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August Passenger Airline Employment Down 5.4 Percent from August 2004

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 446,051 workers in August 2005, 5.4 percent fewer than in August 2004, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), reported that the seven network carriers employed 296,537 total full-time and part-time workers – 8.6 percent fewer workers in August 2005 than a year earlier (Table 2). The low-cost carriers reported 74,927 total employees, 0.2 percent fewer than August 2004 (Table 3); and the regional carriers reported 60,869 total employees, 3.7 percent more than the previous year (Table 4).

August was the eighth consecutive month of year-over-year declines in airline employment levels for the scheduled passenger carriers since BTS began tracking the numbers. But part-time employee numbers continued to grow modestly with a 0.1 percent increase in August.

Many regional carriers were not required to report employment numbers before 2003, so year-to-year comparisons involving regional carriers as a group, or the full industry, are not appropriate for earlier years. BTS is providing pre-2003 comparisons for network and low-cost carriers, as well as pre-2003 numbers for individual regional carriers that were required to report in earlier years.

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.

Numbers for Independence Air, which changed its business model from a regional to low-cost carrier in mid-2004, have been included with low-cost carriers for 2003, 2004 and 2005. This change reflects that carrier's current business model as a low-cost operator.

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AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD ONE

Using Full-Time Equivalent Employees (FTE) calculations, employment at network carriers in August dropped 35.9 percent from 2001 to 2005. The biggest declines were at US Airways, down 52.1 percent; and United Airlines, down 44.1 percent (Table 5). In FTE calculations, part-time workers are counted as one-half of a full-time employee.

The seven low-cost carriers, excluding Independence, that were required to report employment data in 2001 and 2005 employed 11.3 percent more FTEs in August 2005 than in August 2001 (Table 6).

The seven regional carriers that were required to report employment data in 2001 and 2005 employed 8.8 percent more FTEs in August 2005 than in August 2001. Of that group, only Horizon Air reported fewer FTE employees in August 2005 than August 2001 (Table 7).

In this release, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 use total numbers for full-time and part-time employees, while employee numbers in Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 show FTEs.

The 5.7 percent drop in FTEs was the eighth consecutive month of year-over-year declines in airline employment levels for the scheduled passenger carriers, and it was the largest decrease for that period. It was also the fifth consecutive month with a year-to-year decline of more than 3 per cent (Table 8).

Network carriers 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. Low-cost carriers are those that the industry generally recognizes as operating under a low-cost business model with fewer infrastructure costs.

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

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

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers as of Oct. 12.

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 September airline employment data for Nov. 15.

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Table 1: Passenger Airline Employment, August 2004-2005

	August 2004	August 2005	Pct. Change 2004- 2005
Total (39)			
Total	471,356	446,051	-5.4
Full-time	415,188	389,802	-6.1
Part-time	56,168	56,249	0.1
Network Carriers (7)			
Total	324,496	296,537	-8.6
Full-time	286,137	259,009	-9.5
Part-time	38,359	37,528	-2.2
Low Cost Carriers (8)*			
Total	75,078	74,927	-0.2
Full-time	68,075	67,182	-1.3
Part-time	7,003	7,745	10.6
Regional Carriers (13)			
Total	58,718	60,869	3.7
Full-time	51,398	53,526	4.1
Part-time	7,320	7,343	0.3
Other Carriers (10)**			
Total	13,064	13,728	5.1
Full-time	9,578	10,085	5.3
Part-time	3,486	3,633	4.2

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

*Independence Air (formerly known as Atlantic Coast Airlines) data have been included in 2004 and 2005 totals for low-cost carriers, reflecting the current change in its business model.

** Allegiant Air, Aloha Airlines, Casino Express Airlines, Continental Micronesia, Hawaiian Airlines, Midwest Airlines, Shuttle America, Sun Country Airlines, TransMeridian Airlines, USA3000 Airlines.

**Table 2: Total Number of Employees: Network Carriers, August 2001-2005
(number of current carriers in parentheses)**

	Total	Pct. Chge from previous year	Full- time	Pct. Chge from previous year	Part- time	Pct. Chge from previous year
2001 (8)	462,785	N/A	404,001	N/A	58,784	N/A
2002 (7)	395,012	-14.6	348,306	-13.8	46,706	-20.5
2003 (7)	330,499	-16.3	290,785	-16.5	39,714	-15.0
2004 (7)	324,496	-1.8	286,137	-1.6	38,359	-3.4
2005 (7)	296,537	-8.6	259,009	-9.5	37,528	-2.2

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
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Table 3: Total Number of Employees: Low-cost Carriers, August 2001-2005
(number of current carriers in parentheses)

	Total	Pct. Chge from previous year	Full-time	Pct. Chge from previous year	Part- time	Pct. Chge from previous year
2001 (11)	68,738	N/A	61,280	N/A	7,458	N/A
2002 (11)	69,764	1.5	63,265	3.2	6,499	-12.9
2003 (8)	74,139	6.3	67,490	6.7	6,649	2.3
2004 (8)	75,078	1.3	68,075	0.9	7,003	5.3
2005 (8)	74,927	-0.2	67,182	-1.3	7,745	10.6

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Table 4: Total Number of Employees: Regional Carriers, August 2003-2005
(number of current carriers in parentheses)

	Total	Pct. Chge from previous year	Full-time	Pct. Chge from previous year	Part- time	Pct. Chge from previous year
2003 (11)	44,381	N/A	39,147	N/A	5,234	N/A
2004 (13)	58,718	32.3	51,398	31.3	7,320	39.9
2005 (13)	60,869	3.7	53,526	4.1	7,343	0.3

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: Regional group numbers for years before 2003 are not included because of the limited number of regional carriers that met the requirement for filing reports.

