



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

**U.S. Department of Transportation**  
**Office of Public Affairs**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
[www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm](http://www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm)

**Research and Innovative Technology Administration**  
**BTS Data**

BTS 42-05  
Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Contact: Dave Smallen  
Tel.: (202) 366-5568

## **July Passenger Airline Employment Down 2.9 Percent from July 2004**

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 458,228 workers in July 2005, 2.9 percent fewer than in July 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 (RITA), reported that the seven network carriers employed 308,714 total full-time and part-time workers – 5.1 percent fewer workers in July 2005 than a year earlier (Table 2). The low-cost carriers reported 75,145 total employees, 1.1 percent fewer than July 2004 (Table 3); and the regional carriers reported 60,738 total employees, 4.7 percent more than the previous year (Table 4).

July was the seventh consecutive month of year-over-year declines in airline employment levels for the scheduled passenger carriers since BTS began tracking the numbers. But part-time employee numbers continued to grow with a 2.6 percent increase in July.

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.

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 2003, 2004 and 2005. This change reflects that carrier's current business model as a low-cost operator.

**-more-**

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

Using Full-Time Equivalent Employees (FTE) calculations, employment at network carriers in July dropped 33.6 percent from 2001 to 2005. The biggest declines were at US Airways, down 51.2 percent; and United Airlines, down 43.6 percent (Table 5). In FTE calculations, part-time workers are counted as one-half of a full-time employee.

The seven low-cost carriers, excluding Independence, that were required to report employment data in 2001 and 2005 employed 12.0 percent more FTEs in July 2005 than in July 2001 (Table 6).

The seven regional carriers that were required to report employment data in 2001 and 2005 employed 9.8 percent more FTEs in July 2005 than in July 2001. Of that group, only Horizon Air reported fewer FTE employees in July 2005 than July 2001 (Table 7).

In this release, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 use total numbers for full-time and part-time employees, while employee numbers in Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 show FTEs.

The 3.3 percent drop in FTEs was the seventh consecutive month of year-over-year declines in airline employment levels for the scheduled passenger carriers. It was the fourth consecutive month with a year-to-year decline of more than 3 per cent (Table 8).

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 Sept. 14.

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 has scheduled release of August airline employment data for Oct. 18.

**-more-**

**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE  
ADD TWO**

**Table 1: Passenger Airline Employment, July 2004-2005**

	July 2004	July 2005	Pct. Change 2004- 2005
<b>Total (38)</b>			
<b>Total</b>	472,136	458,228	-2.9%
<b>Full-time</b>	415,857	400,497	-3.7%
<b>Part-time</b>	56,279	57,731	2.6%
<b>Network Carriers (7)</b>			
<b>Total</b>	325,436	308,714	-5.1%
<b>Full-time</b>	287,087	269,571	-6.1%
<b>Part-time</b>	38,349	39,143	2.1%
<b>Low Cost Carriers (8)*</b>			
<b>Total</b>	75,994	75,145	-1.1%
<b>Full-time</b>	68,705	67,366	-1.9%
<b>Part-time</b>	7,289	7,779	6.7%
<b>Regional Carriers (13)</b>			
<b>Total</b>	58,038	60,738	4.7%
<b>Full-time</b>	50,796	53,449	5.2%
<b>Part-time</b>	7,242	7,289	0.6%
<b>Other Carriers (10)**</b>			
<b>Total</b>	12,668	13,631	7.6%
<b>Full-time</b>	9,269	10,111	9.1%
<b>Part-time</b>	3,399	3,520	3.6%

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.

\*\* Allegiant Air, Aloha Airlines, Casino Express Airlines, Continental Micronesia, Hawaiian Airlines, Midwest Airlines, Shuttle America, Sun Country Airlines, TransMeridian Airlines, USA3000 Airlines.

**Table 2: Total Number of Employees: Network Carriers, July 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>	465,198	N/A	405,708	N/A	59,490	N/A
<b>2002 (7)</b>	394,686	-15.2	347,824	-14.3	46,862	-21.2
<b>2003 (7)</b>	332,376	-15.8	292,676	-15.9	39,700	-15.3
<b>2004 (7)</b>	325,436	-2.1	287,087	-1.9	38,349	-3.4
<b>2005 (7)</b>	308,714	-5.1	269,571	-6.1	39,143	2.1

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

-more -

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

**Table 3: Total Number of Employees: Low-cost Carriers, July 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>	69,569	N/A	61,962	N/A	7,607	N/A
<b>2002 (11)</b>	71,263	2.4	64,504	4.1	6,759	-11.1
<b>2003 (8)</b>	74,025	3.9	67,419	4.5	6,606	-2.3
<b>2004 (8)</b>	75,994	2.7	68,705	1.9	7,289	10.3
<b>2005 (8)</b>	75,145	-1.1	67,366	-1.9	7,779	6.7

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Table 4: Total Number of Employees: Regional Carriers, July 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>	44,280	N/A	38,979	N/A	5,301	N/A
<b>2004 (13)</b>	58,038	31.1	50,796	30.3	7,242	36.6
<b>2005 (13)</b>	60,738	4.7	53,449	5.2	7,289	0.6

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.

