

History of

Ontario International Airport

- 1923** ONT was born as Latimer Field, an airfield located three miles west of our current location on land leased from Union Pacific Railroad. The airfield is named after an orange packing company next to the air strip.
- 1929** The City of Ontario purchased a 30-acre tract in the southwest corner of the present airport for \$12,000. The airfield became known as Ontario Municipal Airport.
- 1941** The City of Ontario purchased 470-acres surrounding the airport and approved construction of new runways.
- 1942** Runways completed and an Army Air Corps plane made the first landing on February 27.
- 1943** During World War II, the airport was dedicated as an Army Air Corps P-38 training base and P-59 operating base.
- 1946** Ontario Municipal Airport is renamed Ontario International Airport due to transpacific cargo flights originating from the airport.
- 1947** Military departed and the airport was rededicated to civil aviation.
- 1949** The airport was deeded to the City of Ontario in March. ONT received the State of California Airport Permit No. 36-1 in September, allowing commercial service to begin.
- 1951** A new 10,880 square-foot terminal building was constructed and ONT got its first directed delivery of airmail.
- 1953** Civil Aeronautics Administration constructs the original air traffic control tower at ONT.
- 1967** Los Angeles City Department of Airports co-signed a joint powers agreement with the City of Ontario and ONT became part of Los Angeles' regional airport system.
- 1970** 300 additional acres were acquired and the terminal building expanded by 22,500 square feet.
- 1971** Airport Safety Officer program officially took over Ontario Police and Fire Department functions. The 19-person task force was responsible for aircraft fire rescue and security protection.
- 1972** Annual passenger volume passed one million.
- 1978** Annual passenger volume passed two million.
- 1981** ONT opened a new runway which could accommodate wide-body jets. 35,000 people attended the dedication ceremony.
- 1984** Traveler Aid Society opened an Inland Empire branch at ONT.
Annual passenger volume passed three million and a record setting year for air cargo at 147,529 tons of freight.

1985 Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall of Los Angeles were selected as the planners, architects and engineers for new terminals at ONT.

Official transfer of title from the City of Ontario to the City of Los Angeles.

1986 Annual passenger volume passed four million.

1987 Federal Express (FedEx) opened a new 30,000 square-foot facility on 7.5 acres, located on the south side of the airport, with an estimated construction cost of \$2 million.

The new FAA Air Traffic Control Tower was dedicated on August 27.

Annual air cargo reaches a record high at 218,914 tons of freight.

1989 Annual passenger volume passed five million.

1990 United Parcel Service (UPS) broke ground on a \$53 million West Coast air-cargo hub built on 160-acres adjacent to the southeast side of the airport. It was completed in July of 1992.

1992 Annual passenger volume passed six million and air cargo reaches 306,973 tons of freight.

1993 The Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners approved the final plans and specifications for a \$270 million terminal expansion project.

The International Arrivals Terminal officially opened with the first nonstop arrival from Mexico. The terminal included 850 additional parking spaces.

1995 A groundbreaking ceremony was held for construction of the new terminal complex.

1996 Annual air cargo reaches a record high at 437,139 tons of freight.

1998 Grand opening of the new \$270 million twin terminals. Together the terminals totaled approximately 530,000 sq. ft. with 26 gates that can accommodate 10 million passengers a year. It was completed four months ahead of schedule and \$26 million under budget.

Service began in the new terminals on September 27.

1999 A new Ground Transportation Center housing six on-airport car rental brands opened on January 5.

ONT implemented an airport-wide recycling program focused on mixed paper recovery and a reconfiguration of airport trash and recycling containers, including glass recycling in terminals, maintenance yard, aircraft and tenant-leased spaces.

2000 Air Canada started offering daily round trip service to Toronto, Canada from June 5 to September 5.

JetBlue Airways began daily nonstop, round trip service to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Annual air cargo reached a record high at 510,721 tons of freight.

2001 UPS started four weekly flights to China using a Boeing 747 cargo aircraft.

ONT kicked off its airport-wide beverage container recycling program.

2002 The Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners approved the award of contract to HNTB Corporation, Los Angeles to develop a master plan for ONT. The contract included development of the ONT Master Plan in three phases at an estimated total cost of \$3.9 million.

AeroMexico began daily round trip service to Hermosillo, Mexico.

Frontier JetExpress began two daily nonstop flights to Denver, Colorado.

Hawaiian Airlines began daily round trip service to Honolulu, Hawaii.

Lineas Aereas Azteca began daily nonstop service to Mexico City, Mexico.

Parking Lot 5 opened with 2,159 additional parking spaces.

2003 The \$20.2 million Taxiway N Westerly Extension Project completed two weeks ahead of schedule and \$1 million under budget.



