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Media Contact: Shannon Braun

952-346-6081, sbraun@webershandwick.com

2018 Breaks Record for Highest Number of DSM Airport Passengers

The Des Moines International Airport ended the year with 2,773,207 total passengers

Des Moines, Iowa (January 11, 2019): Des Moines International Airport had another record-breaking year of passenger growth in 2018. More than 2.77 million passengers came through the Des Moines terminal in 2018, a 7.6 percent increase from the previous year. The airport exceeded 200,000 total passengers each month – the first year to do so. This year’s total passenger count contributes to a rate of growth that is more than double the projected 3.0 percent, and well ahead of the national average.

In December alone, the Des Moines International Airport experienced a 12.8 percent increase in passenger traffic from December of the previous year, with a monthly total of 201,891 passengers. Passenger airline market share was led by American (30 percent), Delta (23 percent) and United (20 percent), followed by Southwest (12 percent), Allegiant (8 percent), Frontier (5 percent) and Charters (1 percent). Frontier saw the most growth from the previous year, with a 17.2 percent increase in passengers year over year.

“We have seen record-breaking numbers of passengers month after month over the past year,” said Kevin Foley, Des Moines Airport Authority Executive Director. “Though we anticipated 2018 would be a large growth year for DSM, we remain concerned about the facility’s capacity to accommodate increases in the coming years. With passengers in mind, we will continue to push forward with our terminal project construction already underway, and look for the necessary funding to close the gap to complete the project – culminating in a new passenger terminal. In the meantime, we will continue to implement identifiable procedures to minimize passenger delay and introduce amenities to improve the passenger travel experience.”

The Des Moines International Airport celebrated multiple developments to the existing facility in 2018. Near the beginning of the year, new amenities began servicing passengers, including Arugula & Rye, Portermill and Berk & Chester’s restaurants, and Hudson Group opened newly updated gift shops featuring Iowa-made products. Improvements were made to parking ramp lighting systems, and the runway reconstruction project completed its second phase. New flights were introduced by airlines, such as the nonstop flights to Philadelphia with American Airlines and the nonstop to San Francisco with Frontier Airlines. Delta, Southwest, United and Allegiant Airlines all continued to increase their seat capacity with additional service or larger aircraft. Programs like [Global Entry](#) were hosted to connect Iowa travelers with more efficient ways to travel. These, among other improvements, are ways the Des Moines International Airport is ensuring a positive passenger experience remains intact ahead of terminal construction.

Foley states, “This is an exciting time for the Des Moines International Airport. Most sectors of the economy remain stable in Iowa – couple that with new and better service from the airlines, and more people are traveling through Iowa’s largest airport than ever before.”

To learn more about the Des Moines Airport Authority’s proposed improvements to the existing airport facilities to accommodate continued growth, see the [New Terminal Documentation](#) on the DSM website.

About the Des Moines Airport Authority

The Des Moines Airport Authority is an independent entity that oversees the operations and maintenance of the Des Moines International Airport. The Airport Authority works to improve the quality of air service and make air travel to and from Des Moines more convenient and pleasurable. For more information, visit www.dsmairport.com and follow [@dsmairport](#) on Twitter and [DSM International Airport](#) on Facebook.

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