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DELTA AIR LINES INC /DE/  
Form 8-K  
April 14, 2004

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K  
CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): April 14, 2004

DELTA AIR LINES, INC.

-----  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
-----  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

1-5424  
-----  
(Commission File Number)

58-0218548  
-----  
(IRS Employer  
Identification N

P.O. Box 20706, Atlanta, Georgia 30320-6001  
-----

(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (404) 715-2600  
-----

Not Applicable  
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(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

ITEM 9. REGULATION FD DISCLOSURE AND  
ITEM 12. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

Financial Results for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2004

Delta Air Lines, Inc. (Delta) today issued a press release reporting financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2004. The press release is furnished as

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Attachment A. Delta also will be providing supplemental data for the March 2004 quarter to certain analysts. The supplemental data is furnished as Attachment B. The information furnished in this Form 8-K shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into any other filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

### SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

DELTA AIR LINES, INC.

BY: /s/ Edward H. Bastian

-----  
Edward H. Bastian  
Senior Vice President - Finance and  
Controller

Date: April 14, 2004

Attachment A

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

CONTACT:           Corporate Communications           Investor Relations  
                  404-715-2554                           404-715-6679

### DELTA AIR LINES REPORTS FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

ATLANTA, April 14, 2004 -- Delta Air Lines (NYSE: DAL) today reported results for the quarter ending March 31, 2004, and other significant news. The key points are, Delta:

- REPORTS A FIRST QUARTER NET LOSS OF \$383 MILLION, OR \$3.12 LOSS PER COMMON SHARE.
- ENDS QUARTER WITH \$2.2 BILLION IN UNRESTRICTED CASH, A \$500 MILLION DECREASE FROM DECEMBER 31, 2003.
- EMPHASIZES THE NEED TO FIND THE PATH TO LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE PROFITABILITY.

Delta Air Lines reported a net loss of \$383 million and a loss per share of \$3.12 for the March 2004 quarter. The First Call mean estimate for the March 2004 quarter was a loss per share of \$3.02 with estimates ranging between a loss per share of \$2.49 and \$3.15. In the March 2003 quarter, Delta reported a net loss of \$466 million and a loss per share of \$3.81. The March 2003 quarter included unusual charges described below of \$40 million, or \$0.32 per share(1).

"This was a disappointing quarter for Delta and there are more challenging times ahead," said Gerald Grinstein, Delta's chief executive officer. "Continued losses of this magnitude are unsustainable. Delta must regain sustained profitability so we can compete effectively. The urgent task is

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to achieve a competitive cost structure so that Delta can generate a positive cash flow, reduce its debt burden and return to profitability."

### EARNINGS PERFORMANCE

First quarter operating revenues increased 4.3 percent and passenger unit revenues increased 0.6 percent, compared to the March 2003 quarter. The load factor for the March 2004 quarter was 70.6 percent, a 1.7 point increase as compared to the March 2003 quarter. System capacity was up 3.5 percent and mainline capacity was up 1.2 percent from the prior year. Detailed traffic, capacity, load factor, yield and unit revenue information is provided in Table 1 below.

Operating expenses for the March 2004 quarter remained flat with the prior year, although capacity increased. Despite record high fuel costs, Delta's unit costs decreased 3.6 percent from the March 2003 quarter. Fuel price neutralized unit costs<sup>(2)</sup>,<sup>(3)</sup>, excluding unusual items, decreased 3.8 percent.

"These results clearly show the progress we have made in reducing costs through our profit improvement initiatives," said M. Michele Burns, Delta's executive vice president and chief financial officer. "These initiatives must be combined with achieving a lower pilot cost structure if the company is to reach its goal of cost competitiveness."

In the March 2004 quarter, Delta's fuel hedging program reduced operating expenses by \$32 million, pretax. Delta hedged 34 percent of its jet fuel requirements for the quarter at an average price of

\$0.76 per gallon, excluding fuel taxes. Delta's average total fuel price for the March 2004 quarter was \$0.95 per gallon.

