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June 2007 Passenger Airline Employment Up 2.3 Percent from June 2006

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 2.3 percent more workers in June 2007 than in June 2006, the fifth consecutive increase in full-time equivalent employee (FTE) levels for the scheduled passenger carriers from the same month of the previous year, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 2). FTE calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), reported that the network airlines, a group that includes most of the industry's largest passenger carriers, reported more FTEs than the prior year for the second consecutive month after having reduced FTEs continuously since 9/11 (Table 1).

Adding FTEs from June 2006 to June 2007 were network carriers Continental Airlines, Alaska Airlines, Delta Air Lines and US Airways (Table 9), all of the low-cost carriers except for ATA Airlines (Table 12), and regional carriers American Eagle Airlines, SkyWest Airlines, ExpressJet Airlines, Horizon Air, Mesa Airlines, Pinnacle Airlines, Shuttle America, Republic Airlines and GoJet Airlines (Table 15).

Scheduled passenger airlines include network, low-cost, regional and other airlines. 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.

The 413,500 FTEs employed by the industry in June was the most in any month since September 2005 (Table 3). The seven network carriers employed 268,600 FTEs in June, 65.0 percent of the passenger airline total, while low-cost carriers employed 17.7 percent and regional carriers employed 14.5 percent (Table 4).

American Airlines employed the most FTEs in June among the network carriers, Southwest Airlines employed the most among low-cost carriers, and SkyWest employed the most among regional carriers. Six of the top 10 employers in the industry are network carriers (Table 6).

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Network Airlines

Network carrier FTEs increased 1.3 percent in June 2007 compared to June 2006, the second consecutive monthly gain from the same month of the previous year. Prior to the May increase, the network group had reduced FTEs from the previous year every month since August 2001 (Table 7).

Four network carriers increased FTEs from June 2006 to June 2007. They were: Delta up 8.3 percent, US Airways up 6.0 percent, Continental up 4.5 percent, and Alaska up 1.5 percent. The largest FTE decreases were reported by Northwest Airlines, down 4.4 percent and United Airlines, down 2.6 percent (Table 9).

Collectively, the seven network carriers reduced their FTE headcount by 15.4 percent, or 48,900 FTEs, from June 2003 to June 2007. Network carrier FTEs dropped from 317,500 to 268,600 during the four-year period (Table 8).

FTEs at six of the network carriers declined in June 2007 from June 2003. The exception was Continental with a 3.4 percent increase over June 2003. The biggest percentage decline was at Northwest, down 24.6 percent, a reduction of 9,500 FTEs, followed by US Airways at 22.7 percent. The other FTE decreases during that time were United, down 18.6 percent; Delta, down 16.3 percent; American, down 14.7 percent; and Alaska, down 6.1 percent (Table 9).

Data for US Airways and America West Airlines, now in the process of merging operations, are separately reported – US Airways' data are included in the network carriers' category and America West's in the low-cost carriers' category. US Airways will begin reporting a single number for the merged companies later this year.

Low-Cost Airlines

Low-cost carrier FTEs rose 5.3 percent in June 2007 compared to June 2006, the ninth consecutive increase after 18 consecutive monthly decreases from the previous year and the third consecutive increase of more than 5 percent (Table 10).

All the low-cost carriers had FTE increases from June 2006 to June 2007 except ATA, which reported a decline of 9.2 percent. AirTran Airways and Frontier Airlines reported increases of more than 10 percent (Table 12). For the first time since it began reporting employment data in February 2000, JetBlue Airways did not report a year-over-year increase in its FTE headcount as the number remained unchanged.

Low-cost carrier FTEs were 70,600 in June 2003, 69,400 in June 2006 and 73,100 in June 2007. The rise from 2003 to 2007 was 3.5 percent (Table 11). The 2003 to 2007 increase would be 10.1 percent if the 2003 employment data are excluded for Independence Air, which discontinued all flights on Jan. 5, 2006 (Table 12).

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

Low-cost carriers are those that the industry recognizes as operating under a low-cost business model, with fewer infrastructure costs and greater expectations of productivity.

