

2003 Top GA Airports in the U.S.

By W. Stephen Dennis



In a continuing effort to feature the importance of general aviation airports in supporting the needs of private air transportation in the United States, Aviation Resource Group International and Airport Journals present America's Top 100 General Aviation Airports.

A renewed relevance for America's business aviation airports is occurring as a direct result of the inability of the commercial airlines to provide the essential transportation required to meet the transportation needs of American business.

The financial problems of America's airlines, combined with the success of fractional aircraft ownership, have created a new era for general aviation. Notwithstanding the recent increase in what was once a sluggish economy, many of America's airports are continuing to grow.

Airport growth can be determined by any number of quantitative and qualitative measures. We will be examining the Top 100 GA Airports based upon the number of FAA reported itinerant operations.

The Top 100 GA Airports as ranked by operations represent an interesting mix throughout the continental U.S. In many cases, the top airports represent high-volume, business-aircraft activity (Van Nuys, VNY; Daytona, DAB; Orlando, SFB; Ft. Lauderdale Executive, FXE; and Phoenix, DVT); in contrast, many other airports achieved their presence elsewhere in the Top 100 (Teterboro, TEB; Orange County, SNA; and Dekalb-Peachtree Atlanta, PDK).

The top two contenders managed to hold the same position as 2002. The top two airports haven't changed over the last four years, with Van Nuys (VNY) and Daytona Beach (DAB) holding the first and second positions, respectively.

Elsewhere in the array of the TOP 100 GA Airports is perceptible movement. As an example, Phoenix (DVT) advanced from number 11 in 2000 to number 4 in 2002, and number 5 in 2003. There is also a measurable level of stability within the Top 10 positions with airports such as Denver Centennial (APA) ranking 4, 4, 6 and 10, from 2000 to 2003, respectively; Fort Lauderdale Executive (FXE) 3, 5, 3 and 4, from 2000 to 2003; and Long Beach (LGB) 7, 7, 7 and 8, from 2000 to 2003.

It has been said that "knowledge is power." To the extent that Airport Journals and ARGJ can provide more "knowledge" about the top airports serving general aviation, the business and recreational aviation community will become aware of those airports central to the success of the private/corporate aviation marketplace.

National D-Day Museum to Commemorate 60th Anniversary

The National D-Day Museum will commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Allied Invasion of Normandy, one of the most pivotal events of the 20th Century, on June 5 and 6.

The weekend events will range from invasion briefings and weather situations to rock climbing and Home Front activities for children. A special Sunrise Service Sunday morning will include a pause in remembrance of those who didn't make it back home to enjoy the victory they helped win.

Located in New Orleans, La., the museum opened its doors on the 56th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. Its fourth anniversary will be marked with a presentation of the museum's dramatic expansion plans.

June 5 activities will include living history encampments; hourly tactical briefings, in a simulated World War II briefing room; vintage military vehicles and firepower demonstrations.

That evening, the museum will host "An Evening of Wine and War," from 7 p.m. to midnight, a special night in the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion observing the "Decision to Go" that launched the invasion. In a recreation of a forties-era Parisian nightclub, guests will sample cuisine from some of New Orleans' top local restaurants paired with complimentary French wines, as Tony Green and Gypsy Jazz entertain the crowd, along with an Edith Piaf inspired vocalist, and dance the night away to the sounds of the 1940s. Advance tickets are \$75 for museum members and \$100 for the public. Tickets are available on the day of the event for \$125. For tickets and information, email info@ddaymuseum.org, or call Alexa Wells at (504) 527-6012, ext. 226.

On Sunday morning, June 6, commemorative events will begin at sunrise—just as our troops were landing on the Normandy beaches 60 years ago. That day, a new exhibition, "Normandy, D-Day Plus 60," will premiere. Included in the schedule is a live telecast and ceremony from Andrew Higgins Drive, from 10:00 am to 10:45, with American Battlefield Monuments Commission officials at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach, France.

For a complete schedule of the activities on these two days, visit www.ddaymuseum.org.

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TOP 100 General Aviation Airports

