

BTS Adds Small Airlines and Cargo Information to Air Traffic Data

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics monthly airline traffic data now includes data reported by small certificated, commuter, and all-cargo carriers in addition to the airline passenger data previously reported. This change went into effect in October.

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For the first time, traffic statistics on passenger and freight traffic, available cargo capacity and seats, and number and duration of flights are available for small certificated, commuter, and all-cargo carriers.

In addition to the data for small certificated, commuter, and all-cargo carriers, data on the following are available:

- Domestic all-cargo and domestic charter flights operated by U.S. carriers.
- All flights to and from the United States operated by foreign air carriers (data subject to a 6-month restricted release period). The small-aircraft reporting exclusion has been eliminated.
- Operating carrier reports on joint-service operations, including code-sharing, wet-leasing, and substitution-of-service operations.
- Military data in summary totals only.

The monthly airline traffic data can be found at TranStats, BTS' Intermodal Transportation Database, at <http://transtats.bts.gov/>. To reach the data, click on "aviation," then click on "Air Carrier Statistics (Form 41 Traffic)."

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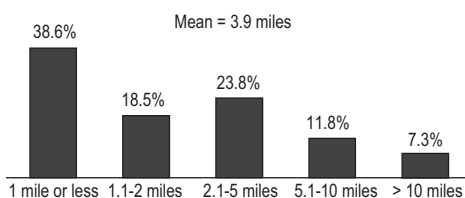
BTS Reveals Americans' Attitudes on Biking and Walking

Only half of all adults said they are satisfied with their communities' designs for bicycling safety, but three out of four adults express satisfaction with their communities' designs for pedestrian safety, according to a survey conducted jointly by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The "National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes and Behaviors" involved phone interviews with more than 9,600 adults age 16 and older throughout the United States. The survey was conducted during a 10-week period in the summer of 2002, and the margin of error was plus or minus 1.5 percentage points. Survey participants were queried about their bicycling and walking activities during the past 30 days. (Figures 1 and 2)

Respondents were also asked to recommend changes to their communities for either bicycling or walking. Most suggested changes in bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Of those, 73% wanted new bicycle facilities, such as trails, bicycle lanes, and traffic signals; and 74% wanted pedestrian facilities, including sidewalks, lighting, and crosswalks.

Figure 1
Trip Lengths by Percent of Riders on Most Recent Day Bicycled



SOURCE: National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes and Behaviors, 2002. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS).

Other findings included:

- A steep decline in bicycling as people age. Nearly 40% of those ages 16 to 24 ride a bicycle during the summer, while 26% of those aged 45 to 54 ride. Only about 9% of those age 65 and older ride a bike.
- Males are more likely to take a bike ride during the summer than are females. However, both groups are about equally likely to take walks during the summer.

see *Bike-Ped Survey*, page 2

Report Shows More than 10 Percent of U.S Freight Trade Is International

More than 10% of the 16 billion tons of freight moved on the nation's transportation system is international cargo, either entering the country as imports or intended for export, according to BTS' *International Trade and Freight Transportation Trends*, released in April. Almost 71% of the international freight tonnage in 2001 was from imports – up from 65% in 1997 – and the remaining 29% from exports.

This report is third in a series of international trend reports. BTS released *North American Trade and Travel Trends* in 2001 and *U.S. International Travel and Transportation Trends* in 2002.

The report also shows that maritime shipping – which generally hauls bulk, low-value goods – carried the largest percentage of U.S. international trade in 2001: 78% by tonnage and 38% by value. Aviation is used for high-value and perishable cargo, carrying 28% of the total value but less than 1% of the total tonnage of U.S. international trade. Trucking carried 21% in 2001 by value.

While all modes were affected by the September 11 attacks, the 13% drop in 2001 in the value of air freight activity was the largest decrease of all modes, followed by trucking at 8%, maritime at 3%, and rail at 2%.

Other highlights from the report:

- More than 19 million large freight containers were used to transport imports across U.S. borders in 2001–6 million by ocean vessels and 13 million by truck and rail from Canada and Mexico – showing the challenge of maintaining transportation security while facilitating efficient freight flows.

The United States, has run a large deficit in trade of transportation-related goods in recent years because of growth in the import of automobiles and parts, particularly from Japan. The transportation-related goods deficit was more than \$75 billion in 2001, with a \$24 billion surplus in aircraft, spacecraft and parts trade and smaller surpluses in other transportation sectors offset by a \$100 billion deficit in automotive vehicles and parts

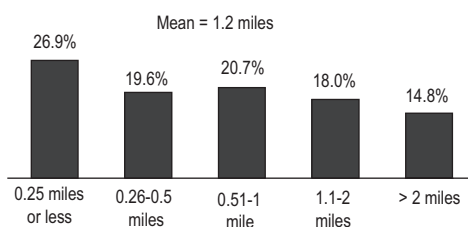
- The United States, the world leader in trade of transportation services, saw its annual surplus in this trade turn into a deficit in 1998 and the following three years as U.S. imports carried by foreign carriers increased and U.S. exports growth slowed due to the robust growth in the U.S. economy and the strength of the dollar during this period.
- The ratio of the value of United States imports and exports to Gross Domestic Product increased to 22% in 2001, up from 13% 11 years earlier. This trend highlights the increasing role of international trade in the U.S. economy.

This multimodal report presents a comprehensive analysis of trends and issues affecting U.S. international trade and freight transportation. It examines recent trends in U.S. trade patterns with key trade partners, reviews changes in modal shares, commodity mix, and transportation services. The report also discusses the emerging transportation security challenges resulting from increased international trade flows.

