

# US Regional Airline Fact Sheet

## Definition of a Regional Airline

- Regional airlines, operating 9- to 78-seat turboprops and 30- to 108-seat regional jets, provide short- and medium-haul scheduled airline service to 670 US airports. At 484 airports (72%), regional airlines provide the **only** scheduled service.

Airports	Regional Only (+95%)	Any Service
Lower 48	270	435
AK+HI	214	235
Total	484	670

## Regional Airlines

- 61 US regional airlines in 1st half 2010\*
- 62 US regional airlines in 2009\*
- The Regional Airline Association currently has 30 member airlines, and its U.S. members airline transport 99% of the nation's regional airline passengers.

## Passengers

- 159.45 million in 2009 (159.60 million passengers transported in 2008)
- 80.47 million in 1st half 2010 (76.53 million passengers transported in 1st half 2009)
- Passenger boardings have increased more than 100% since 1995
- Regional airlines transport nearly 1 out of every 4 air travelers in the United States
- Average load factor on regional airlines in 2009 increased to 74.69% compared with 73.71% in 2008
- Average load factor in 1st half 2010 grew slightly to 75.46%

## Revenue Passenger Miles (RPMs)

*(Revenue passenger-miles are a measure of the volume of air passenger transportation. A revenue passenger-mile is equal to one paying passenger carried one mile.)*

- RPMs were 72.93 billion in 2009 (up from 73.64 billion in 2008)
- RPMs were 37.48 billion in 1st half 2010 (up from 35.01 billion in 1st half 2009)

## Available Seat Miles (ASMs)

*(Available seat-miles for an individual flight are the number of seats multiplied by the distance traveled; this measure can represent overall capacity.)*

- ASMs were 99.64 billion in 2009 (down from 99.91 billion in 2008)
- ASMs were 49.67 billion in 1st half 2010 (up from 47.94 billion in 1st half 2009)

## Regional Fleet

- Fleet as of July 2010: 2,485 (Aircraft over 9 seats operated by scheduled passenger carriers)
- In 2009, the regional fleet flew 5,146 hours compared to 5,714 hours in 2005
- The average aircraft in 2009 had 55 seats, up from 50 seats in 2005

## Flights (based on OAG Schedules)

- Scheduled regional aircraft departures in 2009 totaled 4.84 million, down from 5.04 million scheduled departures in 2008. Departures in the first half of 2010 totaled 2.38 million remaining relatively flat compared to the first half of 2009 at 2.37 million, however departures for the second half of the year are 4.85 million.

## Code-sharing

- 99% of regional airline passengers traveled on code-sharing regional airlines in 2010.

## Regulatory Requirements

- All airlines providing scheduled service in aircraft with 10 or more passenger seats operate under identical FAA regulatory requirements.

## Industry and FAA growth predictions for 2030

- Average seating capacity of the regional fleet was 55 seats in 2009, and forecast to grow to 56 in 2011 and 65 seats in 2030.
- FAA forecast shows the average passenger trip length to increase to 455 miles for domestic flights in 2011 with continued increases to 495 miles in 2016 and 587 miles in 2030.
- While US regional passenger traffic had average annual growth of 7.6% during 2000-2009, annual growth slowed during 2009-2010 to 4.6% and is forecast to increase on average 3.0% during the period 2009-2030.

For the complete 2010-2030 FAA Aerospace Forecast visit:

[http://www.faa.gov/data\\_research/aviation/aerospace\\_forecasts/2010-2030/](http://www.faa.gov/data_research/aviation/aerospace_forecasts/2010-2030/)

Regional Industry Traffic Statistics	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	1st half 2010
Passenger carriers reporting	90	86	89	74	74	75	69	71	68	62	61
Passengers enplaned (millions)	82.49	81.62	95.85	113.90	134.52	152.55	156.41	161.51	159.60	159.45	80.47
Revenue passenger miles (RPMs billions)	24.38	25.38	33.29	43.46	55.75	67.41	70.57	73.59	73.64	72.93	37.48
Available seat miles (ASMs billions)	42.78	43.73	53.22	66.29	81.97	95.58	94.81	99.09	99.91	97.64	49.67
Average load factor (percent)	56.99%	58.04%	62.55%	65.56%	68.01%	70.53%	74.43%	74.27%	73.71%	74.69%	75.46%
Departures (millions)	4.55	4.36	4.54	4.86	5.26	5.44	5.29	5.32	5.04	4.84	2.38
US airports with scheduled service	701	690	678	671	669	676	673	669	653	659	670
Regional Only Airports	494	488	486	494	490	501	492	486	476	492	484
Share Regional Only Airports	70.5%	70.7%	71.7%	73.6%	73.2%	74.1%	73.1%	72.6%	72.9%	74.7%	72.2%
Average trip length (miles)	296	311	347	382	414	442	451	456	461	457	466
Average seating capacity (seats)	37	41	42	45	47	50	50	51	53	55	56

\*Based on the number of carriers reporting D.O.T. Form 41 Traffic

## Source:

Regional Airline Association 12/15/2010 ([www.raa.org](http://www.raa.org))

Data provided by OAG [www.oagaviation.com](http://www.oagaviation.com) from OAG/US DOT Form 41 iNet, OAG Schedules and OAG Fleet databases.