

## Airport traffic climbs to record high in 2005

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(January 24, 2006) — Airport traffic reached an all-time high at Greater Rochester International Airport last year, according to a new report.

About 1.45 million passengers departed from the airport, up 6 percent from 2004 and 17 percent from 2003, said County Executive Maggie Brooks.

Airline travel is up nationally, with other airports — including Buffalo's — also reporting record numbers. Additional service from such low-fare carriers as AirTran and JetBlue also likely boosted numbers.

Brooks credited improvements made to the airport.

"Certainly, the improvements we have made transforming the airport into a modern, state-of-the-art facility have made the flying experience positive for travelers," Brooks said.

Highlights include opening a new six-lane central security checkpoint and installing Interpretype, a technology to assist deaf and hard-of-hearing passengers.

The airport generates about \$500 million a year for the local economy, Brooks said.

Town & Country Travel in Pittsford had a 15 percent increase in business in 2005, said Don Johnson, president. That's largely because of increased business travel and more discount airlines in the market, he said.

"The businesses in this area — such as Birds Eye and CooperVision — are doing well and they're traveling more," Johnson said.

Many businesses are tapping into new markets, such as the Middle East and Asia, he said, and leisure travel is up as well.

"After a shaky last three to four years, we're definitely seeing more travel," Johnson said.

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