

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

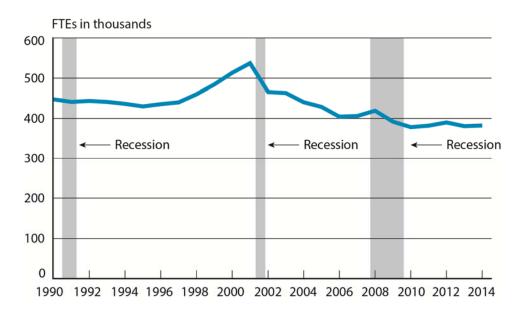
**BTS Data** 

BTS 19-14

Thursday, April 17, 2014 Contact: Dave Smallen Tel: 202-366-5568

# February 2014 Passenger Airline Employment Up 0.4 Percent from February 2013

# Scheduled Passenger Airline Full-Time Equivalent Employees, Month of February, 1990-2014



U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 381,985 workers in February 2014, 0.4 percent more than in February 2013, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today. February was the third consecutive month that full-time equivalent (FTE) employment for U.S. scheduled passenger carriers was higher than the same month of the previous year (Tables 1, 2, 3).

The February 2014 FTE total for scheduled passenger carriers was 1,571 more than in February 2013 (Table 3). Scheduled passenger airline categories include network, low-cost, regional and other airlines. Historical employment data can be found on the BTS web site.

The five network airlines that collectively employ two-thirds of the scheduled passenger airline FTEs reported 0.1 percent more FTEs in February 2014 than in February 2013 (Table 7). US Airways, American Airlines, Alaska Airlines and Delta Air Lines increased FTEs from February 2013 while United Airlines reduced FTEs (Table 9). 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.

Of the six low-cost carriers, four - Spirit Airlines, Allegiant Airlines, Virgin America and JetBlue Airways - reported an increase in FTEs from February 2013 while two - Frontier Airlines and Southwest Airlines - reported a decline (Table 12). Low-cost airlines operate under a low-cost business model, with infrastructure and aircraft operating costs below the overall industry average.

Among the 13 regional carriers, four carriers reported reduced employment levels in February compared to the previous year: Endeavor Airlines, American Eagle Airlines, Chautauqua Airlines and Shuttle America (Table 15). Regional carriers typically provide service from small cities, using primarily regional jets to support the network carriers' hub and spoke systems.

**Carrier Groups:** The five network airlines employed 66.8 percent of the total number of FTEs employed by all scheduled passenger airlines in February, the six low-cost carriers employed 18.4 percent and the 13 regional carriers employed 13.2 percent (Table 4). The three airlines with the most FTEs in February – United, Delta and American – employed 56.0 percent of the month's total passenger airline FTEs (Tables 3, 6). These three airlines carried 40.7 percent of total passengers traveling on U.S. airlines in January, the most recent month available. See <u>Air Traffic press releases</u>.

**Top employers by group:** United employed the most FTEs (80,694) in February among the network airlines, Southwest employed the most FTEs (45,091) among low-cost airlines, and American Eagle Airlines employed the most FTEs (10,955) among regional airlines. Four of the top five employers in the industry are network airlines (Table 6).

**Airline Mergers:** Airlines that announce mergers begin joint reporting following U.S. Department of Transportation approval and issuance of a single economic certificate. Southwest and AirTran Airways began joint reporting of their financial data in April 2012 under a waiver granted by the Department, while reporting the rest of their data as separate carriers. American and US Airways, following their December 2013 merger announcement, will report separately until the Department approves single carrier reporting and a single economic certificate is issued.

In March 2014 (for January 2014 data), the Department began displaying combined on-time performance data, mishandled baggage data, oversales data and complaint data in its <u>Air Travel Consumer Report</u> for Southwest and Air Tran as well as for American and U.S. Airways because both sets of airlines are sufficiently integrated that consumers perceive them as a single airline. The Air Travel Consumer Report also continues to display the separate performance of each of these airlines and will continue to do so until a single economic certificate is issued.

