BTS 15-13
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January 2013 Passenger Airline Employment Down 2.3 Percent from January 2012

**Scheduled Passenger Airline Full-Time Equivalent Employees,
Month of January, 1990-2013**
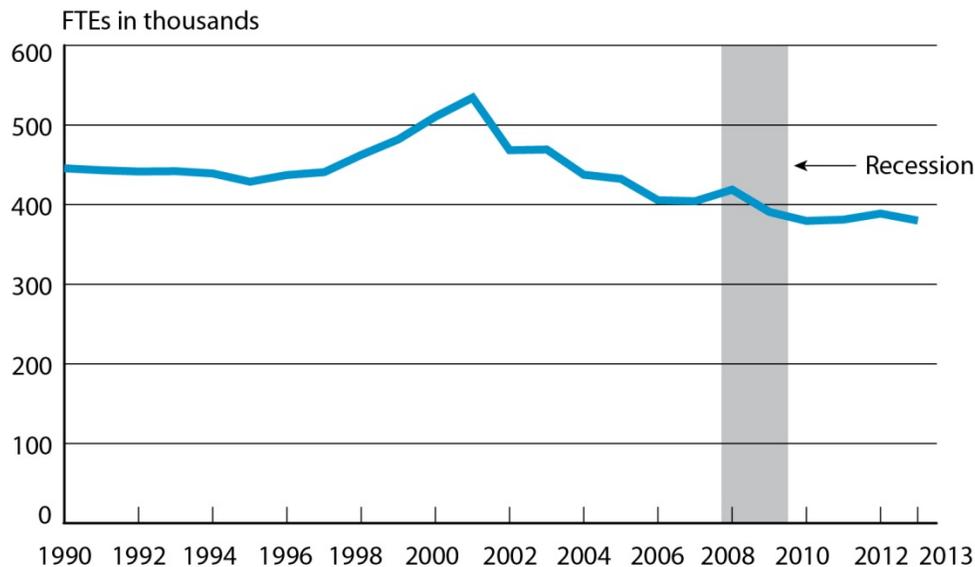
        U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 379,816 workers in January 2013, 2.3
percent fewer than in January 2012, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of
Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today. Scheduled passenger airline categories
include network, low-cost, regional and other airlines. This was the fifth consecutive
month that full-time equivalent (FTE) employment for U.S. scheduled passenger carriers
was below that of the same month of the previous year. This follows 21 months of
increases over the same month of the previous year (December 2010 through August
2012) (Table 2).

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BTS, a part of the Department's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the January 2013 FTE total for scheduled passenger carriers was 8,962 fewer than in January 2012 (Table 3) and down 9.3 percent from the recent January high of 418,702 in January 2008. 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 3.1 percent fewer FTEs in January 2013, the sixth consecutive decline from the same month of the previous year for the group. Delta Air Lines, eliminating positions following its merger with Northwest Airlines, reduced FTEs by 3.7 percent from January 2012. American Airlines, which filed for bankruptcy in November 2011, reduced FTEs by 9.8 percent over the same period. United Airlines reported a post-merger total of 82,209 FTEs in January 2013, 1.1 percent more FTEs than in January 2012. US Airways reported 0.2 percent fewer FTEs while Alaska Airlines increased FTEs by 3.2 percent from January 2012 (Table 9). Network airlines operate a significant portion of flights using at least one hub where connections are made for flights to down-line destinations or spoke cities.

Four of the six low-cost carriers, Allegiant Airlines, Virgin America Airlines, Spirit Airlines and JetBlue Airways, reported an increase in FTEs. Southwest Airlines, following its merger with AirTran Airways, reported 45,835 FTEs in January 2013, 0.3 percent more than the two airlines reported separately in January 2012. Frontier Airlines was the only low-cost carrier that reported fewer FTEs (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 14 regional carriers, seven carriers reported reduced employment levels in January compared to last year: ExpressJet Airlines, Mesa Airlines, Horizon Airlines, Pinnacle Airlines, SkyWest Airlines, Air Wisconsin and Executive Airlines (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 67.0 percent of the total number of FTEs employed by all scheduled passenger airlines in January, the six low-cost carriers employed 18.3 percent and the 14 regional carriers employed 13.3 percent (Table 4). The three airlines with the most FTEs in January – United, Delta and American – employed 56.6 percent of the month's total passenger airline FTEs (Table 6).

