



Improvement Status

The number of passenger enplanements at an airport is directly correlated to the number of flights departing from that airport. Generally, the more departing flights from the airport, the more passenger seats available, which result in more passengers that could board an airplane at that airport (enplanements) and vice versa for passenger deplanements. The airline industry is an extremely competitive market that drives the business decisions of the airlines, such as, determining how many daily flights, flight destinations, and the type of equipment that will be used for those flights.

Over the last several years, passenger enplanements at the three NH commercial service airports have decreased primarily due to the most recent economic recession and rising fuel costs. All three airports have worked closely with the airlines to maintain and/or increase the existing flights and destinations available to New Hampshire citizens.

The Portsmouth International Airport at Pease is currently focusing on securing an airline to operate from the airport. The Lebanon Municipal Airport currently has one airline, Cape Air that operates to the New York Metropolitan area and Boston Logan Airport. Manchester-Boston Regional Airport currently has four airlines serving the airport: Delta, Southwest, United Airlines and U.S. Airlines. Since 2005, passenger traffic at the Manchester Boston- Regional Airport has decreased, as a result of system wide airline capacity reductions.

The outlook for the airlines economically is uncertain, however we know that the passenger enplanement numbers will continue to fluctuate until the economy improves and/or the market changes. The NHDOT, Bureau of Aeronautics works closely with Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, Portsmouth International Airport at Pease, and Lebanon Municipal Airport in programming FAA and state funds to ensure their facilities meet or exceed the safety and capacity requirements expected by the airline industry and the flying public. It is expected given the economic climate, air ridership numbers will remain the same through the next calendar year.

Increase Mobility

Air Ridership

Purpose:

In New Hampshire, there are three airports that have been traditionally served by the commercial airline industry, Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, Portsmouth International Airport at Pease, and Lebanon Municipal Airport. A passenger enplanement is a revenue passenger that boarded a commercial airliner. Similarly, a passenger deplanement is a revenue passenger that deplanes a commercial airliner. Individually, passenger enplanements are a measure of the health of each airport as they are directly related to airport revenue and airport economic activity. Collectively, passenger enplanements are a measure of the health of the airline industry in New Hampshire and of the overall economic activity of the region. In addition, passenger enplanement data is utilized by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for calculating the apportionment of FAA Airport Improvement Program funding throughout the United States.

Data:

Each year, airports report their annual number of enplanements to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the previous calendar year period. The USDOT posts this data for the public view at the following website:

http://www.transtats.bts.gov/DL_SelectFields.asp?Table_ID=293&DB_Short_Name=Air%20Carriers

There are many factors affecting the number of passenger enplanements in New Hampshire such as the strength of the national and regional economy,

the health of the airline industry, and the competition for passenger market share. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), Bureau of Aeronautics does not have the capability to influence these factors. The NHDOT, Bureau of Aeronautics can influence the capital improvements funded for these airports and can provide outreach, especially to state agencies, to encourage more air ridership at these airports.

Passenger Enplanements and Deplanements at New Hampshire Airports

