The Puget Sound Region is home to globally recognized companies like Microsoft, Amazon, Costco Wholesale, Starbucks, Phillips, Nordstrom, Expedia, and Weyerhaeuser. As well as major Boeing aircraft assembly plants. Access to global air cargo markets through Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) plays a vital role in the productivity and growth of businesses that call the Puget Sound home and is an economic engine that facilitates the region’s economy.

Industries in our region such as ecommerce, pharmaceuticals, commercial aerospace, high-tech manufacturing, fresh and frozen seafood products, and high-value agriculture depend on access to global connections. Seattle is located midway between Asia and Europe, which offers similar flight times to both continents.

SEA’s cargo facilities include both Port-owned and third-party developed cargo facilities at an accessible location in the center of the greater Pacific Northwest regional market area. Cargo facilities feature:

- Service from multiple nonstop airfreighter connections and belly cargo capacity on numerous nonstop wide-body passenger flights
- Cargo area hardstand parking for 18 freighter aircraft
- Over the past five years, the Port has partnered with private developers to build/lease over 2.2 Million square feet of light industrial space near Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.
- Onsite federal inspection services including Customs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA, FDA, CDC, and TSA
- Excellent surface transportation connections, with close proximity to two major seaports and the 2nd largest concentration of warehouse and distribution centers on the West Coast

Connected to Global Distribution Networks
Airfreight 2020

SEA recorded its ninth consecutive year of air cargo growth in 2020, increasing 0.24% to 454,584 metric tons, despite the COVID-related impacts on passenger flight activity. Air cargo tonnage remains at 99% of its all-time record level of 457,071 metric tons set in 2000.

Notable SEA Air Cargo Annual tonnage Records in 2020

- Domestic Airfreight record of 351,352 metric tons, primarily driven by increased e-commerce/express related activity.
- SEA experienced an 8.6% increase in all-cargo freighter flight activity, recording 8,477 landings for the year.

Top Air Freight Commodities 2020

Top Export Commodities by Value:
- Electric Machinery ............... $2.9B
- Industrial Machinery ............. $1.8B
- Medical/Surgical Apparatus ...... $1.6B
- Aircraft Parts ...................... $1.2B
- Pharmaceutical Products .......... $464M

Top Import Commodities by Value:
- Industrial Machinery ............... $2.2B
- Electronic Integrated Circuits .......... $2.1B
- Special Classification Provisions .......... $482M
- Medical/Surgical Instruments .......... $469M
- Pharmaceutical Products ............ $197M

Top Trade Partners 2020

Top Export Partners by Value
- China .......................... $1.7B
- United Kingdom ................ $1B
- Vietnam ......................... $830M
- Malaysia ......................... $644M
- Netherlands ..................... $627M

Top Import Partners by Value
- Japan ............................. $1.5B
- Netherlands ...................... $902M
- Germany .......................... $704M
- Singapore ......................... $591M
- Ireland ........................... $458M

Contact for more information
Tom Green
Senior Manager Air Cargo Development
Green.T@portseattle.org | (206) 787-5543

Ken Galka
Air Cargo Operations Manager
Galka.K@portseattle.org | (206) 787-5635

Patrick Haley,
Air Cargo Facilities Manager
Haley.P@portseattle.org | (206) 787-6757