#### **Network Airlines**

**Recent Changes:** The network airlines employed 203 more FTEs in February 2014 than in February 2013, a 0.1 percent increase. Four of the five network carriers reported an FTE increase from February 2013 while United reported a decrease (Tables 8, 9).

**Longer-term Changes:** The network airlines employed 1,598 fewer FTEs in February 2014 than in February 2010, a 0.6 percent decrease. American (-10.3 percent) and Delta (-1.4) reported a decrease in FTE employment from 2010 to 2014 while US Airways (7.1 percent) and Alaska (3.6) reported increases. United's numbers for the two years are not directly comparable because of the intervening merger. United reported 5.0 percent more FTEs in February 2014 than United and Continental Airlines reported separately in February 2010 (Tables 8, 9).

## **Low-Cost Airlines**

**Recent Changes:** The six low-cost airlines reported 0.7 percent more FTEs as a group from February 2013 to February 2014. Frontier and Southwest reported year-to-year decreases while the remaining four airlines reported increases (Table 12).

**Longer-term Changes:** The low-cost carriers employed 6,290 more FTEs in February 2014 than in February 2010, a 9.9 percent increase. Spirit reported the largest percentage increase, 81.1 percent, while Frontier was the only low-cost carrier to report a decline, 29.6 percent. February 2014 numbers for Southwest are not directly comparable to 2010 because of the intervening merger. Southwest reported 5.9 percent more FTEs in February 2014 than Southwest and AirTran reported separately in February 2010 (Table 12).

#### **Regional Airlines**

**Recent Changes:** Regional airlines reported a 0.5 percent increase in FTE employment in February 2014 compared to February 2013; one regional airline discontinued service since a year ago. Republic Airlines and Mesa Airlines reported the largest percentage increases in FTEs from February 2013 to February 2014. Endeavor and Chautauqua reported the largest percentage decreases (Table 15).

**Longer-term Changes:** The 13 regional carriers operating in February employed 2.9 percent fewer FTEs in 2014 than the 18 carriers operating in February 2010. Mesa reported the largest percentage decline followed by Horizon Air. GoJet Airlines reported the biggest four-year percentage gain. The ExpressJet/Atlantic Southeast combination reported 3.4 percent more FTE's in February 2014 than the two airlines reported separately in February 2010. The Endeavor/Mesaba combination reported 29.0 percent fewer FTE's in February 2014 than the two airlines reported separately in February 2010 (Table 15).

Endeavor operated as Pinnacle prior to August 2013.

## **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 Hawaiian Airlines and Island Air Hawaii serving the Hawaiian Islands.

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers as of April 10. 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 22.

Table 1: Change from Previous Year in Scheduled Passenger Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees\* by Airline Group

Most recent 13 months - percent change compared to same month the previous year

		Low-		All
Month	Network Airlines	Cost Airlines	Regional Airlines	Passenger Airlines**
Feb 2012-Feb 2013	-3.0	0.2	-5.0	-2.4
Mar 2012-Mar 2013	-3.3	-0.1	-4.6	-2.6
Apr 2012-Apr 2013	-3.0	-0.3	-3.8	-2.4
May 2012-May 2013	-3.0	-0.3	-4.4	-2.4
Jun 2012-Jun 2013	-2.8	-0.6	-4.4	-2.4
Jul 2012-Jul 2013	-2.8	-0.4	-6.3	-2.6
Aug 2012-Aug 2013	-2.5	0.0	-5.1	-2.2
Sep 2012-Sep 2013	-2.1	-0.2	-3.0	-1.6
Oct 2012-Oct 2013	-1.4	-0.1	-0.8	-0.8
Nov 2012-Nov 2013	-0.4	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1
Dec 2012-Dec 2013	0.4	-0.6	-0.5	0.3
Jan 2013-Jan 2014	0.4	0.3	-0.4	0.5
Feb 2013-Feb 2014	0.1	0.7	0.5	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.

