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BTS Data

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Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell 0.1 Percent in April from March

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) fell 0.1 percent in April from its March level, falling after a one-month rise, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

The April decline was the fourth in the last seven months (Table 2). The freight TSI is down 3.5 percent from its peak of 112.8 first achieved in January 2005 but up 1.8 percent from its recent low of 107.1 in November 2006.

The freight TSI measures the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire freight transportation industries. The index consists of data from for-hire trucking, rail, inland waterways, pipelines and air freight.

For the year-to-date, the freight TSI rose 1.2 percent, compared to a 1.2 percent drop during the December-to-April period in 2006 (Table 3).

The April freight TSI of 108.9 was down 0.6 percent from its April 2006 level and down 3.2 percent from its April 2005 level (Table 4).

Despite the recent declines, the freight index has increased 9.5 percent in five years and 17.8 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

The index includes historic data from 1990 to the present. The TSI is still under development and is considered experimental. The seasonally adjusted index measures changes from the monthly average of the base year of 2000. For additional historical data prior to 2004, go to <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>. Release of the May index is scheduled for July 11.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD ONE

Transportation Services Index for Passengers

The TSI for passengers rose 0.7 percent in April from the March level, rising for the second consecutive month (Table 6). The Passenger TSI April 2007 level of 114.6 was 2.7 percent higher than the April 2006 level, the fourth consecutive annual increase since consecutive declines in 2002 and 2003 (Table 7). Year-to-date, the passenger TSI declined 0.1 percent, ending a string of December-to-April increases that began in 2004 (Table 3). The passenger index is up 22.6 percent in five years and 30.7 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

The passenger TSI measures the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire passenger transportation industries. The seasonally adjusted index consists of data from local transit, intercity rail and air.

Combined Freight and Passenger Index

The combined freight and passenger TSI was flat between April and March, following a one-month rise (Table 8). The combined TSI April 2007 level of 111.0 was 0.5 percent higher than the April 2006 level, but failed to regain its April 2005 level after last year's decline (Table 9). Year-to-date, the combined TSI rose 1.3 percent and has not declined in the December-to-April period since 2003 (Table 3). The combined index is up 13.7 percent in five years and 21.9 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

The combined TSI merges the freight and passenger indexes into a single seasonally adjusted index of the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire transportation industries.

More on TSI

Note: TSI numbers for December 2006 (Freight, Passenger and Combined) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The December Freight TSI is 107.7, revised from the 108.4 reported in the May release. The December Passenger TSI is 114.7, revised from 112.4. The December combined TSI is 109.6, revised from 110.1. The TSI for January, February, March and April are preliminary.

TSI revision policy: TSI is updated monthly with the latest four months' index numbers considered preliminary. Each month BTS releases the latest preliminary TSI, and replaces the oldest preliminary TSI with a revised TSI. More information about the revision policy and the TSI index is available at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

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Table 1: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes Since October 2006

Percent Change by Month
(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
October	108.5	-0.1	113.5	0.3	110.0	0.0
November	107.1	-1.4	113.5	0.0	108.8	-1.0
December ^R	107.7	0.6	114.7	1.1	109.6	0.7
January ^P	107.9	0.2	111.4	-2.9	109.5	-0.1
February ^P	107.7	-0.2	111.0	-0.3	109.2	-0.3
March ^P	109.1	1.3	113.8	2.5	111.0	1.6
April^P	108.9	-0.1	114.6	0.7	111.0	0.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 2: Freight Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2004-2007
Percent change from previous month

	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth
January	-1.6	1.4	0.2	(P) 0.2
February	2.6	-1.2	-1.3	(P) -0.2
March	0.9	1.0	0.9	(P) 1.3
April	0.6	0.0	-0.9	(P) -0.1
May	-0.3	0.2	2.1	
June	0.8	-0.5	-0.3	
July	-0.5	-0.5	-0.8	
August	-0.6	0.4	-2.7	
September	0.5	-1.3	0.8	
October	-0.5	-0.6	-0.1	
November	1.3	2.0	-1.4	
December	-0.4	-1.1	(R) 0.6	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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Table 3: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes Year-to Date Change, 1998-2007
Percent change from December of previous year
December to April

Year	Freight	Passenger	Combined
1998	3.6	0.5	2.6
1999	2.3	1.8	2.1
2000	-6.9	4.2	-3.7
2001	0.9	0.6	0.8
2002	2.3	4.2	2.8
2003	-0.6	-7.3	-2.5
2004	2.5	3.1	2.7
2005	1.2	2.3	1.5
2006	-1.2	2.0	0.0
2007^P	1.2	-0.1	1.3

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
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	112.5	1.5
2006	109.6	-2.6
2007^P	108.9	-0.6

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD FOUR

**Table 5: Transportation Services Indexes from Previous Years
Percent Change to 2007 (April to April)**

Freight TSI Percent change to April 2007	Passenger TSI Percent change to April 2007	Combined TSI Percent change to April 2007	Since April ...	Duration in years
-0.6	2.7	0.5	2006	1
-3.2	4.9	-0.5	2005	2
-1.7	10.7	2.2	2004	3
4.9	26.6	11.2	2003	4
9.5	22.6	13.7	2002	5
10.4	13.4	11.8	2001	6
11.3	15.6	13.1	2000	7
6.7	21.5	11.3	1999	8
8.3	26.8	14.0	1998	9
17.8	30.7	21.9	1997	10

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to April 2007 are all preliminary.

**Table 6: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2004-2007
Percent change from previous month**

	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth
January	-1.1	1.5	0.6	(P) -2.9
February	3.4	-2.0	-1.3	(P) -0.3
March	0.1	2.9	2.1	(P) 2.5
April	0.8	-0.1	0.5	(P) 0.7
May	-0.7	0.8	0.5	
June	1.6	-0.5	-0.4	
July	0.5	0.9	0.3	
August	0.1	-1.3	-0.1	
September	0.5	2.3	1.1	
October	1.6	-1.9	0.3	
November	-0.2	0.4	0.0	
December	-0.2	-0.4	(R) 1.1	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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ADD FIVE

**Table 7: Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
Percent change in the April Passenger TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
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	109.2	5.5
2006	111.6	2.2
2007^P	114.6	2.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 8: Combined Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2004-2007
Percent change from previous month**

	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth
January	-1.4	1.5	0.3	(P) -0.1
February	2.8	-1.4	-1.3	(P) -0.3
March	0.7	1.5	1.3	(P) 1.6
April	0.7	0.0	-0.3	(P) 0.0
May	-0.4	0.4	1.5	
June	1.0	-0.5	-0.3	
July	-0.2	-0.1	-0.4	
August	-0.4	-0.1	-2.1	
September	0.5	-0.3	0.9	
October	0.1	-0.9	0.0	
November	0.9	1.6	-1.0	
December	-0.3	-0.9	(R) 0.7	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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**Table 9: Combined Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
Percent change in the April TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
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	111.6	2.7
2006	110.5	-1.0
2007^P	111.0	0.5

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD SEVEN

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,

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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