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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leisure Travel Leads the Recovery in Airline Passenger Demand

One year after COVID-19 concerns caused the largest monthly decline in airline passenger demand in history, North Dakota's airports continue their work to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. The state's eight commercial service airports posted a total of 62,163 airline passenger boardings during the recent month of April. This is a significant increase from the 4,964 passengers experienced during April of 2020 when the aviation industry experienced an astounding 95% decline in passengers due to the initial COVID-19 mitigations being put into place.

The demand for air travel has seen a steady recovery in recent months, however the current passenger counts are still approximately 32% below the normal pre-pandemic levels. The industry has been attributing the recent passenger increases to a recovery in the domestic leisure travel segment of the market.

"Our airports and aviation industry have endured a long road to recovery since last April when passenger levels dropped 95% as our country worked together to slow the spread of COVID-19." stated Kyle Wanner, Executive Director of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission. "Leisure travel has been growing and allowing for an in initial recovery in air travel demand. As the nation's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we would also like to see additional business travel begin to cycle back into the market."



April Boardings Comparison of Commercial Service Airports

Prepared by: N.D. Aeronautics Commission

12-May-21

Airport	April 2021	April 2020	April 2019	April 2018	April 2017	April 2016	April 2015	April 2014	April 2013	April 2012	Difference 2021/2020	% Change from 2020 to 2021	Difference 2021/2019	% Change from 2019 to 2021
Bismarck	15,509	1,213	24,690	22,368	21,183	19,901	18,985	16,784	17,635	16,491	14,296	1178.57%	(9,181)	-37.19%
Devils Lake	499	14	504	419	552	397	278	0	192	193	485	3464.29%	(5)	-0.99%
Dickinson	1,277	153	1,808	1,594	1,492	1,187	3,849	4,201	1,307	2,107	1,124	734.64%	(531)	-29.37%
Fargo	27,119	1,555	35,402	31,867	28,902	28,529	34,453	34,690	28,279	27,373	25,564	1643.99%	(8,283)	-23.40%
Grand Forks	5,244	379	9,346	8,138	8,507	10,764	11,623	11,973	11,652	11,482	4,865	1283.64%	(4,102)	-43.89%
Jamestown	767	41	694	877	869	652	456	0	162	185	726	1770.73%	73	10.52%
Minot	9,115	801	12,743	12,306	11,037	11,601	15,024	17,875	16,894	18,366	8,314	1037.95%	(3,628)	-28.47%
Williston	2,633	808	6,876	5,810	5,527	5,286	10,150	9,658	7,105	2,711	1,825	225.87%	(4,243)	-61.71%
Totals	62,163	4,964	92,063	83,379	78,069	78,317	94,818	95,181	83,226	78,908	57,199	1152.28%	(29,900)	-32.48%



