



# Piston Aircraft Activity Observations in Challenging Times

Presented to FAA Forecast Conference  
April 1, 2009  
Marshall Stevens





- Capital City Airport: reliever airport with approx 40k annual operations
- Franklin County Regional Airport: small general aviation airport, no fuel sales
- Gettysburg Regional Airport: small general aviation airport, self-fueling only

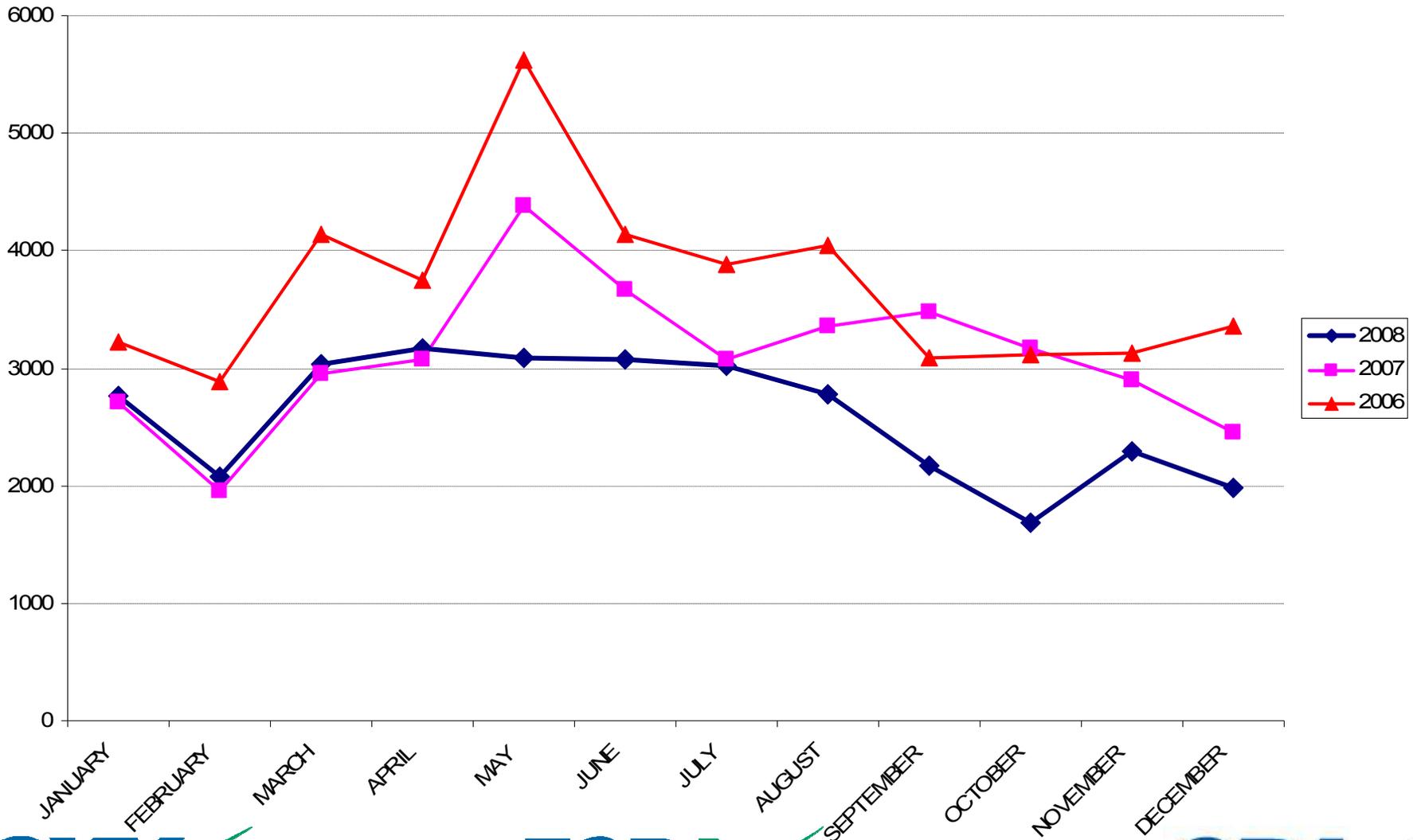




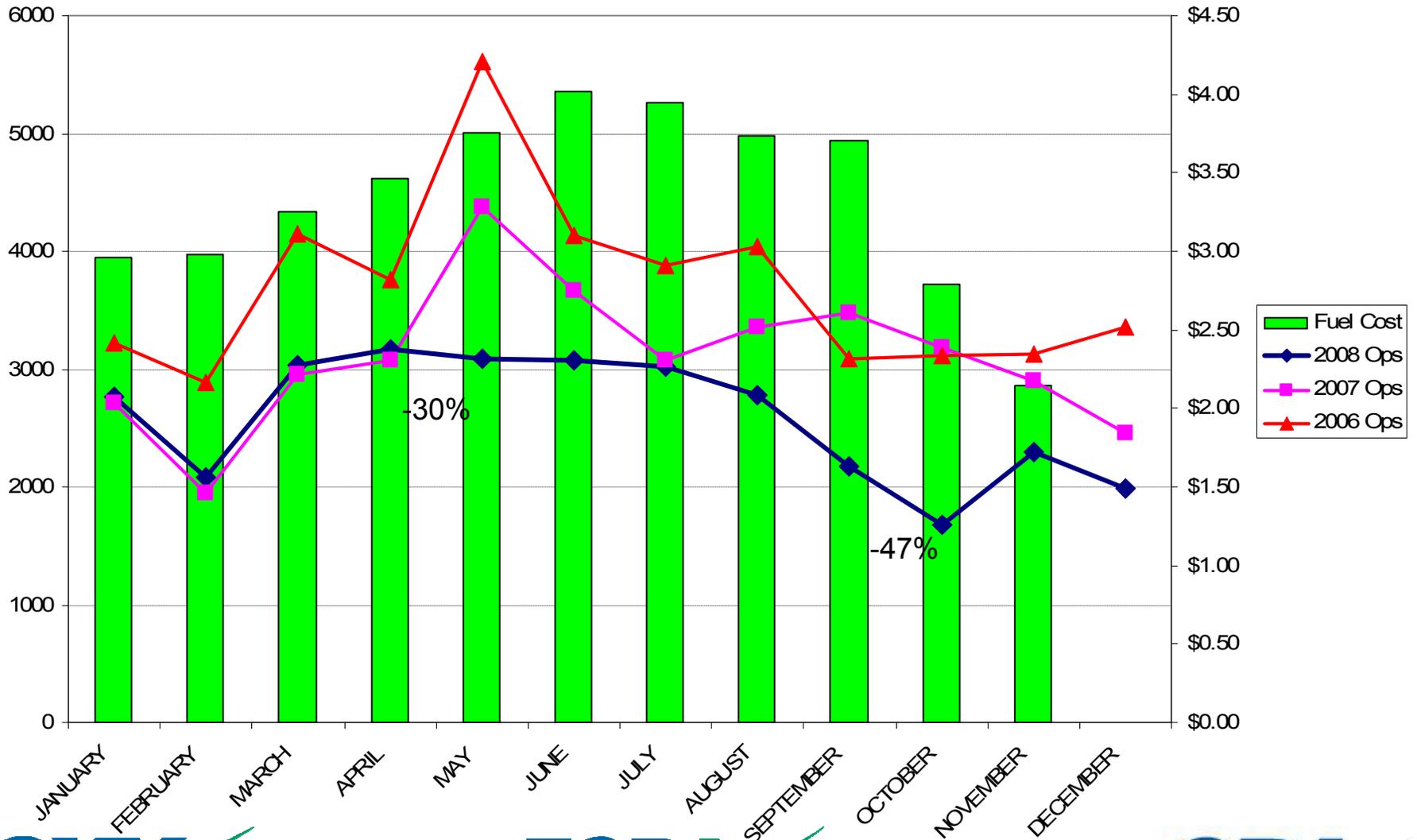
- Capital City Airport: tower counts for GA operations
- Fuel price numbers from Department of Energy web site: refiner price of finished aviation gasoline for resale, excluding taxes
- Retail price in PA area about \$1.50 higher



