

# HAS Statistical Summary

## July 2009

Without a doubt, the first half of 2009 can safely be categorized as a “challenging” time for airports across the country. A difficult downturn in the world economy, fluctuating fuel prices and even a global outbreak of “swine flu” have all played a role in creating an overall decrease in the demand for air travel.

Here in Houston, both commercial airports within the Houston Airport System (HAS) have certainly been impacted by the recent turn of events; however the latest passenger numbers indicate that a stabilization period may be on the horizon.

At George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) for example, the monthly passenger count for June 2009 topped the 3.6 million mark and was only 152,289 shy of last year’s June total. This represents a year-to-year dip of just four percent, the smallest percentage reduction posted so far in 2009.

Looking at the year-to-date numbers for IAH, more than 19 million people have passed through the gates so far in 2009. The reduction from last year’s total is 9.7 percent, but June marks the first time that this year-to-year comparative total has reached single digits.

The numbers from June 2009 were especially encouraging in regards to the number of international travelers flying in and out of IAH. When comparing June 2008 with June 2009, the decrease in passenger totals is less than 3 percent (758,652 and 736,630 respectively).

At one point earlier in the year, at the height of the concern surrounding the “swine flu” outbreak, the month-to-month comparative drop registered at almost 20 percent. Still, the year-to-date totals for international passengers is set to top the four-million mark in July.

At William P. Hobby Airport (HOU), the decrease in passenger totals continues to mirror what is being reported at the nationwide level.

The drop in passenger total for June 2009 landed at 12.1 percent, a slight increase from the year-to-date total which has remained remarkably steady at 11.4 percent. However even with the decrease, HOU still handled more than 4 million passengers in the first half of '09.

And June brought some encouraging news in the area of air cargo as well.

In the first five months of 2009, the average reduction in cargo totals at Bush Intercontinental had ranged from 14 to 20 percent when compared to 2008.

However in June, the reduction held at just 5.8 percent, with more than 30 tons worth of goods being enplaned and deplaned at IAH during that time period.