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**Research and Innovative Technology Administration**  
**BTS Data**

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## **April Passenger Airline Employment Data: Employment Down 2.8 Percent from April 2004**

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed a total of 451,915 workers in April 2005, 2.8 percent fewer than in April 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, reported that the seven network carriers employed 304,761 total full-time and part-time workers, 6.1 percent fewer workers in April 2005 than a year earlier (Table 2). The low-cost carriers reported 73,998 total employees, 0.5 percent fewer than April 2004 (Table 3); and the regional carriers reported 60,154 total employees, 12.1 percent more than the previous year (Table 4).

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.

The 2004 statistics do not include employment data for one regional airline that was not required to report for that year – PSA Airlines.

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 April dropped 34.0 percent from 2001 to 2005. The biggest declines were at US Airways, down 49.6 percent; and United Airlines, down 42.4 percent (Table 5). In FTE calculations, part-time workers are counted as one-half of a full-time employee.

The seven low-cost carriers that were required to report employment data in 2001 and 2005 employed 12.5 percent more FTEs in April 2005 than in April 2001 (Table 6).

The eight regional carriers that were required to report employment data in 2001 and 2005 employed 14.4 percent more FTEs in April 2005 than in April 2001. Of that group, only Horizon Air reported fewer FTE employees in April 2005 than April 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 3.1 percent drop in FTE's from April 2004 to April 2005 was the largest year-to-year drop in scheduled passenger airline employment in the five months that these numbers have been compiled for these airline groups (Table 8). The year-over-year employment trends have worsened each consecutive month since BTS began publishing these data effective with December 2004 results.

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 June 15.

Additional airline employment data can be found on the BTS website at [http://www.bts.gov/programs/airline\\_information/number\\_of\\_employees/](http://www.bts.gov/programs/airline_information/number_of_employees/). BTS has scheduled release of May airline employment data for July 19.

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**Table 1: Passenger Airline Employment, April 2004-2005**

	Apr. 2004	Apr. 2005	Pct. Change 2004- 2005
<b>Total (37)</b>			
<b>Total</b>	464,977	451,915	-2.8
<b>Full-time</b>	410,495	396,274	-3.5
<b>Part-time</b>	54,482	55,641	2.1
<b>Network Carriers (7)*</b>			
<b>Total</b>	324,599	304,761	-6.1
<b>Full-time</b>	286,668	266,931	-6.9
<b>Part-time</b>	37,931	37,830	-0.3
<b>Low-Cost Carriers (8)</b>			
<b>Total</b>	74,372	73,998	-0.5
<b>Full-time</b>	67,545	66,877	-1.0
<b>Part-time</b>	6,827	7,121	4.3
<b>Regional Carriers (13)**</b>			
<b>Total</b>	53,678	60,154	12.1
<b>Full-time</b>	47,196	52,993	12.3
<b>Part-time</b>	6,482	7,161	10.5
<b>Other Carriers (9)***</b>			
<b>Total</b>	12,328	13,002	5.5
<b>Full-time</b>	9,086	9,473	4.3
<b>Part-time</b>	3,242	3,529	8.9

**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.

\*\*2005 Regional data include results from one newly reporting airline that was not required to report employment data in 2004: PSA Airlines. The regional airline category, including only those airlines that reported employment data in both April 2004 and 2005, recorded an 8.9 percent growth rate.

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

**Table 2: Total Number of Employees: Network Carriers, April 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
<b>2001 (8)</b>	463,074	N/A	403,701	N/A	59,373	N/A
<b>2002 (7)</b>	385,763	-16.7	341,207	-15.5	44,556	-25.0
<b>2003 (7)</b>	347,136	-10.0	307,321	-9.9	39,815	-10.6
<b>2004 (7)</b>	324,599	-6.5	286,668	-6.7	37,931	-4.7
<b>2005 (7)</b>	304,761	-6.1	266,931	-6.9	37,830	-0.3

**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, April 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
<b>2001 (11)</b>	67,979	N/A	60,758	N/A	7,221	N/A
<b>2002 (11)</b>	69,068	1.6	62,527	2.9	6,541	-9.4
<b>2003 (8)</b>	73,810	6.9	67,294	7.6	6,516	-0.4
<b>2004 (8)</b>	74,372	0.8	67,545	0.4	6,827	4.8
<b>2005 (8)</b>	73,998	-0.5	66,877	-1.0	7,121	4.3

