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March Passenger Airline Employment Down 1.7 Percent from March 2004

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed a total of 454,585 workers in March 2005, 1.7 percent fewer than in March 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 308,069 total full-time and part-time workers, 4.8 percent fewer workers in March 2005 than a year earlier (Table 2). The low-cost carriers reported 74,350 total employees, 0.3 percent more than March 2004 (Table 3); and the regional carriers reported 59,957 total employees, 13.2 percent more than the previous year (Table 4).

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 Employees (FTE) calculations, employment at network carriers in March dropped 32.9 percent from 2001 to 2005. The biggest declines were at US Airways, down 46.3 percent; and United Airlines, down 42.1 percent (Table 5). In FTE calculations, part-time workers are counted as one-half of a full-time employee.

The seven low-cost carriers that were required to report employment data in 2001 and 2005 employed 12.9 percent more FTEs in March 2005 than in March 2001 (Table 6).

The eight regional carriers that were required to report employment data in 2001 and 2005 employed 16.3 percent more FTEs in March 2005 than in March 2001. Of that group, only Horizon Air reported fewer FTE employees in March 2005 than March 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 1.9 percent drop in FTE's from March 2004 to March 2005 was the largest year-to-year drop in passenger airline employment in the four months that these numbers have been compiled for passenger airline groups (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 May 16.

Additional airline employment data can be found on the BTS website at http://www.bts.gov/programs/airline_information/number_of_employees/. BTS has scheduled release of April airline employment data for June 21.

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Table 1: Passenger Airline Employment, March 2004-2005

	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2005	Pct. Change 2004-2005
Total (36)			
Total	462,414	454,585	-1.7
Full-time	408,237	399,489	-2.1
Part-time	54,177	55,096	1.5
Network Carriers (7)*			
Total	323,570	308,069	-4.8
Full-time	285,658	270,558	-5.3
Part-time	37,912	37,511	-1.1
Low-Cost Carriers (8)			
Total	74,131	74,350	0.3
Full-time	67,448	67,232	-0.3
Part-time	6,683	7,118	6.5
Regional Carriers (13)**			
Total	52,974	59,957	13.2
Full-time	46,557	52,779	13.4
Part-time	6,417	7,178	11.9
Other Carriers (8)***			
Total	11,739	12,209	4.0
Full-time	8,574	8,920	4.0
Part-time	3,165	3,289	3.9

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 March 2004 and 2005, recorded a 10.2 percent growth rate.

*** Allegiant Air, Aloha Airlines, Casino Express Airlines, Continental Micronesia, Hawaiian Airlines, Midwest Airlines, TransMeridian Airlines, USA3000 Airlines.

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

	Total	Percentage Change from previous year	Full-time	Percentage Change from previous year	Part-time	Percentage Change from previous year
2001 (8)	460,997	N/A	401,546	N/A	59,451	N/A
2002 (7)	386,642	-16.1	340,360	-15.2	46,282	-22.2
2003 (7)	354,325	-8.4	313,248	-8.0	41,077	-11.2
2004 (7)	323,570	-8.7	285,658	-8.8	37,912	-7.7
2005 (7)	308,069	-4.8	270,558	-5.3	37,511	-11.0

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD THREE

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

	Total	Percentage Change from previous year	Full-time	Percentage Change from previous year	Part- time	Percentage Change from previous year
2001 (11)	67,983	N/A	60,661	N/A	7,322	N/A
2002 (11)	67,939	-0.1	61,476	1.3	6,463	-11.7
2003 (8)	73,751	8.6	67,175	9.3	6,576	1.7
2004 (8)	74,131	0.5	67,448	0.4	6,683	1.6
2005 (8)	74,530	0.3	67,232	-0.3	7,118	6.5

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

	Total	Percentage Change from previous year	Full-time	Percentage Change from previous year	Part- time	Percentage Change from previous year
2003 (11)	44,173	N/A	38,791	N/A	5,382	N/A
2004 (13)	52,974	19.9	46,557	20.0	6,417	19.2
2005 (13)	59,957	13.2	52,779	13.4	7,178	11.9

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, March 2001-2005*
(Ranked by March 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	American**	94,617	96,094	90,551	79,048	75,688	85.3	86.4
2	United	96,544	77,040	67,084	58,617	55,899	89.2	88.5
3	Delta	73,635	66,007	61,092	57,840	54,090	83.2	88.5
4	Northwest	51,982	44,051	41,689	38,383	38,416	93.7	95.2
5	Continental	41,517	36,393	35,845	34,535	32,319	78.8	80.3
6	US Airways	44,113	34,046	27,403	26,252	23,697	91.0	88.0
7	Alaska	10,064	9,872	10,125	9,840	9,206	88.5	88.7
8	TWA	18,802	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	93.9	N/A
	Total	431,274	363,503	333,789	304,615	289,315	87.1	87.8

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 April 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, March 2001-2005*
(Ranked by March 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	Southwest	29,560	32,245	33,140	31,522	30,975	97.3	98.4
2	America West	12,781	11,391	11,391	11,418	11,847	80.0	78.2
3	JetBlue	1,329	2,447	4,045	5,494	6,993	74.8	81.7
4	AirTran	4,097	4,368	4,934	5,367	6,079	91.0	94.5
5	ATA	7,700	6,828	7,156	7,001	5,112	88.4	90.6
6	Frontier	2,217	2,421	2,837	3,759	4,064	81.6	80.7
7	Independence**	N/A	N/A	4,528	3,831	3,439	N/A	91.1
8	Spirit	1,954	2,077	2,433	2,400	2,284	83.1	88.6
	Total***	59,638	61,777	70,464	70,792	70,793	90.2	90.4

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. The carrier did not meet the standard for filing in previous years.
*** Total numbers for carriers operating in 2005.

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ADD FIVE**

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

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees 2001 2005	
1	American Eagle	8,984	8,497	7,708	8,139	9,412	87.0	88.0
2	Sky West	N/A	N/A	5,127	6,120	7,363	N/A	86.7
3	ExpressJet	4,636	N/A	5,418	5,898	6,464	89.6	91.8
4	Comair	N/A	N/A	5,288	5,797	6,260	N/A	92.4
5	Atlantic Southeast	4,068	4,398	5,267	5,573	5,446	92.6	94.2
6	Air Wisconsin	2,790	2,822	2,925	3,426	3,746	89.2	92.2
7	Horizon	3,858	3,425	3,387	3,343	3,341	84.9	87.2
8	Mesaba	3,192	3,164	2,967	2,866	3,253	76.0	76.6
9	Mesa	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,185	3,233	N/A	98.7
10	Pinnacle	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,997	2,833	N/A	69.1
11	Executive	1,244	1,142	1,880	1,914	1,836	73.9	77.6
12	PSA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,735	N/A	83.5
13	Trans States	1,268	1,004	1,224	1,327	1,458	88.7	95.0
14	Freedom	N/A	N/A	292	183	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total**	30,060	24,452	41,483	49,768	56,380	86.3	88.0

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	Low-Cost Carriers**	Regional Carriers***	All Passenger Airlines****
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	-4.8	0.3	13.2	-1.9

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.

***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 February 2004 and 2005, recorded a 10.6 percent growth rate.

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

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