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# Airport reaches 1 million passengers in 2013, new flights likely

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Passengers wait to board planes during Spring Break at the Des Moines International Airport / Register file photo

Written by Marco Santana

Don Smithey says Iowa's economic growth, expansion projects by large companies and future data center projects will mean good things for his airport.

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For now, it means the Des Moines International Airport continues to outrun 2012's record pace, surpassing 1 million passengers for the year in June.

"I don't see it stopping, nor do I want to," the airport's executive director said. "The economy in local areas has done nicely and it continues to grow."

Air travel in Des Moines jumped 5.6 percent in June, when compared to a year ago. The airport saw 202,660 travelers in June.

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Year-to-date, the airport reached 1 million passengers, with a total of 1,086,980 people going through the gate. That's 7.4 percent more than last year.

Last year the airport surpassed 2 million passengers for the first time in its history. If the pace continues, 2013 will be the second year.

"Things are coming together to make it a great area for the airlines," Smithey said. "It's a good market for them. They can make money here."

The continued success of the airport has meant airlines have taken a look at expanding services in Des Moines.

In March, Southwest Airlines announced it would add a Las Vegas route to its Des Moines flights in September. Frontier Airlines will offer a flight to Denver that same month.

In addition, Smithey said, Allegiant Airlines is considering another Florida destination.

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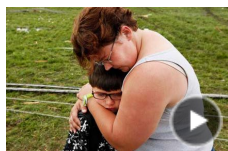
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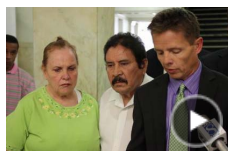
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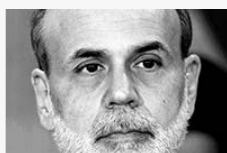
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