



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

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Bureau of Transportation Statistics
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BTS Data

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Transportation Services (TSI) Index Rose 1.2 Percent to Record High in November from October

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) rose 1.2 percent in November to 112.2 (2000=100) from the October level of 110.9, turning up after a one-month decrease to reach a record high, 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 November level of 112.2 for the combined freight and passenger index was 1.7 percent higher than the November 2004 level of 110.3 (Table 2). The November level was 12.3 percent higher than the November 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 December numbers is scheduled for March 6.

Transportation Services Index for Freight

The TSI for freight rose 1.7 percent to 113.2 in November from the October level of 111.3, rising to a record high with the biggest one-month gain since February 2004 after two consecutive monthly declines (Table 1). The November 2005 level of 113.2 is 1.4 percent higher than the November 2004 level of 111.7 (Table 4).

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**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD ONE**

Transportation Services Index for Passengers

The TSI for passengers fell 0.1 percent to 109.5 in November from the October level of 109.7, the second consecutive monthly decrease (Table 1). The November 2005 level of 109.5 is 2.4 percent higher than the November 2004 level of 107.0 (Table 5).

More on TSI

During the six months ending in November, the TSI rose 0.2 percent, the Freight TSI rose 0.4 percent and the Passenger TSI fell 0.5 percent (Table 1).

Notes: TSI numbers for August 2005 (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The August TSI is 111.2, revised from 111.5 reported in the January release. The August Freight TSI is 112.1, revised from 112.4. The August Passenger TSI is 109.0, revised from 109.1. The TSI for September, October and November 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, August, 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 May 2005 (Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
May	112.0	0.4	112.8	0.2	110.0	0.8
June	111.4	-0.5	112.2	-0.5	109.4	-0.5
July	111.3	-0.1	111.6	-0.5	110.4	0.9
August ^R	111.2	-0.1	112.1	0.4	109.0	-1.3
September ^P	111.6	0.3	111.8	-0.3	110.9	1.7
October ^P	110.9	-0.6	111.3	-0.4	109.7	-1.1
November ^P	112.2	1.2	113.2	1.7	109.5	-0.1

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

R = revised

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**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD TWO**

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

	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1996	88.3	4.6
1997	94.3	6.8
1998	98.6	4.5
1999	102.8	4.3
2000	99.9	-2.8
2001	94.7	-5.3
2002	101.5	7.2
2003	103.4	1.9
2004	110.3	6.7
2005 ^P	112.2	1.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

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

Percent change to November 2005	Since November ...	Duration in years
1.7	2004	1
8.5	2003	2
10.6	2002	3
18.6	2001	4
12.3	2000	5
9.1	1999	6
13.8	1998	7
19.0	1997	8
27.1	1996	9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD THREE**

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

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1996	89.5	4.7
1997	96.3	7.5
1998	101.0	4.9
1999	104.3	3.3
2000	98.9	-5.2
2001	97.7	-1.3
2002	103.8	6.3
2003	105.1	1.2
2004	111.7	6.3
2005 ^P	113.2	1.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

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

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1996	85.2	4.6
1997	89.8	5.4
1998	93.1	3.7
1999	99.1	6.5
2000	102.2	3.1
2001	87.5	-14.3
2002	96.0	9.6
2003	99.3	3.4
2004	107.0	7.8
2005 ^P	109.5	2.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE ADD FOUR

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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