



**M O V I N G T H E**  
**AMERICAN**  
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**U.S. Department of Transportation**  
**Research and Innovative Technology**  
**Administration**  
**Bureau of Transportation Statistics**  
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#### **BTS Data**

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### **Transportation Services Index (TSI) Rose 0.1 Percent in April from March**

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) rose 0.1 percent in April to 111.7 (2000=100) from the March level of 111.6, the fourth increase in the past six months, 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 April level of 111.7 for the combined freight and passenger index was 2.8 percent higher than the April 2004 level of 108.7 (Table 2). The April 2005 level was 13.7 percent higher than the April 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. In this month's release, BTS conducted its first annual revision to the TSI in which index numbers through December 2004 were revised to reflect revisions to the source data and changes in the estimated seasonal factors. Also, beginning with this release, the base year has been changed from 1996 to 2000. The index now measures changes from the monthly average for the base year of 2000. Previous releases measured changes from the base year of 1996. More information about the annual revision and its effects on index numbers is provided on the BTS web site under TSI Annual Revision at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>. The next release is scheduled for Aug. 8.

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

The TSI for freight rose 0.1 percent to 112.6 in April from the March level of 112.5, the fourth increase in the last six months (Table 1). The April 2005 level of 112.6 is 1.6 percent higher than the April 2004 level of 110.9 (Table 4).

**- more -**

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD ONE**

**Transportation Services Index for Passengers**

The TSI for passengers rose 0.1 percent to 109.3 in April from the March level of 109.2, the second consecutive monthly increase (Table 1). The April 2005 level of 109.3 is 5.6 percent higher than the April 2004 level of 103.4 (Table 5).

**More on TSI**

During the six months ending in April, the TSI rose 2.1 percent, the Freight TSI rose 2.2 percent and the Passenger TSI rose 1.9 percent (Table 1).

**Notes:** TSI numbers for January 2005 (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services and the change of TSI base year from 1996 to 2000. The January TSI is 111.6, revised from 129.7 reported in the June release to 128.4 with 1996 as base year and then rebased to 2000 as base year. The January Freight TSI is 112.8, revised from 130.9 to 128.8 and then rebased to 2000 as base year. The January Passenger TSI is 108.4, revised from 127.4 to 127.6 and then rebased to 2000 as base year. Since TSI numbers for January 2005 were still preliminary in the June release, these revisions are part of the month to month revision rather than the annual revision. The TSI for February, March and April 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. 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. The numbers in this release through December 2004 reflect the annual comprehensive revision. 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 October 2004 (Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)**

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
October	109.4	0.1	110.2	-0.5	107.2	1.6
November	110.3	0.9	111.7	1.3	107.0	-0.2
December	109.9	-0.3	111.2	-0.4	106.8	-0.2
January <sup>R</sup>	111.6	1.5	112.8	1.4	108.4	1.5
February <sup>P</sup>	110.0	-1.4	111.4	-1.2	106.2	-2.0
March <sup>P</sup>	111.6	1.5	112.5	0.9	109.2	2.8
April <sup>P</sup>	111.7	0.1	112.6	0.1	109.3	0.1

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

R = revised

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE**

**ADD TWO**

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

	<b>TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
1996	86.0	0.4
1997	91.1	6.0
1998	97.4	6.9
1999	99.8	2.4
2000	98.2	-1.5
2001	99.4	1.2
2002	97.7	-1.7
2003	99.9	2.2
2004	108.7	8.8
2005 <sup>P</sup>	111.7	2.8

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

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

<b>Percent change to April 2005</b>	<b>Since April . . .</b>	<b>Duration</b>
2.8	2004	One Year
11.8	2003	Two Years
14.3	2002	Three Years
12.4	2001	Four Years
13.7	2000	Five Years
11.9	1999	Six Years
14.6	1998	Seven Years
22.6	1997	Eight Years
29.9	1996	Nine Years

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Table 4: Percent changes in the Freight Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year**

**April Freight TSI (Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	<b>Freight TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
1996	87.1	-1.5
1997	92.5	6.2
1998	100.6	8.7
1999	102.1	1.5
2000	97.9	-4.2
2001	98.6	0.8
2002	99.5	0.8
2003	103.9	4.4
2004	110.9	6.7
2005 <sup>P</sup>	112.6	1.6

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 April Passenger TSI (Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	<b>Passenger TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
1996	83.0	5.2
1997	87.6	5.6
1998	90.4	3.1
1999	94.3	4.4
2000	99.1	5.0
2001	101.0	1.9
2002	93.5	-7.4
2003	90.5	-3.2
2004	103.4	14.3
2005 <sup>P</sup>	109.3	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.

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