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Des Moines airport on track to top 2 million travelers

Fewer passengers ride in September, but a new yearly record is likely.

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Written by **Marco Santana**

Monthly passenger traffic at Des Moines airport dropped last month but remained ahead of 2011, keeping the airport on pace to surpass 2 million passengers in a year for the first time ever.

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The airport saw roughly 163,000 passengers in September, according to numbers released by airport officials. While that number is down about 23,000 passengers from August, it still brought total passengers for 2012 past the 1.5 million mark after nine months.

The 2.3 percent year-over-year increase in passengers in September represents the smallest jump this year.

September marked the first month during which Southwest Airlines served the Des Moines airport.

However, the airline debuted on the final day of the month and claimed 589 passengers on its first day. Delta and United airlines remained the airport's largest carriers, in terms of passenger market share.

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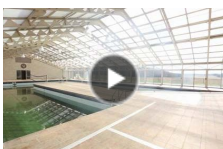
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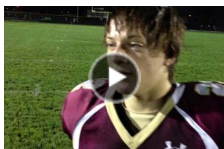
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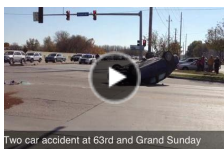


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