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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aviation Workforce Shortages Create Challenges for the Industry

North Dakota's eight commercial service airports posted almost 75,000 airline passenger boardings during the month of September 2021. This is a 90% increase from September 2020 but is still 16% below September 2019's pre-pandemic airline boarding counts.

Over the last four consecutive months, North Dakota's airports have been able to sustain passenger demand between 15% - 20% below the 2019 pre-pandemic levels. This is an encouraging sign; however, known challenges exist within the industry that have so far prevented a full recovery in passenger numbers. Airlines have cited an inability to add additional flights due to staff shortages and the industry has still not yet seen a strong recovery in business and government travel due to persisting COVID-19 concerns.

North Dakota also experiences challenges associated with travel restrictions at the Canadian border which impedes the ability for airline passenger growth to occur from the travel of Canadian citizens. The announcement that the Canadian border will re-open to non-essential travel in early November is a step in the right direction to help encourage economic growth within the state's tourism and travel industry.

"Holiday travel is right around the corner and we hope to see the aviation industry rise to the challenge and ensure an appropriate workforce is available to accommodate the needs and air service demands of the flying public," stated Kyle Wanner, Executive Director of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission. "Aviation workforce shortages also create opportunities and provides encouragement for our youth to consider a career in the aviation sector. Pilots, aircraft mechanics, and unmanned aircraft operators are just a few of the exciting career options that are projected to continue to be in high demand."



September Boardings Comparison of Commercial Service

Prepared by: N.D. Aeronautics Commission

	Sept 2021	Sept 2020	Sept 2019	Sept 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2016	Sept 2015	Sept 2014	Sept 2013	Sept 2012	Difference 2021/2020	% Change 2020 to 2021	Difference 2021/2019	% Change 2019 to 2021
Bismarck	18,230	10,249	23,891	22,561	21,141	21,802	20,234	17,088	17,806	19,525	7,981	77.87%	(5,661)	-23.70%
Devils Lake	504	277	563	410	412	486	390	214	269	304	227	81.95%	(59)	-10.48%
Dickinson	1625	786	2,020	1,772	1,511	1,383	3,498	5,405	4,022	1,824	839	106.74%	(395)	-19.55%
Fargo	32,665	16,449	34,135	29,825	27,656	30,247	31,121	33,487	28,425	26,038	16,216	98.58%	(1,470)	-4.31%
Grand Forks	5,639	3,144	8,157	8,164	8,446	8,853	9,321	8,766	9,568	9,362	2,495	79.36%	(2,518)	-30.87%
Jamestown	934	385	824	880	969	930	589	426	253	171	549	142.60%	110	13.35%
Minot	10,094	6,821	12,496	11,340	10,867	11,777	13,868	16,899	17,250	19,021	3,273	47.98%	(2,402)	-19.22%
Williston	5,252	1,340	7,201	5,987	5,587	5,510	8,313	10,418	7,900	2,277	3,912	291.94%	(1,949)	-27.07%
TOTALS	74,943	39,451	89,287	80,939	76,589	80,988	87,334	92,703	85,493	78,522	35,492	89.96%	(14,344)	-16.07%