<sup>\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

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

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014
January	0.4	2.1	-2.3	0.5
February	1.0	2.1	-2.4	0.4
March	1.5	2.1	-2.7	
April	2.0	1.8	-2.4	
May	2.1	1.6	-2.5	
June	1.9	1.4	-2.4	
July	2.3	8.0	-2.6	
August	2.8	0.1	-2.2	
September	2.9	-0.6	-1.6	
October	3.0	-1.3	-0.8	
November	2.6	-2.0	-0.1	
December	2.7	-2.6	0.3	

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 3: Scheduled Passenger Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees\* by Month 2010-2014 FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

						_	cent inge
Month	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010- 2014	2013- 2014
January	379.4	380.9	388.8	380.0	381.8	0.6	0.5
February	378.0	381.8	389.9	380.4	382.0	1.0	0.4
March	377.3	382.8	390.8	380.5			
April	376.2	383.4	390.2	381.0			
May	377.0	385.0	391.0	381.4			
June	378.3	385.4	390.9	381.7			
July	378.1	386.8	391.3	381.3			
August	377.8	388.5	389.0	380.6			
September	377.7	388.6	386.4	380.2			
October	378.1	389.4	384.3	381.2			
November	379.3	389.4	381.6	381.2			
December	379.7	389.7	379.6	380.8			
12-Month Average	378.1	386.0	387.8	380.9			
Jan-Feb Average	378.7	381.4	389.3	380.2	381.9	8.0	0.4

#### **Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics**

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

<sup>\*</sup> Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

<sup>\*</sup> Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

**Table 4: Airline Group Full-time Equivalent Employees\***, **February 2010-2014** FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

				All Passenger
	Network	Low-Cost	Regional	Airlines**
2010	256.8	63.8	52.0	378.0
2011	259.5	65.3	52.4	381.8
2012	262.8	69.5	52.8	389.9
2013	255.0	69.6	50.2	380.4
2014	255.2	70.1	50.5	382.0
Pct. Change 2010-2014	-0.6%	9.9%	-2.9%	1.0%
Percent of Total Passenger Airline				
Employees in 2014	66.8%	18.4%	13.2%	

Table 5: Year-to-Year Change in Airline Group Full-time Equivalent Employees\*, February 2010-2014
Percent change in FTEs from the same month of the previous year

	Network	Low-Cost	Regional	All Passenger Airlines**
2010	-3.0	1.4	-9.8	-3.5
2011	1.1	2.3	0.9	1.0
2012	1.2	6.4	8.0	2.1
2013	-3.0	0.2	-5.0	-2.4
2014	0.1	0.7	0.5	0.4

<sup>\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers.

<sup>\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Includes network, low-cost, regional and other carriers.

Table 6: Top 10 Airlines, February 2014

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 2013
1	United	80.7	Network	United
2	Delta	73.6	Network	Delta
3	American	59.7	Network	American
4	Southwest	45.1	Low-Cost	Southwest
5	US Airways	31.6	Network	US Airways
6	JetBlue	13.3	Low-Cost	JetBlue
7	American Eagle	11.0	Regional	American Eagle
8	SkyWest	9.8	Regional	SkyWest
9	Alaska	9.6	Network	Alaska
10	ExpressJet	9.2	Regional	ExpressJet

#### **Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics**

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

	2011	2012	2013	2014
January	0.3	1.5	-3.1	0.4
February	1.1	1.2	-3.0	0.1
March	1.5	1.2	-3.3	
April	1.8	1.3	-3.0	
May	2.1	1.3	-3.0	
June	1.6	1.4	-2.8	
July	2.1	0.8	-2.8	
August	2.7	-0.2	-2.5	
September	2.7	-0.8	-2.1	
October	2.7	-1.4	-1.4	
November	2.6	-2.4	-0.4	
December	2.3	-3.3	0.4	

<sup>\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

<sup>\*\*</sup> See Table 9 for Network, Table 12 for Low-Cost and Table 15 for Regional.