Regional Airlines

Regional carrier FTEs were up 5.1 percent in June 2007 compared to June 2006, the fifth consecutive month with an increase in FTEs of more than 5 percent from the same month of the previous year (Table 13).

Sky West and Republic reported the largest increases in the group. Sky West, the regional carrier with the most FTEs, employed 23.2 percent more FTEs in June 2007 than June 2006, while Republic employed 82.0 percent more (Table 15).

Regional carrier FTEs rose from 51,900 in June 2004 to 59,900 in June 2007, an increase of 15.3 percent (Table 14).

The 10 regional carriers reporting employment data in both 2003 and 2007 employed 19.6 percent more FTEs in June 2007 than in June 2003. Of that group, SkyWest reported the biggest gain, 94.8 percent, followed by ExpressJet at 37.2 percent. Mesaba Airlines, Air Wisconsin, Atlantic Southeast Airlines and Executive Airlines reported fewer FTEs in June 2007 than June 2003 (Table 15).

Regional carriers typically provide service from small cities, using primarily regional jets to support the network carriers' hub and spoke systems.

Reporting Notes

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 Other Carrier category generally reflects those airlines that operate within specific niche markets, such as Aloha Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines in serving the Hawaiian Islands.

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers as of Aug. 10.

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 July airline employment data for Sept. 18.

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Table 1: Change in Passenger Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* from the Previous Year

Percent change compared to same month the previous year for the most recent 13 months

Month	Network Carriers (Pct. Change) From Table 7	Low-Cost Carriers** (Pct. Change) From Table 10	Regional Carriers (Pct. Change) From Table 13	All Passenger Airlines*** (Pct. Change) From Table 2
June 2005-June 2006	-6.9	-2.0	-1.6	-5.0
July 2005-July 2006	-8.1	-2.6	-0.8	-5.9
Aug. 2005-Aug. 2006	-4.7	-0.8	-1.0	-3.1
Sept. 2005-Sept. 2006	-4.1	-0.4	-0.3	-2.7
Oct. 2005-Oct. 2006	-4.0	0.8	0.6	-2.3
Nov. 2005-Nov. 2006	-3.4	0.9	2.4	-1.6
Dec. 2005-Dec. 2006	-2.9	1.4	3.4	-1.0
Jan. 2006-Jan. 2007	-2.6	4.5	3.0	-0.5
Feb. 2006-Feb. 2007	-2.2	5.0	5.9	0.2
Mar 2006-Mar 2007	-1.4	4.4	5.6	0.6
Apr. 2006-Apr. 2007	-0.7	5.7	5.6	1.3
May 2006-May 2007	0.3	5.3	7.2	2.0
June 2006-June 2007	1.3	5.3	5.1	2.3

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

**Employment numbers in 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 airline discontinued flights on Jan. 5, 2006.

*** Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers. Other Carriers generally operate within specific niche markets. They are: Allegiant Air, Aloha Airlines, Boston-Maine Airways, Casino Express Airlines, Continental Micronesia, Eos Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Midwest Airlines, Sun Country Airlines and USA3000 Airlines. USA3000 did not report in December 2006 and subsequent months.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 2: Change in Total Passenger Airline* Full-time Equivalent Employees from the Previous Year***

Percent change compared to same month the previous year

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	-5.6	-0.8	-6.0	-0.5
February	-5.3	-1.4	-5.8	0.2
March	-4.1	-1.9	-5.4	0.6
April	-2.3	-3.1	-4.6	1.3
May	-0.8	-3.5	-5.0	2.0
June	0.5	-3.8	-4.8	2.3
July	2.5	-3.5	-5.9	
August	2.2	-5.8	-3.1	
September	2.4	-5.8	-2.7	
October	2.5	-6.0	-2.3	
November	2.2	-6.5	-1.6	
December	0.9	-5.9	-1.0	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

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

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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Table 3: Total Passenger Airline* Full-time Equivalent Employees by Month
Numbers in thousands (000's)**