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Top employers by group: The newly-merged United employed the most FTEs (82,209) in January among the network airlines, Southwest employed the most FTEs (45,835) among low-cost airlines, and American Eagle Airlines employed the most FTEs (11,324) among regional airlines. Four of the top five employers in the industry are network airlines (Table 6).

Network Airlines

Recent Trend: The network airlines employed 8,184 fewer FTEs in January 2013 than in January 2012, a 3.1 percent decrease. Only two of the five network carriers reported an FTE increase from January 2012 to January 2013 (Tables 8, 9).

Five-Year Trend: The network airlines employed 9,577 fewer FTEs in January 2013 than in January 2009, a 3.6 percent decrease. American reported the biggest percentage decline in FTE employment from 2009 to 2013, 15.0 percent, followed by US Airways, down 2.9 percent. January 2009 and January 2013 numbers for United and Delta are not directly comparable because of the intervening mergers. United reported 2.1 percent more FTEs in January 2013 than United and Continental reported separately in January 2009; Delta reported 0.6 percent more FTEs in January 2013 than Delta and Northwest reported separately in January 2009 (Tables 8, 9).

Low-Cost Airlines

Recent Trend: The six low-cost airlines' reported 1.1 percent more FTEs in January 2013 than in January 2012. All low-cost airlines except Frontier reported year-to-year increases (Table 12).

Five-Year Trend: The six low-cost carriers reporting employment data in both 2009 and 2013 employed 10.8 percent more FTEs in January 2013 than in January 2009. Virgin America reported the largest percentage increase (82.4 percent), while Frontier reported a decline. January 2013 numbers for Southwest are not directly comparable to 2009 because of the intervening merger. Southwest reported 6.2 percent more FTEs in January 2013 than Southwest and AirTran Airways reported separately in January 2009 (Table 12).

Regional Airlines

Recent Trend: Regional airlines reported a 4.1 percent decrease in FTE employment in January 2013 compared to January 2012. GoJet Airlines and Shuttle America report the largest percentage increases in FTEs from January 2012 to January 2013 among airlines not involved in mergers. Executive and Mesa reported the largest percentage decreases (Table 15).

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      Five-Year Trend: The 14 regional carriers reporting employment data in both January 2009 and January 2013 employed 11.8 percent fewer FTEs in 2013 than in 2009. For airlines not involved in mergers, Republic reported the largest percentage decline followed by Executive. The ExpressJet/Atlantic Southeast combination reported 0.7 percent fewer FTE's in January 2013 than the two airlines reported separately in January 2009. The Pinnacle/Mesaba combination reported 14.5 percent fewer FTE's in January 2013 than the two airlines reported separately in January 2009. GoJet reported the biggest four-year percentage gain (Table 15).

      Airlines that operate at least one aircraft with capacity of more than 60 seats or the capacity to carry combined passengers, cargo and fuel of more than 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 Hawaiian Airlines serving the Hawaiian Islands.

      Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers as of March 20. Additional airline employment data and previous press releases can be found on the BTS website. BTS has scheduled release of February passenger airline employment data for April 25.

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

Month	Network Airlines	Low-Cost Airlines	Regional Airlines	All Passenger Airlines**
Jan 2011-Jan 2012	1.5	5.7	0.1	2.1
Feb 2011-Feb 2012	1.2	6.4	0.9	2.1
Mar 2011-Mar 2012	1.2	7.1	0.2	2.1
Apr 2011-Apr 2012	1.3	5.7	-1.5	1.8
May 2011-May 2012	1.3	5.3	-2.2	1.6
Jun 2011-Jun 2012	1.4	4.0	-2.5	1.4
Jul 2011-Jul 2012	0.8	3.5	-3.3	0.8
Aug 2011-Aug 2012	-0.2	2.5	-2.3	0.1
Sep 2011-Sep 2012	-0.8	2.5	-4.3	-0.6
Oct 2011-Oct 2012	-1.4	1.9	-6.0	-1.3
Nov 2011-Nov 2012	-2.4	1.4	-5.4	-2.0
Dec 2011-Dec 2012	-3.3	1.3	-5.4	-2.6
Jan 2012-Jan 2013	-3.1	1.1	-4.1	-2.3

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. Other Carriers generally operate within specific niche markets. They are: Hawaiian Airlines and Sun Country Airlines.
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.

