

# St. John's

# International Airport

The St. John's International Airport is the main aerial entry point into the province accounting for about two-thirds of air passenger traffic and most air cargo movement. The airport has six airlines offering scheduled year-round services and two charter airlines offering seasonal services to Canadian and southern destinations (see map).

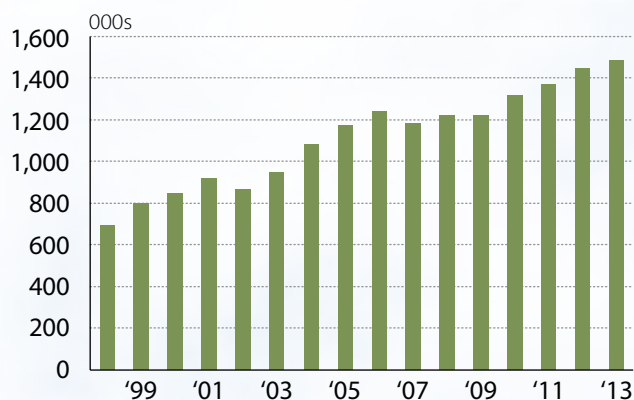
The St. John's International Airport recorded strong growth in air passenger traffic in the last 15 years (see chart). Since 1998, the number of passengers using the airport has grown at an average rate of 5.2% per year. Activity levels remained robust even during the most recent recession of 2008/2009. While air travel declined by about 5% in the rest of Canada during that period, it remained relatively steady in St. John's. The growth in passenger travel has exceeded expectations. A new terminal building designed to accommodate up to 900,000 passengers (completed in 2002) was expected to provide sufficient capacity until 2010. However, by 2004 traffic had surpassed one million passengers a year. In 2013, the number of air passengers travelling through the airport reached 1.49 million, an increase of 2.7% over 2012. These trends reflect strong growth in the provincial economy and the increasing popularity of the St. John's area as a destination for leisure travel, conferences and business travel.

The St. John's International Airport Authority (SJIAA) is currently engaged in an Airport Improvement Program, with many infrastructure projects designed to expand the facilities by the year 2020. Projects that have been completed in the last few years include the construction of a ramp services (cargo) building, expanded parking facilities, an expanded airport terminal building apron, and the renovation of the passenger bridges that connect the main terminal to arriving planes.

More recently, in early December 2013, SJIAA opened its new access road named World Parkway. The new access road is designed to accommodate the observed and anticipated growth in passenger and vehicle traffic. World Parkway will also facilitate the planned expansion of the Airport Terminal Building. This expansion will see the size of the current terminal building double.

## Air Passengers

St. John's International Airport



Note: Data includes boarding and deplaning passengers

Source: St. John's International Airport Authority

# Passenger Air Carrier Route Network



Improvements will include additional food and beverage options; larger areas for pre-board screening and baggage arrivals; more comfortable seating and access to aircrafts; additional airline gates and passenger loading bridges; and greater area for overnight aircraft parking. This expansion is expected to take place over a six year period starting in the spring of 2014.

In addition to capital expansion, SJIAA has been successful in increasing airline seat capacity and adding new destinations. Since 1998, airline seat capacity at the airport increased by 45%, whereas at other Atlantic Canadian airports it declined over the period. In 2013, Air Canada and WestJet—the two largest airlines serving the province—added a combined 26,000 seats on their non-stop Toronto - St. John's flights. Also, in November 2013, SJIAA announced that WestJet Airlines will commence its first transatlantic flight from St. John's International Airport to Dublin Airport, Ireland beginning in the spring of 2014. Also starting in 2014, WestJet will offer two new daily flights from St. John's to both the Toronto (YYZ) and Ottawa (YOW) International Airports. The additional seat capacity will support the increased demand for both Canadian and International airline seats at St. John's International Airport.

Growth in passenger traffic through the St. John's airport is expected to remain strong. In 2014, passenger growth is expected to rise by 3% and it is estimated that the airport will welcome about two million passengers by 2020.

