



Airline Traffic Forecast and Gate Demand

Port Columbus International Airport

IN 2001, the Columbus Airport Authority retained Leigh Fisher Associates to update airline traffic forecasts for Port Columbus International Airport to support the planning of new gate development.

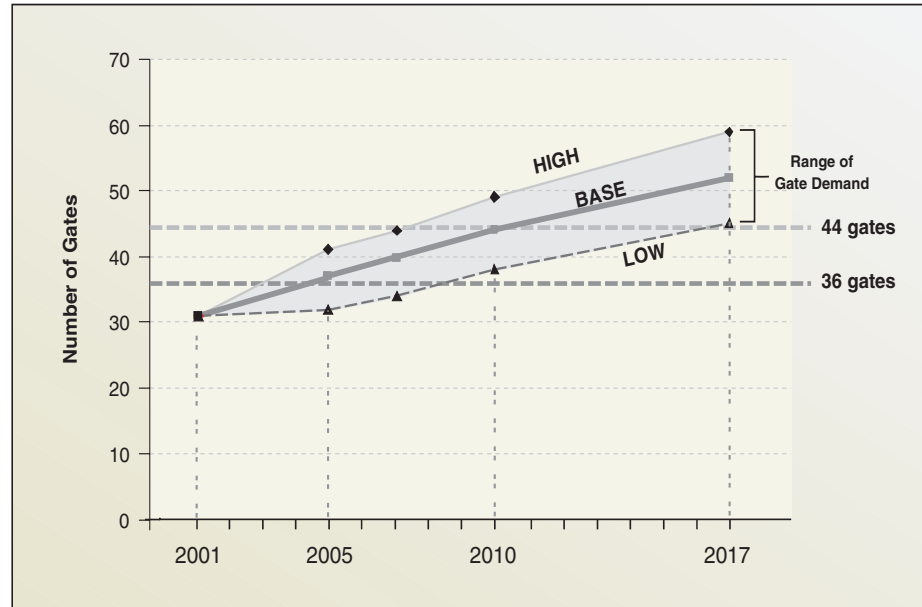
Key issues addressed in the forecasts included:

- The increased use of regional jet aircraft
- The hub operations of America West Airlines
- The low-fare service development of Southwest Airlines
- Gate demand related to airline service development

Leigh Fisher Associates conducted research of economic trends affecting airline travel demand and also analyzed strategic development of service by the key airlines serving the market.

In assessing the implications of increased use of regional jet aircraft, Leigh Fisher Associates analyzed the top origin-destination markets and the economics of service by regional jet aircraft relative to other aircraft types. Leigh Fisher Associates also coordinated with America West regarding the airline's plans for increased hub operations at the Airport.

On the basis of the market analysis described above, Leigh Fisher Associates prepared an updated forecast of passenger demand for the Airport. The forecast model developed by Leigh Fisher Associates was used to translate passenger demand into aircraft operations, based on assumptions regarding airline fleet mix and load factors.



Forecast Gate Demand

In the final phase of the analysis, Leigh Fisher Associates analyzed gate utilization in relation to passenger demand and service development. Detailed data were compiled on current gate utilization at the Airport and at similarly sized airports in the United States. Assumptions were developed regarding future gate utilization trends in relation to: (1) the likely development of new service by length of haul, (2) current and future peaking patterns, and (3) the changing fleet mix at the Airport. From these assumptions, a gate demand forecast was prepared.

The results of the analysis were used to confirm the Authority's plans to develop additional gate capacity at the Airport, including the number and size of gates.

Client: Columbus Airport Authority

Services: Forecasting and Economics