Bike-Ped Survey

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Figure 2
Trip Lengths by Percent of Pedestrians on Most Recent Day Walked



SOURCE: National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes and Behaviors, 2002. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS).

- Nearly 80% of adult Americans take at least one walk of five minutes or longer during the summer months, while fewer than 30% ride a bike. A decline in walking occurs gradually as people age. Eighty-two percent of those ages 16 to 24 take walks, while 80% of those age 45 and 54 do so. Sixty-six percent of those who are 65 and older report taking walks.

- People who do not take walks cite disability or other health problems (25%), unfavorable weather (22%), and too busy or no opportunity (19%).

Those who do not bike cite lack of access to a bicycle (26%), too busy or no opportunity (17%), disability or other health problems (10%).

This study is the most comprehensive of its kind by the Department of Transportation. More findings involving the safety aspect of this study from the current survey are planned for release. An electronic version of the report is available at www.bicycling-info.org or www.walkinginfo.org.

BTS Awarded for Excellence



BTS' IT Team (from l-r: Bronwyn Gallagher, Rodney Fielding, DOT's Chief Information Officer Dan Matthews (presenting award), BTS' Director of Information Technology Terry Klein, Richard Thai, Deputy Secretary Michael Jackson (presenting award), Darin Gaynor) received the 2003 IT Security Excellence Award on May 13. The group was honored for its contributions in preventing computer viruses and security intrusions.

BTS Announces NHTS Release Date

On May 15th, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) announced that the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), the most comprehensive survey of U.S. travel patterns and characteristics in more than six years, will be released in August. The August release will combine new long-distance travel information with short-distance NHTS data released earlier this year, providing the first comprehensive look at travel patterns and characteristics across the United States.

NHTS, conducted by BTS and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2001 and 2002, touches on a wide range of topics, including the amount and purpose of travel, the various travel modes used by Americans, the time and miles spent traveling, as well as who owns the vehicles used and

how are they used. It also examines relationships between travel and specific household and demographic characteristics. Based on a national sample size of approximately 26,000 households and interviews with 60,000 individuals, the NHTS expands on and replaces the 1995 National Personal Transportation Survey and American Travel Survey projects.

"This joint effort by BTS and FHWA will give unique data to decision-makers at all levels of government to help them shape the transportation system of the 21st Century," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta. "NHTS is a panoramic view of how Americans travel, so it is a picture of America."

"Through continued study and development of NHTS data, we can sharpen our understanding of local and long

distance travel behavior in our country, and begin to assess its implications for our safety and our economy, said BTS Deputy Director Rick Kowalewski. "This data will support the planning and decisions for the transportation system in the coming years and decades."

In addition to providing comprehensive information on both local and long-distance travel, NHTS focuses on new groups and areas of interest, such as travel by age five and under; transportation issues associated with persons with disabilities; and travel by non-U.S. born residents. Additional items also include Internet use, occupation, and traveler attitudes.

The NHTS long distance travel data and an overview report of the data will be available at www.bts.gov in August.

iForce Award

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics' TranStats www.transtats.bts.gov website along with its industry partner, Sybase, were honored in April as the Best e-Business Solution for 2003 by the iForce Excellence Awards. These awards are cosponsored by Sun Microsystems, Inc. and Computerworld. iForce honors excellence in 11 categories. The inaugural winners were selected from over 125 entries by 15 executives, members of the media, and analysts.

In accepting the iForce Award, BTS' Jeff Butler, assistant director of the Office of Statistical Computing, said, "TranStats has in the past and will continue to be an award-winning e-Government solution, but today this unique product has become an award-winning e-Business solution as well. This speaks highly of the people who developed and continue to improve TranStats."

In making the award, the iForce judges recognized TranStats "as a business solution that provides fast, accurate, and reliable access to data." They noted the 15,000 hits per day the site receives and the ability to search an index of more than 100 databases.

According to Michael Walsh, director of marketing for Sun Microsystem's U.S. Partner management and sales organization, "These awards were designed to mirror the iForce program – which honors partners that have created, developed, and delivered proven solutions that enable customers to quickly realize a return on IT investment."

Airline Data

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Beginning with its October 2002 issue, *Air Carrier Traffic Statistics Monthly*, the "Green Book" compilation of traffic data, began publishing small certificated and commuter air carrier traffic data.

To order *Air Carrier Traffic Statistics Monthly*, the "Green Book", contact BTS, either by e-mail at OAIProducts@bts.gov or by the contact information listed below.

The rule requiring the additional data was issued July 30, 2002. To view a copy of the rule, go to the Docket Management System website, <http://dms.dot.gov>, and follow the instructions for viewing the documents in BTS Docket No. OST 98-4043.

Recently from BTS

- National Transportation Statistics 2002
- Transportation Statistics Annual Report 2001
- International Trade and Freight Transportation Trends
- Bicycle Use and Pedestrian Highlights Report
- Issue Briefs: Commuting Expenditures Energy Intensity
- Transportation and the Disabled
- Congestion
- Journal of Transportation and Statistics, volume 5 number 2
- State Transportation Profiles: Louisiana, Oregon, North Dakota, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee, Michigan, Virginia, and New Jersey

Upcoming from BTS

- National Household Travel Survey 2001-2002, Long-Distance Data
- Transportation Statistics Annual Report 2002
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