More deals, destinations



FILE / Staff

Southwest Airlines has helped boost passenger traffic at Greenville-Spartanburg Airport.

GSP passenger traffic up 48% over last year

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The Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport reported passenger traffic was up for the third consecutive month in May.

GSP experienced increases beginning in March, when Southwest Airlines and Vision Airlines initiated service at the airport. March passenger traffic totaled 140,000, climbing to more than 155,000 in April. In May, 82,626 passengers departed from GSP and 80,217 arrived at the airport. That is up 48.7 percent from a year ago, making it the second best May in airport history.

Lower fares and more destinations coupled with the start of summer have boosted passenger interest and traffic. Across the board, almost every airline operating out of GSP saw a significant increase in passenger enplanements, according to GSP.

The increase in traffic "is due to a lot of different factors," said Rosylin Weston, GSP spokeswoman.

"The Upstate is responding strongly to lower fares and other changes" at GSP, she said. And "we are seeing a competitive response to Southwest from some if not all the airlines." That response includes not only fares but larger aircraft and more seats.

The airport now has three low-fare carriers providing various levels of service. Southwest provides service to multiple destinations while Allegiant Air and Vision provide service to Florida destinations.