

US airlines to end year with 90,000 fewer workers

November 13 2020



A near total shutdown in air travel will mean US airlines will have the lowest worker count since at least 1987

Hit with a collapse of demand, US airlines will end the year with the lowest number of workers since at least 1987, 90,000 fewer than when

Covid-19 hit, an industry federation said Thursday.

Airlines for America said the number of full-time equivalent positions will drop to 370,000 at the end of December from 460,000 in March, a drop of nearly 20 percent.

As coronavirus cases explode, approaching the worst days of the pandemic, authorities have stepped up restrictions.

The number of passengers carried in the United States in recent weeks has remained 65 percent lower than the same period last year, the organization said.

Airlines initially cut staff through [early retirement](#) and voluntary furloughs.

The companies pledged to hold off on any layoffs until September 30, in exchange for aid of \$25 billion.

But after Democrats and Republicans failed to agree on a news stimulus package that would extend the support, United Airlines and American Airlines laid off 32,000 workers in October.

In addition, four smaller US carriers shut down, Airlines for America said in its study of the pandemic impact on the industry, which also showed that a quarter of aircraft have been grounded for at least 30 days.

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