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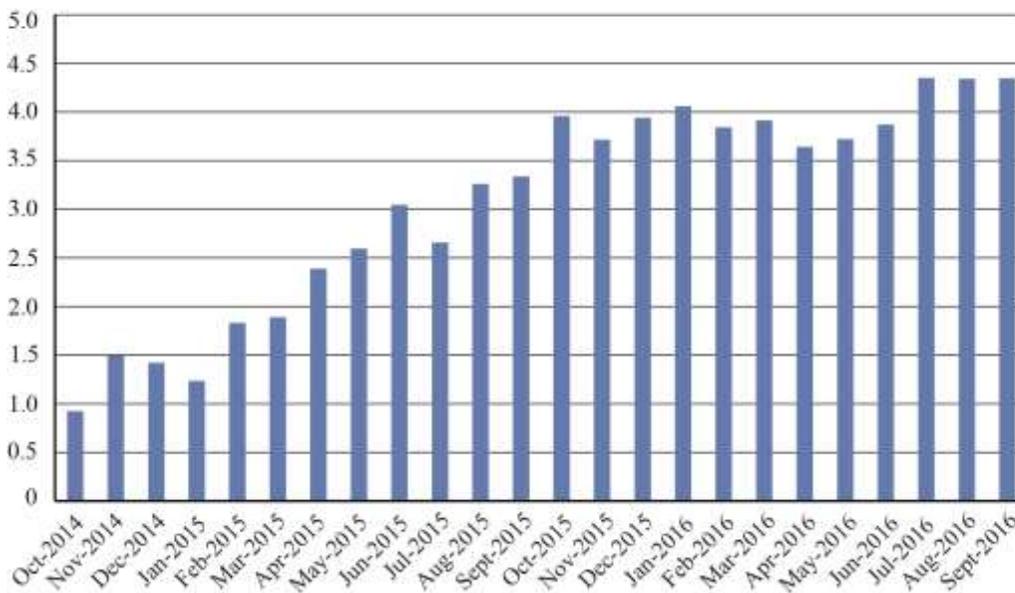
BTS Data

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September 2016 Passenger Airline Employment Data

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 4.3 percent more workers in September 2016 than in September 2015, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today. September was the highest monthly total (414,591) since July 2005 (414.923) and was the 35th consecutive month that U.S. scheduled passenger airline full-time equivalent (FTE) employment exceeded the same month of the previous year (Tables 1, 2, 3).

**U.S. Scheduled Passenger Airline Employment Percent Change from Previous Year
(Last 24 months)**



Month-to-month, the number of FTEs rose 0.1 percent from August to September (Table 1A). Scheduled passenger airline categories include network, low-cost, regional and other airlines. [Historical employment data](#) can be found on the BTS web site.

The four network airlines that collectively employ two-thirds of the scheduled passenger airline FTEs reported 2.6 percent more FTEs in September 2016 than in September 2015 (Tables 7, 8, 9). United Airlines, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines and Delta Air Lines increased FTEs from September 2015 (Table 9). Month-to-month, the number of network airline FTEs was virtually unchanged from August to September (Table 1A).

The network airlines employed 5.5 percent more FTEs in September 2016 than in September 2012 (Tables 8, 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.

The six low-cost carriers reported 10.7 percent more FTEs in September 2016 than in September 2015 (Tables 10, 11, 12). Allegiant Airlines, Spirit Airlines, Frontier Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Virgin America and Southwest Airlines increased FTEs from September 2015 (Table 12). Month-to-month, the number of low-cost airline FTEs rose 0.6 percent from August to September (Table 1A). The six low-cost airlines employed 21.2 percent more FTEs in September 2016 than in September 2012 (Tables 11, 12). Low-cost airlines operate under a low-cost business model, with infrastructure and aircraft operating costs below the overall industry average.

