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November 2005 Airline Traffic Data: 11-Month Domestic Traffic Up 4.3 Percent From 2004

U.S. airlines carried 4.3 percent more domestic passengers and flew slightly fewer domestic flights during the first 11 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 (RITA), reported that the airlines carried 606.4 million domestic passengers during the first 11 months of 2005, up from the 581.6 million carried between January and November 2004 (Table 2). The passengers were carried on 9,246,862 million flights, 1,140 fewer than the 9,248,002 million flights operated in 2004 (Table 1).

In other domestic comparisons from the first 11 months of 2004 to the first 11 months of 2005:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 4.7 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity using the number of seats and the distance flown, were up 1.1 percent.

Passenger load factor, passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, was up 2.6 load factor 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 867 miles per trip, up only slightly from 864 miles the first 11 months of 2004.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 81.2 million domestic passengers during the first 11 months of 2005, the most of any airline (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during the first 11 months of 2005, with 35.6 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
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November 2005 Airline Traffic

For the month of November 2005, U.S. airlines carried 52.1 million domestic passengers, 0.2 percent more than in November 2004 (Table 5).

These passengers were carried on 775,059 flights, down 6.2 percent from the 826,353 flights operated in November 2004.

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

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 2.3 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were down 2.2 percent.

Passenger load factor, passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, was up 3.3 load factor points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 4.5 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was up 2.1 percent.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 7.4 million domestic passengers during November, the most of any airline (Table 6).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel in November with 3.0 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. November traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 130 airlines as of Feb. 14. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from October 2005 and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release December traffic data, full year totals for 2005, and revised data from November and previous months on March 16.

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Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel January to November

	Jan.-Nov. 2004	Jan.-Nov. 2005	Change
Passengers	581,622,397	606,439,681	4.3%
Flights	9,248,002	9,246,862	0.0%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	502,457,105	525,950,911	4.7%
Available Seat Miles(000)	672,959,415	680,384,343	1.1%
Load Factor	74.7	77.3	2.6 points
Flight Stage Length*	593	605	2.0%
Passenger Trip Length**	864	867	0.4%

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	43,365,042	44,223,065	48,204,617	9.0%
February	41,465,866	45,712,118	47,327,802	3.5%
March	50,404,158	54,649,236	59,145,652	8.2%
April	47,380,661	53,740,731	55,244,677	2.8%
May	49,413,200	53,421,459	57,583,259	7.8%
June	52,562,332	57,381,300	60,002,560	4.6%
July	56,167,980	60,067,644	62,741,667	4.5%
August	54,347,183	57,793,104	59,389,234	2.8%
September	44,605,229	47,996,736	50,732,043	5.7%
October	50,372,738	54,582,605	53,932,826	-1.2%
November	47,478,546	52,054,399	52,135,344	0.2%
December	50,146,795	52,923,041		
Annual Total	587,709,730	634,545,438		
Jan.-Nov. Total	537,562,935	581,622,397	606,439,681	4.3%

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-November 2005 Domestic Enplanements

Jan-Nov 2005 Rank	Carrier	Jan-Nov 2005 Passengers	Jan-Nov 2004 Rank	Jan-Nov 2004 Passengers
1	Southwest	81,175,029	1	74,493,117
2	Delta	72,065,251	2	72,776,817
3	American	70,878,449	3	66,525,534
4	United	50,553,783	4	55,297,315
5	Northwest	43,137,175	5	42,115,416
6	US Airways	34,573,308	6	34,729,063
7	Continental	30,037,891	7	28,836,388
8	America West	19,184,337	8	18,475,118
9	American Eagle	15,397,960	9	13,109,257
10	AirTran	15,024,967	12	11,863,363

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

Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by January-November 2005 Domestic Enplanements

Jan- Nov 2005 Rank	Airport Name	Jan-Nov 2005 Passengers	Jan- Nov 2004 Rank	Jan-Nov 2004 Passengers
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta	35,616,668	1	34,483,423
2	Chicago O'Hare	28,728,270	2	28,560,749
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth	23,363,559	3	23,600,020
4	Los Angeles Int'l	19,471,209	4	19,527,920
5	Las Vegas McCarran	18,886,742	6	17,790,624
6	Denver	18,303,599	5	18,029,057
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor	17,835,957	7	17,020,701
8	Minneapolis-St.Paul	15,361,037	8	14,858,847
9	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	14,398,425	9	13,966,137
10	Houston Bush Intercontinental	14,284,283	11	12,955,977

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

**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
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Table 5: Domestic Airline Travel in November

	Nov 2004	Nov 2005	Change
Passengers	52,054,399	52,135,344	0.2%
Flights	826,353	775,059	-6.2%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	43,872,537	44,878,755	2.3%
Available Seat Miles(000)	59,875,800	58,581,766	-2.2%
Load Factor	73.3	76.6	3.3 points
Flight Stage Length*	594	620	4.4%
Passenger Trip Length**	843	861	2.1%

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 November 2005 Domestic Enplanements

Nov 2005 Rank	Carrier	Nov 2005 Passengers	Nov 2004 Rank	Nov 2004 Passengers
1	Southwest	7,411,621	1	6,638,969
2	American	6,338,404	3	5,820,897
3	Delta	5,742,877	2	6,544,785
4	United	4,467,668	4	4,604,759
5	Northwest	3,455,971	5	3,771,651
6	Continental	2,805,470	7	2,633,638
7	US Airways	2,705,801	6	3,173,840
8	America West	1,691,787	8	1,655,280
9	AirTran	1,438,566	12	1,115,945
10	American Eagle	1,427,520	9	1,216,186

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

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**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
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Table 7. Top 10 Airports ranked by November 2005 Domestic Enplanements

Nov 2005 Rank	Airport Name	Nov 2005 Passengers	Nov 2004 Rank	Nov 2004 Passengers
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta	2,994,572	1	3,108,168
2	Chicago O'Hare	2,541,916	2	2,446,786
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth	2,140,001	3	2,096,052
4	Los Angeles Int'l	1,677,734	4	1,702,895
5	Las Vegas McCarran	1,674,063	5	1,599,275
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor	1,611,853	6	1,533,351
7	Denver	1,490,374	7	1,481,389
8	Houston Bush Intercontinental	1,316,047	11	1,195,320
9	Orlando	1,242,502	10	1,214,929
10	Minneapolis-St.Paul	1,234,745	9	1,261,650

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

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