YTD Boardings Comparison of Commercial Service Airports

Through September

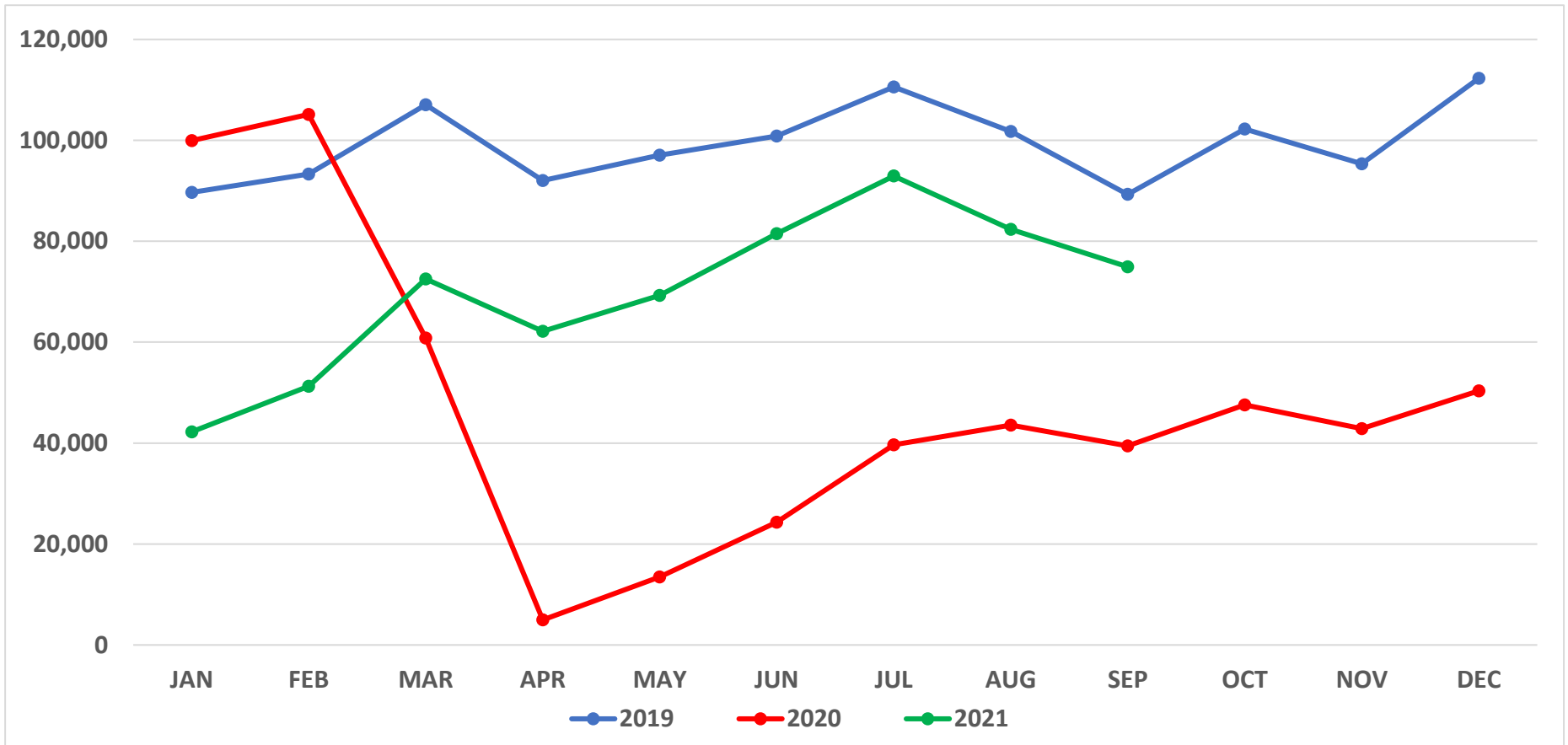
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18-Oct-21

	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	YTD 2018	YTD 2017	YTD 2016	YTD 2015	YTD 2014	YTD 2013	YTD 2012	Difference	% Change
Bismarck	155,175	111,948	229,751	206,744	204,849	197,064	189,300	174,293	177,396	173,112	43,227	38.61%
Devils Lake	4,627	2,884	5,104	4,839	5,105	4,776	3,319	1,441	2,014	2,217	1,743	60.44%
Dickinson	11,575	8,731	17,358	16,194	13,629	12,292	33,345	42,625	22,186	18,475	2,844	32.57%
Fargo	282,475	181,331	347,521	314,238	294,935	296,395	332,243	340,689	300,699	277,015	101,144	55.78%
Grand Forks	48,391	35,242	85,414	81,843	84,877	96,608	105,974	106,046	109,013	100,316	13,149	37.31%
Jamestown	7,721	4,223	8,295	9,246	9,848	8,360	5,615	1,727	1,988	3,049	3,498	82.83%
Minot	89,057	61,662	122,068	113,044	106,568	113,894	136,571	163,320	162,917	165,977	27,395	44.43%
Williston	30,039	25,273	66,208	54,270	50,559	50,847	84,428	86,091	67,558	23,824	4,766	18.86%
TOTALS	629,060	431,294	881,719	800,418	770,370	780,236	890,795	916,232	843,771	763,985	197,766	45.85%
Commercial (BIS-FAR-GFK-MOT-WIL)	605,137	415,456	850,962	770,139	741,788	754,808	848,516	870,439	817,583	740,244	189,681	45.66%
Regional (DVL-DIK-JMS)	23,923	15,838	30,757	30,279	28,582	25,428	42,279	45,793	26,188	23,741	8,085	51.05%



