



## **BY THE NUMBERS: Air Traffic Controller Staffing Crisis at Major Hubs**

*Below are details of the current staffing crisis at five of the busiest Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) facilities in the National Airspace System. TRACONs handle airborne traffic between 3-to-40 miles from an airport. The below five facilities handle traffic into several dozen different airports, including Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson, Chicago O'Hare, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston Intercontinental, and the three major New York airports.*

### **ATLANTA TRACON HAS:**

- 74 fully certified controllers, 27 percent short of the 102 needed
- Mandatory six-day work weeks
- 18 controllers (nearly a quarter of the total) who are eligible to retire
- Potential relief from 15 controllers from other facilities who want to transfer there to work but FAA has not released them from their current facilities
- Delayed implementation of NextGen programs that would make airplane approaches more efficient

### **CHICAGO TRACON HAS:**

- 70 fully certified controllers, 30 percent short of the 100 needed
- 27 controllers (39 percent) who are eligible to retire
- Mandatory six-day work weeks since 2007
- Months-long wait for training of newly arrived controllers
- Frequent delay of training due to need to have controllers work single positions

### **DALLAS-FORT WORTH TRACON HAS:**

- An all-time low of 52 fully certified controllers, a drop of 38 percent since 2006; 10 are eligible to retire with an additional five becoming eligible to retire in 2016
- 44 percent fewer certified controllers than what is needed
- 78 total controllers on board, including trainees, a 19 percent drop since 2011
- One controller routinely doing the work of three controllers
- Mandatory six-day work weeks since January 2015

### **HOUSTON TRACON HAS:**

- 73 fully certified controllers, 22 percent below the 93 needed
- Only 17 full certified controllers in training; if they make it, facility still short
- Trouble participating in NextGen and safety projects due to low staffing
- Overtime status for most of the last 10 years due to lack of available staff
- Little flexibility to allow employees the ability to get spot leave to attend to family matters, events, etc.; there's nobody to call to fill in

### **NEW YORK TRACON (N90) HAS:**

- A 25-year low of 147 fully certified controllers; 35 percent short of what is needed
- 10 percent fewer controllers than 2011, 32 percent fewer than 2004
- 67 controllers eligible to retire (46 percent)
- No staffing to accommodate requests for NextGen subject matter experts
- Working six-day weeks