

News Release



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ST. PETERSBURG-CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 2008 PASSENGER TRAFFIC HOLDS STEADY

St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) is pleased to report 2008 passenger traffic has held steady with 742,380 passengers in 2008 compared to 747,369 in 2007. Despite the economic downturn and airline cutbacks, St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport is maintaining its passenger numbers with the growth of Allegiant Air, one of the very few profitable domestic commercial airlines, as well as a 26% increase in international (Canadian) traffic. Allegiant's passengers grew by 22% in 2008, as well as expanding their service in Tampa Bay to 20 non-stop destinations.

It is also significant to note the stability of passenger numbers in light of the temporary loss of USA3000, who previously held a 40% market share at PIE. The return of USA3000 Airlines on December 18th with Chicago service, after their announced departure in August, was celebrated by the airport and many of the 7000 passengers that signed letters of support for their return. In addition, the seasonal return of Canadian carriers Sunwing Airlines and Air Transat Holidays was a bright spot for the airport.

Noah Lagos, Airport Director stated "Maintaining our passenger numbers in this climate is a strong statement about Allegiant's appeal in the marketplace and our customers' loyalty to the convenience of St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport."

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