Table 1049. **Commuter/Regional Airline Operations Summary: 2003 to 2006**

[**Calendar year data (112.6 represents 112,600,000).** Commuter/regional airlines operate primarily aircraft of predominately 75 passengers or less and 18,000 pounds of payload capacity serving short haul and small community markets. Represents operations within all North America by U.S. Regional Carriers. Averages are means. For definition of mean, see Guide to Tabular Presentation]

Item	Unit	2003	2004	2005	2006
Passenger carriers operating	Number	73	75	75	71
Passengers enplaned	Millions	112.6	134.1	154.2	155.7
Average passengers enplaned per carrier.	1,000	1,542.5	1,787.7	2,055.6	2,193.5
Revenue passenger miles (RPM)	Billions	47.7	62.6	73.8	74.4
Average RPMs per carrier	Millions	652.8	835.1	983.7	1,047.2
Available seat miles	Billions	72.2	91.6	104.8	100.9
Average load factor	Percent	66.0	68.4	70.4	73.7
Departures completed	Millions	4.6	5.0	5.3	5.1
Airports served	Number	823	846	846	896
Average trip length	Miles	423.2	467.1	478.5	477.4
Average seating capacity (seats).	Number	48.9	52.4	54.4	53.6
Fleet flying hours	1,000	5,940.3	6,595.5	7,333.0	7,132.7

Source: Compiled by the Regional Airline Association and BACK Aviation from DOT Form 41 data, *Annual Report of the Regional Airline Industry* (copyright).