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Table 4: Total Number of Employees: Regional Carriers, April 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
<b>2003 (11)</b>	44,005	N/A	38,605	N/A	5,400	N/A
<b>2004 (13)</b>	53,678	22.0	47,196	22.3	6,482	20.0
<b>2005 (13)</b>	60,154	12.1	52,993	12.3	7,161	10.5

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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**Table 5: Network Carrier FTE Employees, April 2001-2005\***  
(Ranked by April 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	<b>American**</b>	94,856	95,747	89,297	79,114	75,424	85.2	86.3
2	<b>United</b>	96,428	78,434	67,000	59,374	55,529	89.4	88.5
3	<b>Delta</b>	75,587	64,945	59,041	58,099	52,937	83.4	88.4
4	<b>Northwest</b>	51,768	43,932	39,269	38,381	38,005	93.6	94.3
5	<b>Continental</b>	41,717	36,489	35,465	34,594	32,431	78.9	80.4
6	<b>US Airways</b>	44,192	33,865	27,040	26,075	22,294	91.1	87.1
7	<b>Alaska</b>	10,117	10,025	10,118	9,998	9,227	88.4	88.3
8	<b>TWA</b>	18,725	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	94.0	N/A
	<b>Total</b>	<b>433,388</b>	<b>363,485</b>	<b>327,229</b>	<b>305,634</b>	<b>285,846</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>87.6</b>

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

\* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count part-time workers as one-half of a full-time employee.  
.\*\*American Airline's statistics beginning in April 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, April 2001-2005\***  
(Ranked by April 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	<b>Southwest</b>	29,895	32,687	33,073	31,531	31,058	97.4	98.4
2	<b>America West</b>	12,775	11,382	11,145	11,478	12,002	80.2	77.7
3	<b>JetBlue</b>	1,410	2,590	4,241	5,559	7,081	75.6	81.6
4	<b>AirTran</b>	4,109	4,471	5,037	5,406	6,083	91.1	94.5
5	<b>ATA</b>	7,405	6,970	7,261	6,919	4,596	88.6	92.5
6	<b>Frontier</b>	1,882	2,499	2,872	3,855	4,073	78.4	80.4
7	<b>Independence**</b>	N/A	N/A	4,419	3,797	3,353	N/A	90.1
8	<b>Spirit</b>	2,160	2,148	2,505	2,415	2,194	86.1	89.5
	<b>Total***</b>	<b>59,636</b>	<b>62,747</b>	<b>70,553</b>	<b>70,960</b>	<b>70,440</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>90.4</b>

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. 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, April 2000-2004\***  
(Ranked by April 2005 FTE Employees)

Rank		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Full-time Employees	
							2001	2005
1	<b>American Eagle</b>	9,155	8,386	7,699	8,248	9,472	86.9	88.5
2	<b>Sky West</b>	N/A	N/A	5,073	6,131	7,461	N/A	86.9
3	<b>Express Jet</b>	4,979	4,694	5,447	6,077	6,459	90.3	91.8
4	<b>Comair</b>	N/A	N/A	5,384	5,816	6,314	N/A	91.4
5	<b>Atlantic Southeast</b>	4,135	4,433	5,280	5,632	5,447	91.5	94.4
6	<b>Air Wisconsin</b>	2,724	2,752	2,667	3,450	3,608	90.6	92.4
7	<b>Horizon</b>	3,806	3,467	3,400	3,396	3,370	84.6	87.2
8	<b>Mesa</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,165	3,279	N/A	98.8
9	<b>Mesaba</b>	3,182	3,224	2,940	2,969	3,244	76.0	76.2
10	<b>Pinnacle</b>	N/A	N/A	2,056	2,056	2,892	N/A	69.5
11	<b>Executive</b>	1,254	1,106	1,965	1,923	1,827	74.5	77.6
12	<b>PSA</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,725	N/A	84.0
13	<b>Trans States</b>	1,282	999	1,162	1,396	1,479	89.0	95.2
14	<b>Freedom</b>	N/A	N/A	290	182	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<b>Total**</b>	<b>30,517</b>	<b>29,059</b>	<b>41,305</b>	<b>50,437</b>	<b>56,574</b>	<b>86.4</b>	<b>88.1</b>

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.

\* 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

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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\*\*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.

\*\*\*2005 Regional data include results from one newly reporting airline that was not required to report employment data in 2004: PSA Airlines. The regional airline category, including only those airlines that reported employment data in both April 2004 and 2005, recorded an 8.9 percent growth rate.

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

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