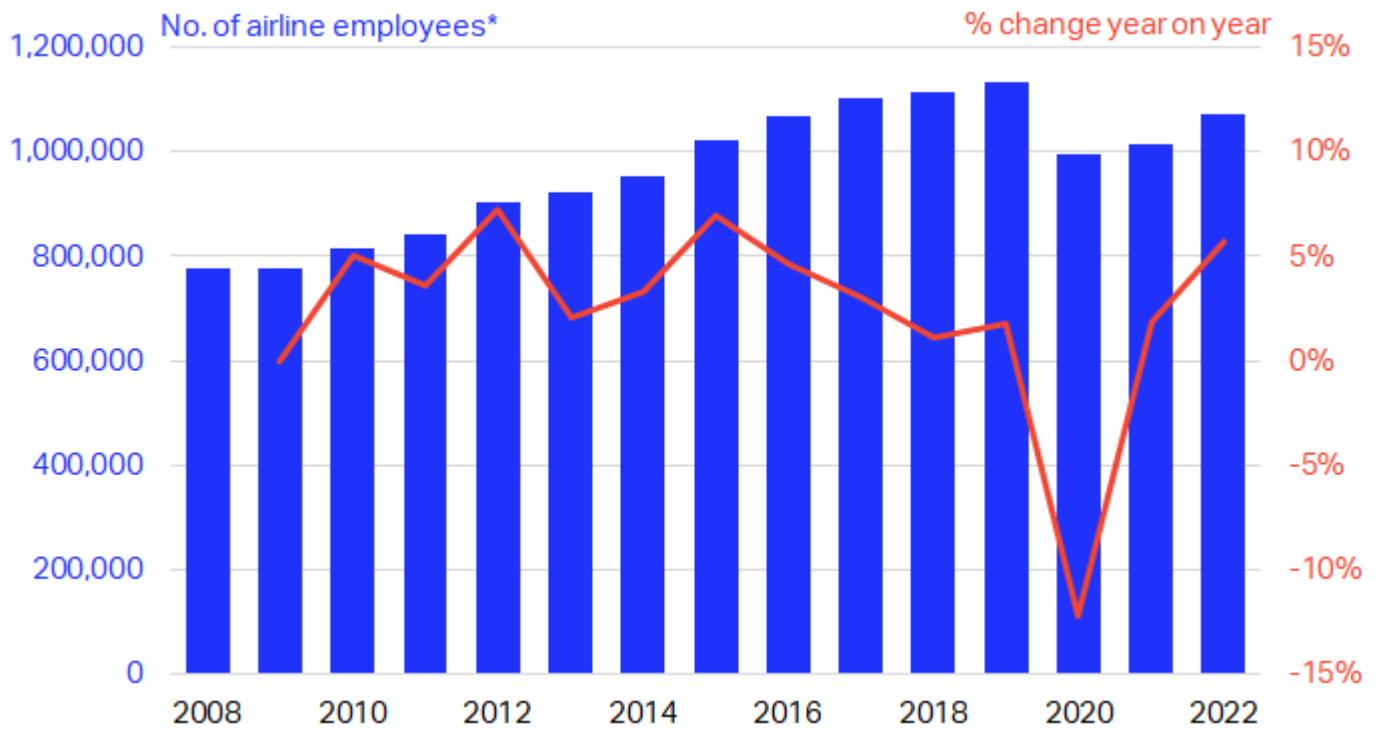




Chart of the Week

18 August 2023

Industry employment yet to fully recover from the pandemic



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics

* Top 25 airlines from AATS, constant sample 2008-2022

- Today's chart depicts developments in airline employment, based on IATA's Annual Air Transport Survey. Data for the Top 25 airlines (by employment size) are used to proxy the industry total.
- Employment fell sharply – at a double-digit pace – in 2020, bringing to an end the steady upwards trend observed over the prior decade. Post-pandemic, the number of airline jobs increased by a modest 1.8% in 2021, before lifting to a strong 5.7% rate in 2022. These data suggest that employment across pax and cargo airlines has recovered to slightly below 95% of its pre-Covid level. This robust overall performance, however, masks considerable divergence across airlines in terms of both the magnitude of the Covid-19 impact and the profile of recovery in the period since.
- Against a backdrop of generally very low unemployment rates in many countries, the recovery in employment for airlines – and the broader value chain – has not always been a smooth one. Some airlines have variously reported wage pressures as well as ongoing labor and skill shortages. At times this has impacted the industry's ability to match the pace of the recovery in demand.
- Looking forward, 60% of respondents in our latest quarterly Business Confidence Survey expect to increase employment over the next year, with an additional 37% likely to keep staffing levels at the current level. This maintains the weighted average employment outlook score at historically high levels and reaffirms industry expectations of a broadly positive outlook for the year ahead; restoring and growing both networks and schedules and further easing labor and skill shortages.

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