

# Des Moines airport hits 2 million passenger mark, on pace for another record

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For the second consecutive year, more than 2 million travelers have passed through the Des Moines International Airport, which is on pace to break another ridership record.

Some 179,846 passengers landed or took off from Des Moines in November, pushing the year total to 2.02 million, according to a report released Thursday.



Register file photo


Ridership is up 5.6 percent compared to the same time period in 2012. Last year, the airport welcomed more than 2 million passengers for the first time in its history. As recently as 2010 passenger numbers hovered around 1.7 million.

The number of passengers in November was up 0.8 percent from November 2012. Airport Executive Director Don Smithey attributed the modest increase to weather delays and Thanksgiving's late spot on the calendar, which resulted in some travelers returning from holiday trips in December.

Weight, on the other hand, continues to decline. The weight of cargo passing through the airport dropped 9 percent in November compared to the same month in 2012 and was down 4.3 percent year-to-date, according to the report.

Smithey said Amazon, Ebay and other retailers have added distribution centers that in some cases make highway and rail transportation more feasible.

**Joel Aschbrenner**



Joel Aschbrenner covers real estate, downtown and air travel for the Des Moines Register. He can be reached at [jaschbrenn@dmreg.com](mailto:jaschbrenn@dmreg.com). [@joelaschbrenner](https://twitter.com/joelaschbrenner).

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