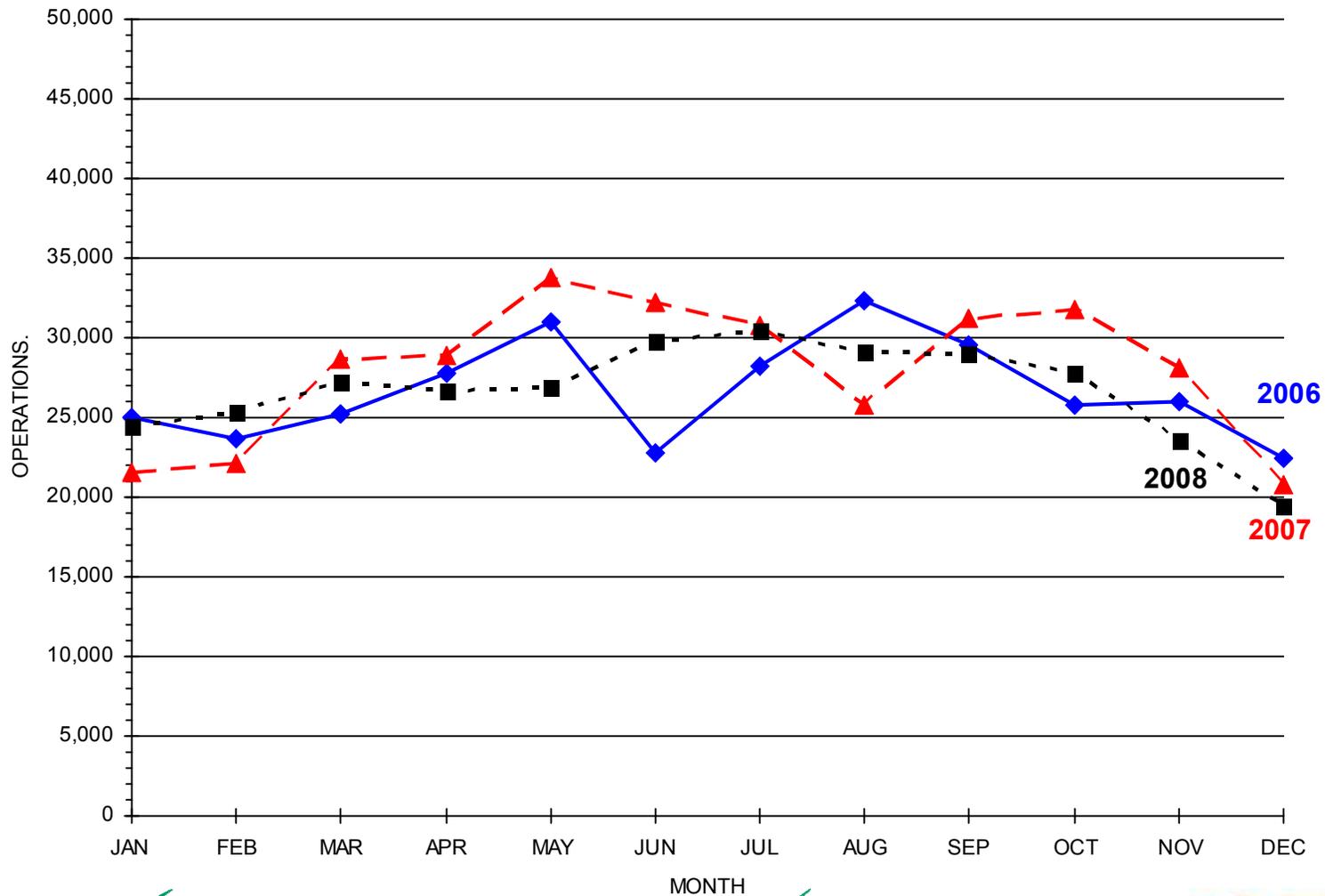
**GA Operations at Capital City Airport**



