

COMPETITION AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY

On May 15, 2009, the National Bureau of Economic Research will hold a Universities' Research Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts on the Airline Industry

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

The program is being organized by Professor Severin Borenstein of UC, Berkeley and NBER and Professor Dennis Carlton of the University of Chicago and NBER. It will consist of five or six papers with formal discussants for each paper. There will be no published proceedings, but the conference will be summarized in the *NBER Reporter*.

CONFERENCE THEME

Domestic and international airline markets have gone through drastic changes over the last 30 years due to reduction in government regulation and the evolution of firm strategies, as well as unpredictable cost and demand shocks. Due to these factors, the state of the industry remains quite fluid today. We invite papers that explore how the industry succeeds and fails in providing economic efficiencies and consumer benefits in this dynamic environment.

Topics may include, but are not limited to,

- effects of government regulation of airlines or airport infrastructure
- competitive and anti-competitive behavior of airlines
- effects of technological change and innovation on the industry
- stability of competition and industry profitability

Preference will be given to papers that are grounded in the institutions of the market and pursue a deeper understanding of the organization of the industry. Papers utilizing all research methods are invited, but the focus should be on expanding our understanding of the airline industry, not expanding the technical frontiers of the research method.

SELECTION PROCESS

In keeping with the Bureau's tradition, priority will be given to empirical research or theoretical work with direct empirical applications. We encourage submissions from researchers early in their careers and also from non-NBER affiliates.

Papers will be selected on the basis of abstracts of about 500 words or papers, with a *strong* preference for papers (even if incomplete). Any research that will not be published at the time of the conference can be submitted. The deadline for submissions is **February 2, 2009**. Authors chosen to present papers will be notified by the end of February. Final drafts of papers will be due at the NBER on **April 24, 2009**. The NBER will pay the domestic travel and hotel expenses of one author per paper and discussants at the conference.

Please send your abstracts or papers in PDF format to:

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