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**BTS Data**

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## **Transportation Services Index (TSI) was Unchanged in October from September**

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) for October was unchanged from its September level, following a one-month rise, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

The lack of change in October continued a two-year period in which the index has not shown a persistent direction (Table 2). The index rose less than 1 percent from October 2004 to October 2006 (Table 5). For additional historical data prior to 2003, go to <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

For the first 10 months of 2006, the TSI, a combination of the freight and passenger indexes, fell 0.2 percent, the second consecutive small December-to-October decline but the largest decline since 2001 (Table 3).

The October level of 110.3 for the combined freight and passenger index was 0.5 percent higher than the October 2005 level, the fifth consecutive increase from October of the previous year but the second consecutive year with an October-to-October change of less than 1 percent (Table 4). The October 2006 level was 10.8 percent higher than the October level of the base year of 2000 (Table 5).

TSI is a single seasonally adjusted index of the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire transportation industries, including railroad, air, truck, inland waterways, pipeline, and local transit.

The index includes historic data from 1990 to the present. The TSI is still under development and is considered experimental. The index measures changes from the monthly average of the base year of 2000. Release of the November index is scheduled for Jan. 10, 2007.

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# TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

## ADD ONE

### **Transportation Services Index for Freight**

The TSI for freight fell 0.4 percent in October from the September level, turning down after a one-month rise and continuing a pattern that began in October 2005 of alternating monthly increases and decreases (Table 6). The Freight TSI October 2006 level fell 0.7 percent from the October 2005 level, the second consecutive decline from October of the previous year and the largest October-to-October decline since 2000 (Table 7). During the first 10 months of 2006, the Freight TSI fell 1.6 percent, the second consecutive decline in the December-to-October period and the biggest decline in the period since 2000 (Table 3).

### **Transportation Services Index for Passengers**

The TSI for passengers rose 0.6 percent in October from the September level, rising for the second consecutive month (Table 8). The Passenger TSI October 2006 level rose 1.7 percent from the October 2005 level, the fifth consecutive increase from October of the previous year but the smallest increase since a decline from October 2000 to October 2001 (Table 9). For the first 10 months of 2006, the Passenger TSI rose 1.7 percent, the fifth consecutive December-to-October increase but the smallest rise in the period since 2003 (Table 3).

### **More on TSI**

Note: TSI numbers for June 2006 (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The June TSI is 111.8, revised from the 111.9 reported in the November release. The June Freight TSI is 111.6, revised from 112.6. The June Passenger TSI is 111.7, revised from 110.0. The TSI for July, August, September and October are preliminary.

TSI revision policy: TSI is updated monthly with the latest four months' index numbers considered preliminary. Each month BTS releases the latest preliminary TSI, and replaces the oldest preliminary TSI with a revised TSI. All other revisions are held until an annual comprehensive revision of the TSI which will be released at the end of the calendar year. More information about the revision policy and the TSI index is available at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
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**Table 1: Transportation Services Index Since April 2006**  
**Percent Change by Month**  
(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
April	110.5	-0.3	109.6	-0.9	111.6	0.5
May	112.1	1.5	111.9	2.1	112.2	0.5
June <sup>R</sup>	111.8	-0.3	111.6	-0.3	111.7	-0.4
July <sup>P</sup>	111.5	-0.3	111.7	0.1	110.2	-1.4
August <sup>P</sup>	108.7	-2.5	108.1	-3.2	108.8	-1.2
September <sup>P</sup>	110.3	1.5	109.5	1.3	110.7	1.7
October <sup>P</sup>	110.3	0.0	109.1	-0.4	111.3	0.6

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 2: Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006**  
**Percent change from previous month**

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-1.0	-1.4	1.5	0.3
February	-1.9	2.8	-1.4	-1.3
March	0.9	0.7	1.5	1.3
April	-0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.3
May	-0.2	-0.4	0.4	1.5
June	1.0	1.0	-0.5	(R) -0.3
July	1.3	-0.2	-0.1	(P) -0.3
August	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1	(P) -2.5
September	1.1	0.5	-0.3	(P) 1.5
October	0.7	0.1	-0.9	(P) -0.0
November	-0.1	0.9	1.6	
December	2.3	-0.3	-0.9	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
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**Table 3: Transportation Services Index Year-to-Date Change, 1997-2006**  
Percent change from December of previous year  
December to October

