

Aerospace Market News

January 2017

A new year-end aircraft backlog record.

A new year-end engine order book record.

A new annual aircraft delivery record.

A new annual engine install record.

2016 turned out to be a pretty good year but this was mostly due to a large number of aircraft and engine orders in December, and a record number of deliveries during the month. Airbus delivered 111 new jet aircraft in December.

Aerospace Market News : January 2017.

Summary Data : Aircraft.	3
Summary Data : Engines.	7

Industry Overview : 9

Surprise! 2016 was a record production year after all.

For a while it really did not look as though 2016 would turn out to be a record year but the huge December delivery total changed all that and by the end of the year there was a new annual delivery record as well as a new annual single-aisle aircraft delivery record. There was also a new single-aisle aircraft backlog record and a new total backlog record. Widebodies did not do quite so well though.

The Large Commercial Jet Aircraft Backlog : 17

A new year-end backlog record.

The backlog at the end of December was not really much larger than the backlog at the start of 2016 but it was the seventh consecutive year-end backlog record. The flood of aircraft orders during the month pushed the backlog up by 344 aircraft, the largest monthly gain for two years. There is a slight downside to the new record though; the number of widebody aircraft on order is lower than at the start of last year and the new record is very much a function of a much larger single-aisle aircraft backlog.

Single-aisle and Widebody Backlogs. 23

Orders for Large Commercial Jets : 26

The order intake has dropped for the second year running.

More aircraft were ordered in December than in the previous five months put together but even this was not enough to reverse the slow annual downward trend. The 2016 single-aisle order intake was the lowest since 2010 while the widebody intake was the lowest since 2012. For both Airbus and Boeing, orders in 2016 were the lowest since 2010. For Bombardier, it was a record year.

Summary Orders by month. 30

Deliveries of Large Commercial Jets : 32

2016 was a record year for aircraft deliveries.

Up until late in 2016 it looked as though a record year would be a touch-and-go thing. A record number of deliveries in December changed all that – December had the largest number of aircraft deliveries in a single month, ever. The year ended with a record number of annual single-aisle aircraft deliveries and the second largest number of annual widebody aircraft deliveries.

The Share of Single-aisle and Widebody deliveries in 2016. 37

Current Production Rates : 42

Aircraft Engines : 43

There is a new firm engine order book high.

There were orders for 1,150 large civil jet engines in December, the third largest number ever ordered in a single month. Over 960 single-aisle engines and over 180 widebody engines were ordered during the month and at the end of the year the number of engines on firm order reached a new industry high. This was, however, very much a function of a larger number of single-aisle engines on firm order.

The Firm Jet Engine Order Book . 45

Engine Orders. 57

Engine Installs. 61

Engine Programs : The Firm Order Books : 65

Appendices. 83

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Aerospace Market News is published by Industry Research Group.
66 Westway, London SW20 9LU. United Kingdom. ISSN 1462-933x © Industry Research Group 2017