

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
http://www.dot.gov/briefingroom

BTS Data

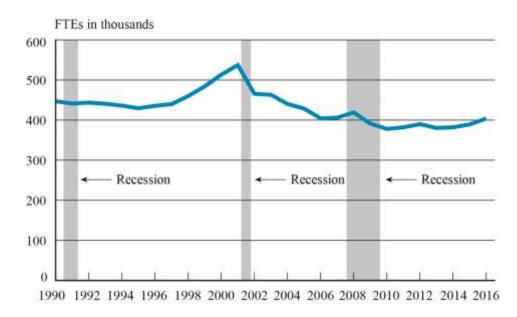
BTS 23-16

Thursday, April 21, 2016 Contact: Dave Smallen Tel: 202-366-5568

February 2016 Passenger Airline Employment Data

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 3.8 percent more workers in February 2016 than in February 2015, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today. February was the highest monthly total (403,917) since August 2008 and was the 27th consecutive month that U.S. scheduled passenger airline full-time equivalent (FTE) employment exceeded the same month of the previous year (Tables 1, 2, 3).

Scheduled Passenger Airline Full-Time Equivalent Employees, Month of February, 1990-2016



Month-to-month, the number of FTEs rose 0.4 percent from January to February (Table 1A). Scheduled passenger airline categories include network, low-cost, regional and other airlines. <u>Historical employment data</u> can be found on the BTS web site.

The four network airlines that collectively employ two-thirds of the scheduled passenger airline FTEs reported 3.2 percent more FTEs in February 2016 than in February 2015 (Table 7). Alaska Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines increased FTEs from February 2015 (Table 9). The fourth network airline, American Airlines, which has merged with US Airways, reported 4.0 percent more FTEs in February 2016 than American and US Airways reported separately in February 2015. July 2015 was the first month for which the two merged airlines submitted a combined report. Month-to-month, the number of network airline FTEs rose 0.3 percent from January to February (Table 1A). Network airlines 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.

The six low-cost carriers reported 8.5 percent more FTEs in February 2016 than in February 2015 (Table 10). Allegiant Airlines, Spirit Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Virgin America and Southwest Airlines reported increases while Frontier Airlines reported reduced FTEs (Table 12). Month-to-month, the number of low-cost airline FTEs rose 1.2 percent from January to February, rising for the 11th consecutive month (Table 1A). Low-cost airlines operate under a low-cost business model, with infrastructure and aircraft operating costs below the overall industry average.

The 12 regional carriers reported 0.2 percent more FTEs in February 2016 than in February 2015 (Table 13). Seven regional airlines – PSA Airlines, Mesa Airlines, Compass Airlines, Horizon Air, SkyWest Airlines, GoJet Airlines and Endeavor Air – reported increased employment levels. The others reported decreases (Table 15). Month-to-month, the number of regional airline FTEs fell 0.1 percent from January to February (Table 1A). Regional carriers typically provide service from small cities, using primarily regional jets to support the network carriers' hub and spoke systems.

Carrier Groups: The four network airlines employed 66.1 percent of the 403,917 FTEs employed by all scheduled passenger airlines in February, the six low-cost carriers employed 19.7 percent and the 12 regional carriers employed 12.5 percent (Table 4). The three airlines with the most FTEs in February – American, Delta and United– employed 63.4 percent of the month's total passenger airline FTEs (Tables 3, 6). From 2007 to 2016, the network share of FTEs fell from 68.0 percent to 66.1 percent, the low-cost share rose from 17.1 percent to 19.7 percent and the regional airline share dropped from 13.7 percent to 12.5 percent (Table 5).

Top Employers by Group: American employed the most FTEs (97,405) in February among the network airlines, Southwest employed the most FTEs (50,449) among low-cost airlines, and Envoy Air employed the most FTEs (10,620) among regional airlines. The top three employers in the industry are network airlines (Table 6).

Airline Mergers: Airlines involved in mergers typically begin joint reporting following U.S. Department of Transportation approval and issuance of a single economic certificate. American and US Airways began reporting jointly with July 2015 employment numbers. The airlines announced the merger in January 2013.

