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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Workforce Challenges and Inflationary Pressures Create  
Headwinds for Sustained Passenger Growth**

North Dakota's eight commercial service airports posted a total of 84,474 airline passenger boardings during the month of May, 2022. This is a 22% increase from the 69,285 boardings that the state experienced in May, 2021. It is also approximately 13% below May 2019's pre-pandemic passenger counts of 97,069.

The commercial service airports throughout the state have been reporting that overall airline load factors have been high and that conversations with airline partners requesting additional flights and seat capacity has been ongoing. A high load factor indicates that an airline has sold most of its available seats and is an indicator of strong demand. The available seats and flights available to the traveling public throughout North Dakota is currently still lower than pre-pandemic levels as airlines continue to communicate difficulties in adding capacity into the system due to workforce challenges. In order to once again see sustainable growth above pre-pandemic levels, additional flights and/or larger aircraft with additional seats will need to be added into the state's system.

"Though demand for air service is strong, we recognize that challenges exist for the ability for airlines to add additional capacity into the system as the industry currently struggles with inflationary pressures from workforce shortages and increased fuel costs," stated Kyle Wanner, Executive Director for the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission. "As a result of these challenges, higher fares for the traveling public are also being experienced which presents another headwind for sustained passenger growth."



# May Boardings Comparison of Commercial Service Airports

Prepared by: N.D. Aeronautics Commission

	May 2022	May 2021	May 2020	May 2019	May 2018	May 2017	May 2016	May 2015	May 2014	May 2013	Difference 2022/2021	% Change	Difference 2022/2019	% Change
<b>Bismarck</b>	20,418	17,656	4,222	26,066	23,273	22,028	21,265	20,460	19,880	21,744	<b>2,762</b>	<b>15.64%</b>	<b>-5,648</b>	<b>-21.67%</b>
<b>Devils Lake</b>	518	496	64	548	520	466	466	423	0	187	<b>22</b>	<b>4.44%</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>-5.47%</b>
<b>Dickinson</b>	1,851	1,502	268	2,088	1,912	1,712	1,327	3,828	5,092	1,572	<b>349</b>	<b>23.24%</b>	<b>-237</b>	<b>-11.35%</b>
<b>Fargo</b>	35,607	29,503	5,190	37,796	32,088	30,412	29,976	34,561	35,077	30,786	<b>6,104</b>	<b>20.69%</b>	<b>-2,189</b>	<b>-5.79%</b>
<b>Grand Forks</b>	7,706	5,389	334	8,742	8,776	8,722	9,781	11,252	12,428	12,484	<b>2,317</b>	<b>42.99%</b>	<b>-1,036</b>	<b>-11.85%</b>
<b>Jamestown</b>	934	924	179	839	1,122	1,176	945	502	0	206	<b>10</b>	<b>1.08%</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>11.32%</b>
<b>Minot</b>	12,504	11,046	1,966	13,122	12,885	12,015	12,223	13,614	18,813	18,298	<b>1,458</b>	<b>13.20%</b>	<b>-618</b>	<b>-4.71%</b>
<b>Williston</b>	4,936	2,769	1,251	7,868	6,509	5,833	5,628	9,638	9,099	7,889	<b>2,167</b>	<b>78.26%</b>	<b>-2,932</b>	<b>-37.26%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>84,474</b>	<b>69,285</b>	<b>13,474</b>	<b>97,069</b>	<b>87,085</b>	<b>82,364</b>	<b>81,611</b>	<b>94,278</b>	<b>100,389</b>	<b>93,166</b>	<b>15,189</b>	<b>21.92%</b>	<b>-12,595</b>	<b>-12.98%</b>