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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	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	**-2.9**	**0.4**	**2.1**	**-2.3**
February	-3.5	1.0	2.1	
March	-3.8	1.5	2.1	
April	-4.1	2.0	1.8	
May	-2.7	2.1	1.6	
June	-2.4	1.9	1.4	
July	-2.3	2.3	0.8	
August	-1.7	2.8	0.1	
September	-0.6	2.9	-0.6	
October	-0.4	3.0	-1.3	
November	0.0	2.6	-2.0	
December	0.2	2.7	-2.6	

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.

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

						Percent Change	
Month	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2009-2013**	**2012-2013**
January	**390.6**	**379.4**	**380.9**	**388.8**	**379.8**	**-2.7**	**-2.3**
February	391.6	378.0	381.8	389.9			
March	392.1	377.3	382.8	390.8			
April	392.1	376.2	383.4	390.2			
May	387.4	377.0	385.0	391.0			
June	387.7	378.3	385.4	390.9			
July	386.8	378.1	386.8	390.0			
August	384.3	377.8	388.5	389.0			
September	379.9	377.7	388.6	386.4			
October	379.7	378.1	389.4	384.3			
November	379.4	379.3	389.4	381.6			
December	379.0	379.7	389.7	379.6			
12-Month Average	**385.9**	**378.1**	**386.0**	**387.7**	**379.8**	**-1.6**	**-2.0**

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.

Table 4: Airline Group Full-time Equivalent Employees*, January 2009-2013
FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

	Network	Low-Cost	Regional	All Passenger Airlines**
2009	263.9	62.7	57.4	390.6
2010	257.8	63.6	52.5	379.4
2011	258.7	65.0	52.8	380.9
2012	262.6	68.7	52.8	388.8
2013	254.4	69.5	50.6	379.8
Pct. Change 2009-2013	**-3.6%**	**10.8%**	**-11.8%**	**-2.8%**
Percent of Total Passenger Airline Employees in 2013	**67.0%**	**18.3%**	**13.3%**	

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.

Table 5: Year-to-Year Change in Airline Group Full-time Equivalent Employees*, January 2009-2013
Percent change in FTEs from the same month of the previous year

	Network	Low-Cost	Regional	All Passenger Airlines**
2009	-6.3	-3.1	-6.0	-6.7
2010	-2.3	1.4	-8.5	-2.9
2011	0.3	2.2	0.4	0.4
2012	1.5	5.7	0.1	2.1
2013	-3.1	1.1	-4.1	-2.3

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.

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Table 6: Top 10 Airlines, January 2013
Ranked by Number of Full-Time Equivalent Employees*
FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

Rank	Airline	Total FTE Employees	Carrier Group**	Top 10 Airlines January 2012
1	**United**	82.2	Network	United
2	**Delta**	73.2	Network	Delta
3	**American**	59.4	Network	American
4	**Southwest**	45.8	Low-Cost	Southwest
5	**US Airways**	30.3	Network	US Airways
6	**JetBlue**	12.6	Low-Cost	JetBlue
7	**American Eagle**	11.3	Regional	American Eagle
8	**SkyWest**	9.4	Regional	SkyWest
9	**Alaska**	9.3	Network	ExpressJet
10	**ExpressJet**	8.8	Regional	Alaska

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics
* 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

