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Cargo Freight at Rockford Airport Increases 10 Percent

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By Thomas V. Bona

Despite a nationwide drop in air cargo traffic, Chicago Rockford International Airport was up 10 percent in April, its best year-over-year increase since November. Officials hope to bring continued growth here at a time when the cargo industry is battling an economic slowdown and high fuel prices.

More than 123.7 million pounds of cargo landed at the airport in April, mostly at UPS's air hub. For the year, almost 473.6 million pounds have landed at the airport, up 2.4 percent from last year.

After seeing year-over-year growth most months last year, the airport saw decreases in December, January and March.

That mirrors national trends: domestic air cargo traffic dropped 5.5 percent in March, the largest decline in nearly four years, Air Cargo World reported.