



**M O V I N G T H E  
AMERICAN  
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**News**

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### **January Passenger Airline Employment Data: Employment Down 0.8 Percent from January 2004**

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed a total of 456,841 workers in January 2005, 0.8 percent fewer than in January 2004, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the seven network carriers employed 310,791 total workers, 4.1 percent fewer workers in January 2005 than a year earlier (Table 2). The low-cost carriers reported 75,110 total employees, 0.7 percent more than January 2004 (Table 3); and the regional carriers reported 59,369 total employees, 16.8 percent more than the previous year (Table 4).

Airline employment numbers have been reported by carriers meeting the reporting standard since at least 1970. This new monthly series of press releases, including carrier groupings, is designed to reflect the existing structure of the airline industry and to provide numbers to measure the growing prominence of low-cost and regional air carriers. Many regional carriers were not required to report employment numbers before 2003, so year-to-year comparisons involving regional carriers as a group, or the full industry, are not appropriate for earlier years. BTS is providing pre-2003 comparisons for network and low-cost carriers, as well as pre-2003 numbers for individual regional carriers that were required to report in earlier years.

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 2004 statistics do not include employment data for one regional airline that was not required to report for that year – PSA Airlines.

Numbers 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 both 2005 and 2004. This change reflects that carrier's current business model as a low-cost operator.

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**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE**  
**ADD ONE**

Using Full-Time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations, in which part-time workers are counted as one-half of a full-time employee, employment at network carriers in January dropped 31.9 percent from 2001 to 2005. The biggest declines were at US Airways, down 45.2 percent; and United Airlines, down 40.9 percent (Table 5).

The seven low-cost carriers that were required to report employment data in 2001 and 2005 employed 16.3 percent more FTEs in 2005 than in 2001. (Table 6).

Of the eight regional carriers who reported employment numbers to BTS in 2001, the January FTEs increased 17.2 percent. Of that group, only Horizon Air reported fewer FTE employees in January 2005 than January 2001 (Table 7).

In this release, Tables 1-4 use total numbers for full-time and part-time employees, while employee numbers in Tables 5, 6 and 7 show FTEs.

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. Low-cost carriers are those that the industry generally recognizes as operating under a low-cost business model with fewer infrastructure costs.

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

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

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers as of March 16.

Additional airline employment data can be found on the BTS website at [http://www.bts.gov/programs/airline\\_information/number\\_of\\_employees/](http://www.bts.gov/programs/airline_information/number_of_employees/). BTS will release February airline employment data in April.

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**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE  
ADD TWO**

**Table 1: Passenger Airline Employment, January 2004-2005  
(number of current carriers in parentheses)**

	Jan. 2004	Jan. 2005	Pct. Change 2004-2005
<b>Total (35)</b>	460,336	456,841	-0.8
<b>Full-time</b>	407,107	401,979	-1.3
<b>Part-time</b>	53,229	54,862	3.1
<b>Network carriers (7)</b>			
<b>Total</b>	323,936	310,791	-4.1
<b>Full-time</b>	286,245	273,305	-4.5
<b>Part-time</b>	37,691	37,486	-0.5
<b>Low-cost Carriers (8)</b>			
<b>Total</b>	74,588	75,110	0.7
<b>Full-time</b>	67,895	68,089	0.3
<b>Part-time</b>	6,693	7,021	4.9
<b>Regional Carriers (13)</b>			
<b>Total</b>	50,812	59,369	16.8
<b>Full-time</b>	45,009	52,224	16.0
<b>Part-time</b>	5,803	7,145	23.1
<b>Other Carriers (7)</b>			
<b>Total</b>	11,000	11,571	5.2
<b>Full-time</b>	7,958	8,361	5.1
<b>Part-time</b>	3,042	3,210	5.5

**Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics**

\*Independence Air (formerly known as Atlantic Coast Airlines) data have been included in 2004 and 2005 totals for Low-cost Carriers, reflecting the current change in its business model.

\*\*2005 Regional data include results from one newly reporting airline that was not required to report employment data in 2004: PSA Airlines. The regional airline category, including only those airlines that reported employment data in both January 2004 and 2005, recorded an 11.9 percent growth rate.

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**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE**  
**ADD THREE**

**Table 2: Number of Employees: Network Carriers January 2001-2005**  
**(number of current carriers in parentheses)**

	Total	Pct. Chge from previous year	Full-time	Pct. Chge from previous year	Part-time	Pct. Chge from previous year
<b>2001 (8)</b>	459,355	N/A	398,695	N/A	60,660	N/A
<b>2002 (7)</b>	391,830	-14.7	344,898	-14.5	46,932	-22.6
<b>2003 (7)</b>	369,843	-5.6	327,619	-5.0	42,224	-10.0
<b>2004 (7)</b>	323,936	-12.4	286,245	-12.6	37,691	-10.7
<b>2005 (7)</b>	310,791	-4.1	273,305	-4.5	37,486	-0.5

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Table 3: Number of Employees: Low-cost Carriers, January 2001-2005**  
**(number of current carriers in parentheses)**