	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	**-2.3**	**0.3**	**1.5**	-3.1
February	-3.0	1.1	1.2	
March	-3.1	1.5	1.2	
April	-3.6	1.8	1.3	
May	-1.9	2.1	1.3	
June	-1.6	1.6	1.4	
July	-1.6	2.1	0.8	
August	-0.9	2.7	-0.2	
September	0.3	2.7	-0.8	
October	-1.2	2.7	-1.4	
November	-0.7	2.6	-2.4	
December	-0.5	2.3	-3.3	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics
* 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**
FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Percent Change 2009-2013	Percent Change 2012-2013
January	**263.9**	**257.8**	**258.7**	**262.6**	**254.4**	**-3.6**	**-3.1**
February	264.6	256.8	259.5	262.8			
March	264.8	256.5	260.5	263.5			
April	265.2	255.7	260.3	263.7			
May	260.5	255.5	260.8	264.2			
June	260.8	256.6	260.7	264.3			
July	260.5	256.4	261.8	263.8			
August	258.6	256.1	263.1	262.4			
September	254.9	255.8	262.6	260.6			
October	259.0	255.9	262.9	259.2			
November	258.1	256.4	263.1	256.8			
December	258.1	256.8	262.6	254.1			
12-Month Average	**260.8**	**256.4**	**261.4**	**261.5**	**254.4**	**-2.4**	**-2.7**

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.

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Table 9: Network Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees*, January 2009-2013
(FTEs for January of each year. Ranked by January 2013 FTEs)
FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

							Percent Change	
Rank	Airline	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009-2013	2012-2013
1	**UA/CO Combined**	**80.5**	**76.9**	**77.1**	**81.4**	**82.2**	**2.1**	**1.1**
	United**	45.8	43.8	43.6	81.4	82.2	N/A	1.1
	Continental**	34.8	33.1	33.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	**DL/NW Combined**	**72.8**	**75.2**	**77.2**	**76.0**	**73.2**	**0.6**	**-3.7**
	Delta***	45.0	75.2	77.2	76.0	73.2	N/A	-3.7
	Northwest***	27.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	**American**	69.9	66.6	65.7	65.9	59.4	-15.0	-9.8
4	**US Airways**	31.2	29.8	29.7	30.4	30.3	-2.9	-0.2
5	**Alaska**	9.5	9.2	9.0	9.0	9.3	-2.7	3.2
	Total	263.9	257.8	258.7	262.6	254.4	-3.6	-3.1

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics
* 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.
*** Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines merged and began reporting combined numbers in January 2010.
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	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	**1.4**	**2.2**	**5.7**	**1.1**
February	1.4	2.3	6.4	
March	1.2	2.3	7.1	
April	0.5	4.0	5.7	
May	0.6	4.1	5.3	
June	0.9	5.0	4.0	
July	1.5	5.3	3.5	
August	2.0	5.7	2.5	
September	2.7	5.9	2.5	
October	3.0	6.2	1.9	
November	3.2	5.9	1.4	
December	3.3	6.6	1.3	

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.

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009-2013	2012-2013
						Percent Change	
January	**62.7**	**63.6**	**65.0**	**68.7**	**69.5**	**10.8**	**1.1**
February	63.0	63.8	65.3	69.5			
March	63.0	63.8	65.3	69.9			
April	63.3	63.6	66.1	69.9			
May	63.5	63.9	66.6	70.1			
June	63.5	64.0	67.3	70.0			
July	63.0	64.0	67.4	69.8			
August	62.8	64.0	67.7	69.4			
September	62.4	64.1	67.9	69.6			
October	62.4	64.3	68.3	69.6			
November	62.6	64.7	68.5	69.4			
December	62.6	64.7	68.9	69.8			
12-Month Average	**62.9**	**64.0**	**67.0**	**69.6**	**69.5**	**10.4**	**-0.2**

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Note: Percent changes and averages based on numbers prior to rounding.
* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

Table 12: Low-Cost Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees,* January 2009-2013**
(FTEs for January of each year. Ranked by January 2013 FTEs)

Rank		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009-2013	2012-2013
1	**WN/FL Combined**	**43,154**	**42,530**	**42,993**	**45,692**	**45,835**	**6.2**	**0.3**
	Southwest**	35,523	34,791	35,143	38,203	45,835	N/A	N/A
	AirTran	7,631	7,739	7,850	7,489	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	**JetBlue**	10,517	10,975	11,422	12,350	12,593	19.7	2.0
3	**Frontier**	4,414	5,114	4,899	4,535	3,866	-12.4	-14.8
4	**Spirit**	1,962	1,965	2,243	2,536	2,992	52.5	18.0
5	**Virgin America**	1,300	1,486	1,795	1,966	2,371	82.4	20.6
6	**Allegiant**	1,353	1,531	1,627	1,607	1,808	33.6	12.5
	Total	**62,699**	**63,600**	**64,979**	**68,684**	**69,464**	**10.8**	**1.1**