Year	TSI	Freight	Passenger
1997	7.1	9.3	2.5
1998	3.7	4.0	3.1
1999	5.2	4.4	6.7
2000	-2.4	-6.2	7.0
2001	-4.7	0.8	-17.2
2002	6.3	6.1	6.6
2003	1.1	1.3	0.4
2004	3.4	2.0	6.9
2005	-0.1	-1.2	2.5
2006 <sup>P</sup>	-0.2	-1.6	1.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

**Table 4: Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year**  
Percent change in the October TSI  
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

Year	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1997	94.7	7.8
1998	98.5	4.0
1999	102.7	4.3
2000	99.6	-3.1
2001	94.0	-5.6
2002	101.0	7.4
2003	103.5	2.6
2004	109.4	5.6
2005	109.8	0.4
2006 <sup>P</sup>	110.3	0.5

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
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**Table 5: Transportation Services Index from Previous Years  
Percent Change to 2006 (October to October)**

Percent change to October 2006	Since October ...	Duration in years
0.5	2005	1
0.8	2004	2
6.5	2003	3
9.3	2002	4
17.4	2001	5
10.8	2000	6
7.4	1999	7
12.0	1998	8
16.4	1997	9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to October 2006 are all preliminary.

**Table 6: Freight Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006  
Percent change from previous month**

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-1.1	-1.6	1.4	0.2
February	-1.4	2.6	-1.2	-1.3
March	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9
April	0.7	0.6	0.0	-0.9
May	-1.2	-0.3	0.2	2.1
June	0.8	0.8	-0.5	(R) -0.3
July	0.5	-0.5	-0.5	(P) 0.1
August	-0.1	-0.6	0.4	(P) -3.2
September	0.6	0.5	-1.3	(P) 1.3
October	1.3	-0.5	-0.6	(P) -0.4
November	-0.8	1.3	2.0	
December	2.9	-0.4	-1.1	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
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**Table 7: Freight Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year  
Percent change in the October Freight TSI  
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	<b>Freight TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
1997	97.2	9.6
1998	101.0	3.8
1999	104.3	3.3
2000	98.6	-5.4
2001	98.6	0.0
2002	103.2	4.7
2003	105.9	2.6
2004	110.2	4.1
2005	109.9	-0.3
2006 <sup>P</sup>	109.1	-0.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 8: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006  
Percent change from previous month**

	<b>2003 % Growth</b>	<b>2004 % Growth</b>	<b>2005 % Growth</b>	<b>2006 % Growth</b>
January	-0.8	-1.1	1.5	0.6
February	-3.1	3.4	-2.0	-1.3
March	0.2	0.1	2.9	2.1
April	-3.7	0.8	-0.1	0.5
May	2.3	-0.7	0.8	0.5
June	1.5	1.6	-0.5	(R) -0.4
July	3.4	0.5	0.9	(P) -1.4
August	-0.6	0.1	-1.3	(P) -1.2
September	2.2	0.5	2.3	(P) 1.7
October	-0.7	1.6	-1.9	(P) 0.6
November	1.3	-0.2	0.4	
December	1.1	-0.2	-0.4	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
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**Table 9: Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year  
Percent change in the October Passenger TSI  
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	<b>Passenger TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
1997	88.9	4.0
1998	92.7	4.3
1999	98.9	6.6
2000	101.6	2.8
2001	83.1	-18.3
2002	95.7	15.1
2003	97.9	2.4
2004	107.2	9.5
2005	109.4	2.1
2006 <sup>P</sup>	111.3	1.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

# TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

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### **Brief Explanation of the TSI**

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) is a measure of the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire transportation industries.

The TSI tells us how the output of transportation services has increased or decreased from month to month. The index can be examined together with other economic indicators to produce a better understanding of the current and future course of the economy. The movement of the index over time can be compared with other economic measures to understand the relationship of changes in transportation output to changes in Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The TSI is still under development and is therefore considered experimental. It is being examined for refinements in data sources, methodologies and interpretations.

**The freight transportation index** consists of:

For hire trucking,

Railroad freight services (including rail based intermodal shipments such as containers on flat cars),

Inland waterways transportation,

Pipeline transportation (including principally petroleum and petroleum products and natural gas), and

Air freight.

The index does not include international or coastal waterborne movements, private trucking, courier services, or the US Postal Service.

**The passenger transportation index** consists of:

Local transit,

Intercity passenger rail, and

Passenger air transportation.

The index does not include intercity bus, sight seeing services, ferry services, taxi service, private automobile usage, or bicycling and other non-motorized transportation.

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