

Who Are Delta Executives Trying to Kid?

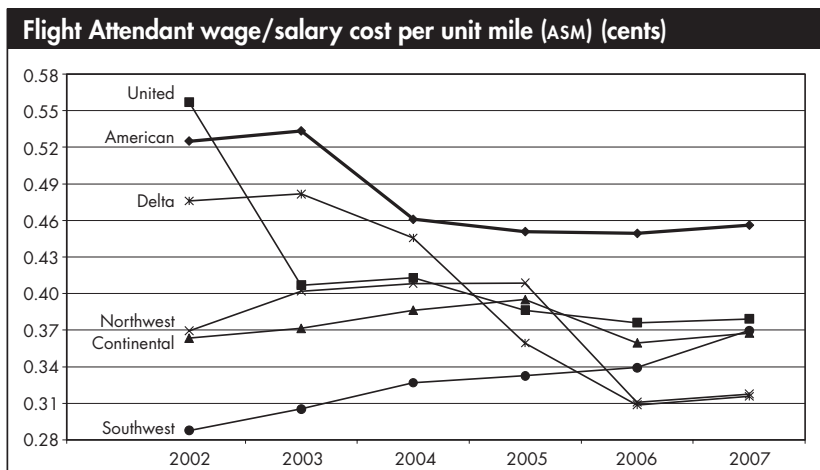
Delta's new executives have sent flight attendants a "side-by-side" chart seeking to compare compensation between Delta and Northwest flight attendants. They wanted to show that Delta pay is higher than pay for Northwest flight attendants. But they've only succeeded in complicating a clear-cut issue.

If you look at flight attendant compensation overall, as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has done*, Northwest flight attendants earn, on average, \$53,797, compared with \$48,937 for Delta flight attendants. Northwest health care, vacations and other quality-of-life benefits are better because flight attendants stood up for them in negotiations.

The New Delta Aims Low

But the bottom line is that Delta and Northwest flight attendants are among the lowest among U.S. airlines, after the carriers used bankruptcy laws to dump their obligations and slash employee compensation.

The new Delta executives only promise to "reach industry standards by 2010." Since they're promising to be the world's greatest carrier, why aren't they aiming for industry-leading standards, instead of misleading us about our compensation?



* Data for US Airways not available for this period.

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