Guidance on fuel hedging, capacity, unit costs and other items is provided below.

### LIQUIDITY AND FINANCING TRANSACTIONS

At March 31, 2004, Delta had \$2.5 billion in cash, of which \$2.2 billion was unrestricted. The \$500 million reduction in unrestricted cash from the Dec. 31, 2003 balance of \$2.7 billion was primarily due to Delta's contributions to its pension plans and debt repayments.

During the quarter, Delta made a \$325 million contribution to the Delta Retirement Plan. Delta also made a contribution of \$71 million to the Delta Pilot Retirement Plan in March 2004. Delta's debt payments for the quarter totaled approximately \$400 million, including \$236 million in principal repayments of unsecured notes that matured on March 15, 2004. Also during the quarter, Delta issued \$325 million of convertible senior notes.

For the March 2004 quarter, Delta had negative cash flow from operations of \$280 million. Excluding pension funding, Delta had positive cash flow from operations of \$116 million. Capital expenditures for the quarter were \$227 million, including \$102 million for aircraft and \$125 million for non-fleet expenditures.

### STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

While Delta is undergoing its strategic reassessment, the company continues to invest in products and services to strengthen its competitive position. In January, Delta announced that it is expanding its presence in New

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York City with enhancements to its service and terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), including an investment of approximately \$300 million over the next six years to upgrade systems and processes which will enhance the customer's travel and airport experience.

Song, Delta's low-fare unit, celebrated its one year anniversary this month. Song currently operates 36 aircraft and, this month, will complete the installation of its industry-leading in-flight entertainment system, featuring 24 channels of live, satellite television, 24 channels of audio programming and an interactive music trivia game.

As previously announced, during the quarter Delta entered into an agreement to purchase 32 Bombardier CRJ-200 aircraft to be delivered in 2005. A third party has committed to finance, on a secured basis at the time of acquisition, the future deliveries of these aircraft. Delta plans to allocate this capacity growth primarily to serve its hubs.

### EXPLANATION OF UNUSUAL ITEMS

March 2003 Quarter

In the March 2003 quarter, Delta recorded, net of tax, (1) a \$27 million charge for the cost of pension benefits related to the workforce reduction programs announced in October 2002; (2) a \$9 million charge related to the purchase of a portion of outstanding ESOP Notes; and (3) a \$4 million charge related to derivative and hedging activities accounted for under Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 133. The attached Consolidated Statement of Operations for the March 2003 quarter shows Delta's net loss as reported under GAAP, as well as net loss excluding these items. Delta

believes this information is helpful to investors to evaluate recurring operational performance because the unusual items are not representative of core operations.

### OTHER MATTERS

Attached to this earnings release are Delta's Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months ended March 31, 2004, and 2003; a statistical summary for those periods; selected balance sheet data as of March 31, 2004, and Dec. 31, 2003; and a reconciliation of certain non-GAAP to GAAP financial measures.

Delta will host a Webcast to discuss its quarterly earnings today, April 14, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. The Webcast is available via the Internet at [www.delta.com/inside/investors/index.jsp](http://www.delta.com/inside/investors/index.jsp).

Delta Air Lines is proud to celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2004. Delta is the world's second largest airline in terms of passengers carried and the leading U.S. carrier across the Atlantic, offering daily flights to 497 destinations in 84 countries on Delta, Song, Delta Shuttle, the Delta Connection carriers and its worldwide partners. Delta's marketing alliances allow customers to earn and redeem frequent flier miles on more than 14,000 flights offered by SkyTeam, Northwest Airlines, Continental Airlines and other partners. Delta is a founding member of SkyTeam, a global airline alliance that provides customers with extensive worldwide destinations, flights and services. For more information, please visit [delta.com](http://delta.com).