Month	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Percent Change	
						2003-2007	2006-2007
January	465.7	435.0	431.5	405.7	403.6	-13.3	-0.5
February	459.4	435.0	428.9	404.5	405.4	-11.7	0.2
March	454.3	435.9	427.7	404.7	407.4	-10.3	0.6
April	448.2	437.8	424.1	404.0	409.6	-8.6	1.3
May	443.2	439.6	424.4	403.6	411.8	-7.1	2.0
June	438.9	440.9	424.3	403.8	413.5	-5.8	2.3
July	433.2	444.1	428.5	403.0			
August	433.3	443.0	417.5	404.4			
September	429.6	440.0	414.5	403.4			
October	428.3	439.1	412.7	403.3			
November	429.9	439.5	411.0	404.2			
December	430.2	434.0	408.6	404.7			

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

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

Note: Percent changes and averages based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 4: Total Number of Full-time Equivalent Employees* (FTEs) by Carrier Group, June 2003-2007
FTE Numbers in thousands (000's)**

	Network	Low-Cost	Regional	All Passenger Airlines**
2003	317.5	70.6	41.6	438.9
2004	306.1	71.7	51.9	440.9
2005	284.8	70.8	57.6	424.3
2006	265.3	69.4	57.0	403.8
2007	268.6	73.1	59.9	413.5
Pct. Change 2003-2007	-15.4	3.5	15.3	-6.2
Percent of Total Passenger Airline Employees in 2007	65.0%	17.7%	14.5%	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

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

*** Percent change comparison for regional airlines and for all passenger airlines is for 2004 to 2007 because of the number of airlines in these categories that did not meet the standard for reporting monthly employment numbers.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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Table 5: Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Carrier Group, Year-to-Year Change, June 2003-2007

Percent Change from the previous year

	Network	Low-Cost	Regional**	All Passenger Airlines***
2003	-14.4	4.8	N/A	N/A
2004	-3.6	1.5	24.9	0.5
2005	-7.0	-1.2	11.0	-3.8
2006	-6.8	-2.0	-1.1	-4.8
2007	1.3	5.3	5.1	2.3

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

** 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 appropriate for the years before 2003.

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

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 6: Top 10 Airlines, June 2007

Ranked by Number of Full-Time Equivalent Employees*

Rank	Airline	Total FTE Employees (000)	Carrier Group	June 2006 Rank	June 2005 Rank
1	American	72,942	Network	1	1
2	United	51,775	Network	2	2
3	Delta	48,832	Network	3	3
4	Continental	35,915	Network	4	5
5	Southwest	33,261	Low Cost	5	6
6	Northwest	29,148	Network	6	4
7	US Airways	20,405	Network	7	7
8	America West	12,471	Low Cost	8	8
9	Sky West	9,905	Regional	9	10
10	JetBlue	9,675	Low Cost	11	11

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

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Table 7: Network Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* Change from the Previous Year

Percent change compared to same month the previous year

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	-12.5	-4.1	-8.1	-2.6
February	-11.0	-4.6	-7.8	-2.2
March	-8.7	-5.0	-7.4	-1.4
April	-6.6	-6.5	-6.7	-0.7
May	-4.9	-6.6	-7.0	0.3
June	-3.6	-7.0	-6.8	1.3
July	-2.0	-5.9	-8.1	
August	-1.7	-9.0	-4.7	
September	-1.7	-8.9	-4.1	
October	-1.4	-8.9	-4.0	
November	-1.8	-9.3	-3.4	
December	-3.5	-8.5	-2.9	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 8: Network Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month Numbers in thousands (000's)

Rank	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Percent Change	
						2003-2007	2006-2007
January	348.7	305.1	292.7	269.1	262.0	-24.9	-2.6
February	342.3	304.7	290.9	268.2	262.4	-23.3	-2.2
March	333.8	304.6	289.3	267.8	264.1	-20.9	-1.4
April	327.2	305.6	285.8	266.6	264.8	-19.1	-0.7
May	321.9	306.0	285.8	265.8	266.6	-17.2	0.3
June	317.5	306.1	284.8	265.3	268.6	-15.4	1.3
July	312.5	306.3	288.2	264.9			
August	310.6	305.3	277.8	264.8			
September	307.6	302.4	275.4	264.0			
October	305.3	300.9	274.1	263.0			
November	305.7	300.2	272.4	263.0			
December	306.2	295.7	270.6	262.9			
Monthly Average	320.1	303.7	282.4	265.4			
Jan-June Average	331.9	305.4	288.2	267.1	264.8	-20.2	-0.9

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

Note: Percent changes and averages based on numbers prior to rounding.