Network Airlines

The network airlines employed 3.2 percent more FTEs in February 2016 than in February 2015 and 2.7 percent more FTEs in February 2016 than in February 2012 (Tables 8, 9).

Low-Cost Airlines

The six low-cost airlines employed 8.5 percent more FTEs in February 2016 than in February 2015 and 14.5 percent more FTEs in February 2016 than in February 2012 (Tables 11, 12).

Regional Airlines

Regional airlines employed 0.2 percent more FTEs in February 2016 than in February 2015. The 12 regional carriers reporting in February 2016 employed 4.6 percent fewer FTEs in February 2016 than the 15 carriers reporting in February 2012 (Tables 14, 15).

Reporting Notes

Airlines that operate at least one aircraft that has more than 60 seats or the capacity to carry a payload of passengers, cargo and fuel weighing more than 18,000 pounds must report monthly employment statistics.

The "Other Carrier" category generally reflects those airlines that operate within specific niche markets such as the Hawaiian Islands served by Hawaiian Airlines and Island Air Hawaii.

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers as of April 12. Additional <u>airline employment data</u> and previous <u>press releases</u> can be found on the BTS website. BTS has <u>scheduled release</u> of March passenger airline employment data for May 19.

Table 1: Yearly Change in Scheduled Passenger Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Airline Group

Most recent 13 months - percent change from same month of the previous year

	Network Airlines	Low- Cost Airlines	Regional Airlines	All Passenger Airlines**
Feb 2014-Feb 2015	1.4	4.6	-0.3	1.8
Mar 2014-Mar 2015	1.7	4.0	-0.5	1.9
Apr 2014-Apr 2015	2.4	4.2	-0.4	2.4
May 2014-May 2015	2.7	4.3	-0.3	2.6
Jun 2014-Jun 2015	3.1	4.9	0.1	3.0
Jul 2014-Jul 2015	3.1	5.2	-3.3	2.7
Aug 2014-Aug 2015	3.7	5.8	-2.7	3.3
Sep 2014-Sep 2015	3.6	6.5	-2.7	3.3
Oct 2014-Oct 2015	3.6	6.7	-0.6	3.7
Nov 2014-Nov 2015	3.7	6.4	-2.1	3.4
Dec 2014-Dec 2015	3.5	7.7	0.9	3.7
Jan 2015-Jan 2016	3.3	7.9	2.0	4.1
Feb 2015-Feb 2016	3.2	8.5	0.2	3.8

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Note: See Table 2 for all passenger airlines, Table 7 for Network, Table 10 for Low-Cost and Table 13 for Regional.

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

^{**} Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers. Other Carriers generally operate within specific niche markets. They are: Hawaiian Airlines, Sun Country Airlines and Island Air Hawaii.

Table 1A: Monthly Change in Scheduled Passenger Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Airline Group

Percent change in FTEs from the previous month

				All
	Network Airlines	Low-Cost Airlines	Regional Airlines	Passenger Airlines**
Feb 2015-Mar 2015	0.8	-0.2	0.1	0.5
Mar 2015-Apr 2015	0.8	1.7	-0.1	0.7
Apr 2015-May 2015	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.6
May 2015-Jun 2015	0.4	0.6	-0.2	0.3
Jun 2015-Jul 2015	0.0	0.5	-1.8	-0.1
Jul 2015-Aug 2015	0.0	0.7	-0.2	0.1
Aug 2015-Sep 2015	-0.1	0.7	-0.2	0.1
Sep 2015-Oct 2015	0.1	1.1	0.6	0.4
Oct 2015-Nov 2015	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.3
Nov 2015-Dec 2015	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Dec 2015-Jan 2016	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.2
Jan 2015-Feb 2016	0.3	1.2	-0.1	0.4

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Note: See Table 2 for all passenger airlines, Table 7 for Network, Table 10 for Low-Cost and Table 13 for Regional.

