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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Airline Industry Continues to Struggle with Workforce Shortage Issues

North Dakota's eight commercial service airports posted a total of 80,552 airline passenger boardings during the month of February, 2022. This is a 57% increase from the 51,240 boardings that the state experienced in February, 2021. It is also approximately 14% below February 2019's pre-pandemic passenger counts of 93,335.

Airlines continue to identify challenges associated with their ability to increase flights and capacity across the system due to workforce shortages, fleet availability, and a lack of business and international travel demand.

SkyWest recently submitted a [request](#) to the USDOT to release them from their contractual obligations and allow the termination of their air service routes within 29 Essential Air Service (EAS) communities throughout the country. The rationale cited by SkyWest in their announcement is "due to a result of an ongoing pilot staffing imbalance across the industry". North Dakota communities that are impacted by this announcement include the Jamestown and Devils Lake airports where SkyWest is currently under contract to provide air service through June 30th, 2023.

In response to SkyWest's request, the USDOT issued an [order](#) that prohibits SkyWest from terminating service to each of the 29 communities until the agency finds a replacement carrier. Air carriers should file proposals with the USDOT no later than April 11th, 2022.

"We are disappointed that workforce shortage issues have placed SkyWest in a position where they have decided to request the termination of their contract obligations within two Essential Air Service communities in North Dakota and many others throughout the country." stated Kyle Wanner, Executive Director of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission. "We are also appreciative of quick response by the USDOT to issue an order that prohibits SkyWest to terminate air service in the near term while quickly moving forward to request proposals from potential replacement carriers. We look forward to working with our communities, our airline partners, and our congressional delegation to identify potential solutions to these challenges."



February Boardings Comparison of Commercial

Prepared by: N.D. Aeronautics Commission

	FEB 2022	FEB 2021	FEB 2020	FEB 2019	FEB 2018	FEB 2017	FEB 2016	FEB 2015	FEB 2014	FEB 2013	Difference 2022/2021	% Change	Difference 2022/2019	% Change
Bismarck	18,636	12,945	26,898	23,880	20,450	20,414	20,308	20,289	19,115	20,025	5,691	43.96%	-5,244	-21.96%
Devils Lake	438	307	558	454	518	553	612	307	0	246	131	42.67%	-16	-3.52%
Dickinson	1,457	569	2,038	1,644	1,607	1,288	1,345	3,386	3,723	1,375	888	156.06%	-187	-11.37%
Fargo	37,009	23,626	44,946	38,035	36,655	34,647	34,497	37,690	38,869	34,581	13,383	56.65%	-1,026	-2.70%
Grand Forks	7,941	4,449	9,980	9,668	9,460	10,521	12,394	12,998	12,784	12,436	3,492	78.49%	-1,727	-17.86%
Jamestown	880	545	1,001	894	1,036	1,199	892	746	0	184	335	61.47%	-14	-1.57%
Minot	10,596	6,675	13,280	12,732	11,577	10,892	12,922	16,465	17,842	18,430	3,921	58.74%	-2,136	-16.78%
Williston	3,595	2,124	6,443	6,028	5,305	5,055	5,629	9,294	8,991	6,402	1,471	69.26%	-2,433	-40.36%
TOTALS	80,552	51,240	105,144	93,335	86,608	84,569	88,599	101,175	101,324	93,679	29,312	57.21%	-12,783	-13.70%



