



Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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McCarran reports busiest month ever for taxi traffic

Last month McCarran International Airport tracked a total of 322,322 taxis loaded between its two terminals, making October 2011 the busiest single month for taxi traffic in the airport's 63-year history. The prior peak occurred in March 2006, when 315,805 cabs were loaded at the airport.

Prior to this year, McCarran's monthly taxi counts had exceeded the 300,000 mark just three times, most recently in May 2008. This year, however, the monthly taxi total has gone over that threshold three additional times: in March, May and again in October.

More than 2.8 million taxis were loaded at McCarran during the first 10 months of this year, a pace that, if maintained through December, would result in a new annual high of more than 3.2 million taxis loaded this year. Year to date, 2011's total was up 9 percent from a comparable period in 2010.

"We are pleased to see such robust numbers in our taxi traffic, since the number of cabs loaded is one strong indicator that the airlines are bringing an increasing number of visitors into Las Vegas," said Randall H. Walker, Clark County Director of Aviation. "Taxi numbers are up far more significantly than our passenger numbers, which have shown 4.5 percent growth year-to-date through September. This tells me the surge in taxi traffic not only reflects an increased amount of arriving travelers, but changes in the ground transportation preferences of many who arrive at McCarran."

Anecdotal evidence suggests some visitors are renting vehicles for portions of their stay, but using taxis to initially reach their hotels. Local convention attendance has recently increased, and business travelers tend to prefer taxis and often ride with just one person per cab. Separately, the number of taxis loaded at Terminal 2 has increased by 25 percent this year, aided by a surge of international arrivals on carriers such as AeroMexico, British Airways, Condor, Virgin Atlantic Airways, VivaAerobus, Volaris and WestJet, each of which inaugurated new or additional service in 2011.

The rising cab counts have not resulted in decreased activity in other ground transportation options from the airport. Business at the McCarran Rent-A-Car Center has increased steadily over the past 15 months, while the number of arriving passengers who utilized per capita shuttle buses and limousines remained flat through the first nine months of this year.



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