Table 2: Change from Previous Year in Scheduled Passenger Airline* Full-time Equivalent Employees**
Percent change compared to same month of the previous year

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016
January	-2.3	0.5	1.2	4.1
February	-2.5	0.4	1.8	3.8
March	-2.7	0.8	1.9	
April	-2.4	1.0	2.6	
May	-2.5	1.1	2.6	
June	-2.4	0.9	3.0	
July	-2.6	1.3	2.7	
August	-2.2	1.0	3.3	
September	-1.6	1.1	3.3	
October	-0.8	0.9	3.7	
November	-0.1	1.5	3.4	
December	0.3	1.4	3.9	

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

^{**} Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers. Other Carriers generally operate within specific niche markets. They are: Hawaiian Airlines, Sun Country Airlines and Island Air Hawaii.

^{*} 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.

Table 3: Scheduled Passenger Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month 2012-2016 FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

	,					_	cent inge
						2012-	2015-
Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016	2016
January	386.2	380.0	381.8	386.5	402.2	4.2	4.1
February	387.1	380.4	382.0	389.0	403.9	4.3	3.8
March	390.8	380.5	383.6	390.8			
April	390.2	381.0	384.3	393.4			
May	391.0	381.4	385.6	395.6			
June	390.9	381.7	385.2	397.0			
July	391.3	381.3	386.2	396.5			
August	389.0	380.6	384.5	397.0			
September	386.4	380.2	384.5	397.2			
October	384.3	381.2	384.7	398.9			
November	381.6	381.2	386.9	400.3			
December	379.6	380.8	386.2	401.4			
12-Month Average	387.4	380.9	384.6	395.3			
Jan-Feb Average	386.6	380.2	381.9	387.8	403.1	4.3	3.9

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Table 4: Airline Group Full-time Equivalent Employees*, February 2012-2016 FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

		Network	Low-Cost	Regional	All Passenger Airlines**
2	2012	260.0	69.5	52.8	387.1
2	2013	255.0	69.6	50.2	380.4
2	2014	255.2	70.1	50.5	382.0
2	2015	258.8	73.4	50.3	389.0
2	2016	267.0	79.6	50.4	403.9
Percent of Total Passenger Airline					
Employees in 2016		66.1%	19.7%	12.5%	100%

^{*} 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.

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

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

Table 5: Carrier Group Percent of Total Scheduled Passenger Airline FTEs 2007-2016

Percent of Total Passenger FTEs

February of each year

	Network	Low-Cost	Regional	Other
2007	68.0	17.1	13.7	1.2
2011	66.5	18.9	12.9	1.7
2015	66.5	18.9	12.9	1.7
2016	66.1	19.7	12.5	1.7

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Table 6: Top 10 Airlines, February 2016

Ranked by Number of Full-Time Equivalent Employees* FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

Rank	Airline	Total FTE Employees	Carrier Group**	Top 10 Airlines February 2015
1	American	97.4	Network	United
2	Delta	79.2	Network	Delta
3	United	79.4	Network	American
4	Southwest	50.4	Low-Cost	Southwest
5	JetBlue	15.4	Low-Cost	US Airways
6	Alaska	11.0	Network	JetBlue
7	Envoy	10.6	Regional	Envoy
8	SkyWest	10.6	Regional	Alaska
9	ExpressJet	7.2	Regional	SkyWest

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

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

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

^{**} See Table 9 for Network, Table 12 for Low-Cost and Table 15 for Regional.

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

Percent change compared to same month of the previous year

	2013	2014	2015	2016
January	-3.1	0.4	8.0	3.3
February	-3.0	0.1	1.4	3.2
March	-3.3	0.6	1.7	
April	-3.0	0.4	2.4	
May	-3.0	0.5	2.7	
June	-2.8	0.3	3.1	
July	-2.8	0.4	3.1	
August	-2.5	0.1	3.7	
September	-2.1	0.4	3.6	
October	-1.4	0.3	3.6	
November	-0.4	0.4	3.7	
December	0.4	0.8	3.5	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Table 8: Network Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month 2012-2016 FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