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**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
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Table 5: Network Carrier FTE Employees, August 2001-2005*
(Ranked by August 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	American**	96,254	99,575	81,951	79,814	75,905	85.4	86.0
2	United	96,423	79,690	59,840	58,490	53,923	90.4	88.6
3	Delta	75,995	66,148	59,037	57,850	51,967	83.4	88.6
4	Northwest	50,060	45,142	38,615	38,389	33,105	93.2	93.8
5	Continental	42,143	36,938	34,679	34,842	32,603	79.1	80.3
6	US Airways	44,387	33,842	26,413	25,851	21,283	90.6	86.4
7	Alaska	10,277	10,325	10,109	10,182	8,988	88.0	89.5
8	TWA	17,856	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	94.4	N/A
	Total	433,393	371,659	310,642	305,317	277,773	87.3	87.3

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count part-time workers as one-half of a full-time employee.

**American Airline's statistics beginning in June 2001 reflect that carrier's absorption of former TWA employees that were retained by AA after its April 2001 acquisition of TWA's assets.

Table 6: Low-Cost Carrier FTE Employees, August 2001-2005*
(Ranked by August 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	Southwest	30,794	33,624	32,735	30,885	31,463	97.7	98.4
2	America West	12,432	11,723	10,984	11,422	11,846	79.8	76.6
3	JetBlue	1,687	3,073	4,624	6,203	7,739	71.5	82.1
4	AirTran	4,021	4,599	5,252	5,711	6,305	89.0	92.4
5	ATA	7,554	6,614	7,479	6,605	4,376	87.9	91.7
6	Frontier	2,348	2,661	3,084	4,019	4,082	82.8	79.3
7	Independence**	N/A	N/A	4,198	4,310	3,150	N/A	84.3
8	Spirit	2,189	2,313	2,460	2,425	2,094	85.3	89.3
	Total***	61,025	64,606	70,815	71,577	71,055	90.2	89.7

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count part-time workers as one-half of a full-time employee.

**Employment numbers in 2003, 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.

*** Total numbers for carriers operating in 2005.

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Table 7: Regional Carrier FTE Employees, August 2000-2004*
(Ranked by August 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	American Eagle	9,239	8,605	7,474	8,793	9,408	87.0	88.4
2	Sky West	N/A	N/A	5,229	6,588	7,875	N/A	86.9
3	Comair	N/A	N/A	5,617	5,878	6,604	N/A	90.9
4	Express Jet	N/A	4,694	5,722	6,264	6,530	N/A	91.8
5	Atlantic Southeast	4,115	4,802	5,360	5,736	5,540	92.5	94.2
6	Horizon	3,662	3,491	3,348	3,344	3,427	84.2	87.0
7	Mesaba	3,231	3,255	3,039	3,122	3,365	75.9	75.4
8	Mesa	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,842	3,330	N/A	99.0
9	Air Wisconsin	2,949	2,710	2,641	3,810	3,103	89.5	92.2
10	Pinnacle	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,303	3,094	N/A	70.9
11	Executive	1,239	1,117	1,877	1,986	1,784	75.9	77.4
12	PSA	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,895	1,699	N/A	84.7
13	Trans States	1,359	991	1,144	1,411	1,442	89.7	95.1
	Total**	25,793	29,664	41,764	55,058	57,198	85.8	87.9

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: Many regional carriers were not required to report employment numbers before 2003 so year-to-year comparisons involving regional carriers as a group, or the full industry, are not appropriate for earlier years.

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count part-time workers as one-half of a full-time employee.

** Total numbers for carriers operating in 2005.

N/A: Carriers did not meet the standard for filing.

Table 8: Change in FTE Employees from the Previous Year*

Percentage change compared to same month the previous year

Month	Network Carriers (Pct. Change)	Low-Cost Carriers** (Pct. Change)	Regional Carriers (Pct. Change)	All Passenger Airlines*** (Pct. Change)
Dec. 2003-Dec. 2004	-3.5	0.5	29.4	0.7
Jan. 2004-Jan. 2005	-4.3	0.4	15.8	-1.0
Feb. 2004-Feb. 2005	-4.6	0.6	13.8	-1.4
Mar. 2004-Mar. 2005	-5.0	0.0	13.3	-1.9
Apr. 2004-Apr. 2005	-6.5	-0.7	12.2	-3.1
May 2004-May 2005	-6.7	-1.0	10.9	-3.4
June 2004-June 2005	-7.0	-1.1	10.0	-3.7
July 2004-July 2005	-5.6	-1.5	4.9	-3.3
Aug. 2004-Aug. 2005	-9.0	-0.7	3.9	-5.7

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count part-time workers as one-half of a full-time employee.

**Employment numbers in 2003, 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.

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

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