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Table 9: Network Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees*, June 2003-2007
(Ranked by June 2007 FTEs)
Numbers in thousands (000's)

Rank		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Percent Change	
							2003-2007	2006-2007
1	American	85.5	79.1	75.9	73.4	72.9	-14.7	-0.7
2	United	63.6	59.3	54.7	53.2	51.8	-18.6	-2.6
3	Delta	58.4	57.9	52.7	45.1	48.8	-16.3	8.3
4	Continental	34.7	35.1	32.7	34.4	35.9	3.4	4.5
5	Northwest	38.7	38.5	37.7	30.5	29.1	-24.6	-4.4
6	US Airways	26.4	26.1	22.2	19.2	20.4	-22.7	6.0
7	Alaska	10.2	10.2	8.9	9.5	9.6	-6.1	1.5
	Total	317.5	306.1	284.8	265.3	268.6	-15.4	1.3

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.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 10: Change in Low-Cost Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* from the Previous Year

Percent change compared to same month the previous year

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	8.4	0.5	-5.3	4.5
February	6.9	0.6	-4.1	5.0
March	0.5	0.0	-3.0	4.4
April	0.6	-0.7	-2.2	5.7
May	0.8	-1.0	-2.1	5.3
June	1.5	-1.2	-2.0	5.3
July	2.3	-1.5	-2.0	
August	1.1	-0.7	-0.8	
September	0.7	-1.0	-0.4	
October	-0.2	-1.2	0.8	
November	0.5	-2.5	0.9	
December	0.5	-1.4	1.4	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

Note: 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 airline discontinued flights on Jan. 5, 2006.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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**Table 11: Low-Cost Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month
Numbers in thousands (000's)**

Rank	2003**	2004**	2005**	2006	2007	Percent Change	
						2003-2007	2006-2007
January	65.7	71.2	71.6	67.8	70.8	7.8	4.5
February	65.9	70.5	70.9	68.0	71.4	8.3	5.0
March	70.5	70.8	70.8	68.7	71.7	1.7	4.4
April	70.6	71.0	70.4	68.9	72.8	3.2	5.7
May	70.7	71.3	70.5	69.1	72.7	2.9	5.3
June	70.6	71.7	70.8	69.4	73.1	3.5	5.3
July	70.7	72.4	71.3	69.4			
August	70.8	71.6	71.1	70.5			
September	70.7	71.3	70.6	70.3			
October	71.3	71.2	70.4	70.9			
November	71.9	72.3	70.5	71.1			
December	71.3	71.6	70.6	71.6			
Monthly Average	69.7	71.4	70.8	69.6			
Jan-June Average	69.0	71.1	70.8	68.6	72.1	4.5	5.0

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one 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 airline discontinued flights on Jan. 5, 2006.

Note: Percent changes and averages based on numbers prior to rounding.

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

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Table 12: Low-Cost Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees,* June 2003-2007
(Ranked by June 2007 FTEs)
Numbers in thousands (000's)

Rank		2003**	2004**	2005**	2006	2007	Percent Change	
							2003-2007	2006-2007
1	Southwest	32.9	31.4	31.4	31.7	33.3	1.1	4.8
2	America West	10.9	11.5	12.0	11.7	12.5	14.9	7.0
3	JetBlue	4.4	5.9	7.5	9.7	9.7	117.6	0.0
4	AirTran	5.3	5.6	6.2	7.2	8.1	53.2	13.7
5	Frontier	3.0	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.9	63.1	10.2
6	ATA	7.4	6.8	4.5	2.7	2.4	-67.5	-9.2
7	Spirit	2.4	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.2	-10.1	7.5
8	Independence	4.3	4.0	3.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	70.6	71.7	70.8	69.4	73.1	3.5	5.3

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one 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. The airline discontinued flights on Jan. 5, 2006.

