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Research and Innovative Technology Administration BTS Data

BTS 24-07 Tuesday, May 15, 2007 Contact: Dave Smallen Tel.: (202) 366-5568

March 2007 Passenger Airline Employment Up 0.6 Percent from March 2006

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 0.6 percent more workers in March 2007 than in March 2006, the second consecutive increase in full-time equivalent employee (FTE) levels for the scheduled passenger carriers from the same month of the previous year, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 2). FTE calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), reported that only the network carrier group reported fewer FTE employees in March than in the prior year with a 1.4 percent decrease, while all other carriers combined employed 4.7 percent more FTEs than a year earlier (Table 1).

Adding FTEs from March 2006 to March 2007 were network carriers Continental Airlines, Alaska Airlines and US Airways (Table 9), all of the low-cost carriers except for ATA Airlines (Table 12), and regional carriers American Eagle Airlines, SkyWest Airlines, ExpressJet Airlines, Comair, Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Horizon Air, Mesa Airlines, Pinnacle Airlines, Shuttle America, Republic Airlines and GoJet Airlines (Table 15).

Scheduled passenger airlines include network, low-cost, regional and other airlines. Many regional carriers were not required to report employment numbers before 2003, so year-to-year comparisons involving regional carriers, or the total industry, are not available for the years before 2003.

The seven network carriers employed 264,100 FTEs in March, 64.8 percent of the passenger airline total, while low-cost carriers employed 17.6 percent and regional carriers employed 14.7 percent (Table 4). The network carriers have employed fewer FTEs each March compared to the previous year since 2002, the only carrier group to do so (Table 5).

American Airlines employed the most FTEs in March among the network carriers, Southwest Airlines employed the most among low-cost carriers (Table 6), and American Eagle employed the most among regional carriers (Table 15). Seven of the top 10 employers in the industry are network carriers (Table 6).

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Network Airlines

Network carrier FTEs declined 1.4 percent in March 2007 compared to March 2006, the smallest drop from the same month of the previous year since October 2004 (Table 7).

Three network carriers increased FTEs from March 2006 to March 2007. Continental's workforce grew 4.7 percent while Alaska's rose 3.7 percent and US Airways' increased 0.8 percent. The largest FTE decreases were reported by Delta Air Lines, 3.2 percent, and Northwest Airlines, 4.8 percent (Table 9).

Collectively, the seven network carriers reduced their FTE headcount by 20.9 percent, or 69,700 FTEs, from March 2003 to March 2007. Network carrier FTEs dropped from 333,800 to 264,100 during the four-year period (Table 8).

FTEs at all seven network carriers declined in March 2007 from March 2003. The biggest percentage decline was at Northwest, down 30.1 percent, a reduction of 12,600 FTEs. United Airlines, Delta, and US Airways all reported cuts of more than 20 percent in the four years. Continental's FTEs were down 2.0 percent and Alaska's were down 6.4 percent during that time (Table 9).

Network carriers operate a significant portion of their flights using at least one hub where connections are made for flights to down-line destinations or spoke cities.

Data for US Airways and America West Airlines, now in the process of merging operations, are separately reported – US Airways' data are included in the network carriers' category and America West's in the low-cost carriers' category. US Airways will begin reporting a single number for the merged companies in April.

Low-Cost Airlines

Low-cost carrier FTEs rose 4.4 percent in March 2007 compared to March 2006, the sixth consecutive increase after 18 consecutive monthly decreases from the previous year (Table 10).

All the low-cost carriers had FTE increases from March 2006 to March 2007 except ATA, which reported a 20.4 percent decline. Only AirTran Airways reported an increase of more than 10 percent (Table 12).

Low-cost carrier FTEs were 70,500 in March 2003, 68,700 in March 2006 and 71,700 in March 2007. The rise from 2003 to 2007 was 1.7 percent (Table 11). The 2003 to 2007 increase would be 8.7 percent if the 2003 employment data are excluded for Independence Air, which discontinued all flights on Jan. 5, 2006 (Table 12).

Employment data for Independence Air, which changed its business model from a regional to low-cost carrier in mid-2004, have been included with low-cost carriers for 2004 and 2005 for consistency.

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Low-cost carriers are those that the industry recognizes as operating under a lowcost business model, with fewer infrastructure costs and greater expectations of productivity.