YTD Boardings Comparison of Commercial Service Airports

Through April

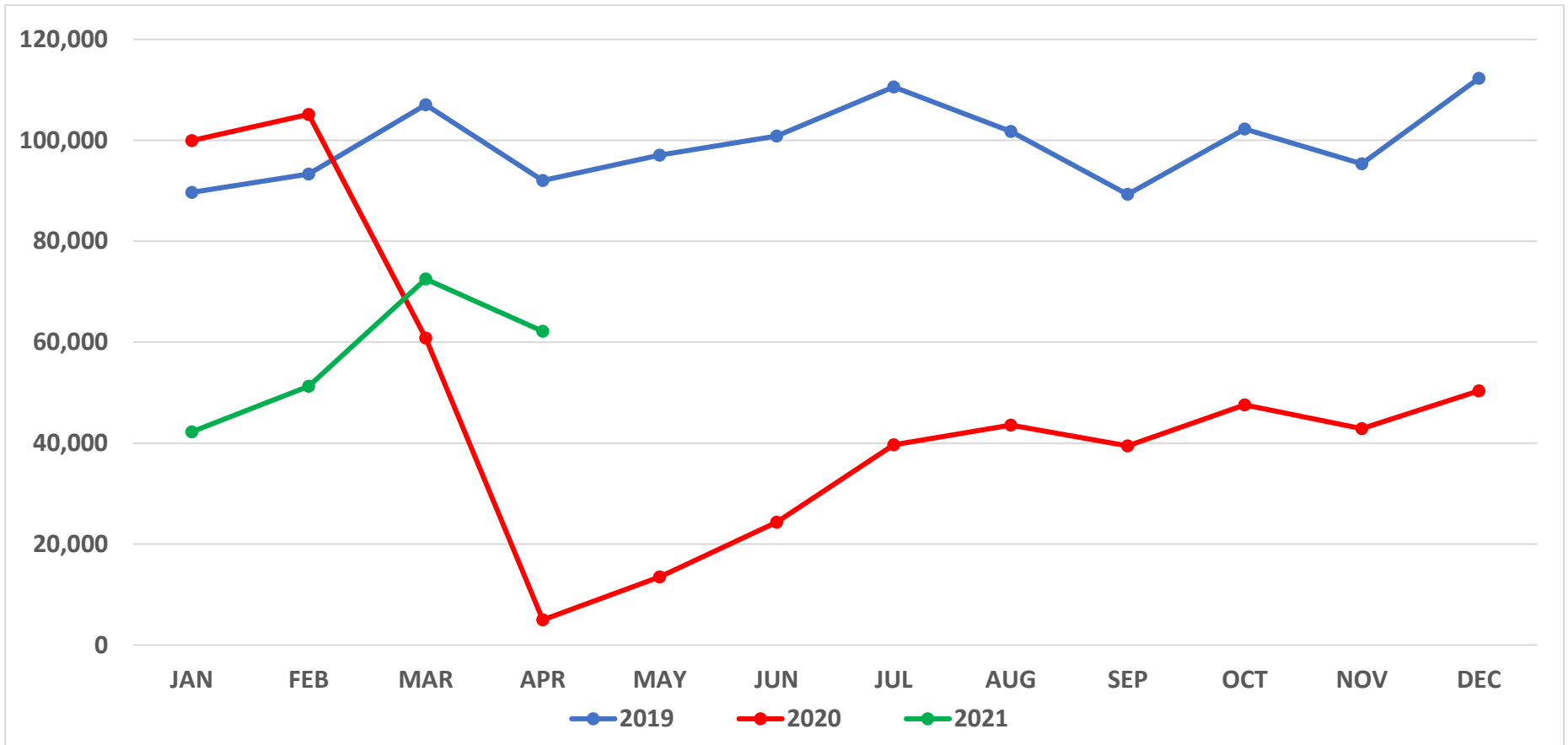
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	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	YTD 2018	YTD 2017	YTD 2016	YTD 2015	YTD 2014	YTD 2013	YTD 2012	Difference	% Change
Bismarck	57,564	67,487	98,495	86,155	85,447	84,927	81,713	75,722	78,831	68,863	(9,923)	-14.70%
Devils Lake	1,580	1,541	1,899	1,948	2,329	1,965	1,263	177	786	841	39	2.53%
Dickinson	3,149	5,370	6,790	6,470	5,457	5,274	14,855	15,589	5,523	8,231	(2,221)	-41.36%
Fargo	102,639	115,675	153,067	142,713	136,551	133,807	150,894	154,679	135,851	127,278	(13,036)	-11.27%
Grand Forks	20,038	25,098	40,039	37,237	40,503	48,136	51,188	52,270	51,307	49,098	(5,060)	-20.16%
Jamestown	2,531	2,455	3,338	3,861	4,196	3,378	2,426	135	797	2,029	76	3.10%
Minot	31,457	34,858	52,367	48,675	45,276	51,329	65,664	72,527	70,988	69,963	(3,401)	-9.76%
Williston	9,187	18,370	26,141	22,231	21,324	21,784	39,692	37,000	27,259	11,136	(9,183)	-49.99%
TOTALS	228,145	270,854	382,136	349,290	341,083	350,600	407,695	408,099	371,342	337,439	(42,709)	-15.77%
Commercial (BIS-FAR-GFK-MOT-WIL)	220,885	261,488	370,109	337,011	329,101	339,983	389,151	392,198	364,236	326,338	(40,603)	-15.53%
Regional (DVL-DIK-JMS)	7,260	9,366	12,027	12,279	11,982	10,617	18,544	15,901	7,106	11,101	(2,106)	-22.49%



North Dakota Airline Passenger Boarding Trends (2019 - 2021)