# YTD Boardings Comparison of Commercial Service Airports

Through May

Prepared by: N.D. Aeronautics Commission

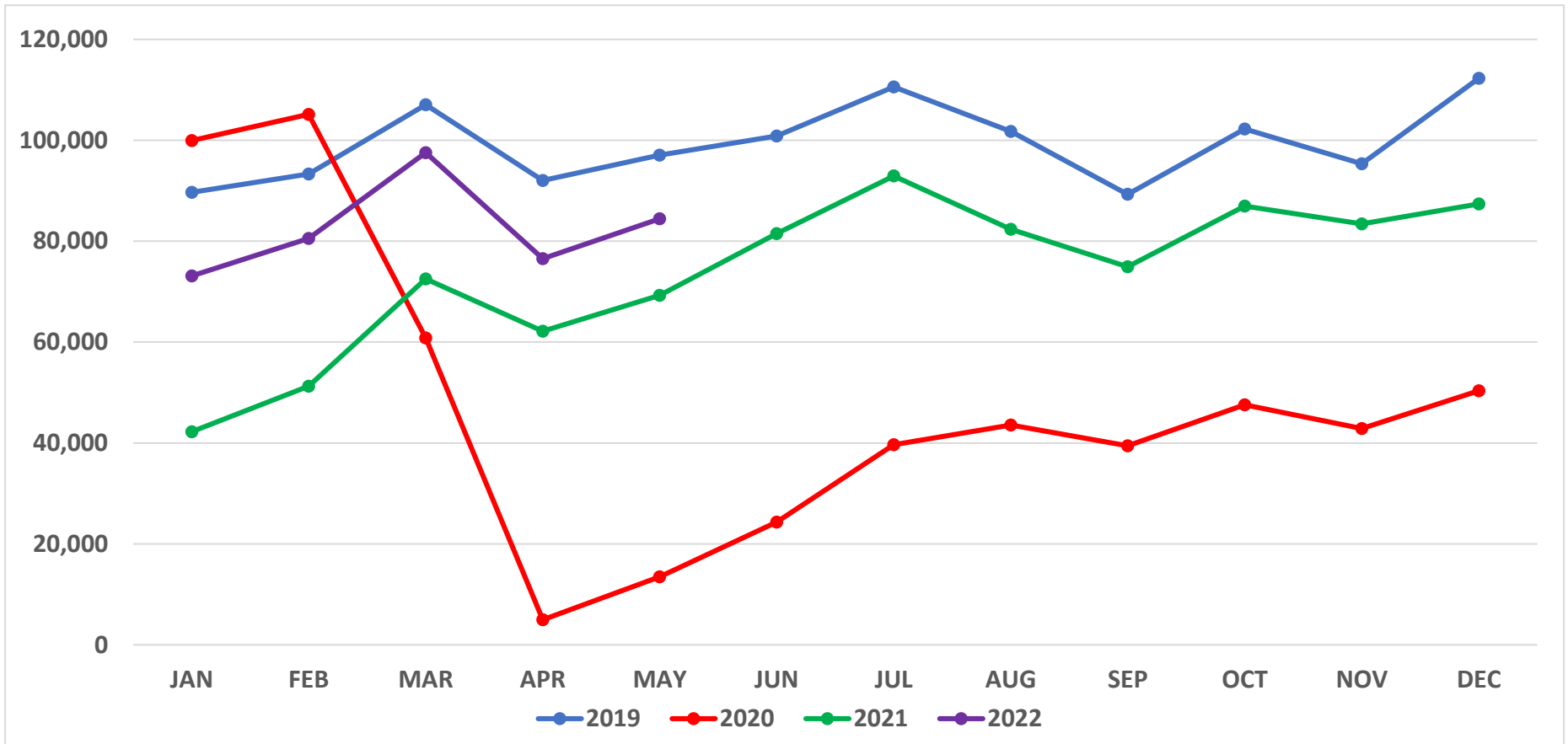
13-Jun-22

	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	YTD 2018	YTD 2017	YTD 2016	YTD 2015	YTD 2014	YTD 2013	Difference	% Change
Bismarck	96,439	75,220	71,709	124,561	109,428	107,475	106,192	102,173	95,602	100,575	<b>21,219</b>	<b>28.21%</b>
Devils Lake	2,661	2,076	1,605	2,447	2,468	2,795	2,431	1,686	177	973	<b>585</b>	<b>28.18%</b>
Dickinson	8,109	4,656	5,638	8,878	8,382	7,169	6,601	18,683	20,681	7,095	<b>3,453</b>	<b>74.16%</b>
Fargo	184,128	132,142	120,865	190,863	174,801	166,963	163,783	185,455	189,756	166,637	<b>51,986</b>	<b>39.34%</b>
Grand Forks	40,062	25,427	25,432	48,781	46,013	49,225	57,917	62,440	64,698	63,791	<b>14,635</b>	<b>57.56%</b>
Jamestown	4,901	3,455	2,634	4,177	4,983	5,372	4,323	2,928	135	1,003	<b>1,446</b>	<b>41.85%</b>
Minot	55,684	42,503	36,824	65,489	61,560	57,291	63,552	79,278	91,340	89,286	<b>13,181</b>	<b>31.01%</b>
Williston	20,273	11,956	19,621	34,009	28,740	27,157	27,412	49,330	46,099	35,148	<b>8,317</b>	<b>69.56%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>412,257</b>	<b>297,435</b>	<b>284,328</b>	<b>479,205</b>	<b>436,375</b>	<b>423,447</b>	<b>432,211</b>	<b>501,973</b>	<b>508,488</b>	<b>464,508</b>	<b>114,822</b>	<b>38.60%</b>
Commercial (BIS-FAR-GFK-MOT-WIL)	396,586	287,248	274,451	463,703	420,542	408,111	418,856	478,676	487,495	455,437	<b>109,338</b>	<b>38.06%</b>
Regional (DVL-DIK-JMS)	15,671	10,187	9,877	15,502	15,833	15,336	13,355	23,297	20,993	9,071	<b>5,484</b>	<b>53.83%</b>