The 12 regional carriers reported 2.9 percent more FTEs in September 2016 than in September 2015 (Tables 13, 14, 15). Nine regional airlines – Republic Airlines, Compass Airlines, PSA Airlines, Mesa Airlines, Endeavor Air, GoJet Airlines, Envoy Air, SkyWest Airlines, and Horizon Air – increased FTEs from September 2015. The others reported decreases (Table 15). Month-to-month, the number of regional airline FTEs fell 0.6 percent from August to September (Table 1A). The 12 regional carriers reporting in September 2016 employed 0.8 percent fewer FTEs in September 2016 than the 15 carriers reporting in September 2012 (Tables 14, 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 four network airlines employed 65.6 percent of the 414,591 FTEs employed by all scheduled passenger airlines in September, the six low-cost carriers employed 20.3 percent and the 12 regional carriers employed 12.2 percent (Table 4). In comparison, in September 2006, the network airlines employed 65.5 percent of the FTEs, the six low-cost carriers employed 17.4 percent and the 12 regional carriers employed 13.8 percent (Table 5).

Top Employers by Group: American employed the most FTEs (99,037) in September among the network airlines, Southwest employed the most FTEs (53,072) among low-cost airlines, and Envoy employed the most FTEs (10,889) among regional airlines (Table 6). The three airlines with the most FTEs in September – American, Delta and United – employed 62.9 percent of the month's total passenger airline FTEs (Tables 3, 6).

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 the Hawaiian Islands served by Hawaiian Airlines and Island Air Hawaii.

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers as of Nov. 10. Additional [airline employment data](#) and previous [press releases](#) can be found on the BTS website. BTS has [scheduled release](#) of October passenger airline employment data for Dec. 16.

Table 1: Yearly Change in Scheduled Passenger Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Airline Group

Most recent 13 months - percent change from same month of the previous year

	Network Airlines	Low- Cost Airlines	Regional Airlines	All Passenger Airlines**
Sep 2014-Sep 2015	3.6	6.6	-2.7	3.3
Oct 2014-Oct 2015	3.6	6.9	1.4	4.0
Nov 2014-Nov 2015	3.7	6.5	-0.2	3.7
Dec 2014-Dec 2015	3.5	7.8	0.9	3.9
Jan 2015-Jan 2016	3.3	7.9	2.0	4.1
Feb 2015-Feb 2016	3.2	8.5	0.2	3.8
Mar 2015-Mar 2016	2.9	9.6	0.4	3.9
Apr 2015-Apr 2016	2.4	10.2	0.1	3.6
May 2015-May 2016	2.3	10.7	0.2	3.7
June 2015-Jun 2016	2.3	11.0	0.9	3.9
July 2015-July 2016	2.4	11.3	3.3	4.3
Aug 2015-Aug 2016	2.5	11.0	3.3	4.3
Sep 2015-Sep 2016	2.6	10.7	2.9	4.3

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, Sun Country Airlines and Island Air Hawaii.

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.

Table 1A: Monthly Change in Scheduled Passenger Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Airline Group

Percent change in FTEs from the previous month

	Network Airlines	Low-Cost Airlines	Regional Airlines	All Passenger Airlines**
Sep 2015-Oct 2015	0.1	1.2	2.5	0.7
Oct 2015-Nov 2015	0.2	0.9	0.1	0.3
Nov 2015-Dec 2015	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Dec 2015-Jan 2016	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.2
Jan 2016-Feb 2016	0.3	1.2	-0.1	0.4
Feb 2016-Mar 2016	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.5
Mar 2016-Apr 2016	0.3	1.2	-0.4	0.4
Apr 2016-May 2016	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.6
May 2016-Jun 2016	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.5
Jun 2016-July 2016	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.3
July 2016-Aug 2016	0.1	0.4	-0.1	0.1
Aug 2016-Sep 2016	0.0	0.6	-0.6	0.1

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, Sun Country Airlines and Island Air Hawaii.

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.

