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NEWS RELEASE

On-Time Flights at DRO Outperform U.S. Average by Widest Margin in 10 Years

Durango, CO: In 2017, the Durango-La Plata County Airport (DRO) had more on-time flights than the national average of U.S. airports by its widest margin in 10 years, according to data compiled by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).*

DRO performed nearly 8 percent better than the national average among all U.S. airports for on-time departures in 2017 at 88.39 percent. The national average was 80.70 percent. According to the DOT, a flight is considered delayed if it departed or arrived at the gate at least 15 minutes after the scheduled time.

The DOT national average for canceled departures in 2017 was 1.46 percent. Fewer than 1 percent of DRO's departures were canceled, beating the national average by nearly one-third.

"The majority of commercial flight delays seen at DRO occur when issues at hub airports such as Denver or Dallas cascade throughout an airline's route network" DRO Director of Aviation, Tony Vicari said. "There is a perception that regional airports don't perform well when it comes to delays or cancellations, but the numbers tell a different story. DRO had more on-time flights and fewer cancellations in 2017 than Denver (DEN), Albuquerque (ABQ) and the national average."

In order to support flight reliability and timeliness, DRO employs 28 full and part-time staff responsible for efficient and safe operations. Of these, the airport has 10 individuals within its Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF)/Operations division, which is responsible for incident management, medical emergency response, public safety, airport security and airfield operations. This division is also charged with maintaining all safety, operational and security-based rules and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

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The airport also employs four individuals - along with five seasonal positions - within its Airfield & Grounds Maintenance division. The maintenance division is responsible for the upkeep and repair of all airport facilities, airfield pavement, lighting, signage, markings as well as nearly 1,400 acres of grounds.

DRO receives approximately 50 inches of snow annually, making it a priority for staff to be prepared for the challenge of winter weather. The airport owns and maintains a fleet of equipment dedicated to winter snow removal. These include:

- Two carrier vehicles with front-mounted rotary brooms used to sweep snow from the pavement
- Three large displacement plow vehicles used to move heavy snow loads
- Two large rotary snowblowers used to move snow far beyond the reaches of aircraft engines and wings
- Two loader vehicles used to clear confined areas of snow
- Numerous smaller vehicles and pieces of specialty equipment

“The dedication of these staff and use of specialized equipment for winter weather ensure we can reliably serve southwest Colorado’s air travel needs,” said Vicari. “And for those travelers who choose to brave the elements and drive to Denver or Albuquerque, the statistics show that they have a greater risk of delay – even if slightly – than they do here at DRO.”

* Source: Bureau of Transportation (BTS) statistics

About Durango-La Plata County Airport

Durango-La Plata County Airport (DRO) is the primary regional airport for southwest Colorado and the Four Corners Region. As Colorado’s 5th busiest commercial airport, DRO saw over 372,000 passengers in 2017 and contributes \$280 million annually to the regional economy. DRO is served by two of the four largest U.S. airlines (United and American), offering nonstop routes to Denver (DEN), Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW), Phoenix (PHX) and seasonally to Los Angeles (LAX). For more information, please visit www.flydurango.com. Follow us on twitter.com/DROAirport and facebook.com/DROAirport.

The Durango-La Plata County Airport operates as an enterprise fund of the City of Durango, and generates self-sustaining revenue from airport tenants and users in the form of airline rent and landing fees, terminal concessions, ground leases and parking fees. The airport does not receive any local tax funding.

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