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BTS Data

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Contact: Dave Smallen

Tel: 202-366-5568

2010 Passenger Airline Employment by Job Category

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 4.9 percent more pilots and 1.1 percent more maintenance workers in 2010 than in 2009 while total industry jobs declined by 0.5 percent, 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 six large network carriers employed 1.3 percent fewer pilots and 2.3 percent more maintenance workers in 2010 than in 2009. A separate group of the seven largest low-cost carriers employed 11.2 percent more pilots and 1.5 percent more maintenance workers from 2009 to 2010. The group of regional airlines employed 4.9 percent more pilots and 3.3 percent fewer maintenance workers from 2009 to 2010 (Table 1). Employment numbers for individual regional airlines can be found on the [BTS website](#).

Alaska Airlines had the largest decrease in maintenance employees for the network airlines at 6.7 percent. US Airways had the largest decrease in pilot employees for the network airlines at 2.6 percent. Delta Air Lines' employment increases reflect its merger with Northwest Airlines that became effective for reporting purposes in January 2010 (Table 2).

All the low-cost carriers added pilots from 2009 to 2010 while only Southwest and Spirit Airlines reduced maintenance employees for this period. Allegiant had the largest increase in maintenance employees at 51.0 percent. Virgin America had the largest increase in pilot employees at 43.6 percent (Table 3).

Scheduled passenger airlines include network, low-cost, regional and other airlines. Network carriers operate a significant portion of their flights using at least one hub where connections are made for flights on a spoke system. Low-cost carriers are those that the industry recognizes as operating under a low-cost business model, with lower infrastructure and aircraft operating costs.

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AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD ONE

The merged US Airways and America West Airlines began joint reporting of annual employment numbers in 2009. US Airways' employment numbers for previous years do not include America West, which is included in Table 1 as a low-cost carrier for 2000.

Airlines that meet the reporting standards report annual employment numbers by job category to BTS. The annual numbers are a 12-month average for the year and are not comparable to the [full-time equivalent employee](#) numbers issued monthly by BTS.

Airlines that operate at least one aircraft with the capacity to carry combined passengers, cargo and fuel of 18,000 pounds – the payload factor – and have annual operating revenue of more than \$20 million must report annual employment data.

Pilots and Maintenance

Numbers of pilots and maintenance workers per aircraft and maintenance outsourcing will be available following the release of fourth quarter 2010 [airline financial data](#).

Reporting Notes

Data are compiled from annual reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers as of May 23. There were 34 reporting scheduled passenger carriers in 2010.

Additional airline employment data and the list of reporting carriers can be found on the [BTS website](#).

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AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
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Table 1: Passenger Airline Employees, Maintenance Workers and Pilots 2000-2010

	2000	2008	2009	2010	Pct. Change 2009-2010
Passenger Airlines*					
Total	523,208	408,964	392,018	390,053	-0.5
Maintenance	64,248	46,075	42,774	43,249	1.1
Pilots	66,119	65,084	60,908	63,874	4.9
Other	392,841	297,805	288,336	282,930	-1.9
Network (6 Airlines)**					
Total	425,233	282,993	268,278	265,822	-0.9
Maintenance	55,715	34,698	31,448	32,167	2.3
Pilots	50,201	35,565	33,994	33,546	-1.3
Other	319,317	212,730	202,836	200,109	-1.3
Low-Cost (7 Airlines)***					
Total	60,207	62,775	63,306	64,544	2.0
Maintenance	3,375	3,015	3,300	3,349	1.5
Pilots	8,626	10,632	10,599	11,787	11.2
Other	48,206	49,128	49,407	49,408	0.0
Regionals (18 Airlines)****					
Total	23,223	58,253	55,282	54,070	-2.2
Maintenance	2,774	7,821	7,522	7,275	-3.3
Pilots	5,090	17,527	17,131	17,972	4.9
Other	15,359	32,905	30,629	28,823	-5.9

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, P-10

* All scheduled passenger airlines reporting annual employment numbers to BTS: 30 in 2000, 37 in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

** Seven airlines in 2000, 2008 and 2009, six in 2010

*** Nine airlines in 2000, seven in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

**** Five airlines in 2000, sixteen in 2008 and 2009, eighteen in 2010.

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**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD THREE**