2003 Top 100 General Aviation Itinerant Movers

Placement	Airport	Itinerant flights
1	VNY	299,438
2	DAB	263,124
3	SFB	167,824
4	FXE	166,107
5	DVT	152,943
6	BFI	151,043
7	PDK	145,740
8	LGB	142,463
9	TEB	141,741
10	APA	137,633
11	SNA	137,538
12	RVS	136,790
13	FFZ	130,232
14	MMU	128,777
15	MYF	127,645
16	POC	122,387
17	CRQ	121,026
18	PWK	119,895
19	SAT	117,668
20	DAL	114,408
21	ADS	113,870
22	SDL	112,700
23	PTK	110,409
24	ORL	107,326
25	FPR	103,639
26	CMA	102,716
27	BED	100,541
28	PBI	99,733
29	DPA	99,547
30	PNE	99,433
31	TOA	97,506
32	GFK	97,038
33	HPN	96,333
34	SAC	94,271
35	PRC	93,749
36	OAK	93,417
37	PIE	93,319
38	HEF	92,991
39	FRG	91,263
40	FAT	88,491
41	HOU	87,835
42	ICT	86,072
43	PAE	85,767
44	VRB	85,299
45	ANC	85,070
46	TMB	85,021
47	SMO	84,258
48	PAO	84,079
49	EMT	84,004
50	AUS	82,749
51	SUS	82,652
52	SRQ	82,457
53	LAL	81,915
54	CRG	81,906
55	FCM	81,235
56	MRI	81,132
57	MLB	80,747
58	DWH	80,515
59	SQL	80,292
60	FTW	80,203
61	LVK	80,070
62	RHV	79,766
63	HIO	78,942
64	SEE	78,919
65	BJC	78,638
66	OPF	77,738
67	TUS	76,791
68	APF	74,508
69	HNL	73,651
70	IAD	73,359
71	CNO	72,872
72	LAS	72,855
73	STS	71,707
74	ISP	71,688
75	ISM	70,536
76	VGT	70,312
77	BUR	69,597
78	CDW	69,253
79	LIT	68,900
80	SLC	68,759
81	IWA	68,674
82	FTY	68,133
83	SBA	66,205
84	TTN	66,168
85	CCR	66,057
86	SUA	66,002
87	CAK	65,530
88	CHD	64,780
89	HWD	64,473
90	CMH	63,305
91	RYY	63,210
92	STP	63,048
93	FLL	62,347
94	GYR	62,204
95	LZU	61,831
96	LNS	61,500
97	MKC	61,063
98	BTL	61,023
99	ANE	60,954
100	BHM	60,297