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics
* 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 numbers in April 2012.
Note: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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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	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	**-8.5**	**0.4**	**0.1**	-4.1
February	-9.8	0.9	0.8	
March	-10.1	1.8	0.2	
April	-9.3	2.1	-1.5	
May	-8.0	1.6	-2.2	
June	-7.7	1.5	-2.5	
July	-7.5	1.9	-3.3	
August	-7.2	2.1	-2.3	
September	-6.6	2.0	-4.3	
October	0.5	2.1	-6.0	
November	-1.0	0.6	-5.4	
December	-0.3	1.5	-5.4	

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Percent Change 2009-2013	2012-2013
January	**57.4**	**52.5**	**52.8**	**52.8**	**50.6**	**-11.8**	**-4.1**
February	57.6	52.0	52.4	52.8			
March	57.3	51.5	52.5	52.6			
April	56.8	51.5	52.6	51.8			
May	56.6	52.1	52.9	51.7			
June	56.6	52.2	53.0	51.7			
July	56.5	52.2	53.2	51.5			
August	56.2	52.2	53.3	52.1			
September	56.0	52.3	53.4	51.1			
October	52.1	52.4	53.5	50.3			
November	53.2	52.7	53.0	50.1			
December	52.7	52.5	53.3	50.4			
12-Month Average	**55.8**	**52.2**	**53.0**	**51.6**	**50.6**	**-9.2**	**-1.8**

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.

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Table 15: Regional Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees*, January 2009-2013
(FTEs for January of each year. Ranked by January 2013 FTEs)

Rank		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Percent Change 2009-2013	Percent Change 2012-2013
1	**American Eagle**	9,235	9,044	9,523	10,065	11,324	22.6	12.5
2	**SkyWest**	9,013	8,846	9,049	9,446	9,400	4.3	-0.5
3	**XE/EV Combined**	**8,898**	**8,665**	**8,969**	**9,387**	**8,832**	**-0.7**	**-5.9**
	ExpressJet**	5,276	5,360	5,538	9,387	8,832	N/A	-5.9
	Atlantic Southeast**	3,622	3,305	3,431	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	**9E/XJ Combined**	**5,735**	**6,175**	**5,831**	**5,185**	**4,902**	**-14.5**	**-5.5**
	Pinnacle***	4,317	3,505	3,704	5,185	4,902	N/A	-5.5
	Mesaba***	1,418	2,670	2,127	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	**Horizon**	3,398	3,158	3,090	2,813	2,706	-20.4	-3.8
6	**Air Wisconsin**	2,586	2,492	2,546	2,590	2,535	-2.0	-2.1
7	**Republic******	5,152	2,581	2,363	1,966	2,160	-58.1	9.9
8	**Shuttle America**	1,232	1,245	1,291	1,563	2,035	65.2	30.2
9	**Mesa**	2,878	2,409	2,022	1,815	1,542	-46.4	-15.0
10	**Chautauqua#**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,249	N/A	N/A
11	**Compass**	962	959	992	1,043	1,097	14.0	5.2
12	**PSA**	805	911	895	1,059	1,078	33.9	1.8
13	**GoJet**	450	414	575	761	1,019	126.4	33.9
14	**Executive**	1,661	1,798	1,851	1,695	761	-54.2	-55.1
15	**Colgan##**	1,274	1,214	1,495	1,680	N/A	N/A	N/A
16	**Comair###**	3,806	2,231	2,161	1,732	N/A	N/A	N/A
17	**Lynx####**	354	394	114	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	**57,436**	**52,531**	**52,767**	**52,796**	**50,637**	**-11.8**	**-4.1**

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics
* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.
** ExpressJet Airlines and Atlantic Southeast Airlines began reporting combined numbers in January 2012.
*** Pinnacle Airlines and Mesaba Airlines began reporting combined numbers in January 2012.
**** Effective with November 2009 reporting, Republic Airlines' employment numbers include FTE's from Midwest Airlines. Midwest employment data were formerly included in the "Other Airlines" category.
# Effective July 2012 Chautauqua Airlines began reporting employment data.
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.

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