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	2013	2014	2015	2016
January	-1.6	0.5	1.2	4.1
February	-1.7	0.4	1.8	3.8
March	-1.9	0.8	1.9	3.9
April	-1.8	1.0	2.4	3.6
May	-1.8	1.1	2.6	3.7
June	-1.7	0.9	3.0	3.9
July	-1.8	1.3	2.7	4.3
August	-1.6	1.0	3.3	4.3
September	-0.9	1.1	3.3	4.3
October	-0.3	0.9	4.0	
November	0.1	1.5	3.7	
December	0.3	1.4	3.9	

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 2012-2016
FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Percent Change	
						2012-2016	2015-2016
January	386.2	380.0	381.8	386.5	402.2	4.2	4.1
February	387.1	380.4	382.0	389.0	403.9	4.3	3.8
March	388.0	380.5	383.6	390.8	406.1	4.7	3.9
April	387.5	380.5	384.3	393.4	407.8	5.2	3.6
May	388.3	381.4	385.6	395.6	410.3	5.7	3.7
June	388.2	381.7	385.2	397.0	412.3	6.2	3.9
July	388.5	381.3	386.2	396.5	413.7	6.5	4.3
August	386.7	380.5	384.5	397.0	414.2	7.1	4.3
September	383.6	380.2	384.5	397.3	414.6	8.1	4.3
October	382.2	381.2	384.7	399.9			
November	380.9	381.2	386.9	401.3			
December	379.6	380.8	386.2	401.4			
12-Month Average	385.6	380.8	384.6	395.5			
Jan-Sep Average	387.1	380.7	384.2	393.7	409.5	5.8	4.0

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*, September 2012-2016
FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

	Network	Low-Cost	Regional	All Passenger Airlines**
2012	257.9	69.6	51.1	383.6
2013	255.2	69.4	49.5	380.2
2014	256.1	71.4	50.6	384.5
2015	265.3	76.2	49.2	397.3
2016	272.1	84.3	50.7	414.6
Percent of Total Passenger Airline Employees in 2016	65.6%	20.3%	12.2%	100.0%

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: Carrier Group Percent of Total Scheduled Passenger Airline FTEs 2006-2016

Percent of Total Passenger FTEs September of each year

	Network	Low-Cost	Regional	Other
2006	65.5	17.4	13.8	3.3
2011	67.6	17.5	13.7	1.2
2015	66.8	19.2	12.4	1.7
2016	65.6	20.3	12.2	1.8

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 6: Top 10 Airlines, September 2016

Ranked by Number of Full-Time Equivalent Employees*

FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

Rank	Airline	Total FTE Employees	Carrier Group**	Top 10 Airlines September 2015
1	American	99.0	Network	American
2	United	81.8	Network	Delta
3	Delta	80.0	Network	United
4	Southwest	53.1	Low-Cost	Southwest
5	JetBlue	16.3	Low-Cost	JetBlue
6	Alaska	11.3	Network	Alaska
7	Envoy	10.9	Regional	SkyWest
8	SkyWest	10.6	Regional	Envoy
9	ExpressJet	6.6	Regional	ExpressJet
10	Hawaiian	5.5	Other	Spirit

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016
January	-2.1	0.4	0.8	3.3
February	-1.9	0.1	1.4	3.2
March	-2.2	0.6	1.7	2.9
April	-2.0	0.4	2.4	2.4
May	-2.0	0.5	2.7	2.3
June	-1.8	0.3	3.1	2.3
July	-1.7	0.4	3.1	2.4
August	-1.5	0.1	3.7	2.5
September	-1.0	0.4	3.6	2.6
October	-0.6	0.3	3.6	
November	-0.1	0.4	3.7	
December	0.4	0.8	3.5	

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 8: Network Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month 2012-2016

FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Percent Change	
						2012-2016	2015-2016
January	259.7	254.4	255.5	257.6	266.2	2.5	3.3
February	260.0	255.0	255.2	258.8	267.0	2.7	3.2
March	260.7	254.9	256.3	260.8	268.4	3.0	2.9
April	260.9	255.7	256.7	262.9	269.2	3.2	2.4
May	261.4	256.3	257.6	264.4	270.6	3.5	2.3
June	261.5	256.8	257.5	265.5	271.5	3.8	2.3
July	261.0	256.5	257.5	265.6	272.0	4.2	2.4
August	259.6	255.8	256.1	265.6	272.1	4.8	2.5
September	257.9	255.2	256.1	265.3	272.1	5.5	2.6
October	257.3	255.7	256.4	265.7			
November	256.1	255.9	256.8	266.3			
December	254.1	255.2	257.3	266.1			
12-Month Average	259.2	255.6	256.6	263.7			
Jan-Sep Average	260.3	255.6	256.5	262.9	269.9	3.7	2.6

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 9: Network Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees*, September 2012-2016

(FTEs for September of each year. Ranked by September 2016 FTEs)

FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

Rank	Airline	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Percent Change	
							2012-2016	2015-2016
1	AA/US Combined	93.8	90.2	91.5	96.7	99.0	5.6	2.4
	American**	63.4	58.9	59.8	96.7	99.0	N/A	2.4
	US Airways**	30.4	31.3	31.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	United	82.1	82.1	79.1	78.4	81.8	-0.4	4.3
3	Delta	72.7	73.4	75.6	79.3	80.0	10.0	0.9
4	Alaska	9.2	9.5	10.0	10.9	11.3	23.0	3.5
	Total	257.9	255.2	256.1	265.3	272.1	5.5	2.6

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee

** American Airlines and US Airways merged and began reporting combined numbers in July 2015.

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	2013	2014	2015	2016
January	0.8	0.3	4.6	7.9
February	0.2	0.7	4.6	8.5
March	0.0	0.8	3.9	9.6
April	-0.3	1.5	4.2	10.2
May	-0.3	1.8	4.3	10.7
June	-0.6	2.2	4.9	11.0
July	-0.4	2.5	5.2	11.3
August	-0.9	3.0	5.8	11.0
September	-0.2	2.9	6.6	10.7
October	-0.1	3.8	6.9	
November	-0.1	5.2	6.5	
December	-0.6	4.4	7.8	

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.

Table 11: Low-Cost Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees* by Month 2012-2016
FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Percent Change	
						2012-2016	2015-2016
January	68.9	69.5	69.7	72.9	78.6	14.1	7.9
February	69.5	69.6	70.1	73.4	79.6	14.5	8.5
March	69.9	69.9	70.4	73.2	80.2	14.8	9.6
April	69.9	69.7	70.8	73.7	81.2	16.2	10.2
May	70.1	69.8	71.1	74.2	82.1	17.2	10.7
June	70.0	69.6	71.1	74.6	82.8	18.3	11.0
July	69.8	69.5	71.3	75.0	83.5	19.7	11.3
August	69.9	69.3	71.4	75.5	83.8	19.8	11.0
September	69.6	69.4	71.4	76.2	84.3	21.2	10.7
October	69.6	69.5	72.1	77.1			
November	69.4	69.4	73.0	77.8			
December	69.8	69.4	72.4	78.0			
12-Month Average	69.7	69.5	71.2	75.1			
Jan-Sep Average	69.7	69.6	70.8	74.3	81.8	17.3	10.1

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

Table 12: Low-Cost Carrier Full-time Equivalent Employees,* September 2012-2016**
(FTEs for September of each year. Ranked by September 2016 FTEs)

Rank		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Percent Change	
							2012-2016	2015-2016
1	Southwest	46,048	45,148	45,750	48,642	53,072	15.3	9.1
2	JetBlue	12,450	12,955	13,381	14,877	16,324	31.1	9.7
3	Spirit	2,810	3,389	3,803	4,450	5,397	92.1	21.3
4	Frontier	4,044	3,476	3,758	2,869	3,309	-18.2	15.3
5	Allegiant	1,769	1,998	2,211	2,650	3,283	85.6	23.9
6	Virgin America	2,454	2,460	2,525	2,688	2,946	20.0	9.6
	Total	69,575	69,426	71,428	76,176	84,331	21.2	10.7

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.

