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Highest Month of Passenger Traffic in 71-Year History of Des Moines International Airport

Over 263K passengers traveled through DSM Airport in March, the most of any month on record

Des Moines, Iowa (April 10, 2019): The Des Moines International Airport experienced the highest number of passengers ever traveling through its terminal during the month of March 2019. The record-breaking traffic totaled 263,098 passengers, an increase of 12.6 percent from March 2018 and 4.8 percent higher than any other single month on record. This number is much higher than Des Moines Airport Authority (DMAA) leadership forecasted for the airport's growth, causing increased concern that the current terminal will exceed capacity sooner than predicted.

"We have seen record-breaking months of passenger traffic before, but the totals from March of this year exceeded all expectations," said Kevin Foley, DMAA executive director. "While this growth is immensely positive for the Des Moines metro area and state of Iowa as a whole, the speed at which it's increasing is much faster than initially predicted. Passengers are feeling the stresses of the antiquated terminal sooner than expected as the volumes of passenger traffic continue to grow. Securing the funding to complete the new terminal project has become increasingly necessary to accommodate this growth."

In 2018, the Des Moines International Airport saw more than 2.77 million passengers travel through the facility, making it the busiest year to-date. The airport exceeded 200,000 total passengers each month, and the same growth pattern has continued in the first few months of 2019, as well. In the first quarter of the year, the airport has seen 686,373 passengers travel through the terminal, and those numbers are expected to continue to rise as the year goes on.

As DMAA leadership works to find opportunities to fund the new terminal, they have continued to improve the current facility to ensure the passenger experience is as positive as possible. Most recently, improvements to the parking facilities and the addition of two new flights to Washington, D.C. (daily) and Destin-Fort Walton Beach (seasonally) are some of the ways DMAA has offered enhanced experience to travelers in Des Moines.

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](https://twitter.com/dsmairport) on Twitter and [DSM International Airport](https://www.facebook.com/dsminternationalairport) on Facebook.

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