Regional Airlines

Regional carrier FTEs were up 5.6 percent in March 2007 compared to March 2006, the second largest increase in FTEs from the previous year since July 2005 (Table 13).

GoJet and Republic reported the largest increases in the group. GoJet employed 39.6 percent more FTEs in March 2007 than March 2006 while Republic employed 113.4 percent more (Table 15).

Regional carrier FTEs rose from 49,600 in March 2004 to 59,900 in March 2007, an increase of 20.7 percent (Table 14).

The 10 regional carriers reporting employment data in both 2003 and 2007 employed 22.5 percent more FTEs in March 2007 than in March 2003. Of that group, Mesaba Airlines and Executive Airlines were the only carriers to report fewer FTEs in March 2007 than March 2003 (Table 15).

Regional carriers typically provide service from small cities, using primarily regional jets to support the network carriers' hub and spoke systems.

Reporting Notes

Airlines that operate at least one aircraft with the capacity to carry combined passengers, cargo and fuel of 18,000 pounds – the payload factor – must report monthly employment statistics.

The Other Carrier category generally reflects those airlines that operate within specific niche markets, such as Aloha Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines in serving the Hawaiian Islands.

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers as of May 9.

Additional airline employment data can be found on the BTS website at <u>http://www.bts.gov/programs/airline_information/number_of_employees/</u>. BTS has scheduled release of April airline employment data for June 19.

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Table 1: Passenger Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees*Change from the Previous Year

Percent change compared to same month the previous year for the most recent 13 months

Month	Network Carriers (Pct. Change) From Table 7	Low-Cost Carriers** (Pct. Change) From Table 10	Regional Carriers (Pct. Change) From Table13	All Passenger Airlines*** (Pct. Change) From Table 2	
Mar 2005-Mar 2006	-7.5	-3.0	0.1	-5.3	
Apr. 2005-Apr. 2006	-6.7	-2.2	0.1	-4.7	
May 2005-May 2006	-7.0	-2.1	-1.2	-5.0	
June 2005-June 2006	-6.9	-2.0	-1.6	-5.0	
July 2005-July 2006	-8.1	-2.6	-0.8	-5.9	
Aug. 2005-Aug. 2006	-4.7	-0.8	-1.0	-3.1	
Sept. 2005-Sept. 2006	-4.1	-0.4	-0.3	-2.7	
Oct. 2005-Oct. 2006	-4.0	0.8	0.6	-2.3	
Nov. 2005-Nov. 2006	-3.4	0.9	2.4	-1.6	
Dec. 2005-Dec. 2006	-2.9	1.4	3.4	-1.0	
Jan. 2006-Jan. 2007	-2.6	4.5	3.0	-0.5	
Feb. 2006-Feb. 2007	-2.2	5.0	5.9	0.2	
Mar 2006-Mar 2007	-1.4	4.4	5.6	0.6	
Source: Bureau of Tran	anartation Static	tion			

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one fulltime employee.

**Employment numbers in 2005 for Independence Air, which changed its business model from a regional to low-cost carrier in mid-2004, are included with low-cost carriers. The airline discontinued flights on Jan. 5, 2006.

*** Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers. Other Carriers generally operate within specific niche markets. They are: Allegiant Air, Aloha Airlines, Boston-Maine Airways, Casino Express Airlines, Continental Micronesia, Eos Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Midwest Airlines, Sun Country Airlines and USA3000 Airlines. USA3000 did not report in December 2006 and subsequent months.

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Table 2: Change in Total Passenger Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees from the Previous Year*

Percent chan	ge compared to	same month	the previo	ous year
Month	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	-5.6	-0.8	-6.0	-0.5
February	-5.3	-1.4	-5.8	0.2
March	-4.1	-1.9	-5.4	0.6
April	-2.3	-3.1	-4.7	
May	-0.8	-3.5	-5.0	
June	0.5	-3.8	-5.0	
July	2.5	-3.5	-5.9	
August	2.2	-5.8	-3.1	
September	2.4	-5.8	-2.7	
October	2.5	-6.0	-2.3	
November	2.2	-6.5	-1.6	
December	0.9	-5.9	-1.0	
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Percent change compared to same month the previous year

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers.

** Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one fulltime employee.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 3: Total Passenger Airline* Full-time Equivalent Employees** byMonth

Numbers in thousands (000's)

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Chai	-
Month	2003	2004	2003	2000	2007	2003- 2007	2006- 2007
January	465.7	435.0	431.5	405.7	403.6	-13.3%	-0.5%
February	459.4	435.0	428.9	404.5	405.4	-11.7%	0.2%
March	454.3	435.9	427.7	404.6	407.4	-10.3%	0.6%
April	448.2	437.8	424.1	404.0			
May	443.2	439.6	424.4	403.1			
June	438.9	440.9	424.3	403.0			
July	433.2	444.1	428.5	403.0			
August	433.3	443.0	417.5	404.4			
September	429.6	440.0	414.5	403.4			
October	428.3	439.1	412.7	403.3			
November	429.9	439.5	411.0	404.2			
December	430.2	434.0	408.6	404.7			

Percent

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers.

** Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

Note: Percent changes and averages based on numbers prior to rounding.

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Table 4: Total Number of Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Carrier Group, March 2003-2007

FTE Numbers in thousands (000's)

	Network	Low-Cost	Regional	All Passenger Airlines**
2003	333.8	70.5	40.8	454.3
2004	304.6	70.8	49.6	435.9
2005	289.3	70.8	56.4	427.7
2006	267.8	68.7	56.7	405.1
2007	264.1	71.7	59.9	407.4
Pct. Change 2003-2007	-20.9	1.7	20.7***	-6.5
Percent of Total Passenger Airline Employees in 2007	64.8%	17.6%	14.7%	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one fulltime employee.

** Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers.

*** Percent change comparison for regional airlines and for all passenger airlines is for 2004 to 2007 because of the number of airlines in these categories that did not meet the standard for reporting monthly employment numbers.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 5: Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Carrier Group,Year-to-Year Change, March 2003-2007

Percent Change from the previous year

•	Network	Low-Cost	Regional**	All Passenger Airlines***
2003	-8.2	8.9	66.8	-1.7
2004	-8.7	0.5	21.6	-4.1
2005	-5.0	0.0	13.7	-1.9
2006	-7.4	-3.0	0.5	-5.3
2007	-1.4	4.4	5.6	0.6

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one fulltime employee.

** Many regional carriers were not required to report employment numbers before 2003, so yearto-year comparisons involving regional carriers, or the total industry, are not appropriate for the years before 2003.

*** Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers.

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Table 6: Top 10 Airlines, March 2007

Ranked by Number of Full-Time Equivalent Employees*

Rank	Airline	Total FTE Employees (000)	Carrier Group	Mar 2006 Rank	Mar 2005 Rank
1	American	73.2	Network	1	1
2	United	51.9	Network	2	2
3	Delta	45.6	Network	3	3
4	Continental	35.1	Network	4	5
5	Southwest	33.0	Low Cost	5	6
6	Northwest	29.1	Network	6	4
7	US Airways	19.7	Network	7	7
8	America West	12.3	Low Cost	8	8
9	JetBlue	9.6	Low Cost	10	12
10	Alaska	9.5	Network	11	10

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one fulltime employee.

Table 7: Network Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* Change from the Previous Year

Percent change compared to same month the previous year Month 2004 2005 2006

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	-12.5	-4.1	-8.1	-2.6
February	-11.0	-4.6	-7.8	-2.2
March	-8.7	-5.0	-7.4	-1.4
April	-6.6	-6.5	-6.7	
May	-4.9	-6.6	-7.0	
June	-3.6	-7.0	-6.9	
July	-2.0	-5.9	-8.1	
August	-1.7	-9.0	-4.7	
September	-1.7	-8.9	-4.1	
October	-1.4	-8.9	-4.0	
November	-1.8	-9.3	-3.4	
December	-3.5	-8.5	-2.9	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one fulltime employee.