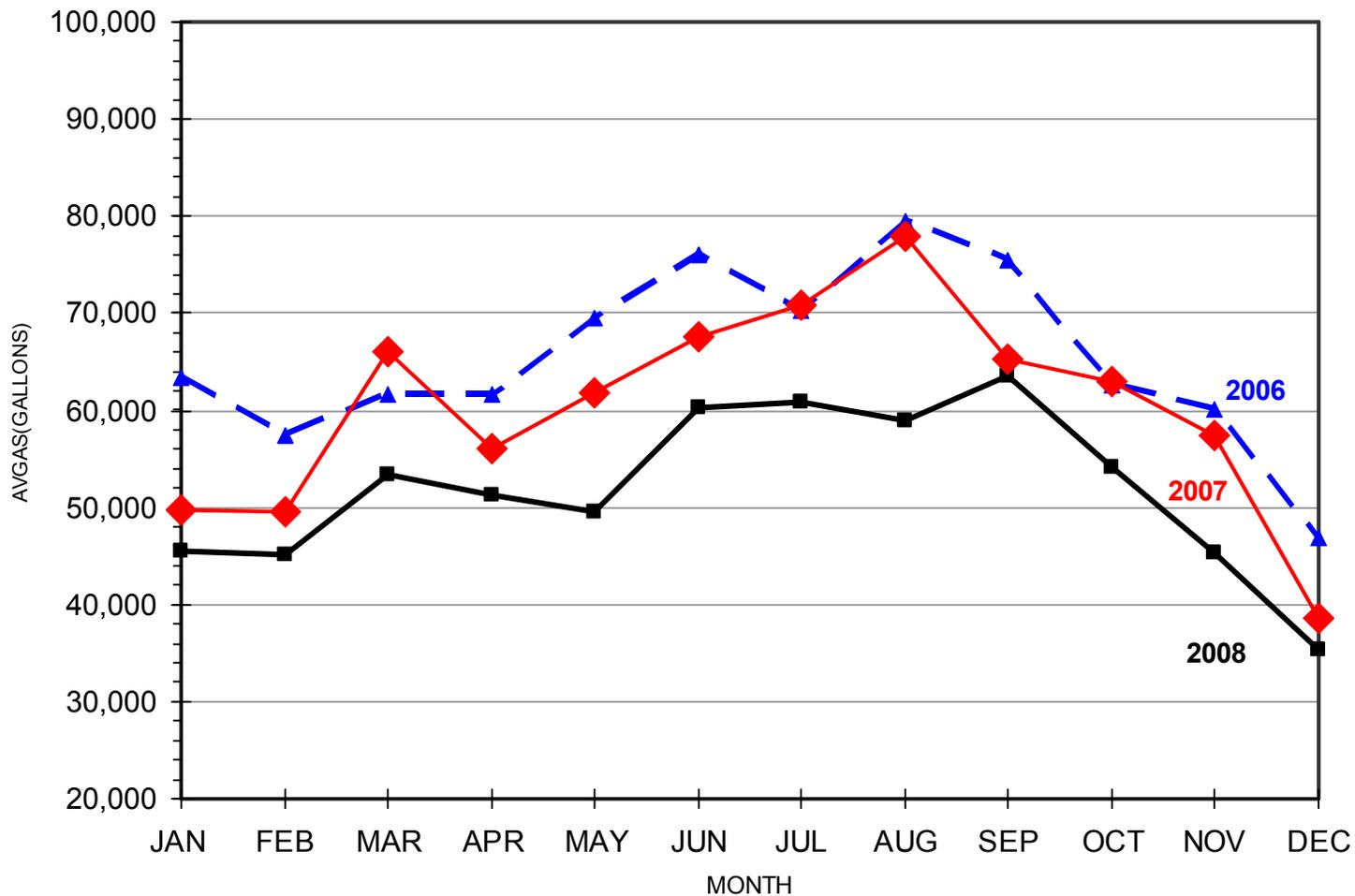
### GA Operations at Capital City Airport



## CENTENNIAL AIRPORT OPERATIONS BY MONTH: 2006 - 2008



## CENTENNIAL AIRPORT AVGAS SALES BY MONTH: 2006 – 2008



# Anecdotal Evidence

- Capital City: operations for 2009 down nearly 40 percent from 2008
- Other airports seeing hangar and aircraft sales offers up
- Owners may be getting financially “upside down” on their aircraft
- Flight training off significantly

# Opportunities/Threats

- Piston GA is not a growth industry
- NextGen
  - Opens more airports/airspace to GA
  - Costs to equip aircraft
- TSA regulation of GA could hurt
- Economic Recovery.....?
- Fuel factors: price and type