Airport Identification Key

ID	CITY	STATE	AIRPORT NAME
ABE	Allentown	PA	Lehigh Valley Int'l Airport
ABQ	Albuquerque	NM	Albuquerque Int'l Airport
ADS	Dallas	TX	Addison Airport
ANC	Anchorage	AK	Ted Stevens Anchorage Int'l Airport
ANE	Minneapolis	MN	Anoka County/Janes Field/Blaine Airport
APA	Denver	CO	Centennial Airport
APC	Napa	CA	Napa County Airport
APF	Naples	FL	Naples Municipal Airport
AUS	Austin	TX	Austin Bergstrom Int'l Airport
BED	Bedford	MA	Laurence G. Hanscom Field
BFI	Seattle	WA	Boeing Field/King County Int'l Airport
BFL	Bakersfield	CA	Meadows Field
BJC	Denver/Broomfield	CO	Jeffco Airport
BTL	Battle Creek	MI	W. K. Kellogg Airport
BUR	Burbank	CA	Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport
CCR	Concord	CA	Buchanan Field
CDW	Caldwell	NJ	Essex County Airport
CHA	Chattanooga	TN	Lovell Field
CHD	Chandler	AZ	Chandler Municipal Airport
CMA	Camarillo	CA	Camarillo Airport
CNO	Chino	CA	Chino Airport
COS	Colorado Springs	CO	Colorado Springs Municipal Airport
CRG	Jacksonville	FL	Craig Municipal Airport
CRQ	Carlsbad	CA	McClellan/Palomar Field
DAB	Daytona Beach	FL	Daytona Beach Regional Airport
DAL	Dallas	TX	Dallas Love Field
DET	Detroit	MI	Detroit City Airport
DPA	Chicago (West Chicago)	IL	Dupage Airport
DVT	Phoenix	AZ	Phoenix-Deer Valley Municipal Airport
DWH	Houston	TX	David Wayne Hooks Memorial Airport
EMT	El Monte	CA	El Monte Airport
FAT	Fresno	CA	Fresno Yosemite Int'l Airport
FCM	Minneapolis	MN	Flying Cloud Airport
FFZ	Mesa	AZ	Falcon Field Airport
FLL	Fort Lauderdale	FL	Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood Int'l Airport
FPR	Fort Pierce	FL	St. Lucie County Int'l Airport
FRG	Farmingdale Long Island	NY	Republic Airport
FTW	Fort Worth	TX	Fort Worth Meacham Int'l Airport
FTY	Atlanta	GA	Fulton County Airport-Brown Field
FXE	Fort Lauderdale	FL	Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport
GFK	Grand Forks	ND	Grand Forks Int'l/Mark Andrews Field Airport
GYR	Goodyear	AZ	Phoenix-Goodyear Municipal Airport
HEF	Manassas	VA	Manassas Regional/Harry P. Davis Field
HEF	Hartford	CT	Hartford Metropolitan Area
HIO	Hillsboro (Portland)	OR	Portland-Hillsboro Airport
HNL	Honolulu	HI	Honolulu Int'l Airport
HOU	Houston	TX	William P. Hobby Airport
HPN	White Plains	NY	Westchester County Airport
HWD	Hayward	CA	Hayward Air Terminal
HWO	Hollywood	FL	North Perry Airport
IAD	Washington	DC	Washington Dulles Int'l Airport
ICT	Wichita	KS	Wichita Mid-Continent Airport
ILG	Wilmington	DE	New Castle County Airport
ISM	Kissimmee/Orlando	FL	Kissimmee Municipal Airport
ISP	Islip	NY	Long Island Mac Arthur Airport
LAL	Lakeland	FL	Linder Field/Lakeland Regional Airport
LAS	Las Vegas	NV	McCarran Int'l Airport
LGB	Long Beach	CA	Long Beach Airport/Daugherty Field
LIT	Little Rock	AR	Adams Field
LUK	Cincinnati	OH	Cincinnati Municipal Airport/Lunken Field
LVK	Livermore	CA	Livermore Municipal Airport
LZU	Lawrenceville	GA	Gwinnett County Airport-Briscoe Field
MIA	Miami	FL	Miami Int'l Airport
MIC	Minneapolis	MN	Crystal Airport
MKC	Kansas City	MO	Kansas City Downtown Airport
MLB	Melbourne	FL	Melbourne Int'l Airport
MMU	Morristown	NJ	Morristown Municipal Airport
MRF	Marfa	TX	Marfa Municipal Airport
MRI	Anchorage	AK	Merrill Field
MSP	Minneapolis/St. Paul	MN	Minneapolis St. Paul/Wold Chamberlain Field
MTN	Baltimore	MD	Martin State Airport
MYF	San Diego	CA	Montgomery Field
NEW	New Orleans	LA	Lakefront Airport
OAK	Oakland	CA	Metropolitan Oakland Int'l Airport
OPF	Miami	FL	Opa Locka Airport
ORL	Orlando	FL	Orlando Executive Airport
OSU	Columbus	OH	Ohio State University Airport
PAE	Everett	WA	Snohomish County/Paine Field Airport
PAO	Palo Alto	CA	Palo Alto Airport of Santa Clara County
PBI	West Palm Beach	FL	Palm Beach Int'l Airport
PDK	Atlanta	GA	Dekalb-Peachtree Airport
PHF	Newport News	VA	Newport News/Williamsburg Int'l Airport
PHL	Philadelphia	PA	Philadelphia Int'l Airport
PHX	Phoenix	AZ	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l Airport
PIE	St. Petersburg-Clearwater	FL	St. Petersburg-Clearwater Int'l Airport
PMP	Pompano Beach	FL	Pompano Beach Airpark Airport
PNE	Philadelphia	PA	Northeast Philadelphia Airport
POC	La Verne	CA	Brackett Field Airport
PRC	Prescott	AZ	Ernest A. Love Field Airport
PTK	Pontiac	MI	Oakland-Pontiac Airport
PWK	Chicago/Prospect Heights	IL	Pal-Waukee Airport
RDG	Reading	PA	Reading Regional Airport/Carl A. Spaatz Field
RDU	Raleigh-Durham	NC	Raleigh-Durham Int'l Airport
RHV	San Jose	CA	Reid-Hillview of Santa Clara County Airport
RVS	Tulsa	OK	Richard Lloyd Jones Jr. Airport
RYN	Tucson	AZ	Ryan Field Airport
SAC	Sacramento	CA	Sacramento Executive Airport
SAL	La Sal	UT	La Sal Junction Airport
SAT	San Antonio	TX	San Antonio Int'l Airport
SBA	Santa Barbara	CA	Santa Barbara Municipal Airport
SDL	Scottsdale	AZ	Scottsdale Airport
SEE	San Diego (El Cajon)	CA	Gillespie Field Airport
SFB	Orlando/Sanford	FL	Orlando/Sanford Airport
SJC	San Jose	CA	San Jose Int'l Airport
SLC	Salt Lake City	UT	Salt Lake City Int'l Airport
SMO	Santa Monica	CA	Santa Monica Municipal Airport
SNA	Orange County (Santa Ana)	CA	John Wayne/Orange County Airport
SQL	San Carlos	CA	San Carlos Airport
SRQ	Sarasota/Bradenton	FL	Sarasota-Bradenton Int'l Airport
STP	St. Paul	MN	St. Paul Downtown Holman Field
STS	Santa Rosa	CA	Sonoma County Airport
SUA	Stuart	FL	Witham Field
SUS	St. Louis	MO	Spirit of St. Louis Airport
TEB	Teterboro	NJ	Teterboro Airport
TMB	Miami	FL	Kendall-Tamiami Executive Airport
TOA	Torrance	CA	Torrance Municipal/Zamperini Field Airport
TTN	Trenton	NJ	Mercer County Airport
TUL	Tulsa	OK	Tulsa Int'l Airport
TUS	Tucson	AZ	Tucson Int'l Airport
VGT	Las Vegas	NV	North Las Vegas Air Terminal
VNY	Los Angeles (Van Nuys)	CA	Van Nuys Airport
VRB	Vero Beach	FL	Vero Beach Municipal Airport
WHP	Los Angeles	CA	Whiteman Airport