



U.S. Department of Transportation
Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Washington, D.C.
www.bts.gov
BTS DATA

BTS 03-04
Thursday, February 26, 2004

Contact: Dave Smallen
Tel.: 202-366-5568

**BTS Releases November Airline Traffic Data;
November 2003 Domestic Traffic Up 4.5 Percent From November 2002**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today reported, in a release of preliminary data, that U.S. airlines carried 46.3 million domestic passengers in November, 4.5 percent more than in November 2002 (Table 1).

These passengers were carried on 778,972 flights, down 5.4 percent from the flights operated in November 2002.

In other domestic comparisons from November 2002 to November 2003:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 9.4 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 3.4 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 3.8 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 6.9 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 4.7 percent.

Commuter and small certificated carriers began reporting traffic data in October 2002, providing the first complete picture of monthly airline travel. BTS is making comparisons only for the months since October 2002 since earlier numbers are not comparable (Table 2).

Among airlines, Delta Airlines carried 6.2 million domestic passengers in November, the most of any airline. (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta continued in November to be the busiest domestic airport, with 2.9 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel in November

	November 2002	November 2003
Passengers	44,270,732	46,255,652
Flights	823,070	778,972
Revenue Passenger Miles (000)	35,824,746	39,176,480
Available Seat-Miles (000)	53,730,045	55,561,112
Load factor (%)	66.68%	70.51%
Flight stage length (miles)	567	606
Passenger trip length (miles)	809	847

Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements

Month	2002	2003
January	*	43,436,180
February	*	41,529,612
March	*	50,475,122
April	*	47,559,033
May	*	49,582,440
June	*	52,699,681
July	*	56,215,910
August	*	54,356,366
September	*	44,362,049
October	48,322,274	49,464,777
November	44,270,732	46,255,652
December	49,927,814	

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

* Comparable numbers are not available for earlier months.

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."

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Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by November 2003 Domestic Enplanements

Rank	Airline Name	November 2002	October 2003	November 2003	Nov. 2002 Rank
1	Delta Airlines	5,747,360	6,675,188	6,240,097	2
2	Southwest Airlines	5,601,948	6,280,808	6,013,106	3
3	American Airlines	5,840,822	6,004,427	5,449,401	1
4	United Airlines	4,385,278	4,688,073	4,391,521	4
5	Northwest Airlines	3,310,804	3,648,275	3,393,827	5
6	US Airways	3,055,777	3,226,481	3,088,498	6
7	Continental Airlines	2,411,641	2,530,875	2,493,280	7
8	America West Airlines	1,514,938	1,609,313	1,499,507	8
9	Alaska Airlines	899,258	1,045,731	1,042,001	9
10	American Eagle Airlines	871,209	1,046,048	1,014,337	10

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by November 2003 Domestic Enplanements

Rank	Airport Name	November 2002	October 2003	November 2003	Nov. 2002 Rank
1	Hartsfield-Jackson International	2,807,774	3,160,157	2,928,908	1
2	O'Hare International	2,151,175	2,325,878	2,185,353	2
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth International	1,724,746	1,942,219	1,941,839	3
4	Los Angeles International	1,506,265	1,563,525	1,551,266	4
5	Las Vegas McCarran International	1,192,450	1,487,518	1,354,860	6
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor International	1,338,485	1,411,875	1,337,482	5
7	Denver International	1,142,578	1,454,966	1,283,002	7
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul International	1,061,448	1,254,637	1,143,053	10
9	Detroit Metro Wayne International	1,093,517	1,239,763	1,137,928	8
10	George Bush Intercontinental	1,065,492	1,121,251	1,099,952	9

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with the Bureau of Transportation Statistics by commercial air carriers detailing operations, passenger traffic and freight traffic. November 2003 traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 135 airlines as of Feb. 23. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from October and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release December traffic numbers on Mar. 11.

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