	,					_	cent inge
						2012-	2015-
Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016	2016
January	259.7	254.4	255.5	257.6	266.2	2.5	3.3
February	260.0	255.0	255.2	258.8	267.0	2.7	3.2
March	263.5	254.9	256.3	260.8			
April	263.7	255.7	256.7	262.9			
May	264.2	256.3	257.6	264.4			
June	264.3	256.8	257.5	265.5			
July	263.8	256.5	257.5	265.6			
August	262.4	255.8	256.1	265.6			
September	260.7	255.2	256.1	265.3			
October	259.2	255.7	256.4	265.7			
November	256.8	255.9	256.8	266.3			
December	254.1	255.2	257.3	266.1			
12-Month Average	261.5	255.6	256.6	263.7			
Jan-Feb Average	259.9	254.7	255.3	258.2	266.6	2.6	3.3

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

^{*} 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 9: Network Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees*, February 2012-2016

(FTEs for February of each year. Ranked by February 2016 FTEs)

FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

	000 (000	-,						cent ange
Rank	Airline	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012- 2016	2015- 2016
1	AA/US Combined	95.8	90.0	91.3	93.6	97.4	1.7	4.0
	American**	65.4	59.5	59.7	61.4	97.4	N/A	N/A
	US Airways**	30.4	30.5	31.6	32.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Delta	73.5	73.5	73.6	76.4	79.2	7.8	3.6
3	United	81.7	82.2	80.7	78.4	79.4	-2.8	1.3
4	Alaska	9.0	9.3	9.6	10.3	11.0	21.9	6.2
	Total	260.0	255.0	255.2	258.8	267.0	2.7	3.2

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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

Percent change compared to same month of the previous year

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016
January	1.1	0.3	4.6	7.9
February	0.2	0.7	4.6	8.5
March	-0.1	0.8	4.0	
April	-0.3	1.5	4.2	
May	-0.3	1.8	4.3	
June	-0.6	5.0	4.9	
July	-0.4	2.5	5.2	
August	0.0	3.0	5.8	
September	-0.2	2.9	6.5	
October	-0.1	3.8	6.9	
November	-0.1	5.2	6.5	
December	-0.6	4.4	7.7	

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

^{**} American Airlines and US Airways merged and began reporting combined numbers in July 2015.

^{*} 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 11: Low-Cost Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month 2012-2016

FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

						_	cent inge
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012- 2016	2015- 2016
January	68.9	69.5	69.7	72.9	78.6	14.1	7.9
February	69.5	69.6	70.1	73.4	79.6	14.5	8.5
March	69.9	69.9	70.4	73.2			
April	69.9	69.7	70.8	73.7			
May	70.1	69.8	71.1	74.2			
June	70.0	69.6	71.1	74.6			
July	69.8	69.5	71.3	75.0			
August	69.4	69.4	71.4	75.5			
September	69.6	69.4	71.4	76.1			
October	69.6	69.5	72.1	77.1			
November	69.4	69.4	73.0	77.8			
December	69.8	69.4	72.4	78.0			
12-Month Average	69.6	69.5	71.2	75.1			
Jan-Feb Average	69.2	69.5	69.9	73.1	79.1	14.3	8.2

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

Table 12: Low-Cost Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees,* February 2012-2016** (FTEs for February of each year. Ranked by February 2016 FTEs)

							Percent Change	
Rank		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012- 2016	2015- 2016
1	WN/FL Combined	45,926	45,857	45,091	46,784	50,449	9.8	7.8
	Southwest**	38,468	45,857	45,091	46,784	50,449	N/A	7.8
	AirTran	7,458	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	JetBlue	12,459	12,678	13,301	13,901	15,383	23.5	10.7
3	Spirit	2,630	3,026	3,534	4,079	4,916	86.9	20.5
4	Allegiant	1,648	1,867	2,134	2,460	3,008	82.5	22.3
5	Frontier	4,508	3,850	3,565	3,575	3,002	-33.4	-16.0
6	Virgin America	2,305	2,352	2,510	2,552	2,820	22.3	10.5
	Total	69,476	69,630	70,135	73,351	79,578	14.5	8.5

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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

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

^{**} Southwest Airlines and AirTran Airways merged and began reporting combined employment numbers in April 2012.