MARCH 2004 QUARTER TRAFFIC, CAPACITY, LOAD FACTOR, YIELD AND UNIT REVENUE VS. MARCH 2003 QUARTER

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Table 1	Year-Over-Year Change		
	North America	Atlantic	Latin America
Traffic	5.7%	7.1%	4.9%
Capacity	4.6%	(0.4%)	(3.9%)
Load Factor	0.7 pts.	5.2 pts.	6.2 pts.
Yield	(1.5%)	3.1%	1.5%
Passenger Unit Revenue	(0.4%)	10.9%	10.9%

2004 GUIDANCE

In addition to the \$396 million in pension funding contributions made in the March 2004 quarter, Delta estimates its remaining funding obligation for its defined benefit pension plans in 2004 will be approximately \$65 million (4).

Delta expects to have capital expenditures of approximately \$1.1 billion in 2004. This includes approximately \$500 million for aircraft, \$300 million for aircraft modifications and inventory, and \$300 million for non-fleet related expenditures. Capital expenditures for the June 2004 quarter are estimated to be approximately \$250 million, of which approximately \$110 million is for aircraft and \$140 million is for non-aircraft related expenditures.

Delta currently has no fuel hedge contracts in place. In February 2004, Delta settled all of its fuel hedge contracts prior to their scheduled settlement dates. As a result, Delta received \$83 million, which represented the fair value of the contracts at the date of settlement. In accordance with GAAP, an \$82 million gain was deferred and is being recognized as a reduction to fuel expenses as the corresponding fuel purchases that were being hedged are consumed.

The following table includes certain projected information for the periods presented.

Table 2	Year-Over-Year Change	
	Q2 2004	Q3 2004
Capacity	Up 15 to 17% (5)	Up 10 to 12%
Unit costs, excluding unusual items (6)	Down approximately 9%	-----
Fuel price neutralized unit costs,		

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excluding unusual items(6), (7)  
(vs. prior year unit costs,  
excluding unusual items)

Down approximately  
10%

-----

-----

ENDNOTES

(1) Note 1 to the attached Consolidated Statements of Operations shows a reconciliation of Delta's net loss reported under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP) to the net loss excluding unusual items, as well as reconciliations of other financial measures including and excluding unusual items.

(2) "Fuel price neutralized unit costs" means the amount of operating cost incurred per available seat mile during a reporting period, adjusting the average fuel price per gallon for that period to equal the average fuel price per gallon for the corresponding period in the prior year.

(3) We believe this non-GAAP financial measure assists investors in understanding the impact of changes in fuel costs on our operations.

(4) Estimates of Delta's future funding obligations under its defined benefit pension plans are based on various assumptions, including the actual market performance of the plan assets, future long-term investment grade corporate bond rates and regulatory requirements.

(5) A significant portion of the planned second quarter 2004 year-over-year capacity increase results from the restoration of capacity that was reduced in the second quarter of 2003 due to the war in Iraq.

(6) Delta is unable to reconcile this financial measure to unit costs under GAAP for the periods presented because Delta cannot project specific unusual items that may occur in the periods presented.

(7) Average aircraft fuel price per gallon was \$0.76 for the three months ended June 30, 2003 and \$0.82 for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Statements in this news release that are not historical facts, including statements regarding Delta's estimates, beliefs, expectations, intentions, strategies or projections, may be "forward-looking statements" as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All forward-looking statements involve a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the estimates, beliefs, expectations, intentions, strategies and projections reflected in or suggested by the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the effects of terrorist attacks, military conflicts, the state of the domestic and international economy, the demand for air travel, the availability and cost of aircraft fuel, competitive factors in the airline industry, the outcome of negotiations on collective bargaining agreements and other labor issues and the results achieved through the profit improvement initiatives or other means. Additional information concerning risks and uncertainties that could cause differences between actual results and forward-looking statements is contained in Delta's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including its Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 filed with the Commission on March 12, 2004. Caution should be taken not to place undue reliance on Delta's forward-looking statements, which represent Delta's views only as of April 14, 2004, and which Delta has no current intention to update.

