

USA TODAY – June 11, 2009 – **“People who still have jobs are faring worse than at any time since the Great Depression, a USA TODAY analysis of employment data found. Furloughs, pay cuts and reduced hours are taking a toll on workers who so far have escaped job cuts. The employed worked fewer hours in May – an average of just 33.1 hours a week – than at any time since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began counting in 1964.”**

Hard Times

The global economic crisis is hitting Delta and Northwest Airlines hard. That is not good news for anyone. Delta announced June 11 that it was cutting capacity by 10% this fall, instead of 6 to 8%. Especially hard hit was international flying. Elimination of flights from ATL to PVG, CVG to FRA and other routes will leave international capacity down 15%.

This decrease in capacity will invariably lead to a reduced need for hours to run the operation. The Delta Internal Memorandum of June 11 said, “The additional capacity reductions mean we again must reassess staffing needs.” The memo goes on to say, “our goal remains to avoid any involuntary furloughs of frontline employees.”

But Delta is already telling some employees they must work fewer hours. IAM members in JFK have reported that full time Delta ticket agents there were upset because their hours had been cut from 40 to 38 hours per week. We have

reports from a number of other Delta stations that hours are being cut as well.

Union Workers Fare Better

The IAM can not stop the economic crisis. But the union can offer protection to its members during hard times that Delta workers don't have.

- 1- Full time workers can not have their hours cut below 40 hours per week. Article 6 Black Book Contract
- 2- Part time workers can not have their hours cut below 16 hours per week. Article 5
- 3- The percentage of part time workers can not go above 25% in DTW and MSP or 50% in all other stations. There is no Ready Reserve or other class of temporary workers. Article 5
- 4- If lay offs must occur, our contract provides for SLIP Leaves, where higher seniority workers can take extended leaves to allow junior employees to keep working. The senior employee continues to accrue OJI, sick, pension and vacation, keep health insurance and collect unemployment in many states. Letter A.23
- 5- Guaranteed system seniority, 5 year recall rights to your home station and other provisions give union workers more choices and better choices than Delta workers. The IAM negotiated seniority system is more transparent than the system at Delta. And it's guaranteed in writing in Article 11 of our contract.