



Airport Sees Record Numbers for Jazz Fest

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 9, 2007, New Orleans – Jazz Fest and the demand brought on by the Risk & Insurance Management Society (RIMS) convention resulted in increased air service at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

Jazz Fest has always created a surge in travel. This year, one airline responded to that surge by increasing flights to accommodate the crowds coming to New Orleans to enjoy the annual musical celebration.

Reports from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on the total number of passengers who were processed through security over Jazz Fest place the Mondays after each weekend in the top 5 departure days since Hurricane Katrina. On a normal Sunday prior to Katrina, the Airport saw approximately 17,500 passengers depart the city.

#1	May 7, 2007	Jazz Fest (2 nd weekend)	15,868
#2	March 27, 2007	Cardiologist	14,996
#3	November 13, 2006	Realtors	14,695
#4	April 30, 2007	Jazz Fest (1 st weekend)	14,490
#5	February 9, 2007	UK Charters/Cruise	14,422

While the RIMS conference wasn't in the top 5 of the Airport's busiest days, it provided a nice boost between the Jazz Fest weekends. On Thursday, May 3, following RIMS, the TSA processed 14,243 people through the checkpoints making it a very busy 12 days at the Airport.

TSA reported some wait times in excess of 20 minutes over the period. Passengers are encouraged to arrive at the airport at least 90 minutes prior to their departures due to that possibility.

Sean Hunter, Interim Director of Aviation stated, "We are delighted to see that passenger numbers continue to climb toward pre-K levels. This is a key indicator of our region's economic recovery. We commend the airlines for their role in the recovery. They continue to add flights to their daily schedules and some respond to peak demand periods with additional flights. This air service is essential for our business, leisure and convention activities to rebound. A special word of thanks to Continental Airlines for the tremendous number of supplemental flights they've added over the past several months. It's great to see that this has been a win-win for our community and the airlines. By all reports, the additional flights have all been sold out."

Currently, Armstrong International has service to 32 destinations on 110 daily flight departures with 13,364 seats. This number will increase to 37 destinations on 117 flights with 13,869 seats on Monday, May 14 when ExpressJet adds 7 flights to their New Orleans schedule.

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