



BTS 26-10

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Contact: Dave Smallen

Tel: 202-366-5568

2009 Passenger Airline Employment by Job Category

U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 6.4 percent fewer pilots and 7.2 percent fewer maintenance workers in 2009 than in 2008 while total industry jobs declined by 4.1 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 seven large network carriers employed 4.2 percent fewer pilots and 9.4 percent fewer maintenance workers in 2009 than in 2008. A separate group of the seven largest low-cost carriers employed 0.3 percent fewer pilots but 9.5 percent more maintenance workers from 2008 to 2009.

Delta Air Lines added 190 pilots, a 3.0 percent increase, the only network airline pilot increase from 2008 to 2009 while United Airlines had the greatest percentage decrease in pilot employment of the network airlines, -12.1 percent. Northwest Airlines had the largest increase in maintenance workers of any network airline from 2008 to 2009 while United Airlines had the largest decrease (Table 2).

Low-cost carriers JetBlue, Southwest and Virgin America added pilots from 2008 to 2009 while the other low-cost carriers reduced pilots. Spirit Airlines had the largest decrease in pilot employment followed by Allegiant Airlines. Virgin America had the largest increase in maintenance workers of any low-cost airline from 2008 to 2009 while AirTran had the only reduction (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.

The merged US Airways and America West Airlines began joint reporting of annual employment numbers in 2008. US Airways' employment numbers for previous years do not include America West, which is included in Tables 1, 4 and 7 as a low-cost carrier for 2000. America West did not file a 2007 report.

AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE

ADD ONE

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

The seven network carriers employed 13.4 pilots per aircraft in 2009, up from 13.2 pilots per aircraft in 2008. The low-cost carriers employed 10.2 pilots per aircraft in 2009, down from 11.2 pilots per aircraft in 2008 (Table 4).

Alaska had 10.8 pilots per aircraft in 2009, down from 12.0 per aircraft in 2008, the fewest of any network airline. Delta, with 14.9 pilots per aircraft, was unchanged from 2008, but had the only increase in the number of pilots from 2008 to 2009 and had the most pilots per aircraft of any network carrier (Table 5).

Allegiant had 6.7 pilots per aircraft in 2009, the fewest of any low-cost airline, compared to 9.3 pilots per aircraft in 2008. Spirit, with 14.9 per aircraft, although down from 15.5 per aircraft in 2008 still had the most pilots per aircraft in the low-cost group (Table 6).

Maintenance

The passenger airlines had 7.9 maintenance workers per aircraft in 2009, down from 8.9 per aircraft in 2008. The network airlines had 12.4 maintenance workers per aircraft in 2009, down from 12.9 per aircraft in 2008. Spending by network airlines for outsourced maintenance decreased from 42.8 percent of total maintenance spending in 2008 to 38.9 percent in 2009 (Table 7).

The low-cost airlines had 3.2 maintenance workers per aircraft in 2009, the same number per aircraft as 2008. Spending by low-cost airlines for outsourced maintenance increased from 54.6 percent of total maintenance spending in 2008 to 55.6 percent in 2009 (Table 7).

Northwest had 4.0 maintenance workers per aircraft in 2009, the fewest of any network airline. Northwest's spending for outsourcing declined from 65.9 percent of total spending in 2008 to 59.8 percent in 2009. American Airlines had 20.8 maintenance workers per aircraft in 2009, the most of any network airline. American's spending for outsourcing was 23.3 percent of total maintenance spending in 2009, the lowest percentage spending share of the network carriers (Table 8).

JetBlue had 2.4 maintenance workers per aircraft in 2009 the fewest of any low-cost airline. Of the low-cost airlines, Spirit spent the smallest portion of its maintenance expense on outsourcing at 3.5 percent. Southwest had the highest percentage share for outsourcing at 61.7 percent. Spirit had 6.4 maintenance workers per aircraft in 2009, the most of any low-cost airline and up from 2.1 employees per aircraft in 2008. Spirit's spending for outsourcing decreased from 22.6 percent of total maintenance spending in 2008 to 3.5 percent in 2009 (Table 9).

**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD TWO**

Reporting Notes

Data are compiled from annual reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers as of April 30. There were 37 reporting scheduled passenger carriers in 2009.

