



**M O V I N G T H E  
AMERICAN  
ECONOMY**

**U.S. Department of Transportation  
Research and Innovative Technology  
Administration  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics  
Washington, D.C.  
www.bts.gov**

#### **BTS Data**

BTS 43-05  
Thursday, Oct. 6, 2005

Dave Smallen  
Tel.: (202) 366-5568

### **Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell 0.3 Percent in July from June**

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) fell 0.3 percent in July to 111.6 (2000=100) from the June level of 112.0, the second consecutive monthly decline, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

BTS, a part of DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the July level of 111.6 for the combined freight and passenger index was 2.3 percent higher than the July 2004 level of 109.2 (Table 2). The July 2005 level was 27.7 percent higher than the July level of the base year of 2000 (Table 3).

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 August numbers is scheduled for Nov. 7.

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

The TSI for freight fell 0.6 percent to 111.9 in July from the June level of 112.6, the second consecutive monthly decline (Table 1). The July 2005 level of 111.9 is 0.9 percent higher than the July 2004 level of 110.9 (Table 4).

**- more -**

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD ONE**

**Transportation Services Index for Passengers**

The TSI for passengers rose 0.5 percent to 110.8 in July from the June level of 110.3, turning up after a single month decline (Table 1). The July 2005 level of 110.8 is 5.6 percent higher than the July 2004 level of 104.9 (Table 5).

**More on TSI**

During the six months ending in July, the TSI rose 0.1 percent, the Freight TSI fell 0.9 percent and the Passenger TSI rose 2.3 percent (Table 1).

**Notes:** TSI numbers for April 2005 (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The April TSI is 111.6, revised from 111.7 reported in the September release. The April Freight TSI is 112.5, revised from 112.6. The April Passenger TSI is 109.2, revised from 109.3. The TSI for May, June and July are preliminary.

**TSI revision policy:** TSI is updated monthly with the latest three months' index numbers considered preliminary. Each month BTS releases the latest preliminary TSI, and replaces the oldest preliminary TSI with a revised TSI. The TSI for the oldest preliminary month, April, has been revised. All other revisions are held until an annual comprehensive revision of the TSI which will be released as part of the following July TSI release. More information about the revision policy is available at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

**Table 1: Percent changes in the Transportation Services Index by Month Since January 2005 (Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)**

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
January	111.6	1.5	112.8	1.4	108.4	1.5
February	110.0	-1.4	111.5	-1.2	106.2	-2.0
March	111.6	1.5	112.5	1.0	109.3	2.9
April <sup>R</sup>	111.6	0.0	112.5	0.0	109.2	-0.1
May <sup>P</sup>	112.6	0.9	113.1	0.6	111.2	1.8
June <sup>P</sup>	112.0	-0.6	112.6	-0.5	110.3	-0.8
July <sup>P</sup>	111.6	-0.3	111.9	-0.6	110.8	0.5

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Note:** P = preliminary

R = revised

- more-

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE**

**ADD TWO**

**Table 2: Percent changes in the Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year July TSI (Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	<b>TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
1996	87.4	2.6
1997	92.8	6.2
1998	97.7	5.2
1999	100.3	2.7
2000	99.2	-1.1
2001	99.2	0.0
2002	100.3	1.1
2003	102.0	1.6
2004	109.2	7.1
2005 <sup>P</sup>	111.6	2.3

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

**Table 3: Percent Changes in the Transportation Services Index from Previous Years to 2005 July to July**

<b>Percent change to July 2005</b>	<b>Since July ...</b>	<b>Duration in years</b>
2.3	2004	1
9.5	2003	2
11.3	2002	3
12.5	2001	4
12.5	2000	5
11.3	1999	6
14.2	1998	7
20.2	1997	8
27.7	1996	9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

	<b>Freight TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
1996	88.4	0.9
1997	94.7	7.2
1998	101.3	7.0
1999	102.1	0.8
2000	98.7	-3.4
2001	98.3	-0.3
2002	103.1	4.9
2003	104.0	0.8
2004	110.9	6.7
2005 <sup>P</sup>	111.9	0.9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

### ADD THREE

**Table 5: Percent changes in the Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year July Passenger TSI (Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	<b>Passenger TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
1996	84.8	6.7
1997	88.4	4.2
1998	89.6	1.4
1999	96.0	7.1
2000	100.5	4.7
2001	101.2	0.6
2002	93.6	-7.5
2003	97.2	3.8
2004	104.9	8.0
2005 <sup>P</sup>	110.8	5.6

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

### **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 (not including parcel services),  
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.

- END -