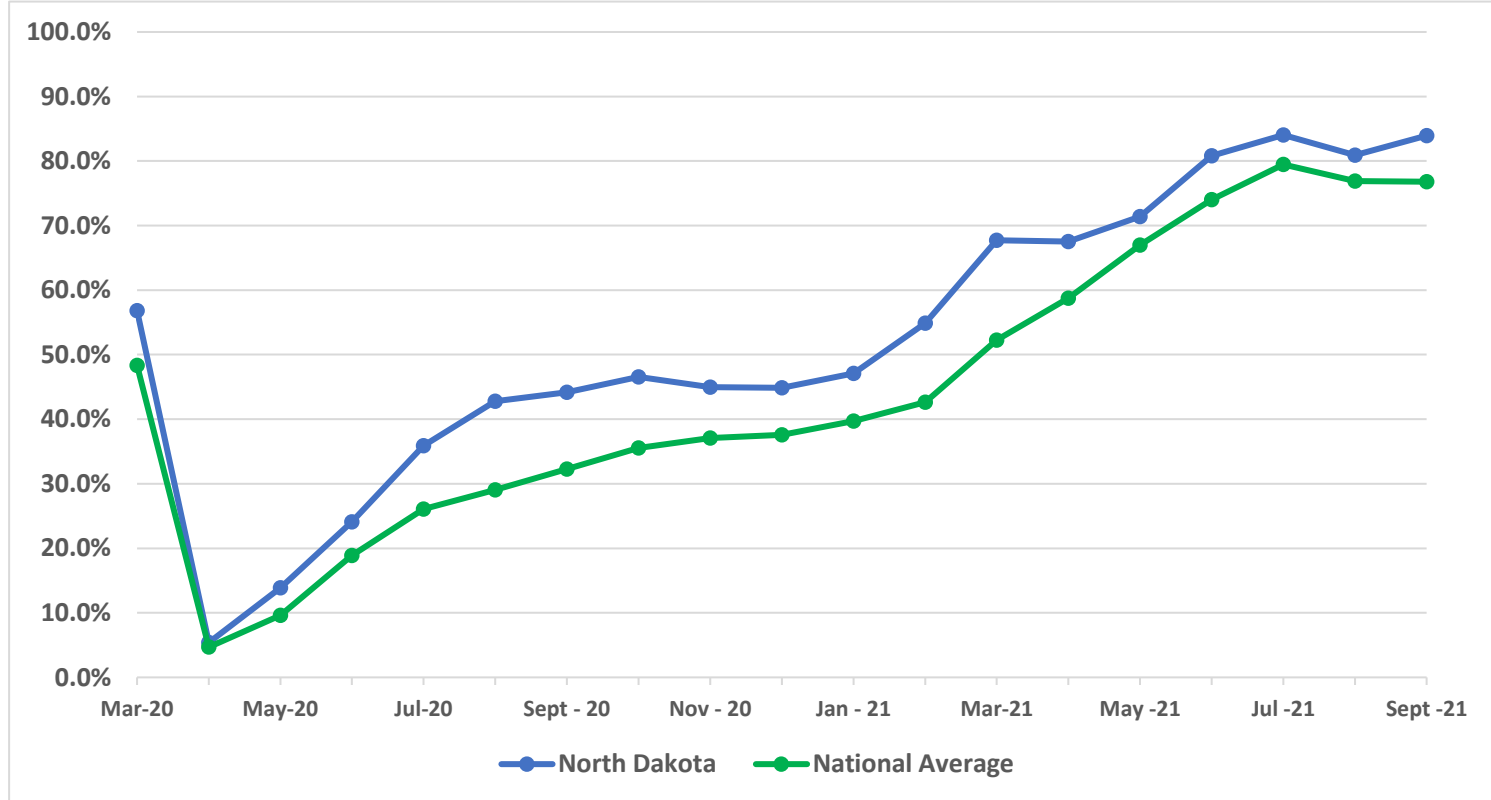
North Dakota Airline Passenger Boarding Trends (2019 - 2021)





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	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%



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