



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO



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**MAYOR EMANUEL, UNITED AIRLINES AND U.S. EQUITIES ANNOUNCE ONE OF  
CHICAGO'S LARGEST COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DEALS UNDER ONE ROOF**

*United Airlines Will Shift Corporate HQ to Willis Tower; Extend Commitment to Downtown  
through 2028*

Mayor Emanuel and U.S. Equities Realty announced today that United Airlines, the largest airline in the world, signed one of the largest office leases ever in the history of Chicago and extended its lease through 2028. Already home to United's Network Operations Center, Willis Tower will become home to the airline's corporate headquarters as part of the deal. Once complete, United will occupy approximately 25 percent of the building.

"The fact that United has brought its company under one roof and extended their commitment to downtown is great news for all Chicagoans," said Mayor Emanuel. "This deal shows United's commitment to Chicago for a generation; it ensures our hometown



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airline will be here, and means that quality jobs and economic activity will remain in the area for years to come.”

United began moving its headquarters downtown from its Elk Grove Village campus in March 2007. The airline in 2009 announced 2,800 additional jobs would move downtown, and began moving its operations in to Willis Tower in fall 2010 with an initial lease of 470,000 square feet. United increased its space commitments in 2011 to a total of 625,000 square feet. The new deal in 2012 adds another 205,000 square feet, bringing United to a total of 830,000 square feet, occupying 16 floors throughout the building. Upon full completion, United will have more than 4,000 employees working in downtown Chicago, and more than 14,000 total in the city including its O’Hare operations and reservations center.

“Willis Tower provides a dynamic work environment for our employees. This is an important step as we continue to work together to build the world’s leading airline,” said Brett Hart, United’s EVP and General Counsel, who oversees the company’s corporate real estate. “Our employees are embracing downtown Chicago as our new home, and we are committed to this world-class city.”

Willis Tower is owned by a partnership of Chicago and New York investors known as 233 S. Wacker Drive LLC. Since 2007, the building has been managed and leased by U.S. Equities Asset Management. In the last five years, U.S. Equities has achieved more than four million square feet in total leasing transactions in the building, with 2.45 million of that happening in the last two and a half years alone.

“Smart, growing companies are recognizing that Willis Tower’s amenities, infrastructure, location, value and convenience make it one of the most attractive office buildings in Chicago,” said Robert A. Wislow, Chairman of U.S. Equities. “For the last five years, we’ve made great strides at revitalizing the city’s most iconic building, and this United headquarters lease is another shining example.”



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Jones Lang LaSalle represented United Airlines in this lease transaction at Willis Tower. The tallest building in the Western Hemisphere, at 1,450 feet, Willis Tower occupies an entire city block and has its own zip code.

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