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November 2005 Passenger Airline Employment Down 6.4 Percent from November 2004

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 437,014 workers in November 2005, 6.4 percent fewer than in November 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 290,352 total full-time and part-time workers – 9.0 percent fewer workers in November 2005 than a year earlier (Table 2). The low-cost carriers reported 74,299 total employees, 2.0 percent fewer than November 2004 (Table 3), and the regional carriers reported 59,301 total employees, no percentage change compared to the previous year (Table 4).

November 2005 was the 11th consecutive month that full-time equivalent employee (FTE) levels for the scheduled passenger carriers declined compared to the same month of the previous year (Table 8).

Full-time employee numbers declined 7.0 percent and part-time employee numbers declined 2.0 percent in November 2005 from November 2004.

Many regional carriers were not required to report employment numbers before 2003, so year-to-year comparisons involving regional carriers, or the total industry, are not available for the years before 2003. 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.

Employment data for Independence Air, which changed its business model from a regional to low-cost carrier in mid-2004 but whose flights have now been discontinued, have been included with low-cost carriers for 2003, 2004 and 2005 for consistency.

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AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
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Using Full-Time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations, employment at network carriers in November dropped 28.0 percent from 2001 to 2005. The biggest declines were at US Airways, down 47.7 percent; and United Airlines, down 34.4 percent (Table 5). In FTE calculations, two part-time employees are counted as one full-time employee.

The seven low-cost carriers, excluding Independence, that were required to report employment data in 2001 and 2005 employed 15.8 percent more FTEs in November 2005 than in November 2001 (Table 6).

The seven regional carriers reporting employment data in both 2001 and 2005 employed 13.8 percent more FTEs in November 2005 than in November 2001. Of that group, Air Wisconsin reported fewer FTE employees in November 2005 than November 2001 and Horizon Air reported about the same number (Table 7).

Data for US Airways and America West Airlines, now in the process of merging operations, are separately reported – US Airways' with network carriers, and America West's with low-cost carriers.

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

The 6.7 percent drop in FTEs from November 2004 to November 2005 was the 11th consecutive month of year-over-year declines in airline employment levels for the scheduled passenger carriers. It was the largest decrease for that period. It was also the fourth consecutive month with a decline of more than 5 percent from the same month of the previous year (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 Jan. 11.

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 December airline employment data for Feb. 21.

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Table 1: Passenger Airline Employment, November 2004-2005

	November 2004	November 2005	Pct. Change 2005- 2004
Total (39)			
Total	467,015	437,014	-6.4%
Full-time	411,492	382,613	-7.0%
Part-time	55,523	54,401	-2.0%
Network Carriers (7)			
Total	319,107	290,352	-9.0%
Full-time	281,354	254,492	-9.5%
Part-time	37,753	35,860	-5.0%
Low-Cost Carriers (8)*			
Total	75,778	74,299	-2.0%
Full-time	68,802	66,633	-3.2%
Part-time	6,976	7,666	9.9%
Regional Carriers (13)			
Total	59,303	59,301	0.0%
Full-time	51,918	51,980	0.1%
Part-time	7,385	7,321	-0.9%
Other Carriers (10)**			
Total	12,827	13,062	1.8%
Full-time	9,418	9,508	1.0%
Part-time	3,409	3,554	4.3%

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 from its prior designation of regional carrier.

** Other Carriers generally operate within specific niche markets. They are: 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,
November 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)	402,366	N/A	354,855	N/A	47,481	N/A
2002 (7)	383,744	-4.6%	338,498	-4.6%	45,246	-4.7%
2003 (7)	324,580	-15.4%	286,231	-15.4%	38,349	-15.2%
2004 (7)	319,107	-1.7%	281,354	-1.7%	37,753	-1.6%
2005 (7)	290,352	-9.0%	254,492	-9.5%	35,860	-5.0%