## North Dakota Airline Passenger Boarding Trends

(2019 - 2022)

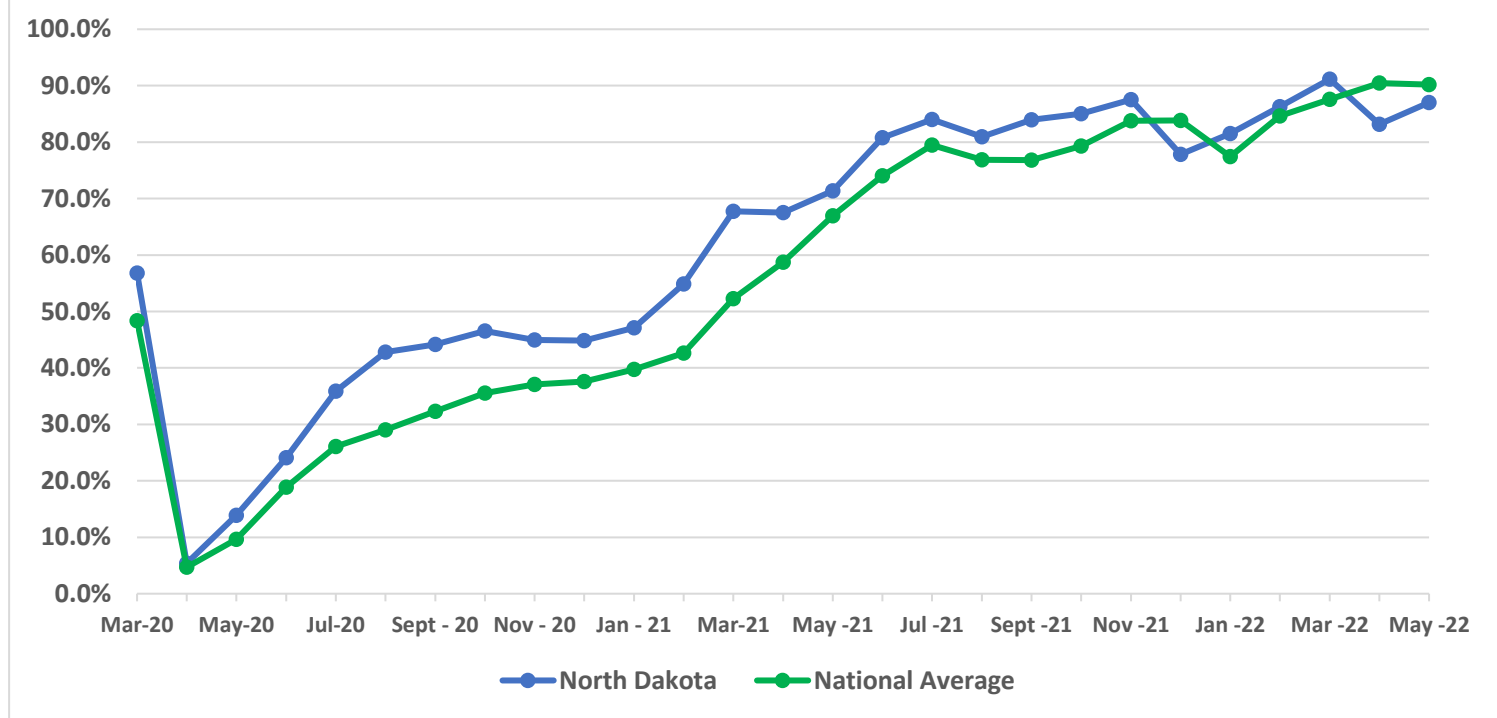




## Airline Enplanement Monthly Retention Rates North Dakota versus National Average *(Comparing each month to the same month in 2019)*

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%
Mar - 22	91.2%	87.6%
Apr - 22	83.2%	90.5%
May - 22	87.0%	90.2%



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