

Airport Busiest In State

Smith Reynolds Airport held on to its title during the past federal fiscal year as the busiest airport in North Carolina.

That was shown in a Federal Aviation report, for the fiscal year ending last June 30, released yesterday to Arthur R. Graham, manager of the airport here.

The report shows that the Winston-Salem airport had more aircraft traffic by a considerable margin than did Charlotte, Greensboro or Raleigh-Durham.

Smith Reynolds Airport ranked 13th in aircraft traffic among 47 airports in the Federal Aviation Agency's southeastern jurisdiction. That includes the Carolinas, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Smith Reynolds Airport had 129,032 landings and takeoffs during the fiscal year. Charlotte, in 17th place in the Southeast, had 120,511; Greensboro, 24th place, 103,640; and Raleigh, 25th, 101,259. Miami, Fla., International Airport had more traffic than any airport in the Southeast.

Winston-Salem ranked next to West Palm Beach, Fla., which was in 12th place in air traffic. Orlando, Fla., was 11th and Nashville, Tenn., 10th.

The traffic at Smith Reynolds Airport for the past fiscal year represented a 7.7 per cent increase over 1962-63. While the airport here is used by only one commercial airline for regular flights, the total use is high because of the traffic of privately-owned planes. In the last fiscal year, as many as 739 landings and takeoffs were recorded here in a single day.

Winston-Salem and Charlotte were tied during the past fiscal year in the number of locally-based planes at the two airports. Each listed 91.