**-more-**

**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE  
ADD FOUR**

**Table 5: Network Carrier FTE Employees, July 2001-2005\***  
(Ranked by July 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	<b>American**</b>	96,254	98,530	82,247	79,832	81,394	85.4	85.4
2	<b>United</b>	96,603	79,662	61,093	58,805	54,489	90.4	88.6
3	<b>Delta</b>	76,380	66,262	59,027	57,850	52,339	83.0	88.6
4	<b>Northwest</b>	50,945	45,459	38,903	38,610	37,589	93.1	94.4
5	<b>Continental</b>	42,290	37,053	34,696	34,989	32,629	79.2	80.2
6	<b>US Airways</b>	44,502	33,978	26,381	25,928	21,715	90.4	86.8
7	<b>Alaska</b>	10,325	10,312	10,180	10,250	8,989	88.1	89.5
8	<b>TWA</b>	18,157	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	94.0	N/A
	<b>Total</b>	<b>435,456</b>	<b>371,256</b>	<b>312,527</b>	<b>306,264</b>	<b>289,144</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>87.3</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 Airline's statistics beginning in June 2001 reflect that carrier's absorption of former TWA employees that were retained by AA after its April 2001 acquisition of TWA's assets.

**Table 6: Low-Cost Carrier FTE Employees, July 2001-2005\***  
(Ranked by July 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	<b>Southwest</b>	30,741	33,517	33,062	31,676	31,428	97.6	98.4
2	<b>America West</b>	12,507	11,699	10,804	11,472	11,941	79.5	76.6
3	<b>JetBlue</b>	1,607	2,959	4,509	6,052	7,674	72.0	81.4
4	<b>AirTran</b>	4,206	4,592	5,324	5,720	6,293	89.7	92.7
5	<b>ATA</b>	7,257	7,094	7,493	6,688	4,486	88.0	91.9
6	<b>Frontier</b>	2,332	2,661	2,985	3,969	4,117	82.5	79.3
7	<b>Independence**</b>	N/A	N/A	4,232	4,348	3,165	N/A	85.8
8	<b>Spirit</b>	2,131	2,270	2,315	2,426	2,153	85.0	89.1
	<b>Total***</b>	<b>60,781</b>	<b>64,792</b>	<b>70,724</b>	<b>72,351</b>	<b>71,257</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>89.6</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 2003, 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.  
\*\*\* Total numbers for carriers operating in 2005.

- more -

**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE  
ADD FIVE**

**Table 7: Regional Carrier FTE Employees, July 2000-2004\***  
(Ranked by June 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	American Eagle	9,194	8,544	7,411	8,604	9,373	86.9	88.5
2	SkyWest	N/A	N/A	5,139	6,399	7,794	N/A	87.0
3	Comair	N/A	N/A	5,573	5,873	6,544	N/A	90.8
4	ExpressJet	N/A	4,694	5,732	6,229	6,501	N/A	92.0
5	Atlantic Southeast	4,057	4,658	5,369	5,778	5,537	92.4	94.6
6	Horizon	3,682	3,496	3,357	3,360	3,409	84.4	86.8
7	Mesa	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,743	3,314	N/A	98.9
8	Mesaba	3,236	3,311	3,045	3,104	3,306	75.6	75.9
9	Air Wisconsin	2,937	2,719	2,622	3,701	3,228	89.8	92.0
10	Pinnacle	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,264	3,071	N/A	70.6
11	Executive	1,262	1,119	1,938	2,027	1,848	74.7	77.4
12	PSA	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,843	1,708	N/A	84.3
13	Trans States	1,285	979	1,151	1,399	1,463	89.7	95.2
	<b>Total**</b>	<b>25,653</b>	<b>29,520</b>	<b>41,337</b>	<b>54,324</b>	<b>57,096</b>	<b>85.7</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.

\*\* Total numbers for carriers operating in 2005.

N/A: Carriers did not meet the standard for filing.

**Table 8: Change in FTE Employees from the Previous Year\***

Percentage change compared to same month the previous year

Month	Network Carriers (Pct. Change)	Low-Cost Carriers** (Pct. Change)	Regional Carriers (Pct. Change)	All Passenger Airlines*** (Pct. Change)
Dec. 2003-Dec. 2004	-3.5	0.5	29.4	0.7
Jan. 2004-Jan. 2005	-4.3	0.4	15.8	-1.0
Feb. 2004-Feb. 2005	-4.6	0.6	13.8	-1.4
Mar. 2004-Mar. 2005	-5.0	0.0	13.3	-1.9
Apr. 2004-Apr. 2005	-6.5	-0.7	12.2	-3.1
May 2004-May 2005	-6.7	-1.0	10.9	-3.4
June 2004-June 2005	-7.0	-1.1	10.0	-3.7
July 2004-July 2005	-5.6	-1.5	4.9	-3.3

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 2003, 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.

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

- END -