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Table 8: Network Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month Numbers in thousands (000's)

	. ,					Percent Change	
Rank	2003	2003 2004	2005	2006	2007	2003- 2007	2006- 2007
January	348.7	305.1	292.7	269.1	262.0	-24.9	-2.6
February	342.3	304.7	290.9	268.2	262.4	-23.3	-2.2
March	333.8	304.6	289.3	267.8	264.1	-20.9	-1.4
April	327.2	305.6	285.8	266.6			
May	321.9	306.0	285.8	265.8			
June	317.5	306.1	284.8	265.0			
July	312.5	306.3	288.2	264.9			
August	310.6	305.3	277.8	264.8			
September	307.6	302.4	275.4	264.0			
October	305.3	300.9	274.1	263.0			
November	305.7	300.2	272.4	263.0			
December	306.2	295.7	270.6	262.9			
Monthly Average	320.1	303.7	282.4	265.4			
Jan-Mar Average	341.6	304.8	290.8	268.6	262.9	-23.1	-2.1
Source: Bureau of T	ransportatio	n Statistics					

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

Note: Percent changes and averages based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 9: Network Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees*, March 2003-2007 (Ranked by March 2007 FTEs)

Numbers in thousands (000's)

Rank						Percent Change		
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003- 2007	2006- 2007
1	American	90.6	79.0	75,688	74.4	73.2	-19.2	-1.7
2	United	67.1	58.6	55,899	53.4	51.9	-22.6	-2.9
3	Delta	61.1	57.8	54,090	47.1	45.6	-25.4	-3.2
4	Continental	35.8	34.5	32,319	33.6	35.1	-2.0	4.7
5	Northwest	41.7	38.5	38,416	30.6	29.1	-30.1	-4.8
6	US Airways	27.4	26.3	23,697	19.5	19.7	-28.2	0.8
7	Alaska	10.1	9.8	9,206	9.1	9.5	-6.4	3.7
	Total	333,789	304.6	289,315	267.8	264.1	-20.9	-1.4

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

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Percent change compared to same month the previous year									
Month	2004	2005	2006	2007					
January	8.4	0.5	-5.3	4.5					
February	6.9	0.6	-4.1	5.0					
March	0.5	0.0	-3.0	4.4					
April	0.6	-0.7	-2.2						
Мау	0.8	-1.0	-2.1						
June	1.5	-1.2	-2.1						
July	2.3	-1.5	-2.0						
August	1.1	-0.7	-0.8						
September	0.7	-1.0	-0.4						
October	-0.2	-1.2	0.8						
November	0.5	-2.5	0.9						
December	0.5	-1.4	1.4						
Source: Bureau of Transport	ation Stat	istics							

Table 10: Change in Low-Cost Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* from the **Previous Year**

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

Note: Employment numbers in 2004 and 2005 for Independence Air, which changed its business model from a regional to low-cost carrier in mid-2004, are included with low-cost carriers. The airline discontinued flights on Jan. 5, 2006.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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Rank	2003**	2004**	2005**	2006	2007	2003- 2007	2006- 2007
January	65.7	71.2	71.6	67.8	70.8	7.8	4.5
February	65.9	70.5	70.9	68.0	71.4	8.3	5.0
March	70.5	70.8	70.8	68.7	71.7	1.7	4.4
April	70.6	71.0	70.4	68.9			
May	70.7	71.3	70.5	69.1			
June	70.6	71.7	70.8	69.4			
July	70.7	72.3	71.3	69.4			
August	70.8	71.6	71.1	70.5			
September	70.7	71.3	70.6	70.3			
October	71.3	71.2	70.4	70.9			
November	71.9	72.3	70.5	71.1			
December	71.3	71.6	70.6	71.6			
Monthly Average Jan-Mar	69.7	71.4	70.8	69.6			
Average	67.3	70.8 Statisti	71.1	68.2	71.3	5.9	4.6

Table 11: Low-Cost Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month Numbers in thousands (000's)

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Percent changes and averages based on numbers prior to rounding.

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

** Employment numbers in 2004 and 2005 for Independence Air, which changed its business model from a regional to low-cost carrier in mid-2004, are included with low-cost carriers. The airline discontinued flights on Jan. 5, 2006.

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Table 12: Low-Cost Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees,* March 2003-2007 (Ranked by March 2007 FTEs)

Numbers in thousands (000's)

							reicent	Change
Rank		2003**	2004**	2005**	2006	2007	2003- 2007	2006- 2007
1	Southwest	33.1	31.5	31.0	31.4	33.0	-0.5	5.0
2	America West	11.4	11.4	11.8	11.8	12.3	8.3	4.5
3	JetBlue	4.0	5.5	7.0	9.2	9.6	136.1	3.4
4	AirTran	4.9	5.4	6.1	6.9	7.6	54.3	10.3
5	Frontier	2.8	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.7	65.4	9.3
6	ΑΤΑ	7.2	7.0	5.1	3.0	2.4	-66.3	-20.4
7	Spirit	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.1	-13.2	5.1
8	Independence	4.5	3.8	3.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total****	70.5	70.8	70.8	68.7	71.7	1.7	4.4
Sourcos	Burgau of Transpor	tation Static	stice					

Percent Change

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee. **Employment numbers in 2004 and 2005 for Independence Air, which changed its business model from a regional to low-cost carrier in mid-2004, are included with low-cost carriers. The carrier did not meet the standard for filing in previous years. The airline discontinued flights on Jan. 5, 2006.

