



M O V I N G T H E
AMERICAN
ECONOMY

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Research and Innovative Technology Administration
BTS Data

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**BTS Releases December Passenger Airline Employment Data;
December 2004 Employment Up 1.0
Percent from December 2003**

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 434,236 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) workers in December 2004, 1.0 percent more than in December 2003, 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 295,652 FTE workers, 3.4 percent fewer workers in December 2004 than a year earlier (Table 2). The low-cost carriers reported 71,640 FTE employees, 6.6 percent more than December 2003 (Table 3), and the regional carriers reported 57,020 employees, 18.7 percent more than the previous year (Table 4). The 2004 numbers for regional carriers included more carriers than 2003, because several airlines that previously were not required to report later met the Department of Transportation's reporting standards for submitting airline employment statistics.

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 2003 statistics do not include employment data for three regional airlines — Mesa, Pinnacle, and PSA Airlines — that were not required to report. Collectively, these three airlines reported a total of 8,129 employees in December 2004. Part-time workers are counted as one-half of a full-time employee in determining total FTEs.

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AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD ONE

Including only those airlines that reported employment data in both December 2003 and 2004, the regional airline category recorded an 11.2 percent growth rate. 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 2004 and 2003 in Table 6 to reflect that carrier's current business model as a low-cost operator.

The number of employees at network carriers in December dropped 31.6 percent from 2000 to 2004. The biggest declines were at US Airways, down 43.6 percent, and United Airlines, down 40.2 percent (Table 5).

The seven low-cost carriers that were required to report employment data in 2000 and 2004 employed 16.8 percent more workers in 2004 than in 2000. JetBlue Airways, a start-up carrier in 2000, has increased its workforce by nearly 600 percent since 2000 (Table 6).

Of the nine regional carriers that reported employment numbers to BTS in 2000, their December 2004 employee headcount increased 16.4 percent. Of that group, only Horizon Air and Continental Micronesia reported fewer employees in December 2004 than December 2000 (Table 7).

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. Additional airline employment data can be found on the BTS website at http://www.bts.gov/programs/airline_information/employees/. BTS will release January airline employment data later in March.

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**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD TWO**

**Table 1: Passenger Airline Employment, December 2003-2004
(number of current carriers in parentheses)**

	December 2003	December 2004	Pct. Change 2003- 2004
Total (35)	429,941	434,236	1.0
Full-time	403,020	406,588	0.9
Part-time	26,921	27,648	2.7
Network carriers (7)			
Total	306,203	295,652	-3.4
Full-time	286,920	276,812	-3.5
Part-time	19,283	18,840	-2.3
Low-cost Carriers (8)*			
Total	67,182	71,640	6.6
Full-time	64,048	68,186	6.5
Part-time	3,134	3,454	10.2
Regional Carriers (14)**			
Total	48,050	57,020	18.7
Full-time	44,889	53,059	18.2
Part-time	3,161	3,961	25.3
Other Carriers (6)***			
Total	8,506	9,924	16.7
Full-time	7,163	8,531	19.1
Part-time	1,343	1,393	3.7

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

*Independence Air (formerly known as Atlantic Coast Airlines) data have been included in 2003 totals for Regional Carriers, but reflecting the current change in its business model, the 2004 data have been included with Low Cost carrier results.

**2004 Regional data include results from three newly reporting airlines that were not required to report employment data in 2003: Mesa Airlines, PSA Airlines, and Pinnacle Airlines.

***Other Carriers: Allegiant, Aloha, Casino Express, Hawaiian, Midwest, USA3000

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AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD THREE

Table 2: Number of Employees: Network Carriers December 2000-2004
(number of current carriers in parentheses)

	Total	Pct. Change from previous year	Full- time	Pct. Change from previous year	Part- time	Pct. Change from previous year
2000 (8)	432,090	N/A	400,531	N/A	31,559	N/A
2001 (8)	372,109	-13.9	348,882	-12.9	23,227	-26.4
2002 (7)	356,405	-4.2	334,444	-4.1	21,961	-5.5
2003 (7)	306,203	-14.1	286,920	-14.2	19,283	-12.2
2004 (7)	295,652	-3.4	276,812	-3.5	18,840	-2.3

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Table 3: Number of Employees: Low-cost Carriers, December 2000-2004
(number of current carriers in parentheses)

	Total	Pct. Change from previous year	Full- time	Pct. Change from previous year	Part- time	Pct. Change from previous year
2000 (11)	62,296	N/A	58,720	N/A	3,576	N/A
2001 (11)	62,596	0.5	59,500	1.3	3,096	-13.4
2002 (9)	66,332	6.0	63,453	6.6	2,879	-7.0
2003 (7)	67,182	1.3	64,048	0.9	3,134	8.9
2004 (8)	71,640	6.6	68,186	6.5	3,454	10.2

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: Independence Air (formerly known as Atlantic Coast Airlines) data have been included in 2003 totals for Regional Carriers, but reflecting the current change in its business model, the 2004 data have been included with Low Cost carrier results.

