



## Airport Sees Record Numbers for Jazz Fest

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 7, 2008, New Orleans – Jazz Fest resulted in increased air service at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

Jazz Fest has always created a surge in travel. Again this year, airlines responded to that surge by increasing flights to accommodate the crowds coming to New Orleans to enjoy the annual musical celebration. Most notable were the additions by Continental Airlines whose combination of extra flights and larger aircraft amounted to over 5,700 additional seats.

Reports from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on the total number of passengers who were processed through security over Jazz Fest placed 4 of the Jazz Fest days in the top 10 departure days since Hurricane Katrina.

1.	January 8, 2008	BCS Game	19,188
2.	May 5, 2008	Jazz Fest (2 <sup>nd</sup> weekend)	17,937
3.	January 2, 2008	Sugar Bowl	17,292
4.	May 4, 2008	Jazz Fest (2 <sup>nd</sup> weekend)	16,868
5.	February 18, 2008	NBA All-Star Game	16,750
6.	April 28, 2008	Jazz Fest (1 <sup>st</sup> weekend)	16,584
7.	March 20, 2008	Spring Break	16,371
8.	May 6, 2008	Jazz Fest (2 <sup>nd</sup> weekend)	16,284
9.	March 19, 2008	Spring Break	16,100
10.	February 1, 2008	Mardi Gras (Friday Before)	15,973

TSA reported several brief periods during the peak days when the wait times for one of the checkpoints exceeded 20 minutes. The average wait time throughout the Jazz Fest travel period was 4 minutes. The Airport attributes the low wait times to the fact that passengers were asked to arrive early and did so. The early arrivals spread the loads more evenly throughout the day as passenger arrivals were staggered.

Sean Hunter, Director of Aviation stated, “The strong passenger numbers this year reflect the resurgence of major events and leisure travel in this market. It is very encouraging to see such significant growth since 2006. We want to acknowledge the tremendous role of the airlines in the success of these major events. Every extra seat they added brought one more visitor to our region and every visitor had an impact on our economic recovery”

Currently, Armstrong International has service to 38 destinations on 138 daily flight departures with approximately 16,000 seats.

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