	Total	Pct. Chge from previous year	Full-time	Pct. Chge from previous year	Part-time	Pct. Chge from previous year
<b>2001 (11)</b>	66,318	N/A	59,023	N/A	7,295	N/A
<b>2002 (11)</b>	66,045	-0.4	59,672	1.1	6,373	-12.6
<b>2003 (7)</b>	68,804	4.2	62,683	5.0	6,121	-4.0
<b>2004 (8)</b>	74,588	8.4	67,895	8.3	6,693	9.3
<b>2005 (8)</b>	75,110	0.7	68,089	0.3	7,021	4.9

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Table 4: Number of Employees: Regional Carriers, January 2003-2005**  
**(number of current carriers in parentheses)**

	Total	Pct. Chge from previous year	Full-time	Pct. Chge from previous year	Part-time	Pct. Chge from previous year
<b>2003 (11)</b>	44,380	N/A	38,687	N/A	5,693	N/A
<b>2004 (13)</b>	50,812	14.5	45,009	16.3	5,803	1.9
<b>2005 (13)</b>	59,369	16.8	52,224	16.0	7,145	23.1

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: Regional group numbers for years before 2003 are not included because of the limited number of regional carriers that met the requirement for filing reports.

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**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE  
ADD FOUR**

**Table 5: Network Carrier FTE Employees, January 2001-2005\***

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	<b>American Airlines**</b>	93,462	98,004	94,726	79,208	76,047	85.0	86.6
2	<b>United</b>	96,227	80,698	74,865	58,590	56,904	88.9	88.7
3	<b>Delta</b>	73,634	65,767	63,016	58,393	55,551	82.6	89.0
4	<b>Northwest</b>	51,561	43,741	42,389	38,195	38,390	93.6	94.7
5	<b>Continental</b>	41,101	35,720	35,745	34,278	31,864	78.7	79.9
6	<b>US Airways</b>	43,970	34,633	27,820	26,541	24,114	90.2	88.3
7	<b>Alaska Airlines</b>	9,774	9,803	10,172	9,897	9,179	88.4	88.6
8	<b>Trans World</b>	19,119	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	93.6	N/A
	<b>Total</b>	<b>430,849</b>	<b>368,366</b>	<b>348,733</b>	<b>305,102</b>	<b>292,049</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>87.9</b>

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

\* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count part-time workers as one-half of a full-time employee.

\*\* American Airlines' 2001 employment statistics include TWA employees that were absorbed by AA after its purchase of TWA assets in April 2001.

**Table 6: Low-cost Carrier FTE Employees, January 2001-2005\***

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	<b>Southwest</b>	29,294	31,645	33,427	32,484	31,011	97.3	98.4
2	<b>America West</b>	12,568	10,963	11,615	11,297	11,480	79.7	79.1
3	<b>JetBlue</b>	1,154	2,250	3,816	5,248	6,849	72.2	81.0
4	<b>AirTran</b>	3,898	4,113	4,740	5,458	5,866	90.3	94.6
5	<b>ATA</b>	7,681	6,865	6,906	6,949	5,810	88.0	90.2
6	<b>Frontier</b>	1,773	2,287	2,743	3,468	4,091	76.3	80.5
7	<b>Independence**</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,935	4,019	N/A	93.4
8	<b>Spirit</b>	1,753	1,989	2,398	2,405	2,475	82.2	88.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>58,121</b>	<b>60,112</b>	<b>65,645</b>	<b>71,244</b>	<b>71,601</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>95.1</b>

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

\* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count part-time workers as one-half of a 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.

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**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE  
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**Table 7: Regional Carrier FTE Employees, January 2000-2004\***

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	<b>American Eagle</b>	8,792	8,464	7,788	7,930	9,267	86.7	87.8
2	<b>Sky West</b>	N/A	N/A	5,247	5,716	7,217	N/A	86.0
3	<b>Express Jet</b>	4,586	N/A	5,415	5,826	6,419	89.7	91.6
4	<b>Comair</b>	N/A	N/A	5,117	5,766	6,229	N/A	91.9
5	<b>Atlantic Southeast</b>	3,959	4,239	5,162	5,450	5,740	93.4	93.5
6	<b>Air Wisconsin</b>	2,773	2,843	2,984	3,269	3,617	89.0	92.2
7	<b>Horizon</b>	3,847	3,428	3,400	3,344	3,339	84.7	87.0
8	<b>Mesa</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,192	3,230	N/A	98.6
9	<b>Mesaba</b>	3,127	3,096	3,107	2,782	3,154	76.7	77.2
10	<b>Pinnacle</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,963	2,624	N/A	69.4
11	<b>Executive</b>	1,259	1,142	1,968	1,887	1,761	74.9	77.2
12	<b>PSA</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,730	N/A	84.0
13	<b>Trans States</b>	1,318	957	1,170	1,213	1,472	87.3	95.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>29,661</b>	<b>24,169</b>	<b>41,358</b>	<b>48,338</b>	<b>55,799</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>88.0</b>

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Many regional carriers were not required to report employment numbers before 2003 so year-to-year comparisons involving regional carriers as a group, or the full industry, are not appropriate for earlier years.

\* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count part-time workers as one-half of a full-time employee.

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