Table 4: Number of Employees: Regional Carriers, December 2003-2004
(number of current carriers in parentheses)

	Total	Pct. Change from previous year	Full- time	Pct. Change from previous year	Part- time	Pct. Change from previous year
2003 (13)	48,050	N/A	44,889	N/A	3,161	N/A
2004 (14)	57,020	18.7	53,059	18.2	3,961	25.3

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. Independence Air (formerly known as Atlantic Coast Airlines) data have been included in 2003 totals for Regional Carriers, but reflecting the current change in its business model, the 2004 data have been included with Low Cost carrier results.

**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD FOUR**

Table 5: Network Carrier Employees, December 2000-2004

Rank		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Pct. Full-time Employees	
							2000	2004
1	American Airlines*	93,951	97,378	95,185	79,644	76,727	92.3	92.8
2	United	96,646	80,789	76,954	58,696	57,776	94.1	94.3
3	Delta	73,574	68,252	64,353	58,704	56,683	90.7	94.2
4	Northwest	53,889	44,807	43,412	38,353	38,678	93.4	97.1
5	Continental	41,050	35,578	36,170	34,163	31,811	88.1	88.7
6	US Airways	43,771	35,458	30,159	26,719	24,675	95.3	93.9
7	Alaska Airlines	9,723	9,847	10,172	9,924	9,302	93.7	94.0
8	Trans World	19,486	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	96.7	N/A
	Total	432,090	372,109	356,405	306,203	295,652	92.7	93.6

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

*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 Employees, December 2000-2004

Rank		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Pct. Full-time Employees	
							2000	2004
1	Southwest	29,274	32,310	33,705	32,847	31,012	98.6	99.2
2	America West	12,397	10,929	11,578	11,012	11,392	88.7	88.9
3	Jet Blue	996	2,031	3,685	5,129	6,678	83.6	89.2
4	ATA	7,495	6,588	6,654	6,949	5,947	93.6	94.6
5	AirTran	3,829	3,974	4,710	5,312	5,913	94.6	97.3
6	Independence Air	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,158	N/A	96.5
7	Frontier	2,082	2,198	3,320	3,365	4,056	88.7	89.3
8	Spirit	1,683	1,912	2,389	2,568	2,484	90.0	94.2
	Total	57,756	59,942	66,041	67,182	71,640	94.3	95.2

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: Independence Air (formerly known as Atlantic Coast Airlines) data have been included in 2003 totals for Regional Carriers, but reflecting the current change in its business model, the 2004 data have been included with Low Cost carrier results.

**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
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Table 7: Regional Carrier Employees, December 2000-2004

Rank		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Pct. Full-time Employees	
							2000	2004
1	American Eagle	8,887	8,449	7,857	7,720	9,130	92.1	93.9
2	Sky West	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,622	6,998	N/A	92.2
3	Express Jet	4,451	N/A	N/A	5,683	6,344	94.5	95.4
4	Comair	N/A	N/A	5,072	5,745	6,098	N/A	95.9
5	Atlantic Southeast	3,859	4,200	5,082	5,469	5,718	96.5	96.6
6	Mesa	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,832	N/A	94.7
7	Air Wisconsin	2,706	2,753	2,981	3,024	3,653	94.3	95.8
8	Horizon	3,830	3,471	3,409	3,311	3,322	91.8	92.8
9	Mesaba	2,995	3,088	3,045	2,909	3,201	87.3	86.8
10	Pinnacle	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,605	N/A	84.2
11	Executive	1,292	1,343	2,074	1,846	1,785	85.4	87.1
12	PSA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,692	N/A	91.1
13	Trans States	1,373	930	1,147	1,179	1,421	92.7	97.5
14	Continental Micronesia	1,358	1,150	1,152	1,181	1,221	84.5	79.9
15	Atlantic Coast	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,093	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	30,751	25,384	31,819	48,050	57,020	92.1	93.0

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: N/A means the numbers were not included because the carrier did not meet the requirement for filing reports. Independence Air (formerly known as Atlantic Coast Airlines) data have been included in 2003 totals for Regional Carriers, but reflecting the current change in its business model, the 2004 data have been included with Low Cost carrier results.

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