<sup>\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

Table 8: Network Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees\* by Month 2010-2014 FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

							cent inge
Month	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010- 2014	2013- 2014
January	257.8	258.7	262.6	254.4	255.5	-0.9	0.4
February	256.8	259.5	262.8	255.0	255.2	-0.6	0.1
March	256.5	260.5	263.5	254.9			
April	255.7	260.3	263.7	255.7			
May	255.5	260.8	264.2	256.3			
June	256.6	260.7	264.3	256.8			
July	256.4	261.8	263.8	256.5			
August	256.1	263.1	262.4	255.8			
September	255.8	262.6	260.6	255.2			
October	255.9	262.9	259.2	255.7			
November	256.4	263.1	256.8	255.9			
December	256.8	262.6	254.1	255.2			
12-Month Average	256.4	261.4	261.5	255.6			
Jan-Feb Average	257.3	259.1	262.7	254.7	255.3	-0.8	0.3

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

<sup>\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

Table 9: Network Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees\*, February 2010-2014

(FTEs for February of each year. Ranked by February 2014 FTEs) FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

Percent Change 2010-2013-2014 2014 2010 2012 Rank **Airline** 2011 2013 2014 **UA/CO Combined** 76.8 77.1 81.7 82.2 80.7 5.0 -1.8 United\*\* 43.7 43.6 81.7 82.2 80.7 N/A -1.8 Continental\*\* 33.1 33.5 N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 2 Delta 74.6 77.8 76.3 73.5 73.6 -1.4 0.2 3 American 59.7 -10.3 0.4 66.5 66.0 65.4 59.5 7.1 4 US Airways 29.5 29.7 30.4 30.5 31.6 3.6 2.7 5 Alaska 9.2 8.9 9.0 9.3 9.6 3.6 Total 256.8 259.5 262.8 255.0 255.2 -0.6 0.1

## **Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics**

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	2011	2012	2013	2014
January	2.2	5.7	1.1	0.3
February	2.3	6.4	0.2	0.7
March	2.3	7.1	-0.1	
April	4.0	5.7	-0.3	
May	4.1	5.3	-0.3	
June	5.0	4.0	-0.6	
July	5.3	3.5	-0.4	
August	5.7	2.5	0.0	
September	5.9	2.5	-0.2	
October	6.2	1.9	-0.1	
November	5.9	1.4	-0.1	
December	6.6	1.3	-0.6	

<sup>\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee \*\* United Airlines and Continental Airlines merged and began reporting combined numbers in January 2012.

Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

<sup>\*</sup> 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 2010-2014

FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

						_	cent inge
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010- 2014	2013- 2014
January	63.6	65.0	68.7	69.5	69.7	9.6	0.3
February	63.8	65.3	69.5	69.6	70.1	9.9	0.7
March	63.8	65.3	69.9	69.9			
April	63.6	66.1	69.9	69.7			
May	63.9	66.6	70.1	69.8			
June	64.0	67.3	70.0	69.6			
July	64.0	67.4	69.8	69.5			
August	64.0	67.7	69.4	69.4			
September	64.1	67.9	69.6	69.4			
October	64.3	68.3	69.6	69.5			
November	64.7	68.5	69.4	69.4			
December	64.7	68.9	69.8	69.4			
12-Month Average	64.0	67.0	69.6	69.5			
Jan-Feb Average	63.7	65.1	69.1	69.5	69.9	9.7	0.5

#### **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 2010-2014\*\*

(FTEs for February of each year. Ranked by February 2014 FTEs)

							_	cent Inge
Rank		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010- 2014	2013- 2014
1	WN/FL Combined	42,563	43,271	45,926	45,857	45,091	5.9	-1.7
	Southwest**	34,730	35,357	38,468	45,857	45,091	N/A	-1.7
	AirTran	7,833	7,914	7,458	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	JetBlue	11,201	11,458	12,459	12,678	13,301	18.7	4.9
3	Frontier	5,061	4,904	4,508	3,850	3,565	-29.6	-7.4
4	Spirit	1,951	2,243	2,630	3,026	3,534	81.1	16.8
5	Virgin America	1,510	1,828	2,305	2,352	2,510	66.2	6.7
6	Allegiant	1,560	1,619	1,648	1,867	2,134	36.8	14.3
	Total	63,845	65,321	69,473	69,630	70,135	9.9	0.7

