

Trade Talk

Airport Use Highest Ever

BOARDINGS AT THE REGIONAL AIRPORT near Greensboro in October were the highest ever, said Roger Sekadlo, the airport manager.

Almost 73,000 people boarded flights at the airport last month, Sekadlo said. Boardings were up 7.8 percent over October 1982. They also broke the record set in October 1981, the airport's best year ever.

For the first 10 months of 1983, boardings were up 6.7 percent to 614,447, he said.

Boardings in the year may have been even higher had passengers bound for New York City not been drawn to the Raleigh/Durham Airport for savings of as much as \$160 round-trip.

About a year ago, New York Air began offering cut-rate fares from Raleigh to New York. That prompted other airlines to match prices. Eventually, New York Air raised its fares, and the other airlines lowered theirs, Sekadlo said. New York Air does not serve Greensboro.

Today, it's still cheaper to fly to New York from Raleigh, but the round-trip savings have dropped to \$40.

Sekadlo quoted an informal survey that the airport conducted among area travel agents. It showed that as many as 25 percent of Triad vacationers may have chosen to leave for New York from Raleigh instead of Greensboro. But only 5 percent of business travelers, who are more numerous than vacation travelers, chose Raleigh over Greensboro.

Of all the cities that Regional Airport serves, New York is the most popular. Of the 1 million round-trip flights leaving from and returning to Greensboro last year, New York was the destination in about 200,000. Atlanta was second with 100,000 round-trip flights, and Chicago came in third with about 60,000.