- 2004** Chaffey Hangar was removed to make way for the new Security Airfield Access Point being constructed under the Airfield Perimeter Security Enhancement Part 2 Project.
- Los Angeles World Airports launched a “Fly Ontario” ad campaign aimed at increasing passenger volume at ONT.
- Annual passenger volume reached 6.9 million and air cargo reaches 605,132 tons of freight.
- 2005** Runway 26R/8L closed in May for reconstruction and lengthening.
- Annual passenger volume reached 7 million.
- 2006** Runway 26R/8L Reconstruction Project completed and the runway reopened in March.
- Ontario USO facility opened in Terminal 1 with over 6,000 square-feet of space.
- Airport name changed to LA/Ontario International Airport.
- 2007** ExpressJet began daily round trip service to 14 U.S. cities in April and added round trip service to Reno (Reno/Tahoe Airport) in November.
- 2008** Great Lakes Airlines started service to Visalia and Merced in California, and Prescott and Kingman in Arizona, using a Beechcraft 1900D aircraft.
- Cell Phone Waiting Lot opened. The 100-space parking lot is free of charge with a one-hour maximum waiting time.
- The in-line baggage screening system opened in Terminal 2 and Terminal 4. The new \$70 million baggage screening system carries luggage from the airlines’ ticket counter areas to a TSA station where officers screen luggage prior to being loaded in the aircraft.
- As a result of the recession, annual passenger volume decreased to 6.2 million passengers and 481,284 tons of air freight.
- 2009** The Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners approved development of a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station at Haven Avenue and Airport Drive.
- Travelers Aid of the Inland Empire celebrated 25 years of service at ONT.
- Annual passenger volume decreased to 4.8 million passengers and 391,060 tons of air freight.
- 2010** Southwest Airlines celebrated 25 years of service at ONT and began nonstop service to Denver, Colorado and Chicago, Illinois.
- Annual passenger volume remained at 4.8 million passengers and ONT moved 392,428 tons of air freight.
- 2011** Annual passenger volume was 4.5 million and ONT moved 417,686 tons of air freight.
- 2012** Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) approved allocation of \$1.5 million to the City of Ontario for additional residential soundproofing.
- The 6,500 square-foot Clean Energy Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station opened on Haven Avenue and Airport Drive.
- 2013** LAWA entered into agreement with airline consortium to reduce the budget by \$6.6 million.
- ONT airport implemented an airline cooperative marketing program and offered incentive programs for air carriers.
- AeroMexico launched more service from ONT to Guadalajara, Mexico on October 1.
- TSA PreCheck began at ONT.
- United Airlines launched additional service to San Francisco starting December 19.
- Annual passenger volume decreased to 3.9 million while cargo volume reached 465,537 tons of air freight.
- 2014** LAWA and City of Ontario entered a memorandum of understanding for a grade separation project at Airport Drive & Vineyard Ave.
- Volaris announced service from ONT to Guadalajara, Mexico starting April 10 and added a third flight on September 1.
- ONT hit its first year of positive growth since 2007 at over 4.1 million passengers.
- International travel traffic rose nearly 58% showing the significance of air service provided by our two international carriers.



- 2016** Ownership of ONT was officially transferred from LAWA to the Ontario International Airport Authority (OIAA) and back to local control on November 1.
Kelly Fredricks is named Chief Executive Officer of ONT.
- 2017** Under a new agreement, Delaware North Companies agreed to invest \$6 million to rebrand and refurbish the food and beverage concessions in both passenger terminals.
Lyft & Uber became the first app-based rideshare services launched at ONT on July 5.
An eight-year concession lease agreement with Hudson Group and HG ONT Retailers JV was signed on August 22 to upgrade retail concessions, greatly improving shopping options for air travelers and airport guests, while also generating significant new revenues for the airport.
Omnitrans expanded public transit service to ONT in the beginning of September. The route served Pomona, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga and Fontana, making it easier than ever to get to ONT.
Mark Thorpe is named Chief Executive Officer of ONT.
ONT's very own radio station began broadcasting on November 3 at 620 AM dial to provide travelers with driving directions, parking availability, terminal locations and other information.
- 2018** China Airlines began service on March 25 with the arrival of Flight #C124 from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (TPE) in Taipei – ONT's first nonstop, transpacific passenger service.
For the first time, Ontario became the top U.S. market for shipments of outbound cargo, knocking Atlanta from the No. 1 position.
ONT is named the Fastest-Growing U.S. Airport by Global Traveler, a leading industry publication.
- 2019** ONT's Premium Airport Lounge opened in both Terminal 2 and Terminal 4 in January, enhancing the customer experience.
Annual passenger volume reached 5.5 million passengers, the highest level in more than a decade. Cargo capacity was also up, with shipments of commercial freight up 5.1%.
ONT is named the Fastest-Growing U.S. Airport by Global Traveler, for a second consecutive year.
- 2020** During the midst of 2020, with a decrease in flights and travelers due to COVID-19, ONT continued adding new routes, including nonstop flights to Seattle on Delta Airlines and the launch of nonstop flights to Mexico City on Volaris.
The new FedEx facility opened on November 19 and tripled the size of the previous space. The two-year transformation revealed a 251,000 square-foot complex which includes a sorting facility capable of handling 12,000 packages per hour. The facility also includes nine widebody aircraft gates, 14 feeder aircraft gates and 18 truck docks.
For the third straight year, ONT is named the Fastest-Growing U.S. Airport by Global Traveler.
- 2021** Hawaiian Airlines returned to ONT on March 16 with their inaugural flight to Honolulu, departing five times a week.
As travel continued to improve, ONT added new routes and new airlines, including nonstop flights to San Salvador on Avianca Airlines, Charlotte & Chicago O'Hare on American Airlines and Reno Tahoe on aha!.
ONT hosted first ever State of the Airport drawing over 350 regional partners in celebration of their 5th year anniversary of local control. OISS Board President Alan Warner spoke about how far ONT has gone under local control and celebrated the upward trajectory the airport has experienced since the transfer.
ONT is awarded the Fastest-Growing U.S. Airport for the fourth consecutive year, according to Global Traveler.
- 2022** On March 10, ONT starts their nonstop route to Austin, TX, on Southwest Airlines.
Atif Elkadi is named Chief Executive Officer of ONT.
CLEAR launched in both terminals in April.
Aspire Lounges opens in both terminals in May.
In June, FAA Awards ONT with additional \$10.77 MM for taxiway and airfield improvements.