Table 2: Network Airline Employees, Maintenance Workers and Pilots 2000-2010

	2000	2008	2009	2010	Pct. Change 2009-2010
Alaska					
Total	9,531	9,628	8,912	8,649	-3.0
Maintenance	562	727	701	654	-6.7
Pilots	1,239	1,361	1,236	1,218	-1.5
Other	7,730	7,540	6,975	6,777	-2.8
American					
Total	92,665	70,923	66,519	65,506	-1.5
Maintenance	15,139	14,479	12,580	12,621	0.3
Pilots	10,408	8,306	8,092	7,934	-2.0
Other	67,118	48,138	45,847	44,951	-2.0
Continental					
Total	42,468	40,630	38,720	37,760	-2.5
Maintenance	3,443	3,889	3,877	3,877	0.0
Pilots	4,656	4,578	4,227	4,199	-0.7
Other	34,369	32,163	30,616	29,684	-3.0
Delta					
Total	71,384	47,420	46,372	76,742	65.5
Maintenance	5,728	5,272	5,313	7,315	37.7
Pilots	9,123	6,391	6,581	10,701	62.6
Other	56,533	35,757	34,478	58,726	70.3
Northwest*					
Total	51,553	29,124	29,828	N/A	N/A
Maintenance	5,852	266	1,225	N/A	N/A
Pilots	5,981	4,345	4,204	N/A	N/A
Other	39,720	24,513	24,399	N/A	N/A
United					
Total	95,327	52,585	46,587	46,289	-0.6
Maintenance	15,846	6,644	4,108	4,172	1.6
Pilots	11,278	6,350	5,581	5,527	-0.9
Other	68,077	39,591	36,898	36,590	-0.8
US Airways**					
Total	42,652	32,683	31,340	30,876	-1.5
Maintenance	5,353	3,421	3,644	3,528	-3.2
Pilots	5,330	4,234	4,073	3,967	-2.6
Other	31,969	25,028	23,623	23,381	-1.0

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, P-10

* Beginning with 2010 data, Delta began reporting combined former Northwest/Delta data.

** US Airways' 2008 report followed merger with America West. Previous years do not include America West.

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**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
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Table 3: Low-Cost Airline Employees, Maintenance Workers and Pilots 2000-2010

	2000	2008	2009	2010	Pct. Change 2009-2010
AirTran					
Total	4,035	8,259	8,220	8,229	0.1
Maintenance	337	405	358	375	4.7
Pilots	547	1,559	1,535	1,622	5.7
Other	3,173	6,295	6,327	6,232	-1.5
Allegiant*					
Total	N/A	1,330	1,533	1,585	3.4
Maintenance	N/A	122	157	237	51.0
Pilots	N/A	307	287	328	14.3
Other	N/A	901	1,089	1,020	-6.3
Frontier					
Total	1,745	4,939	4,774	4,309	-9.7
Maintenance	231	225	237	245	3.4
Pilots	547	641	634	674	6.3
Other	967	4,073	3,903	3,390	-13.1
JetBlue					
Total	693	10,177	10,583	11,211	5.9
Maintenance	50	471	527	558	5.9
Pilots	203	1,794	1,795	1,828	1.8
Other	440	7,912	8,261	8,825	6.8
Southwest					
Total	28,671	34,680	34,874	35,089	0.6
Maintenance	1,146	1,701	1,746	1,645	-5.8
Pilots	3,316	5,588	5,634	6,423	14.0
Other	24,209	27,391	27,494	27,021	-1.7
Spirit					
Total	1,911	2,410	1,901	2,351	23.7
Maintenance	246	72	178	157	-11.8
Pilots	244	526	416	484	16.3
Other	1,421	1,812	1,307	1,710	30.8
Virgin America**					
Total	N/A	980	1,421	1,770	24.6
Maintenance	N/A	19	97	132	36.1
Pilots	N/A	217	298	428	43.6
Other	N/A	744	1,026	1,210	17.9

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, P-10

* Allegiant did not meet the standard for reporting in 2000. The standard is operation of at least one aircraft with the capacity to carry combined passengers, cargo and fuel of 18,000 pounds – the payload factor – and annual operating revenue of more than \$20 million.

** Virgin America did not begin operating until August 2007.

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