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May Passenger Airline Employment Down 3.2 Percent from May 2004

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed a total of 452,250 workers in May 2005, 3.2 percent fewer than in May 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 304,665 total full-time and part-time workers - 6.3 percent fewer workers in May 2005 than a year earlier (Table 2). The low-cost carriers reported 74,185 total employees, 0.8 percent fewer than May 2004 (Table 3); and the regional carriers reported 60,490 total employees, 10.9 percent more than the previous year (Table 4).

May was the sixth 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 1.2 percent increase in May.

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 2003, 2004 and 2005. 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 May dropped 34.2 percent from 2001 to 2005. The biggest declines were at US Airways, down 50.3 percent; and United Airlines, down 42.7 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 0.5 percent more FTEs in May 2005 than in May 2001 (Table 6).

The eight regional carriers that were required to report employment data in 2001 and 2005 employed 14.8 percent more FTEs in May 2005 than in May 2001. Of that group, only Horizon Air reported fewer FTE employees in May 2005 than May 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 3.4 percent drop in FTE's from May 2004 to May 2005 was the largest year-to-year drop in scheduled passenger airline employment in the six months that these numbers have been compiled for these airline groups (Table 8). The year-over-year employment trends have worsened each consecutive month since BTS began publishing these data effective with December 2004 results.

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 July 8.

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 June airline employment data for Aug. 16.

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Table 1: Passenger Airline Employment, May 2004-2005

	May 2004	May 2005	Pct. Change 2004- 2005
Total (37)			
Total	466,991	452,250	-3.2
Full-time	411,915	396,536	-3.7
Part-time	55,076	55,715	1.2
Network Carriers (7)*			
Total	325,097	304,665	-6.3
Full-time	286,939	266,945	-7.0
Part-time	38,158	37,720	-1.1
Low Cost Carriers (8)			
Total	74,792	74,185	-0.8
Full-time	67,745	66,881	-1.3
Part-time	7,047	7,304	3.6
Regional Carriers (13)**			
Total	54,568	60,490	10.9
Full-time	48,020	53,257	10.9
Part-time	6,548	7,233	10.5
Other Carriers (9)***			
Total	12,534	12,910	3.0
Full-time	9,211	9,453	2.6
Part-time	3,323	3,457	4.0

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 May 2004 and 2005, recorded a 7.7 percent growth rate.

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

**Table 2: Total Number of Employees: Network Carriers, May 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
2001 (8)	463,963	N/A	404,314	N/A	59,649	N/A
2002 (7)	391,470	-15.6	345,913	-14.4	45,557	-23.6
2003 (7)	341,571	-12.7	302,321	-12.6	39,250	-13.8
2004 (7)	325,097	-4.8	286,939	-5.1	38,158	-2.8
2005 (7)	304,665	-6.3	266,945	-7.0	37,720	-1.1

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
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**Table 3: Total Number of Employees: Low-cost Carriers, May 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
2001 (11)	70,804	N/A	63,129	N/A	7,675	N/A
2002 (11)	69,828	-1.4	63,066	-0.1	6,762	-11.9
2003 (8)	73,919	5.9	67,457	7.0	6,462	-4.4
2004 (8)	74,792	1.2	67,745	0.4	7,047	9.1
2005 (8)	74,185	-0.8	66,881	-1.3	7,304	3.6

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Table 4: Total Number of Employees: Regional Carriers, May 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
2003 (11)	44,233	N/A	38,820	N/A	5,413	N/A
2004 (13)	54,568	23.4	48,020	23.7	6,548	21.0
2005 (13)	60,490	10.9	53,257	10.9	7,233	10.5

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

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	American**	94,737	98,871	87,893	79,171	76,063	85.2	86.4
2	United	96,429	79,305	64,967	59,326	55,241	89.6	88.6
3	Delta	76,005	65,576	58,460	58,234	53,222	83.2	88.6
4	Northwest	51,606	43,924	38,713	38,440	37,661	93.3	94.3
5	Continental	42,087	36,577	34,954	34,760	32,654	79.2	80.1
6	US Airways	44,413	34,221	26,774	25,932	22,061	91.1	87.2
7	Alaska	10,277	10,219	10,187	10,158	8,904	88.0	89.0
8	TWA	18,585	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	93.9	N/A
	Total	434,139	368,692	321,946	306,018	285,805	87.1	87.6

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

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	Southwest	30,171	32,714	33,009	31,402	31,242	97.5	98.4
2	America West	12,621	11,491	10,923	11,468	11,976	80.2	77.5
3	JetBlue	1,447	2,672	4,495	5,738	7,248	73.0	81.4
4	AirTran	4,289	4,510	5,153	5,506	6,181	87.1	94.1
5	ATA	9,105	7,105	7,376	6,900	4,521	87.1	92.3
6	Frontier	2,291	2,558	3,010	3,906	4,066	83.8	79.9
7	Independence**	N/A	N/A	4,306	3,911	3,252	N/A	88.0
8	Spirit	2,220	2,215	2,418	2,440	2,048	85.1	89.5
	Total***	62,144	63,265	70,688	71,269	70,533	90.1	90.2

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.

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ADD FIVE**

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

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	American Eagle	9,105	8,420	7,567	8,402	9,475	87.1	88.5
2	Sky West	N/A	N/A	5,073	6,230	7,582	N/A	86.7
3	Express Jet	5,041	4,694	5,652	6,134	6,472	89.8	92.1
4	Comair	N/A	N/A	5,466	5,822	6,429	N/A	91.0
5	Atlantic Southeast	4,006	4,555	5,294	5,691	5,487	92.1	94.2
6	Air Wisconsin	2,785	2,700	2,667	3,488	3,492	89.8	92.3
7	Horizon	3,729	3,436	3,370	3,361	3,406	84.2	87.2
8	Mesa	3,226	3,216	3,057	2,993	3,303	75.4	75.7
9	Mesaba	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,605	3,295	N/A	98.7
10	Pinnacle	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,157	2,964	N/A	70.9
11	Executive	1,237	1,093	1,955	1,916	1,787	74.9	77.9
12	PSA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,712	N/A	84.1
13	Trans States	1,279	997	1,139	1,399	1,472	89.3	95.2
14	Freedom	N/A	N/A	289	97	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total**	30,406	29,109	41,527	51,294	56,874	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 (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

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.

***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 May 2004 and 2005, recorded a 7.7 percent growth rate.

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

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