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	2013	2014	2015	2016
January	-4.1	-0.4	-1.9	2.0
February	-5.0	0.5	-0.3	0.2
March	-4.6	0.9	-0.5	0.4
April	-4.8	2.3	-0.4	0.1
May	-4.7	2.4	-0.3	0.2
June	-4.4	1.9	0.1	0.9
July	-6.3	3.5	-3.3	3.3
August	-5.1	2.5	-2.7	3.3
September	-3.0	2.1	-2.7	2.9
October	-0.5	-0.2	1.4	
November	-0.5	1.5	-0.2	
December	-0.5	-0.2	0.9	

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 2012-2016

FTE numbers in thousands (000's)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Percent Change	
						2012-2016	2015-2016
January	52.8	50.6	50.4	49.5	50.5	-4.4	2.0
February	52.8	50.2	50.5	50.3	50.4	-4.6	0.2
March	52.6	50.2	50.6	50.4	50.6	-3.9	0.4
April	51.9	49.4	50.5	50.3	50.4	-2.9	0.1
May	51.9	49.4	50.6	50.5	50.6	-2.6	0.2
June	51.7	49.4	50.3	50.4	50.8	-1.6	0.9
July	52.7	49.4	51.1	49.4	51.0	-3.2	3.3
August	52.1	49.4	50.7	49.3	51.0	-2.2	3.3
September	51.1	49.5	50.6	49.2	50.7	-0.8	2.9
October	50.1	49.9	49.8	50.5			
November	50.1	49.9	50.6	50.5			
December	50.4	50.2	50.1	50.5			
12-Month Average	51.7	49.8	50.5	50.1			
Jan-Sep Average	52.2	49.7	50.6	49.9	50.6	-2.9	1.4

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 15: Regional Airline Full-time Equivalent Employees*, September 2012-2016
(FTEs for September of each year. Ranked by September 2016 FTEs)

Rank		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Percent Change	
							2012-2016	2015-2016
1	Envoy	10,082	11,160	10,972	9,714	10,889	8.0	12.1
2	SkyWest	9,166	9,452	9,830	10,049	10,581	15.4	5.3
3	ExpressJet	9,091	9,037	9,092	7,655	6,567	-27.8	-14.2
4	Republic	2,012	2,546	3,009	3,066	3,717	84.7	21.2
5	Endeavor	4,290	4,036	3,666	3,251	3,695	-13.9	13.7
6	Horizon	2,727	2,689	2,829	3,179	3,273	20.0	3.0
7	Mesa	1,650	1,712	2,117	2,697	3,100	87.9	14.9
8	PSA	1,073	1,075	1,574	2,295	2,660	147.9	15.9
9	Compass	1,115	1,093	1,161	1,607	1,909	71.2	18.8
10	Air Wisconsin	2,535	2,462	2,401	1,882	1,528	-39.7	-18.8
11	S5/RP Combined	3,141	3,179	2,826	2,642	1,405	-55.3	-46.8
	Shuttle America#	1,857	2,023	2,005	2,642	1,405	N/A	-46.8
	Chautauqua#	1,284	1,156	821	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
12	GoJet	1,029	1,105	1,097	1,194	1,339	30.1	12.1
13	Executive##	1,331	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
14	Colgan###	350	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
15	Comair####	1,493	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	51,085	49,546	50,574	49,231	50,663	-0.8	2.9

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Full-time Equivalent Employee (FTE) calculations count two part-time employees as one full-time employee.

Effective July 2012 Chautauqua Airlines began reporting employment data. Chautauqua did not qualify for monthly reporting prior to July 2012 because it did not operate aircraft with more than 60 seats. Effective the end of December 2014, Shuttle America and Chautauqua combined operations and Chautauqua ceased operating.

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.

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.