

Air traffic recovery seen in '83

There were 1.8 percent fewer airline passengers at Michigan airports last year, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

But the rate of decline was less than in the previous two years, MDOT said. Late in the year, several airports reported substantially increased activity, indicating the downward trend may be reversing for the first time in 1978.

About 10.9 million passengers boarded and got off airplanes at the 24 airports in 1982, compared to 11.1 million the year before.

MDOT BLAMED the decline on the recession and the effects of federal deregulation, which allowed airlines more flexibility in service and scheduling.

More than 80 percent of the passenger traffic in 1982 took place at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. About 8.8 million passengers boarded and got off planes last year — a 1.3 percent decline from the year before.

Fewer passengers used the Oakland-Pontiac Airport, usually one of the busi-

siest in the state, because two of the four runways were closed during the summer.

Grand Rapids, which ranked second with 7 percent, reported 740,339 passengers last year — 5.4 percent more than the year before.

AIRPORTS in Escanaba, Battle Creek and Lansing also reported increases.

Gogebic County Airport in Ironwood reported fewer passengers when Republic Airlines suspended service from Oct. 18 to Nov. 8 because of runway construction work.

Scheduled airline service started in November at Cadillac. Mackinac Island's first season ran from May through November.

The total of landings and takeoffs declined 18.2 percent from 1981. But that decline is only partly due to the decrease in passengers. Some control towers reduced the hours of operation. Others, at Ann Arbor Municipal Airport and Ross Field in Benton Harbor, were shut down.

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RAILROADS in Michigan are receiving a facelift to accommodate more travelers.

Amtrak will invest more than \$5 million and employ more than 100 workers in Michigan in the next six months,

while continuing to improve railroad track and train signal systems, the MDOT said.

The major work will be concentrated along a 100-mile segment of Amtrak's heavily traveled Detroit-Chicago rail corridor. Located between Kalamazoo and Porter, Ind., the Amtrak-owned track serves six daily Amtrak trains linking Detroit, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Niles and Chicago. It also serves two daily state-supported Amtrak trains operating from Chicago to Niles, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Lansing/East Lansing, Flint, Port Huron and Toronto, Ont.

Work will also continue on a \$1.8 million program, jointly funded with MDOT, to improve the train signal system along the same rail passenger corridor.

U-D offers 3 terms from May to August

The University of Detroit will offer 30 classes during three academic sessions this summer.

Subjects range from accounting to robotics. Also included are criminal justice, engineering, math, marketing, architecture, psychology, English, computer science and religious studies.

A 15-week semester runs from Tuesday, May 3, through Thursday, Aug. 11. Most day and evening classes meet once or twice weekly. No classes are scheduled on Fridays.

For course and registration information, call the U-D Admissions Office at 927-1245.



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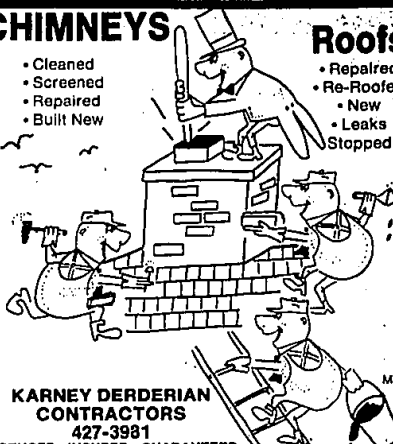
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