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

May Airline Traffic: Five-Month Domestic Traffic Up 5.8 Percent From 2004

U.S. airlines carried 5.8 percent more domestic passengers and flew 1.1 percent more domestic flights during the first five months of 2005 than they did during the same period in 2004, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today reported, in a release of preliminary data (Table 1).

BTS, a part of DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the airlines carried 266.0 million domestic passengers during the first five months of 2005, up from the 251.4 million carried between January and May 2004 (Table 2). The passengers were carried on 4.12 million flights, up 1.1 percent from the 4.07 million flights operated in 2004 (Table 1).

In other domestic comparisons from the first five months of 2004 to the first five months of 2005:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 6.0 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 1.6 percent.

Passenger load factor, passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, was up 3.1 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 2.0 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was up 0.2 percent at 864 miles per trip.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 34.7 million domestic passengers during the first five months of 2005, the most of any airline (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during the first five months of 2005, with 16.2 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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May 2005 Airline Traffic

For the month of May 2005, U.S. airlines carried 57.0 million domestic passengers, 6.8 percent more than in May 2004 (Table 5).

These passengers were carried on 846,880 flights, up 0.5 percent from the flights operated in May 2004.

In other month-to-month domestic comparisons from May 2004 to May 2005:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 7.5 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 3.1 percent.

Passenger load factor, passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, was up 3.2 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 3.2 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was up 0.6 percent.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 7.8 million domestic passengers during May, the most of any airline (Table 6).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during May, with 3.5 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 on "Air Carrier Statistics (Form 41 Traffic)," then click on "T-100 Domestic Market."

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers detailing operations, passenger traffic and freight traffic. May traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 124 airlines as of Aug. 5. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from April 2005 and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release June traffic data and revised data from May and previous months on Sept. 15.

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Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel January to May

	Jan-May 2004	Jan-May 2005	Change
Passengers	251,374,411	266,035,732	5.8%
Flights	4,072,726	4,117,979	1.1%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	216,747,669	229,761,231	6.0%
Available Seat Miles(000)	300,561,617	305,409,089	1.6%
Load Factor	72.1	75.2	3.1 points
Flight Stage Length*	598	610	2.0%
Passenger Trip Length**	862	864	0.2%

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

* The average non-stop distance flown per departure in miles

** The average distance flown per passenger in miles

Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements

Month	2003	2004	2005	2004-2005 Pct. Change
January	43,342,462	44,158,283	48,145,347	9.0
February	41,465,820	45,660,443	47,222,928	3.4
March	50,387,895	54,563,819	58,976,247	8.1
April	47,364,607	53,653,708	54,712,680	2.0
May	49,413,135	53,338,158	56,978,530	6.8
June	52,541,294	57,289,410		
July	56,144,204	59,997,802		
August	54,320,946	57,726,560		
September	44,575,720	47,905,621		
October	50,347,370	54,476,730		
November	47,456,128	51,945,559		
December	50,132,111	52,770,662		
Annual Total	587,491,692	633,486,755		
Jan.-May Total	231,973,919	251,374,411	266,035,732	5.8

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
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Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by January-May 2005 Domestic Enplanements

Jan-May 2005 Rank	Carrier	Jan-May 2005 Passengers	Jan-May 2004 Rank	Jan-May 2004 Passengers
1	Southwest Airlines	34,703,350	1	32,465,467
2	Delta Air Lines	33,466,266	2	32,184,424
3	American Airlines	31,210,267	3	29,689,393
4	United Airlines	22,038,433	4	23,525,420
5	Northwest Airlines	19,299,175	5	17,965,625
6	US Airways	16,341,843	6	15,386,714
7	Continental Airlines	13,268,889	7	12,691,915
8	America West Airlines	8,428,600	8	7,970,803
9	American Eagle Airlines	6,568,033	9	5,479,608
10	AirTran Airways	6,275,717	11	5,190,590

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by January-May 2004 Domestic Enplanements

Jan-May 2005 Rank	Airport Name	Jan-May 2005 Passengers	Jan-May 2004 Rank	Jan-May 2004 Passengers
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Int'l	16,183,539	1	15,295,795
2	Chicago O'Hare Int'l	12,288,152	2	12,020,715
3	Dallas-Fort Worth Int'l	10,138,080	3	10,366,499
4	Los Angeles Int'l	8,401,254	4	8,362,910
5	Las Vegas McCarran Int'l	8,329,614	5	7,846,962
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	8,029,128	7	7,616,962
7	Denver Int'l	7,782,427	6	7,694,805
8	Orlando Int'l	6,785,442	9	6,208,192
9	Minneapolis-St. Paul Int'l	6,629,574	8	6,284,243
10	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	6,349,681	10	5,930,161

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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Table 5: Domestic Airline Travel in May

	May 2004	May 2005	Change
Passengers	53,338,158	56,978,530	6.8%
Flights	842,273	846,880	0.5%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	45,754,428	49,179,410	7.5%
Available Seat Miles(000)	61,487,306	63,364,850	3.1%
Load Factor	74.4	77.6	3.2 points
Flight Stage Length*	594	613	3.2%
Passenger Trip Length**	858	863	0.6%

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

* The average non-stop distance flown per departure in miles

** The average distance flown per passenger in miles

Table 6. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by May 2005 Domestic Enplanements

May 2005 Rank	Carrier	May 2005 Passengers	May 2004 Rank	May 2004 Passengers
1	Southwest Airlines	7,777,541	1	7,143,265
2	Delta Air Lines	6,922,107	2	6,763,930
3	American Airlines	6,692,714	3	6,081,481
4	United Airlines	4,749,422	4	5,120,358
5	Northwest Airlines	4,123,394	5	3,811,950
6	US Airways	3,406,145	6	3,191,354
7	Continental Airlines	2,789,924	7	2,601,105
8	America West Airlines	1,840,492	8	1,675,911
9	American Eagle Airlines	1,493,965	9	1,200,075
10	AirTran Airways	1,435,806	11	1,099,590

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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AIR TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
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Table 7. Top 10 Airports ranked by May 2005 Domestic Enplanements

May 2005 Rank	Airport Name	May 2005 Passengers	May 2004 Rank	May 2004 Passengers
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Int'l	3,499,573	1	3,252,283
2	Chicago O'Hare Int'l	2,695,763	2	2,595,254
3	Dallas-Fort Worth Int'l	2,182,896	3	2,209,049
4	Las Vegas McCarran Int'l	1,822,254	5	1,682,580
5	Los Angeles Int'l	1,798,958	4	1,781,538
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	1,708,990	7	1,567,722
7	Denver Int'l	1,669,443	6	1,625,841
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul Int'l	1,379,416	8	1,287,400
9	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	1,371,585	10	1,260,826
10	Orlando Int'l	1,361,360	9	1,267,959

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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