



Airport expects normal passenger volumes for Labor Day travel period

INDIANAPOLIS—Passengers departing from Indianapolis International Airport (IND) this Labor Day weekend aren't expected to experience extra-long wait times to clear security or have difficulty finding a convenient parking spot.

Although the current economy is very favorable for savvy consumers looking for deals on air travel, an estimated one million fewer fliers are expected to travel by air today through next Wednesday according to the Air Transport Association (ATA).

NATIONAL TRENDS

ATA forecasts 16 million passengers will fly worldwide on U.S. airlines between Sept. 2 and Sept. 9 for the Labor Day holiday, which equates to an overall decline of 3.5 percent compared to 2008.

The unstable global economy and volatile aircraft fuel prices are contributing to fewer flights being scheduled and less new air service being offered.

Despite these factors, consumers will find ticket prices have dropped nearly 17 percent compared to the same time a year ago, according to industry analysts. In fact, some airlines are touting round-trip Labor Day deals under \$100.

"Last gasp" summer vacation packages with special rates for hotels and family-oriented attractions are also being advertised for many popular destinations.

LOCAL IMPACT

In Indianapolis, Labor Day is not a traditionally heavy travel period for the airport. In addition, the holiday falls later on the calendar this year, a factor which might impact family vacations.

Although the airport itself won't be crowded, the flights leaving IND should be at or near full seating capacity.

In 2007, nearly 12,000 passengers left the city on the day after the holiday. That number dropped to about 11,000 in 2008. This year, preliminary forecasts indicate 11,800 passengers will depart IND, an increase that nears the same level achieved two years ago.

As always, passengers are advised to allow ample time for parking, check-in, and security screening. They are also advised to explore the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site at www.tsa.gov for the latest travel tips and advisories.

INTERVIEW REQUESTS

Assignment editors and reporters requesting on-camera interviews are encouraged to make known their requests by noon, Thursday, Sept. 3. As always, the Indianapolis Airport Authority appreciates the courtesy of knowing when reporters and photographers will be on airport property.