

Alaska, Horizon air traffic falls in May

Passenger traffic on two SeaTac-based air carriers, Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air, fell again in May as the recession cut business and pleasure travel worldwide.

Alaska reported its traffic was down 7.5 percent in May compared with May 2008. That decrease compares with a 6.3 percent decrease in capacity.

At Alaska's sister regional carrier, Horizon, business dropped 15.1 percent in May compared with May last year.

Capacity decreased by 12.9 percent in the same time period.

With traffic falling faster than the airlines can reduce flights, the two airlines' planes were less full last month than in the same month of 2008.

Alaska filled 76.8 percent of its seats with paying passengers last month compared with 77.8 percent in the same month last year.

At Horizon, 71.7 percent of seats were full in May. That compares with 73.6 percent in May 2008.

-John Gillie