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BTS Releases 2004 Domestic Airline Traffic Data; 2004 Domestic Traffic Up 7.2 Percent From 2003

U.S. airlines carried 7.2 percent more domestic passengers and flew 3.3 percent more domestic flights during 2004 than they did during 2003, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today, in a release of preliminary data (Table 1).

BTS, a part of DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the airlines carried 629.7 million domestic passengers during 2004, up from the 587.5 million in 2003 (Table 2). These passengers were carried on 9.9 million flights, up 3.3 percent from the 9.6 million flights operated in 2003 (Table 1).

In other domestic comparisons from 2003 to 2004:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 9.9 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 7.3 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 1.8 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 4.1 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 2.5 percent.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 81.1 million domestic passengers during 2004, the most of any airline (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during 2004, with 37.7 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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**AIR TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD ONE**

December 2004 Airline Traffic

In December 2004, U.S. airlines carried 51.2 million domestic passengers, 2.2 percent more than in December 2003 (Table 5).

These passengers were carried on 779,680 flights, down 3.2 percent from the flights operated in December 2003.

In other month-to-month domestic comparisons from December 2003 to December 2004:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 4.1 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 3.7 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 0.3 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 5.6 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 1.8 percent.

The number of domestic airline passengers declined 0.5 percent in December from November (Table 2). Month-to-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal factors.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 6.6 million domestic passengers during December, the most of any airline (Table 6).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during December, with 3.2 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 "Air Carrier Statistics (Form 41 Traffic)," then "T-100 Domestic Market."

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers detailing operations, passenger traffic and freight traffic. December traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 116 airlines as of March 7. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from November 2004 and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release January 2005 traffic data on April 14.

**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD TWO**

Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel 2003-2004

	2003	2004	Change
Passengers	587,484,502	629,739,062	7.2%
Flights	9,570,152	9,886,851	3.3%
Revenue Passenger Miles (000)	497,637,126	546,868,385	9.9%
Available Seat-Miles (000)	684,000,834	733,826,781	7.3%
Load Factor	72.75%	74.52%	1.77 points
Flight Stage Length	578	602	4.1%
Passenger Trip Length	847	868	2.5%

Source: T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements

Month	2003	2004
January	43,340,153	44,115,683
February	41,464,612	45,614,657
March	50,387,301	54,512,292
April	47,363,867	53,610,915
May	49,412,315	53,294,016
June	52,539,413	57,242,839
July	56,148,091	59,907,777
August	54,319,794	57,347,302
September	44,576,369	47,898,697
October	50,350,557	53,458,145
November	47,455,309	51,495,382
December	50,126,721	51,241,357
Annual Total	587,484,502	629,739,062

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

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AIR TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE**ADD THREE****Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by 2004 Domestic Enplanements**

2004 Rank	Airline Name	2003	2004	2003 Rank
1	Southwest Airlines	74,768,258	81,121,296	2
2	Delta Air Lines	77,792,560	79,373,578	1
3	American Airlines	72,202,834	72,647,682	3
4	United Airlines	56,307,542	60,080,792	4
5	Northwest Airlines	43,310,361	45,959,204	5
6	US Airways	37,302,321	37,810,424	6
7	Continental Airlines	30,853,319	31,528,695	7
8	America West Airlines	19,187,175	20,150,587	8
9	American Eagle Airlines	11,683,797	14,354,643	10
10	Alaska Airlines	13,081,832	14,305,190	9

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by 2004 Domestic Enplanements

2004 Rank	Airport Name	2003	2004	2003 Rank
1	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	35,798,481	37,696,583	1
2	Chicago O'Hare Int'l	28,545,917	30,886,156	2
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth Int'l	22,989,790	25,690,824	3
4	Los Angeles Int'l	19,549,160	21,291,982	4
5	Denver Int'l	17,317,493	19,645,890	5
6	Las Vegas Mc Carran Int'l	16,813,321	19,261,706	6
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	17,557,864	18,419,308	7
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul Int'l	14,969,766	16,191,327	8
9	Detroit Metro-Wayne County	14,191,397	15,187,573	9
10	Orlando Int'l	12,494,726	14,226,845	11

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 5: Domestic Airline Travel in December

	2003	2004	Change
Passengers	50,126,721	51,241,357	2.2%
Flights	805,633	779,680	(3.2%)
Revenue Passenger Miles (000)	43,166,635	44,934,687	4.1%
Available Seat-Miles (000)	59,525,995	61,702,634	3.7%
Load Factor	72.52%	72.82%	0.31
Flight Stage Length	599	632	5.6%
Passenger Trip Length	861	877	1.8%

Source: T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

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**AIR TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD FOUR**

Table 6. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by December 2004 Domestic Enplanements

Dec. 2004 Rank	Airline Name	Dec. 2003	Dec. 2004	Dec. 2003 Rank
1	Southwest Airlines	6,119,147	6,628,179	2
2	Delta Air Lines	6,503,916	6,596,761	1
3	American Airlines	5,897,565	6,122,148	3
4	United Airlines	4,742,188	4,783,477	4
5	Northwest Airlines	3,723,150	3,843,788	5
6	US Airways	3,128,235	3,081,361	6
7	Continental Airlines	2,672,575	2,692,307	7
8	America West Airlines	1,569,945	1,675,469	8
9	American Eagle Airlines	1,059,268	1,245,386	10
10	Alaska Airlines	1,133,722	1,219,036	9

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 7. Top 10 Airports ranked by December 2004 Domestic Enplanements

Dec. 2004 Rank	Airline Name	Dec. 2003	Dec. 2004	Dec. 2003 Rank
1	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	3,083,370	3,214,846	1
2	Chicago O'Hare Int'l	2,463,192	2,381,645	2
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth Int'l	2,114,364	2,115,220	3
4	Los Angeles Int'l	1,690,899	1,763,980	4
5	Denver Int'l	1,526,955	1,617,839	5
6	Las Vegas Mc Carran Int'l	1,311,890	1,471,082	7
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	1,459,321	1,416,245	6
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul Int'l	1,291,067	1,339,288	8
9	Detroit Metro-Wayne County	1,252,696	1,266,774	9
10	Houston Bush Intercontinental Int'l	1,201,869	1,253,510	10

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

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