

Appleton Airport Reports Strong March Travel Results

Appleton Leads Wisconsin Airports in Return to Travel

APPLETON, Wis. (April 21, 2021) – [Appleton Airport](#) saw a 23% increase in travelers compared to March of 2020. As northeast Wisconsin travelers begin to reclaim a sense of normalcy after one full year of pandemic restrictions, this growth is seen as a promising start to the year ahead for travel. With March typically one of the airport's busiest months in a non-pandemic year, the airport was thrilled to see over 57,000 travelers passing through its terminals this past month as travelers headed for warm, sunny destinations during Spring Break 2021 - a number comparable to pre-covid passenger counts.

In addition, all four airlines reported double-digit passenger increases, compared to March 2020; American Airlines posted a 107% increase. American added a daily flight to Charlotte, NC, in November 2020, and offers easy one-stop connections to Florida and Caribbean destinations. "We're seeing strong, pent-up travel demand for all our destinations," said Abe Weber, Appleton Airport Director, "Interest in travel to Florida was especially high this past month due to Allegiant offering six flights a week to Orlando. Seeing all the families and small children return to travel is really fun for our staff."

Looking forward, Appleton is proud to be the only Wisconsin airport to increase flights this spring, as compared to the airline industry's peak year of 2019. In May for example, Appleton shows a 3.2% flight increase.

| Airport | Flights May 2021 | Flights May 2019 | Flights +/- | % Flights +/- |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Appleton | 606 | 587 | 19 | 3% |
| Eau Claire | 62 | 62 | - | 0% |
| Rhineland | 62 | 62 | - | 0% |
| La Crosse | 179 | 207 | (28) | (14%) |
| Green Bay | 444 | 548 | (104) | (19%) |
| Central Wisconsin | 235 | 318 | (83) | (26%) |
| Milwaukee | 2,024 | 3,044 | (1,020) | (34%) |
| Madison | 823 | 1,361 | (538) | (40%) |

Source: Cirium Airline Schedule Data

In addition to its growth among Wisconsin-based airports, Boyd Group International, a leading aviation forecasting firm, has forecast Appleton as one of its Top 12 fastest growing airports for 2021, the only Midwest airport to make the list.

Weber believes that Appleton’s manufacturing base of essential industries, and the resulting full employment of the region, has kept people traveling throughout the pandemic. “We are lucky to serve a community that values its employees and businesses.”

2021 Airport Growth Leaders

| Rank | Airport | City, State | 2019 | 2021 | 2019-2021 Growth |
|------|------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| 1 | SRQ | Sarasota, FL | 967,346 | 1,572,621 | 62.6% |
| 2 | ACK | Nantucket, MA | 133,994 | 199,371 | 48.8% |
| 3 | MYR | Myrtle Beach, SC | 1,304,562 | 1,824,958 | 39.9% |
| 4 | ABI | Abilene, TX | 83,523 | 113,043 | 35.3% |
| 5 | COS | Colorado Springs, CO | 842,683 | 1,122,750 | 33.2% |
| 6 | EYW | Key West, FL | 495,146 | 656,431 | 32.6% |
| 7 | VPS | Destin-Fort Walton Beach, FL | 806,211 | 1,059,537 | 31.4% |
| 8 | JAN | Jackson, MS | 525,626 | 632,170 | 20.3% |
| 9 | FAT | Fresno, CA | 989,293 | 1,187,374 | 20.0% |
| 10 | BZN | Bozeman, MT | 785,706 | 939,395 | 19.6% |
| 11 | ATW | Appleton, WI | 380,879 | 448,194 | 17.7% |
| 12 | ABE | Allentown, PA | 450,004 | 510,208 | 13.4% |
| 13 | MFR | Medford, OR | 522,559 | 585,255 | 12.0% |
| 14 | SJU | San Juan, PR | 4,523,571 | 4,924,341 | 8.9% |
| 15 | BOI | Boise, ID | 2,059,935 | 2,216,000 | 7.6% |
| 16 | SAV | Savannah, GA | 1,499,211 | 1,606,642 | 7.2% |
| 17 | MSO | Missoula, MT | 445,402 | 473,503 | 6.3% |
| 18 | PSP | Palm Springs, CA | 1,287,474 | 1,356,421 | 5.4% |
| 19 | RSW | Fort Myers, FL | 5,584,927 | 5,877,428 | 5.2% |
| 20 | JAC | Jackson Hole, WY | 437,975 | 458,047 | 4.6% |
| 21 | BIL | Billings, MT | 474,762 | 496,465 | 4.6% |
| 22 | FAI | Fairbanks, AK | 280,394 | 292,816 | 4.4% |
| 23 | GJT | Grand Junction, CO | 268,029 | 275,828 | 2.9% |
| 24 | GTR | Columbus, MS | 49,827 | 51,062 | 2.5% |
| 25 | BGR | Bangor, ME | 300,281 | 307,671 | 2.5% |

Source: 2021 enplanement projections, Boyd Group International Aviation Forecasting & Consulting

As airlines see continued strong demand out of Appleton, area travelers can expect more nonstop flights in the future.

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About Appleton International Airport

[Appleton International Airport](#) connects our community to the world through American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, and Allegiant Air. In addition to offering nonstop service to 14 destinations, Appleton Airport connects to five major international airport hubs from which travelers can fly to almost anywhere in the world. Using Appleton Airport, travelers can safely and more conveniently get to their destination and home again, leaving them more time for what really matters. Visit atwairport.com to learn more.