<sup>\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

<sup>\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Southwest Airlines and AirTran Airways merged and began reporting combined numbers in April 2012. Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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	2011	2012	2013	2014
January	0.4	0.1	-4.1	-0.4
February	0.9	8.0	-5.0	0.5
March	1.8	0.2	-4.6	
April	2.1	-1.5	-3.8	
May	1.6	-2.2	-4.4	
June	1.5	-2.5	-4.4	
July	1.9	-3.3	-6.3	
August	2.1	-2.3	-5.1	
September	2.0	-4.3	-3.0	
October	2.1	-6.0	-0.8	
November	0.6	-5.4	-0.5	
December	1.5	-5.4	-0.5	

## **Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics**

**Table 14: Regional Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees\* by Month 2010-2014** FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

						Percent Change	
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010- 2014	2013- 2014
January	52.5	52.8	52.8	50.6	50.4	-4.0	-0.4
February	52.0	52.4	52.8	50.2	50.5	-2.9	0.5
March	51.5	52.5	52.6	50.2			
April	51.5	52.6	51.8	49.9			
May	52.1	52.9	51.7	49.5			
June	52.2	53.0	51.7	49.4			
July	52.2	53.2	52.7	49.4			
August	52.2	53.3	52.1	49.4			
September	52.3	53.4	51.1	49.5			
October	52.4	53.5	50.3	49.9			
November	52.7	53.0	50.1	49.9			
December	52.5	53.3	50.4	50.2			
12-Month Average	52.2	53.0	51.7	49.8			
Jan-Feb Average	52.2	52.6	52.8	50.4	50.4	-3.4	0.1

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

<sup>\*</sup> 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 2010-2014** (FTEs for February of each year. Ranked by February 2014 FTEs)

							Percent Change	
Rank		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010- 2014	2013- 2014
1	American Eagle	9,044	9,548	9,948	11,355	10,955	21.1	-3.5
2	SkyWest	8,945	9,128	9,387	9,382	9,831	9.9	4.8
3	XE/EV Combined	8,901	8,947	9,442	8,801	9,201	3.4	4.5
	ExpressJet**	5,344	5,215	9,442	8,801	9,201	N/A	4.5
	Atlantic Southeast**	3,557	3,732	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	9E/XJ Combined	5,481	5,624	5,088	4,485	3,892	-29.0	-13.2
	Endeavor***	3,277	3,448	5,088	4,485	3,892	N/A	-13.2
	Mesaba***	2,204	2,176	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Horizon	3,149	2,885	2,824	2,687	2,798	-11.1	4.1
6	Republic	1,925	2,146	1,977	2,226	2,752	43.0	23.6
7	Air Wisconsin	2,495	2,585	2,600	2,538	2,544	2.0	0.2
8	Shuttle America	1,252	1,306	1,811	2,013	1,970	57.3	-2.1
9	Mesa	2,328	1,990	1,808	1,541	1,841	-20.9	19.5
10	PSA	980	954	989	1,080	1,227	25.2	13.6
11	Compass	949	892	1,076	1,082	1,203	27	11.2
12	Chautauqua#	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,218	1,131	N/A	-7.1
13	GoJet	545	569	769	1,039	1,113	104.2	7.1
14	Executive##	1,803	1,884	1,622	744	N/A	N/A	N/A
15	Colgan###	1,223	1,514	1,722	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
16	Comair####	2,571	2,312	1,705	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
17	Lynx####	390	94	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	51,952	52,409	52,831	50,191	50,458	-2.9	0.5

## 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.

##### Effective the end of March 2011, Lynx Airlines ceased operations.

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.

<sup>\*</sup> Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

<sup>\*\*</sup> ExpressJet Airlines and Atlantic Southeast Airlines began reporting combined numbers in January 2012.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Endeavor Airlines operated as Pinnacle prior to August 2013. Pinnacle Airlines and Mesaba Airlines began reporting combined numbers in January 2012.

<sup>#</sup> Effective July 2012 Chautaugua Airlines began reporting employment data.