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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**Table 3: Total Number of Employees: Low-cost Carriers,
 November 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)	64,486	N/A	58,423	N/A	6,063	N/A
2002 (11)	69,229	7.4%	63,444	8.6%	5,785	-4.6%
2003 (8)	75,268	8.7%	68,455	7.9%	6,813	17.8%
2004 (8)	75,778	0.7%	68,802	0.5%	6,976	2.4%
2005 (8)	74,299	-2.0%	66,633	-3.2%	7,666	9.9%

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Table 4: Total Number of Employees: Regional Carriers,
 November 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)	45,043	N/A	39,633	N/A	5,410	N/A
2004 (13)	59,303	31.7%	51,918	31.0%	7,385	36.5%
2005 (13)	59,301	0.0%	51,980	0.1%	7,321	-0.9%

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

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	American**	84,762	96,401	79,664	78,780	75,022	85.5	86.2
2	United	82,020	77,863	58,708	58,238	53,797	91.7	88.9
3	Delta	70,140	65,076	58,563	56,850	49,765	84.3	89.4
4	Northwest	44,360	43,715	37,919	37,813	31,904	96.2	94.6
5	Continental	35,527	36,346	34,201	34,367	32,754	80.2	80.8
6	US Airways	38,577	31,523	26,401	24,806	20,185	91.6	85.6
7	Alaska	9,876	10,199	9,952	9,378	8,997	87.1	89.5
8	TWA	13,336	0	0	0	0	93.9	N/A
	Total	378,598	361,123	305,408	300,232	272,424	88.2	87.6

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

**American Airlines' 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, November 2001-2005*
(Ranked by November 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	Southwest	31,413	34,171	32,787	31,513	31,647	97.7	98.4
2	America West	10,953	11,682	11,099	11,425	11,581	79.8	76.3
3	JetBlue	1,957	3,617	5,193	6,607	8,297	72.4	82.3
4	AirTran	3,886	4,654	5,272	5,822	6,559	90.2	93.1
5	Frontier	2,186	2,735	3,353	4,072	4,100	80.1	79.6
6	ATA	6,536	6,633	7,637	6,001	3,814	89.4	92.4
7	Independence**	N/A	N/A	4,127	4,358	2,386	N/A	82.2
8	Spirit	1,869	2,413	2,395	2,495	2,084	87.1	88.0
	Total***	58,800	65,905	71,863	72,293	70,468	91.7	89.7

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one 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 and reporting in 2005.

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

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	American Eagle	8,404	7,902	7,695	9,104	9,471	87.0	88.3
2	Sky West	N/A	N/A	5,587	6,893	8,114	N/A	85.0
3	Comair	N/A	N/A	5,687	6,024	6,500	N/A	92.3
4	Express Jet	N/A	N/A	5,569	6,363	6,405	N/A	91.5
5	Atlantic Southeast	4,141	5,040	5,470	5,767	5,573	93.0	94.6
6	Horizon	3,495	3,398	3,309	3,347	3,489	82.8	86.7
7	Mesaba	3,006	2,980	2,958	3,197	3,288	75.7	73.4
8	Pinnacle	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,554	2,972	N/A	72.4
9	Mesa	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,845	2,963	N/A	98.5
10	Air Wisconsin	2,704	2,925	2,760	3,723	2,225	91.1	91.7
11	Executive	1,028	1,919	1,866	1,606	1,710	76.4	78.8
12	PSA	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,715	1,608	N/A	85.1
13	Trans States	1,012	1,147	1,149	1,476	1,326	92.3	94.7
	Total**	23,790	25,311	42,050	55,614	55,644	86.1	87.7

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.

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

** Totals include only carriers operating and reporting in 2005.

N/A: Not applicable because carriers did not meet the standard for filing.

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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
Aug. 2004-Aug. 2005	-9.0	-0.7	3.9	-5.7
Sept. 2004-Sept. 2005****	-8.9	-1.0	3.4	-5.8
Oct. 2004-Oct. 2005	-8.9	-1.0	2.4	-5.8
Nov. 2004-Nov. 2005	-9.3	-2.5	0.1	-6.7

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one 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.

**** Atlantic Southeast Airlines was granted an extension for the filing of September 2005 employment numbers. For year-to-year comparison purposes, its numbers are not included in September 2004.

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