YTD Boardings Comparison of Commercial Service Airports

Through February

Prepared by: N.D. Aeronautics Commission

14-Mar-22

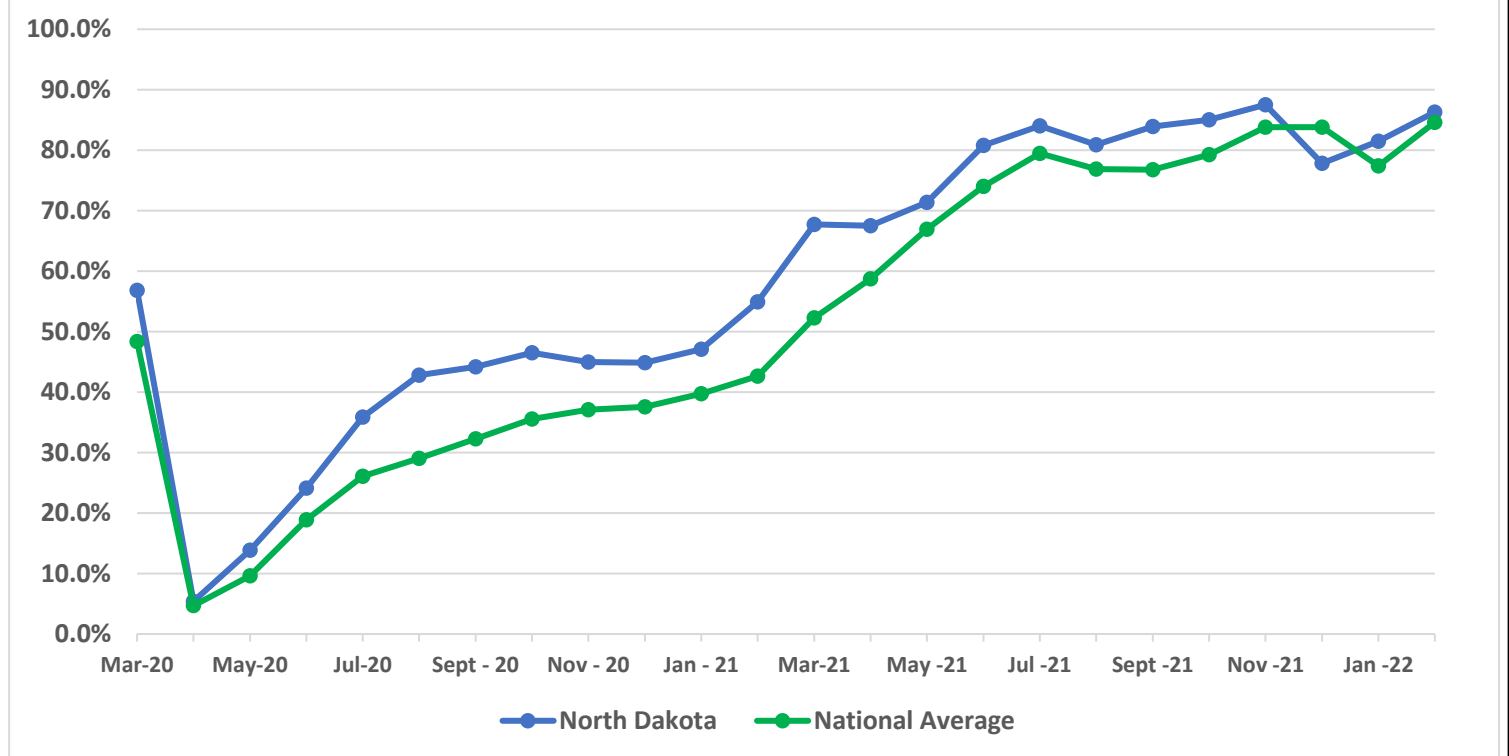
	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	YTD 2018	YTD 2017	YTD 2016	YTD 2015	YTD 2014	YTD 2013	Difference	% Change
Bismarck	35,398	23,838	51,821	46,182	41,494	41,060	41,702	41,528	38,560	39,034	11,560	48.49%
Devils Lake	940	573	1,170	929	996	1,144	1,002	615	177	440	367	64.05%
Dickinson	3,026	1,187	4,035	3,403	3,262	2,581	2,842	7,308	7,465	2,725	1,839	154.93%
Fargo	71,479	42,028	88,502	75,035	70,677	68,227	68,325	74,373	75,767	67,518	29,451	70.07%
Grand Forks	13,913	8,266	18,721	18,895	18,732	20,457	23,055	24,374	23,892	23,896	5,647	68.32%
Jamestown	1,732	934	1,824	1,686	1,956	2,061	1,764	1,292	135	408	798	85.44%
Minot	20,128	12,520	25,839	24,517	22,330	21,779	24,800	32,387	34,661	35,223	7,608	60.77%
Williston	7,053	4,132	13,157	12,397	10,657	10,003	11,266	19,915	17,470	12,662	2,921	70.69%
TOTALS	153,669	93,478	205,069	183,044	170,104	167,312	174,756	201,792	198,127	181,906	60,191	64.39%
Commercial (BIS-FAR-GFK-MOT-WIL)	147,971	90,784	198,040	177,026	163,890	161,526	169,148	192,577	190,350	178,333	57,187	62.99%
Regional (DVL-DIK-JMS)	5,698	2,694	7,029	6,018	6,214	5,786	5,608	9,215	7,777	3,573	3,004	111.51%



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	47.1%	39.7%
Feb - 21	54.9%	42.6%
Mar-21	67.7%	52.2%
Apr - 21	67.5%	58.7%
May - 21	71.4%	67.0%
Jun - 21	80.8%	74.0%
Jul - 21	84.0%	79.5%
Aug - 21	80.9%	76.9%
Sept - 21	83.9%	76.8%
Oct - 21	85.0%	79.3%
Nov - 21	87.5%	83.8%
Dec - 21	77.8%	83.8%
Jan - 22	81.5%	77.4%
Feb - 22	86.3%	84.6%



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