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**AMERICAN**  
**ECONOMY**

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**Research and Innovative Technology Administration**  
**BTS Data**

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## **June 2005 Airline Traffic: Six-Month Domestic Traffic Up 5.4 Percent From 2004**

U.S. airlines carried 5.4 percent more domestic passengers and flew 0.8 percent more domestic flights during the first six months of 2005 than they did during the same period in 2004, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today reported, in a release of preliminary data (Table 1).

BTS, a part of DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), reported that the airlines carried 325.8 million domestic passengers during the first six months of 2005, up from the 309.0 million carried between January and June 2004 (Table 2). The passengers were carried on 4.96 million flights, up 0.8 percent from the 4.92 million flights operated in 2004 (Table 1).

In other domestic comparisons from the first six months of 2004 to the first six months of 2005:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 5.7 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 1.8 percent.

Passenger load factor, passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, was up 2.9 load factor points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 2.0 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was up 0.3 percent at 866 miles per trip.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 42.6 million domestic passengers during the first six months of 2005, the most of any airline (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during the first six months of 2005, with 19.7 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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**June 2005 Airline Traffic**

For the month of June 2005, U.S. airlines carried 59.6 million domestic passengers, 4.0 percent more than in June 2004 (Table 5).

These passengers were carried on 844,557 flights, down 0.3 percent from the flights operated in June 2004.

In other month-to-month domestic comparisons from June 2004 to June 2005:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 4.5 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 2.5 percent.

Passenger load factor, passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, was up 1.6 load factor points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 3.6 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was up 0.5 percent.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 7.9 million domestic passengers during June, the most of any airline (Table 6).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during June, with 3.5 million passenger boardings (Table 7).

Additional airline traffic data can be found on the BTS website at TranStats, the Intermodal Transportation Database at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. Click on "Aviation," then on "Air Carrier Statistics (Form 41 Traffic)," then click on "T-100 Domestic Market."

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers detailing operations, passenger traffic and freight traffic. June traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 122 airlines as of Sept. 13. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from May 2005 and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release July traffic data and revised data from June and previous months on Oct. 14.

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**Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel January to June**

	<b>Jan-June 2004</b>	<b>Jan-June 2005</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Passengers</b>	308,962,620	325,773,837	5.4%
<b>Flights</b>	4,920,146	4,961,026	0.8%
<b>Revenue Passenger Miles(000)</b>	266,943,416	282,260,343	5.7%
<b>Available Seat Miles(000)</b>	362,756,052	369,207,477	1.8%
<b>Load Factor</b>	73.6	76.5	2.9 points
<b>Flight Stage Length*</b>	598	609	2.0%
<b>Passenger Trip Length**</b>	864	866	0.3%

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

\* The average non-stop distance flown per departure in miles

\*\* The average distance flown per passenger in miles

**Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Month</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004-2005 Pct. Change</b>
<b>January</b>	43,349,913	44,200,845	48,107,314	8.8
<b>February</b>	41,465,820	45,704,392	47,222,928	3.3
<b>March</b>	50,387,895	54,620,647	59,012,881	8.0
<b>April</b>	47,364,607	53,705,969	54,750,338	1.9
<b>May</b>	49,413,135	53,385,405	57,053,059	6.9
<b>June</b>	52,541,294	57,345,362	59,627,317	4.0
<b>July</b>	56,144,204	60,061,903		
<b>August</b>	54,320,946	57,726,560		
<b>September</b>	44,575,720	47,905,621		
<b>October</b>	50,347,370	54,476,730		
<b>November</b>	47,456,128	51,945,559		
<b>December</b>	50,132,111	52,798,835		
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>587,499,143</b>	<b>633,877,828</b>		
<b>Jan.-June Total</b>	<b>284,522,664</b>	<b>308,962,620</b>	<b>325,773,837</b>	<b>5.4</b>

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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**Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by January-June 2005 Domestic Enplanements**