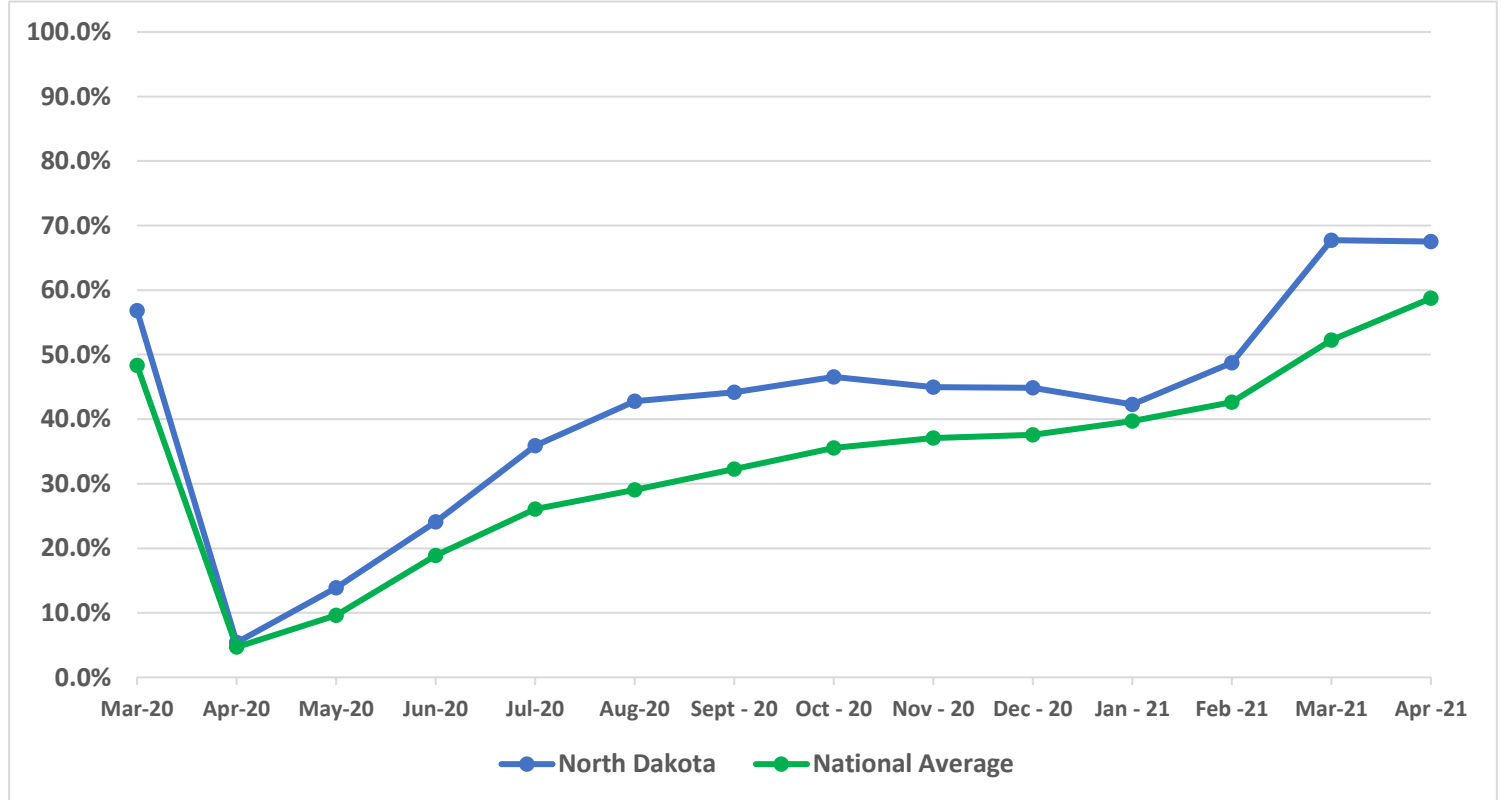




Airline Enplanement Monthly Retention Rates North Dakota versus National Average *(Comparing each month to the same month in 2019)*

ND vs. TSA Enplanement Retention

Month	ND	TSA
Mar-20	56.8%	48.3%
Apr-20	5.4%	4.7%
May-20	13.9%	9.6%
Jun-20	24.1%	18.9%
Jul-20	35.9%	26.1%
Aug-20	42.8%	29.0%
Sept - 20	44.2%	32.3%
Oct - 20	46.5%	35.6%
Nov - 20	45.0%	37.1%
Dec - 20	44.8%	37.6%
Jan - 21	42.3%	39.7%
Feb -21	48.7%	42.6%
Mar-21	67.7%	52.2%
Apr -21	67.5%	58.7%



National statistics were retrieved from TSA website: <https://www.tsa.gov/coronavirus/passenger-throughput>