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

Table 1: Passenger Airline Employees, Maintenance Workers and Pilots 2000-2009

	2000	2007	2008	2009	Pct. Change 2008-2009
Passenger Airlines*					
Total	523,208	421,463	408,964	392,018	-4.1
Maintenance	64,248	43,490	46,075	42,774	-7.2
Pilots	66,119	63,648	65,084	60,908	-6.4
Other	392,841	314,325	297,805	288,336	-3.2
Network (7 Airlines)					
Total	425,233	288,767	282,993	268,278	-5.2
Maintenance	55,715	31,957	34,698	31,448	-9.4
Pilots	50,201	35,186	35,565	33,994	-4.2
Other	319,317	221,624	212,730	202,836	-4.7
Low-Cost (7 Airlines)**					
Total	58,836	60,876	62,775	63,306	0.8
Maintenance	3,630	3,234	3,015	3,300	9.5
Pilots	8,039	10,102	10,632	10,599	-0.3
Other	47,167	47,540	49,128	49,407	0.6

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, P-10

* All scheduled passenger airlines reporting annual employment numbers to BTS: 30 in 2000, 36 in 2007, 37 in 2008 and 37 in 2009.

** Nine airlines in 2000, eight in 2007, seven in 2008, seven in 2009.

-more-

AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD THREE

Table 2: Network Airline Employees, Maintenance Workers and Pilots 2000-2009

	2000	2007	2008	2009	Pct. Change 2008-2009
Alaska					
Total	9,531	9,680	9,628	8,912	-7.4
Maintenance	562	699	727	701	-3.6
Pilots	1,239	1,385	1,361	1,236	-9.2
Other	7,730	7,596	7,540	6,975	-7.5
American					
Total	92,665	71,818	70,923	66,519	-6.2
Maintenance	15,139	13,980	14,479	12,580	-13.1
Pilots	10,408	8,343	8,306	8,092	-2.6
Other	67,118	49,495	48,138	45,847	-4.8
Continental					
Total	42,468	40,948	40,630	38,720	-4.7
Maintenance	3,443	3,808	3,889	3,877	-0.3
Pilots	4,656	4,598	4,578	4,227	-7.7
Other	34,369	32,542	32,163	30,616	-4.8
Delta					
Total	71,384	47,286	47,420	46,372	-2.2
Maintenance	5,728	5,240	5,272	5,313	0.8
Pilots	9,123	5,904	6,391	6,581	3.0
Other	56,533	36,142	35,757	34,478	-3.6
Northwest					
Total	51,553	29,619	29,124	29,828	2.4
Maintenance	5,852	265	266	1,225	360.5
Pilots	5,981	4,340	4,345	4,204	-3.2
Other	39,720	25,014	24,513	24,399	-0.5
United					
Total	95,327	55,160	52,585	46,587	-11.4
Maintenance	15,846	4,891	6,644	4,108	-38.2
Pilots	11,278	6,338	6,350	5,581	-12.1
Other	68,077	43,931	39,591	36,898	-6.8
US Airways*					
Total	42,652	34,256	32,683	31,340	-4.1
Maintenance	5,353	3,074	3,421	3,644	6.5
Pilots	5,330	4,278	4,234	4,073	-3.8
Other	31,969	26,904	25,028	23,623	-5.6

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, P-10

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

- more-

**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD FOUR**

Table 3: Low-Cost Airline Employees, Maintenance Workers and Pilots 2000-2009

	2000	2007	2008	2009	Pct. Change 2008-2009
AirTran					
Total	4,035	8,304	8,259	8,220	-0.5
Maintenance	337	409	405	358	-11.6
Pilots	547	1,498	1,559	1,535	-1.5
Other	3,173	6,397	6,295	6,327	0.5
Allegiant*					
Total	N/A	1,133	1,330	1,533	15.3
Maintenance	N/A	88	122	157	28.7
Pilots	N/A	268	307	287	-6.5
Other	N/A	811	901	1,089	20.9
Frontier					
Total	1,745	5,219	4,939	4,774	-3.3
Maintenance	231	418	225	237	5.3
Pilots	547	704	641	634	-1.1
Other	967	4,097	4,073	3,903	-4.2
JetBlue					
Total	693	9,713	10,177	10,583	4.0
Maintenance	50	468	471	527	11.9
Pilots	203	1,707	1,794	1,795	0.1
Other	440	7,538	7,912	8,261	4.4
Southwest					
Total	28,671	33,680	34,680	34,874	0.6
Maintenance	1,146	1,682	1,701	1,746	2.6
Pilots	3,316	5,317	5,588	5,634	0.8
Other	24,209	26,681	27,391	27,494	0.4
Spirit					
Total	1,911	2,145	2,410	1,901	-21.1
Maintenance	246	161	72	178	147.2
Pilots	244	442	526	416	-20.9
Other	1,421	1,542	1,812	1,307	-28.9
Virgin America					
Total	N/A	N/A	980	1,421	45.0
Maintenance	N/A	N/A	19	97	410.5
Pilots	N/A	N/A	217	298	37.3
Other	N/A	N/A	744	1,026	37.9

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.