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DELTA AIR LINES, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
(unaudited; in millions, except share and per share data)

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Percent Change
	2004 -----	2003 -----	
Operating Revenues:			
Passenger	\$ 3,051	\$ 2,931	4.1%
Cargo	122	113	8.0%
Other, net	119	111	7.2%
Total operating revenues	3,292	3,155	4.3%
Operating Expenses:			
Salaries and related costs	1,609	1,634	(1.5%)
Aircraft fuel	574	511	12.3%
Depreciation and amortization	307	303	1.3%
Contracted services	241	232	3.9%
Landing fees and other rents	217	218	(0.5%)
Aircraft maintenance materials and outside repairs	157	144	9.0%
Aircraft rent	181	183	(1.1%)
Other selling expenses	126	115	9.6%
Passenger commissions	47	55	(14.5%)
Passenger service	78	80	(2.5%)
Restructuring and related items	--	43	(100.0%)
Other	143	172	(16.9%)
Total operating expenses	3,680	3,690	(0.3%)
Operating Loss	(388)	(535)	27.5%
Other Income (Expense):			
Interest expense	(194)	(176)	(10.2%)
Interest income	13	10	30.0%
Gain (loss) on extinguishment of debt	1	(14)	107.1%
Fair value adjustments of SFAS 133 derivatives	(23)	(6)	(283.3%)
Miscellaneous expense, net	(7)	(3)	(133.3%)
Total other income (expense)	(210)	(189)	(11.1%)
Loss Before Income Taxes	(598)	(724)	17.4%
Income Tax Benefit	215	258	(16.7%)
Net Loss	(383)	(466)	17.8%
Preferred Stock Dividends	(4)	(4)	--
Net Loss Available			
To Common Shareowners	\$ (387)	\$ (470)	17.7%
Basic And Diluted Loss			
Per Share	\$ (3.12)	\$ (3.81)	18.1%
Operating Margin	(11.8%)	(17.0%)	5.2 pts.
Net Loss Excluding			
Unusual Items (Note 1)	\$ (383) (1)	\$ (426)	10.1%
Basic and Diluted Loss Per Share			
Excluding Unusual Items (Note 1)	\$ (3.12) (1)	\$ (3.49)	10.6%
Weighted Average Shares Used			

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In Basic and Diluted Loss Per Share Excluding Unusual Items Computation	123,879,082	123,360,418	0.4%
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(1) In the March 2004 quarter there were no unusual items to exclude.

### DELTA AIR LINES, INC. STATISTICAL SUMMARY (unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Percent Change
	2004	2003	
<b>Consolidated:</b>			
Revenue Psgr Miles (millions)	24,251	22,884	6.0%
Available Seat Miles (millions)	34,363	33,204	3.5%
Passenger Mile Yield (cents)	12.58	12.81	(1.8%)
Operating Revenue Per Available Seat Mile (cents)	9.58	9.50	0.8%
Passenger Revenue Per Available Seat Mile (cents)	8.88	8.83	0.6%
Operating Cost per Available Seat Mile (cents)	10.71	11.11	(3.6%)
Fuel Price Neutralized Operating Cost per Available Seat Mile - Excluding (cents) (Note 1)	10.56(1)	10.98	(3.8%)
Passenger Load Factor (percent)	70.57	68.92	1.65 pts.
Breakeven Passenger Load Factor (percent)	79.54	81.49	(1.95) pts.
Breakeven Passenger Load Factor - Excluding (percent) (Note 1)	79.54(1)	80.47	(0.93) pts.
Psgrs Enplaned (thousands)	25,343	24,910	1.7%
Fuel Gallons Consumed (millions)	603	588	2.6%
Average Price Per Fuel Gallon, net of hedging gains (cents)	95.23	86.89	9.6%
Number of Aircraft in Fleet, End of Period	838	827	1.3%
Full-Time Equivalent Employees, End of Period	69,900	72,200	(3.2%)
<b>Mainline:</b>			
Revenue Psgr Miles (millions)	21,814	20,982	4.0%
Available Seat Miles (millions)	30,486	30,133	1.2%
Operating Cost Per Available Seat Mile (cents)	10.38	10.74	(3.4%)
Fuel Price Neutralized Operating Cost per Available Seat Mile - Excluding (cents)			



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(Note 1)	10.22(1)	10.60	(3.6%)
Number of Aircraft in Fleet,			
End of Period	550	559	(1.6%)

(1) In the March 2004 quarter there were no unusual items to exclude.