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

Percent change compared to same month of the previous year

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016
January	-4.1	-0.4	-1.9	2.0
February	-5.0	0.5	-0.3	0.2
March	-4.6	0.9	-0.5	
April	-3.8	2.3	-0.4	
May	-4.5	2.4	-0.3	
June	-4.4	1.9	0.1	
July	-6.3	3.5	-3.3	
August	-5.1	2.5	-2.7	
September	-3.0	1.9	-2.7	
October	-0.8	-0.2	-0.6	
November	-0.5	1.5	-2.1	
December	-0.5	-0.2	0.9	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Table 14: Regional Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month 2012-2016 FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

						Percent Change		
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012- 2016	2015- 2016	
January	52.8	50.6	50.4	49.5	50.5	-4.4	2.0	
February	52.8	50.2	50.5	50.3	50.4	-4.6	0.2	
March	52.6	50.2	50.6	50.4				
April	51.8	49.9	50.5	50.3				
May	51.7	49.5	50.6	50.5				
June	51.7	49.4	50.3	50.4				
July	52.7	49.4	51.1	49.4				
August	52.1	49.4	50.7	49.3				
September	51.1	49.5	50.6	49.2				
October	50.3	49.9	49.8	49.5				
November	50.1	49.9	50.6	49.6				
December	50.4	50.2	50.1	50.5				
12-Month Average	51.7	49.8	50.5	49.9				
Jan-Feb Average	52.8	50.4	50.4	49.9	50.4	-4.5	1.1	

^{*} 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.

^{*} 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 15: Regional Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees*, February 2012-2016

(FTEs for February of each year. Ranked by February 2016 FTEs)

							Percent Change		
Rank		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012- 2016	2015- 2016	
1	Envoy	9,948	11,355	10,955	10,936	10,620	6.8	-2.9	
2	SkyWest	9,387	9,382	9,831	9,747	10,569	12.6	8.4	
3	ExpressJet	9,442	8,801	9,201	8,846	7,229	-23.4	-18.3	
4	Endeavor	5,088	4,485	3,892	3,306	3,332	-34.5	8.0	
5	Horizon	2,824	2,687	2,798	2,874	3,246	14.9	12.9	
6	Republic	1,977	2,226	2,752	3,150	3,147	59.2	-0.1	
7	Mesa	1,808	1,541	1,841	2,313	2,827	56.4	22.2	
8	PSA	1,056	1,080	1,227	1,956	2,529	139.5	29.3	
9	S5/RP Combined	1,811	3,231	3,101	2,784	2,240	N/A	-19.5	
	Shuttle America [#]	1,811	2,013	1,970	2,784	2,240	N/A	N/A	
	Chautauqua [#]	N/A	1,218	1,131	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
10	Air Wisconsin	2,600	2,538	2,544	1,917	1,827	-29.7	-4.7	
11	Compass	1,076	1,082	1,203	1,361	1,653	53.6	21.5	
12	GoJet	769	1,039	1,113	1,128	1,197	55.7	6.1	
13	Executive##	1,622	744	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
14	Colgan ^{###}	1,722	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
15	Comair ^{####}	1,705	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Total	52,835	50,191	50,458	50,318	50,416	-4.6	0.2	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

N/A: Carriers did not meet the standard for filing, was no longer operating, merged with another operating carrier or failed to file. See previous notes.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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

[#] Effective July 2012 Chautauqua Airlines began reporting employment data. Chautauqua did not qualify for monthly reporting prior to July 2012 because it did not operate aircraft with more than 60 seats. Effective the end of December 2014, Shuttle America and Chautauqua combined operations and Chautauqua ceased operating.

Effective the end of March 2013, Executive Airlines ceased operations.

^{###} Effective the end of September 2012, Colgan Airlines ceased operations.

^{####} Effective the end of October 2012, Comair ceased operations.