, conduct a storm water study, and design the rehabilitation of Runway 13/31.
- Took delivery of a new wheeled loader.
- Replaced all terminal monitors.
- Acquired a new small area mower.
- Installed new trees and shrubs around the terminal area.
- Replaced the maintenance shop monument sign to match other signs around the airport.
- Acquired new information technology equipment to replace the airport servers and associated equipment.
- Developed a new airport website.
- Wrapped up the second year of Aviation Explorers with 6 high school students. Began the third year of Aviation Explorers with 5 students.
- Completed the Small Community Air Service Development Grant supporting service to Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Delta Airlines. The service remained beyond the end of the grant.
- Initiated new service to Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport for Sun Country Airlines passengers on its Landline ground service.
- Hosted a successful Airport Emergency Plan Exercise in accordance with FAA requirements.
- Eliminated the budgeted loss for 2021 through sound fiscal practices and an earlier than anticipated recovery in airport business.





The first flight of more than 100 Beechcraft Bonanzas line up and wait to depart to AirVenture.

Fly LSE

La Crosse Regional Airport

2850 Airport Road

La Crosse, WI 54601

Ph: 608-789-7464