-more -

**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD FIVE**

Table 4: Passenger Airline Pilots and Pilots Per Aircraft 2000-2009

	2000	2007	2008	2009	Pct. Change 2008-2009
Passenger Airlines*					
Total Pilots	66,119	63,648	65,084	60,908	-6.4
Pilots Per Aircraft	13.3	12.1	12.6	11.3	-10.3
Network (7 Airlines)					
Total Pilots	50,201	35,186	35,565	33,994	-4.4
Pilots Per Aircraft	15.0	13.5	13.2	13.4	1.5
Low-Cost (7 Airlines)**					
Total Pilots	8,039	10,102	10,632	10,599	-0.3
Pilots Per Aircraft	12.7	11.4	11.2	10.2	-8.9

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, P-10

* All scheduled passenger airlines reporting annual employment numbers to BTS: 30 in 2000, 36 in 2007, 37 in 2008 and 37 in 2009.

** Nine airlines in 2000, eight in 2007, seven in 2008, seven in 2009.

Table 5: Network Airline Pilots and Pilots Per Aircraft 2000-2009

	2000	2007	2008	2009	Pct. Change 2008-2009
Alaska					
Total Pilots	1,239	1,385	1,361	1,236	-9.2
Pilots Per Aircraft	13.6	12.9	12.0	10.8	-10.0
American					
Total Pilots	10,408	8,343	8,306	8,092	-2.6
Pilots Per Aircraft	14.7	13.3	12.9	13.4	3.9
Continental					
Total Pilots	4,656	4,598	4,578	4,227	-7.7
Pilots Per Aircraft	12.9	13.7	12.8	12.5	-2.3
Delta					
Total Pilots	9,123	5,904	6,391	6,581	3.0
Pilots Per Aircraft	15.2	14.3	14.9	14.9	0.0
Northwest					
Total Pilots	5,981	4,340	4,345	4,204	-3.2
Pilots Per Aircraft	14.2	12.4	12.9	13.8	7.0
United					
Total Pilots	11,278	6,338	6,350	5,581	-12.1
Pilots Per Aircraft	18.8	14.7	14.3	14.6	2.1
US Airways*					
Total Pilots	5,330	4,278	4,234	4,073	-3.8
Pilots Per Aircraft	13.4	12.6	11.8	11.6	-1.7

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, P-10

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

- more -

AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD SIX

Table 6: Low-Cost Airline Pilots and Pilots Per Aircraft 2000-2009

	2000	2007	2008	2009	Pct. Change 2008-2009
AirTran					
Total Pilots	547	1,498	1,559	1,535	-1.5
Pilots Per Aircraft	11.4	12.0	11.5	11.5	0.0
Allegiant*					
Total Pilots	N/A	268	307	287	-6.5
Pilots Per Aircraft	N/A	9.6	9.3	6.7	-28.0
Frontier					
Total Pilots	547	704	641	634	-1.1
Pilots Per Aircraft	12.5	13.0	11.1	12.7	14.4
JetBlue					
Total Pilots	203	1,707	1,794	1,795	0.1
Pilots Per Aircraft	38.3	14.1	12.9	8.2	-36.4
Southwest					
Total Pilots	3,316	5,317	5,588	5,634	0.8
Pilots Per Aircraft	10.2	11.2	10.5	10.4	-1.0
Spirit					
Total Pilots	244	442	526	416	20.9
Pilots Per Aircraft	10.2	12.6	15.5	14.9	-3.9
Virgin America					
Total Pilots	N/A	N/A	217	298	37.3
Pilots Per Aircraft	N/A	N/A	11.4	11.9	4.4

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.