### SELECTED BALANCE SHEET DATA:

	March 31, 2004 (unaudited)	December 31, 2003
(in millions)		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,180	\$ 2,710
Restricted cash, including noncurrent	293	235
Total assets	26,174	26,356
Total debt, including current maturities	12,479	12,462
Capital lease obligations, current and long-term	95	97
Total shareowners' deficit	(1,028)	(659)

Note 1: The following tables show reconciliations of certain financial measures adjusted for the items shown below.

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2003
(in millions)	
Net loss	\$ (466)
Unusual items, net of tax:	
Pension benefits for 2002 workforce reductions	27
Loss on extinguishment of debt	9
Fair value adjustments of SFAS 133 derivatives	4
Total unusual items, net of tax	40
Net loss excluding unusual items	\$ (426)
Basic and diluted loss per share	\$ (3.81)
Unusual items, net of tax:	
Pension benefits for 2002 workforce reductions	0.22
Loss on extinguishment of debt	0.07
Fair value adjustments of SFAS 133 derivatives	0.03
Total unusual items, net of tax	0.32
Basic and diluted loss per share excluding unusual items	\$ (3.49)

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Operating expenses	\$3,690
Unusual items:	
Pension benefits for 2002 workforce reductions	(43)
Operating expenses excluding unusual items	\$3,647
 Breakeven load factor	 81.49%
Unusual items:	
Pension benefits for 2002 workforce reductions	(1.02)
Breakeven load factor excluding unusual items	80.47%

Note 1 (continued)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2004	2003
Unit costs and Fuel price neutralized unit costs (in cents, except where noted)		
Operating expenses (millions)	\$ 3,680	\$ 3,690
ASMs (millions)	34,363	33,204
Unit costs	10.71	11.11
Unusual items:		
Pension benefits for 2002 workforce reductions	--	(0.13)
Unit costs excluding unusual items(1)	10.71	10.98
Less fuel expense	(1.67)	
Plus current year fuel gallons x prior year fuel price(2)	1.52	
Fuel price neutralized unit costs excluding unusual items(1)(3)	10.56	
vs. March 2003 unit costs excluding unusual items	10.98	
Change	3.8%	
 Mainline - Unit costs and Fuel price neutralized unit costs (in cents, except where noted)		
Operating expenses (millions)	\$ 3,165	\$ 3,236
ASMs (millions)	30,486	30,133
Unit costs	10.38	10.74
Unusual items:		
Pension benefits for 2002 workforce reductions	--	(0.14)
Unit costs excluding unusual items(1)	10.38	10.60
Less fuel expense	(1.54)	
Plus current year fuel gallons x prior year fuel price(4)	1.38	
Fuel price neutralized unit costs excluding unusual items(1)(3)	10.22	
vs. March 2003 unit costs excluding unusual items	10.60	
Change	3.6%	

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Three Months Ended  
March 31,  
2004

(in millions)

Capital Expenditures	
Cash used by investing activities - GAAP	
Flight equipment additions	\$ (157)
Ground property & equipment additions	(92)
Add:	
Aircraft delivered under seller-financing	(55)
Less:	
Advanced deposit activity, net	27
Boston airport terminal project expenditures	50
Capital expenditures	\$ (227)

Note 1 (continued)

Three Months Ended  
March 31,  
2004

(in millions)

Positive cash flow	
Cash provided by operating activities - GAAP	\$ (280)
Add:	
Pension funding	396
Positive cash flow	\$ 116

(1) We believe this non-GAAP financial measure assists investors in understanding the impact of changes in fuel costs on our operations.