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

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

Table 13: Change in Regional Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* from the Previous Year

Percent change compared to same month the previous year

	2004**	2005***	2006	2007
January	16.3	15.5	2.5	3.0
February	17.3	14.3	1.1	5.9
March	21.6	13.7	0.5	5.6
April	21.7	12.6	0.6	5.6
May	23.3	11.1	-0.6	7.2
June	24.9	11.0	-1.6	5.1
July	33.0	6.0	-0.8	
August	31.6	5.1	-1.0	
September	32.4	4.3	-0.3	
October	33.0	2.7	0.6	
November	31.0	2.1	2.4	
December	29.3	1.8	3.4	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

** Mesa, Pinnacle and PSA began reporting employment numbers in 2004.

*** Republic, Shuttle America and GoJet reported for part of 2005.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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Table 14: Regional Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month
Numbers in thousands (000's)

	2004**	2005***	2006	2007	Percent Change	
					2004-2007	2006-2007
January	48.3	55.8	57.2	58.9	22.0	3.0
February	48.9	55.9	56.6	59.9	22.4	5.9
March	49.6	56.4	56.7	59.8	20.7	5.6
April	50.3	56.6	56.9	60.1	19.6	5.6
May	51.2	56.9	56.5	60.6	18.3	7.2
June	51.9	57.6	57.0	59.9	15.3	5.1
July	54.3	57.6	57.1			
August	55.0	57.8	57.2			
September	55.2	57.6	57.4			
October	55.8	57.4	57.7			
November	55.6	56.8	58.1			
December	55.3	56.3	58.2			
Monthly Average	52.6	56.9	57.1			
Jan-June Average	50.0	56.5	56.8	59.9	19.7	5.5

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

** Mesa, Pinnacle and PSA began reporting employment numbers in 2004.

*** Republic, Shuttle America and GoJet reported for part of 2005.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 15: Regional Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees*, June 2003-2007
(Ranked by June 2007 FTEs)

Rank		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Percent Change**	
							2003-2007	2006-2007
1	Sky West	5,084	6,353	7,765	8,043	9,905	94.8	23.2
2	American Eagle	7,567	8,500	9,443	9,184	9,453	24.9	2.9
3	ExpressJet	5,719	6,195	6,507	6,665	7,846	37.2	17.7
4	Comair	5,549	5,848	6,577	6,210	6,201	11.7	-0.1
5	Atlantic Southeast	5,327	5,717	5,523	5,475	4,347	-18.4	-20.6
6	Horizon	3,357	3,377	3,395	3,554	3,832	14.1	7.8
7	Pinnacle	N/A	2,222	3,052	3,049	3,457	N/A	13.4
8	Mesa	N/A	3,682	3,294	3,273	3,219	N/A	-1.6
9	Mesaba	3,046	3,033	3,359	2,850	2,545	-16.4	-10.7
10	Air Wisconsin	2,621	3,595	3,322	2,225	2,251	-14.1	1.2
11	Executive	1,863	1,998	1,770	1,757	1,709	-8.3	-2.7
12	PSA	N/A	N/A	1,742	1,471	1,444	N/A	-1.8
13	Trans States	1,152	1,411	1,476	1,386	1,290	12.0	-6.9
14	Shuttle America	N/A	N/A	398	974	1,052	N/A	8.0
15	Republic	N/A	N/A	N/A	560	1,019	N/A	82.0
16	Go Jet	N/A	N/A	N/A	306	324	N/A	5.9
	Total**	41,285	51,931	57,623	56,982	59,894	19.6	5.1

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

** 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 appropriate for the years before 2003.

The Percent Change 2003-2007 is based on the 10 carriers reporting in both years.

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

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

- end -