



Regional Airport Passenger Numbers Getting Stronger

RAPID CITY, SD, 08/10/2020 - The Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP) had record breaking passenger loads in both January and February, putting the Airport on track for a fourth record breaking year in a row. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, passengers loads began dropping to a low of 93% in April.

Passenger traffic at the Rapid City Regional Airport has been slowly growing since April, when enplanements hit an all-time low of 1,486 (April, 2019 enplanements were 21,414). In May, enplanements increased to 5,807 and in June, increased even further to 11,119. July enplanements increased another 79.17% to 19,922. Although the enplanements are well below the record setting numbers in July of 2019, 44,127 passenger enplanements, airport officials are pleased with the upward trend. According to a recent article from Reuters, TSA passenger screening is still down as much as 70% nationwide. Rapid City Regional Airport has managed to stay slightly ahead of the national average.

Rapid City Regional Airport's year-to-date enplanements are down 52.1% under the record 2019 year. However, when considering the five-year average for year-to-date, they are down 44.1%.

“The July passenger numbers are showing promise for the recovery. Air Service to the Black Hills region is extremely important to our economy, tourism and economic development. Although we may not be near normal yet, we are optimistic that August numbers will be even better yet. Most importantly, we want travelers to be safe and healthy.” said Airport Executive Director Patrick Dame.

Rapid City Regional Airport is the only full-service commercial airport for the Black Hills, serving several major cities throughout the United States. Our mission is to provide a safe, environmentally responsible and fiscally self-sustainable operation ensuring high quality services and facilities. Our vision is to provide world class transportation service enhancing economic growth.

RAP currently offers year round service to Dallas, Denver, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Phoenix-Mesa, and Salt Lake City; with seasonal service to Charlotte and Chicago, Houston, San Francisco and New York/Newark.

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