-more-

AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD SEVEN

Table 7: Passenger Airline Maintenance Employees Per Aircraft and Percent of Maintenance Spending Outsourced* 2000-2009

	2000	2007	2008	2009	Pct. Change 2008-2009
Passenger Airlines**					
Maintenance Employees	64,248	43,490	46,075	42,774	-7.2
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	13.0	8.3	8.9	7.9	-11.2
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	29.6	45.3	45.2	43.1	-2.1 Pts
Network (7 Airlines)					
Maintenance Employees	55,715	31,957	34,698	31,448	-9.4
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	16.6	12.3	12.9	12.4	-3.9
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	24.3	42.5	42.8	38.9	-3.9 Pts
Low-Cost (7 Airlines)***					
Maintenance Employees	3,630	3,234	3,015	3,300	9.5
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	5.7	3.7	3.2	3.2	0.0
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	52.0	52.1	54.6	55.6	1.0 Pt

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, P-10

* Percent of total maintenance spending that is contracted outside the airline

** All scheduled passenger airlines reporting annual employment numbers to BTS: 30 in 2000, 36 in 2007, 37 in 2008 and 37 in 2009.

*** Nine airlines in 2000, eight in 2007, seven in 2008, seven in 2009.

- more -

**AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD EIGHT**

Table 8: Network Airline Maintenance Employees Per Aircraft and Percent of Maintenance Spending Outsourced* 2000-2009

	2000	2007	2008	2009	Pct. Change 2008-2009
Alaska					
Maintenance	562	699	727	701	-3.6
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	6.2	6.5	6.4	6.1	-4.7
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	76.2	53.8	54.8	56.8	2.0 Pts
American					
Maintenance	15,139	13,980	14,479	12,580	-13.1
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	21.4	22.4	22.4	20.8	-7.1
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	23.4	23.4	23.6	23.3	-0.3 Pt
Continental					
Maintenance	3,443	3,808	3,889	3,877	-0.3
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	9.6	11.4	10.9	11.5	5.5
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	46.6	49.2	47.7	44.5	-3.2 Pts
Delta					
Maintenance	5,728	5,240	5,272	5,313	0.8
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	9.5	12.7	12.3	12.0	-2.4
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	18.8	31.7	30.7	25.6	-5.1 Pts
Northwest					
Maintenance	5,852	265	266	1,225	360.5
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	13.9	0.8	0.8	4.0	400.0
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	23.8	71.0	65.9	59.8	-6.1 Pts
United					
Maintenance	15,846	4,891	6,644	4,108	-38.2
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	26.4	11.4	15.0	10.8	-28.0
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	16.3	45.7	44.3	40.6	-3.7 Pts
US Airways**					
Maintenance	5,353	3,074	3,421	3,644	6.5
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	13.5	9.0	9.6	10.4	8.3
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	29.6	55.0	63.7	60.4	-3.3 Pts

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, P-10

* Percent of total maintenance spending that is contracted outside the airline

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

- more -

AIRLINE EMPLOYMENT PRESS RELEASE
ADD NINE

Table 9 Low-Cost Airline Maintenance Employees Per Aircraft and Percent of Maintenance Spending Outsourced* 2000-2009

	2000	2007	2008	2009	Pct. Change 2008-2009
AirTran					
Maintenance Employees	337	409	405	358	-11.6
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	7.0	3.3	3.0	2.7	-10.0
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	39.2	48.4	49.6	52.8	3.2 Pts
Allegiant**					
Maintenance Employees	N/A	88	122	157	28.7
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	N/A	3.1	3.7	3.7	0.0
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	N/A	34.6	36.3	44.9	8.6 Pts
Frontier					
Maintenance Employees	231	418	225	237	5.3
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	12.8	7.7	3.9	4.7	20.5
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	16.6	20.5	24.9	26.8	1.9 Pts
JetBlue					
Maintenance Employees	50	468	471	527	11.9
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	10.0	3.9	3.4	2.4	-29.4
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	6.8	45.7	49.9	53.7	3.8 Pts
Southwest					
Maintenance Employees	1,146	1,682	1,701	1,746	2.6
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.2	0.0
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	60.0	60.5	61.3	61.7	0.4 Pt
Spirit					
Maintenance Employees	246	161	72	178	147.2
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	10.3	4.6	2.1	6.4	204.8
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	0.0	18.9	22.6	3.5	-19.1
Virgin America					
Maintenance Employees	N/A	N/A	19	97	410.5
Maintenance Empl Per Aircraft	N/A	N/A	1.7	3.9	129.4
Pct. Maint. Expense Outsourced	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.0	N/A

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, P-10

* Percent of total maintenance spending that is contracted outside the airline

** 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.

- end -