Jan-June 2005 Rank	Carrier	Jan-June 2005 Passengers	Jan-June 2004 Rank	Jan-June 2004 Passengers
1	Southwest Airlines	42,585,282	1	39,842,391
2	Delta Air Lines	40,522,989	2	39,414,562
3	American Airlines	38,281,189	3	36,210,392
4	United Airlines	27,053,257	4	29,129,969
5	Northwest Airlines	23,723,724	5	22,247,359
6	US Airways	19,790,389	6	18,709,014
7	Continental Airlines	16,165,926	7	15,514,869
8	America West Airlines	10,284,466	8	9,752,089
9	American Eagle Airlines	8,094,199	9	6,755,229
10	AirTran Airways	7,788,322	11	6,344,422

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

**Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by January-June 2005 Domestic Enplanements**

Jan-June 2005 Rank	Airport Name	Jan-June 2005 Passengers	Jan-June 2004 Rank	Jan-June 2004 Passengers
1	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson	19,708,578	1	18,688,734
2	Chicago O'Hare	15,169,655	2	14,935,445
3	Dallas-Fort Worth	12,469,950	3	12,704,623
4	Los Angeles Int'l	10,341,091	4	10,310,292
5	Las Vegas McCarran	10,103,003	6	9,500,039
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor	9,735,316	7	9,237,353
7	Denver	9,677,754	5	9,540,492
8	Minneapolis-St.Paul	8,211,242	8	7,813,868
9	Orlando	8,093,521	9	7,441,389
10	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	7,782,790	10	7,336,614

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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**Table 5: Domestic Airline Travel in June**

	<b>June 2004</b>	<b>June 2005</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Passengers</b>	57,345,362	59,627,317	4.0%
<b>Flights</b>	847,392	844,557	-0.3%
<b>Revenue Passenger Miles(000)</b>	50,194,850	52,439,242	4.5%
<b>Available Seat Miles(000)</b>	62,193,066	63,721,781	2.5%
<b>Load Factor</b>	80.7	82.3	1.6 points
<b>Flight Stage Length*</b>	596	617	3.6%
<b>Passenger Trip Length**</b>	875	879	0.5%

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

\* The average non-stop distance flown per departure in miles

\*\* The average distance flown per passenger in miles

**Table 6. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by June 2005 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>June 2005 Rank</b>	<b>Carrier</b>	<b>June 2005 Passengers</b>	<b>June 2004 Rank</b>	<b>June 2004 Passengers</b>
<b>1</b>	Southwest Airlines	7,881,932	1	7,376,924
<b>2</b>	American Airlines	7,070,922	3	6,520,999
<b>3</b>	Delta Air Lines	7,056,723	2	7,230,138
<b>4</b>	United Airlines	5,052,857	4	5,604,549
<b>5</b>	Northwest Airlines	4,424,549	5	4,281,734
<b>6</b>	US Airways	3,448,546	6	3,322,300
<b>7</b>	Continental Air Lines	2,897,037	7	2,822,954
<b>8</b>	America West Airlines	1,855,866	8	1,781,286
<b>9</b>	American Eagle Airlines	1,526,166	10	1,275,621
<b>10</b>	AirTran Airways	1,512,605	11	1,153,832

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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**Table 7. Top 10 Airports ranked by June 2005 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>June 2005 Rank</b>	<b>Airport Name</b>	<b>June 2005 Passengers</b>	<b>June 2004 Rank</b>	<b>June 2004 Passengers</b>
<b>1</b>	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson	3,525,039	1	3,392,852
<b>2</b>	Chicago O'Hare	2,883,290	2	2,894,226
<b>3</b>	Dallas-Fort Worth	2,331,870	3	2,338,124
<b>4</b>	Los Angeles Int'l	1,939,837	4	1,947,382
<b>5</b>	Denver	1,881,441	5	1,845,687
<b>6</b>	Las Vegas McCarran	1,773,389	6	1,653,077
<b>7</b>	Phoenix Sky Harbor	1,705,447	7	1,620,391
<b>8</b>	Minneapolis-St.Paul	1,581,668	8	1,529,625
<b>9</b>	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	1,433,109	9	1,390,424
<b>10</b>	Houston Bush Intercontinental	1,421,605	10	1,270,335

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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