(2) 603 million gallons x 86.89 cents/gallon divided by 34.363 billion ASMs for the three months ended Mar. 31, 2004.

(3) Operating cost per available seat mile (ASM), adjusting average fuel price per gallon for the period to equal the average fuel price per gallon for the corresponding period in the prior year.

(4) 506 million gallons x 83.45 cents/gallon divided by 30.486 billion ASMs for the three months ended Mar. 31, 2004.

Attachment B  
April 14, 2004

Dear Investors and Analysts,

To make more efficient use of the time allocated for this morning's conference

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call, we are providing detailed variance information on our operating and non-operating expenses to assist you in analyzing Delta's March 2004 quarterly results. This information is intended to supplement that provided in the conference call (scheduled for 10:00 a.m. ET today) and in the earnings release. Please see Note 1 to the Consolidated Statements of Operations for a reconciliation of certain financial measures including and excluding unusual items. March quarter revenue performance will be discussed in the conference call.

Please feel free to call me at 404-715-6679 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of Delta Air Lines.

Gail Grimmett

### SUPPLEMENTAL MARCH 2004 QUARTER DATA

#### MARCH 2004 QUARTER VS. MARCH 2003 QUARTER

- Total operating expenses for the quarter remained flat at \$3.7 billion. Operating expenses, excluding unusual items, increased 1% to \$3.7 billion on a 3.5% increase in capacity.
- Delta's total unit cost decreased 3.6% to 10.71 cents from 11.11 cents. Fuel price neutralized unit costs, excluding unusual items, decreased 3.8% to 10.56 cents from 10.98 cents.
- Salaries and related costs decreased 2%. This decline is primarily due to lower Mainline headcount and a decrease in benefit expenses due to our costs savings initiatives, offset by higher pension expense, contractual increases for pilots and growth at ASA and Comair.
- Aircraft fuel expense increased 12% due primarily to higher fuel prices and increased consumption. Delta's average fuel price per gallon, including the impact of fuel hedges, rose 10% to 95.23 cents driving \$51 million of the increase.
- Aircraft maintenance materials and outside repairs increased 9% primarily from increased materials volume due to restored capacity and lower warranty credits.
- Other selling expenses increased 10% mainly due to increased advertising costs and higher credit card charges due to increased traffic, partially offset by a decrease in booking fees due to lower rates.
- Passenger commissions expense declined 15% primarily due to renegotiated incentive commission rates.
- Other expenses decreased 17% primarily due to a reduction in certain property taxes and a decline in insurance costs resulting from lower rates as well as lower professional fees and supply costs.
- Interest expense increased 10% primarily as a result of higher levels of debt outstanding.
- Loss due to fair value adjustments of SFAS 133 derivatives increased \$17 million due to costs associated with the early settlement of our fuel hedge contracts in February 2004.

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OTHER ITEMS

Aircraft Fleet

Our aircraft fleet, orders, options and rolling options at March 31, 2004 are summarized in the following table. Options have scheduled delivery slots. Rolling options replace options and are assigned delivery slots as options expire or are exercised.

CURRENT FLEET					
AIRCRAFT TYPE	OWNED	LEASED	TOTAL	ORDERS	OPTIONS
B-737-200	6	46	52	--	--
B-737-300	--	26	26	--	--
B-737-800	71	--	71	61 (1)	60
B-757-200	77	44	121	--	20
B-767-200	15	--	15	--	--
B-767-300	4	24	28	--	--
B-767-300ER	51	8	59	--	10
B-767-400	21	--	21	--	23
B-777-200	8	--	8	5	20
MD-11	8	5	13	--	--
MD-88	63	57	120	--	--
MD-90	16	--	16	--	--
ATR-72	4	15	19	--	--
CRJ-100/200	106	123	229	32	136
CRJ-700	40	--	40	18	145
Total	490	348	838	116	414

(1) Includes 11 B-737-800 aircraft to be sold by Delta to a third party under a definitive agreement entered into in October 2003.