

Okaloosa County News Release

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Northwest Florida Regional Airport (VPS) Has Record Breaking Month.

Northwest Florida Regional Airport located in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida accommodated a record **96,788 passengers** in the month of April, far exceeding any previous monthly traffic level and has set a new record for monthly utilization. The amount of travelers utilizing the airport last month was a **43% increase** from April 2010 and eclipses the highest historical monthly tally set back in July 2001 by 13%. ***April was the busiest month in the Airport's fifty-four year history*** and the facility is well poised going into the summer travel season.

"We are especially grateful to our newest carrier, **Vision Airlines**, and their innovation in creating a hub," stated Chairman James Campbell, Okaloosa County Commissioners. All five airlines at the airport reported increased amounts of activity, and the overall increase is largely the result of new, non-stop air service to fifteen cities currently served by Vision Airlines.

"Our entire community is thrilled to experience this **dramatic increase in passenger numbers** and the activity is a reflection that all five of our airlines are doing extremely well," stated Airport Director Greg Donovan. "Vision Airlines has done a remarkable job in developing entirely new ways to discover Florida's Emerald Coast with their low fares and connection opportunities starting in June." Donovan stated that with current fuel prices, it is "literally cheaper to fly than to drive."

"These are **unprecedented numbers** and we anticipate further growth as we get into the summer months ahead." stated Airport's Business Development Manager Mike Stenson. The airport has scheduled non-stop service to a total of twenty-four cities on American Eagle, Delta Airlines, Continental Airlines, US Airways, and is a hub for Vision Airlines. New non-stop service to Las Vegas, Fort Lauderdale, St. Louis, Memphis/Tunica, and Lafayette will begin June 1. For further information, please visit www.flyvps.com. **Northwest Florida Regional Airport (VPS) is a joint-use facility established on Eglin AFB in 1957.**

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