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January 2006 Domestic Airline Traffic Up 0.7 Percent From January 2005

U.S. airlines carried 0.7 percent more domestic passengers and flew 4.5 percent fewer domestic flights during January 2006 than they did during January 2005, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today, in a release of preliminary data (Table 1).

BTS, a part of DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the airlines carried 48.6 million domestic passengers during January 2006, up from the 48.2 million in January 2005 (Table 2). These passengers were carried on 774,532 flights, down 4.5 percent from the 811,071 flights operated in January 2005 (Table 1).

In other domestic comparisons from January 2005 to January 2006 (Table 1):

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 2.4 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity using the number of seats and the distance flown, were down 1.5 percent.

Load factor, passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, was up 2.8 points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 2.6 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was up 1.6 percent.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 6.9 million domestic passengers during January 2006, the most of any airline. JetBlue Airways was ranked in the Top 10 for the first time (Table 3).

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Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during January 2006, with 2.8 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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. December traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 126 airlines as of April 11. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from December 2005 and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release February 2006 traffic data on May 11.

Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel in January

	Jan. 2005	Jan. 2006	Change
Passengers (in millions)	48.2	48.6	0.7%
Flights (in thousands)	811	775	-4.5%
Revenue Passenger Miles(in billions)	41.9	42.9	2.4%
Available Seat-Miles(in billions)	60.1	59.1	-1.5%
Load factor	69.8	72.6	2.8 points
Flight stage length*	604	620	2.6%
Passenger trip length**	870	884	1.6%

Source: T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

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

** The average distance flown per passenger in miles

Note: Percentage changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements

Passenger numbers in millions (000,000)

Month	2004	2005	2004-2005 Pct. Change	2006	2005-2006 Pct. Change
January	44.2	48.2	9.0	48.6	0.7
February	45.7	47.3	3.6		
March	54.6	59.2	8.3		
April	53.7	55.2	2.8		
May	53.4	57.6	7.8		
June	57.4	60.0	4.6		
July	60.1	62.7	4.5		
August	57.8	59.4	2.8		
September	48.0	50.8	5.9		
October	54.6	54.0	-1.0		
November	52.1	53.0	1.8		
December	52.9	53.0	0.2		
Annual Total	634.5	660.6	4.1		

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Note: Percentage changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by January 2006 Domestic Enplanements

Passenger numbers in millions (000,000)

Jan. 2006 Rank	Carrier	Jan. 2006	Jan. 2005 Rank	Jan. 2005
1	Southwest	6.863	2	6.040
2	American	6.071	3	5.784
3	Delta	5.181	1	6.186
4	United	4.288	4	4.231
5	Northwest	3.156	5	3.381
6	Continental	2.709	7	2.392
7	US Airways	2.346	6	2.797
8	America West	1.569	8	1.571
9	JetBlue	1.355	12	1.054
10	SkyWest	1.341	10	1.121

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

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Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by January 2006 Domestic Enplanements
Passenger numbers in millions (000,000)

Jan. 2006 Rank	Airport Name	Jan. 2006	Jan. 2005 Rank	Jan. 2005
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta	2.814	1	2.880
2	Chicago O'Hare	2.300	2	2.168
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth	2.014	3	1.957
4	Denver	1.621	6	1.502
5	Las Vegas McCarran	1.606	5	1.537
6	Los Angeles Int'l	1.577	4	1.610
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor	1.558	7	1.465
8	Houston Bush Intercontinental	1.303	10	1.164
9	Orlando	1.280	8	1.286
10	Minneapolis-St.Paul	1.160	9	1.195

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

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