

Third Fastest Growing Airport In the nation -- Tampa International Airport

For immediate release

Tampa, Fla. (June 15, 2000) - - Tampa International Airport (TPA) has been ranked as the 3rd fastest growing airport among the 30 largest U.S. airports for passenger traffic during Calendar Year 1995 when compared to Calendar Year 1999.

Statistics released by the U.S. Department of Transportation indicate that domestic and international passenger traffic combined at TPA jumped by 39.9 percent during the last four years, while the price of airline tickets dropped significantly.

"This is the result of Southwest Airlines entering the Tampa market in January 1996," said Louis E. Miller, Executive Director, Hillsborough County Aviation Authority. "It's a great value for the Tampa Bay community. Tampa International is very attractive. We can offer low-cost, available gates and fast pace (quick aircraft turnarounds) to the low-cost airlines. In return, the community benefits with lower air fares." Southwest started service in Tampa with 12 daily departures, today it offers 46 daily departures. In response, US Airways created MetroJet and started service out of Tampa. Quickly, followed by Delta Express, Air Tran and Spirit Airlines. JetBlue Airways, Tampa's most recent entrant into the market started service on March 9, 2000. During the month of April 2000, JetBlue carried 26,873 passengers in its first full month of operation.

Currently, Tampa International Airport offers 285 daily nonstop scheduled departures to 53 domestic destinations and 44 weekly nonstop scheduled departures to eight international markets. For total passenger traffic, Tampa International is ranked the 29th busiest out of 149 airports in the nation.

[OD Passenger Growth 95 to 99 figures](#) 

###