



2006 SHOWS SIGNIFICANT GAINS

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Representatives of the Des Moines International Airport (DSM) have released passenger and cargo totals for Calendar Year 2006. Last year was the second best enplanement year in the Airport's history.

The airlines operating out of DSM reported boarding (enplaning) 978,907 passengers in 2006. **That is a 3% increase over 2005, or 27,303 more enplanements.** A total of 1,959,393 passengers moved into and out of the airport during the year. Cargo handling increased over 2005 totals to more than **205 million pounds.**

The most recent US DOT data shows that the average airfare out of DSM is within \$31 of Omaha's average fare and within \$42 of Kansas City's. During the last three years, as enplanements have increased, central Iowans have seen the average airfare decrease at DSM.

Kansas City's *InfoZine* reported on January 23 that Kansas City International Airport officials claim their enplanements are up because people from Des Moines, Omaha and Wichita drive there to save '**an average of \$100 per roundtrip ticket**'. DSM Airport Spokesperson Roy Criss observes, "That's curious. It appears to me that more and more central Iowans each year are discovering that it's not worth the drive."

Here is the link to that story:

<http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/20413/>