N/A: Not applicable because carriers did not meet the standard for filing.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding

Table 13: Change in Regional Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* from the Previous Year

Percent change compared to same month the previous year								
	2004**	2005***	2006	2007				
January	16.3	15.5	2.5	3.0				
February	17.3	14.3	1.1	5.9				
March	21.6	13.7	0.5	5.6				
April	21.7	12.6	0.1					
May	23.3	11.1	-1.2					
June	24.9	11.0	-1.6					
July	33.0	6.0	-0.8					
August	31.6	5.1	-1.0					
September	32.4	4.3	-0.3					
October	33.0	2.7	0.6					
November	31.0	2.1	2.4					
December	29.3	1.8	3.4					

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

** Mesa, Pinnacle and PSA began reporting employment numbers in 2004.

*** Republic, Shuttle America and GoJet reported for part of 2005.

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					Percent Change				
	2004**	2005***	2006	2007	2004-	2006-			
					2007	2007			
January	48.3	55.8	57.2	58.9	22.0	3.0			
February	48.9	55.9	56.6	59.9	22.4	5.9			
March	49.6	56.4	56.7	59.9	20.7	5.6			
April	50.3	56.6	56.6						
May	51.2	56.9	56.2						
June	51.9	57.6	56.7						
July	54.3	57.6	57.1						
August	55.0	57.8	57.2						
September	55.2	57.6	57.4						
October	55.8	57.4	57.7						
November	55.6	56.8	58.1						
December	55.3	56.3	58.2						
Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics									

Table 14: Regional Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month Numbers in thousands (000's)

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

** Mesa, Pinnacle and PSA began reporting employment numbers in 2004. *** Republic, Shuttle America and GoJet reported for part of 2005.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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Table 15: Regional Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees*, March 2003-2007 (Ranked by March 2007 FTEs)

_			2004	2005	2006	2007	Percent Change**	
Rank		2003					2003- 2007	2006- 2007
1	American Eagle	7,708	8,139	9,412	9,310	9,458	22.7	1.6
2	Sky West	5,127	6,120	7,363	8,149	9,415	83.6	15.5
3	Express Jet	5,418	5,898	6,464	6,516	7,369	36.0	13.1
4	Comair	5,288	5,797	6,260	6,127	6,128	15.9	0.0
5	Atlantic Southeast	5,267	5,573	5,446	5,279	5,663	7.5	7.3
6	Horizon	3,387	3,343	3,341	3,536	3,740	10.4	5.8
7	Pinnacle	N/A	1,997	2,833	3,039	3,368	N/A	10.8
8	Mesa	N/A	3,185	3,223	3,222	3,264	N/A	1.3
9	Mesaba	2,967	2,866	3,253	2,987	2,627	-11.5	-12.1
10	Air Wisconsin	2,226	3,426	3,746	2,352	2,272	2.1	-3.4
11	Executive	1,880	1,914	1,836	1,763	1,661	-11.6	-5.8
12	PSA	N/A	N/A	1,735	1,529	1,425	N/A	-6.8
13	Trans States	1,224	1,327	1,458	1,468	1,289	5.3	-12.2
14	Shuttle America	N/A	N/A	N/A	764	1,003	N/A	31.3
15	Republic	N/A	N/A	N/A	396	845	N/A	113.4
16	GoJet	N/A	N/A	N/A	235	328	N/A	39.6

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee. ** Many regional carriers were not required to report employment numbers before 2003, so year-to-year comparisons involving regional carriers, or the total industry, are not appropriate for the years before 2003. The Percent Change 2003-2007 is based on the 10 carriers reporting in both years.

N/A: Not applicable because carriers did not meet the standard for filing. Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding

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