



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

**U.S. Department of Transportation  
Research and Innovative Technology  
Administration  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics  
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#### **BTS Data**

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### **Transportation Services Index (TSI) Rose 1.2 Percent in March from February**

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) rose 1.2 percent in March to 129.9 (1996=100) from the February level of 128.4, the fourth increase in the past six months, 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 March level of 129.9 for the combined freight and passenger index was 5.0 percent higher than the March 2004 level of 123.7 (Table 2). The March 2005 level was 30.6 percent higher than the March level of the base year of 1996 (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 for the base year of 1996. The next release is scheduled for July 6.

#### **Transportation Services Index for Freight**

The TSI for freight rose 0.5 percent to 130.2 in March from the February level of 129.5, the fourth increase in the last six months (Table 1). The March 2005 level of 130.2 is 4.0 percent higher than the March 2004 level of 125.2 (Table 4).

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**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD ONE**

**Transportation Services Index for Passengers**

The TSI for passengers rose 3.0 percent to 129.9 in March from the February level of 126.1 (Table 1), the largest single month increase since December 2001. The March 2005 level of 129.9 is 7.7 percent higher than the March 2004 level of 120.6 (Table 5).

**More on TSI**

During the six months ending in March, the TSI rose 3.1 percent, the Freight TSI rose 2.6 percent and the Passenger TSI rose 4.4 percent (Table 1).

**Notes:** TSI numbers for December 2004 (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The December TSI is 127.9, revised from 127.3 reported in the May release. The December Freight TSI is 129.2, revised from 128.4. The December Passenger TSI is 125.2, revised from 125.3. The TSI for January, February and March 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. 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 September 2004 (Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 1996 = 100)**

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
September	126.0	0.4	126.9	0.4	124.3	0.3
October	127.1	0.8	127.8	0.7	125.8	1.2
November	128.3	1.0	129.6	1.4	125.5	-0.2
December <sup>R</sup>	127.9	-0.3	129.2	-0.4	125.2	-0.2
January <sup>P</sup>	129.7	1.4	130.9	1.3	127.4	1.7
February <sup>P</sup>	128.4	-1.0	129.5	-1.0	126.1	-1.0
March <sup>P</sup>	129.9	1.2	130.2	0.5	129.9	3.0

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 March TSI (Monthly average of 1996 = 100)**

	<b>TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from previous year</b>
1996	99.5	0.7
1997	103.9	4.4
1998	110.6	6.5
1999	115.2	4.2
2000	114.7	-0.4
2001	115.1	0.4
2002	112.6	-2.2
2003	116.0	3.0
2004	123.7	6.6
2005 <sup>P</sup>	129.9	5.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

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

<b>Percent change to March 2005</b>	<b>Since March ...</b>	<b>Duration</b>
5.0	2004	One Year
12.0	2003	Two Years
15.4	2002	Three Years
12.8	2001	Four Years
13.3	2000	Five Years
12.8	1999	Six Years
17.5	1998	Seven Years
25.1	1997	Eight Years
30.6	1996	Nine Years

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Table 4: Percent changes in the Freight Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year****March Freight TSI (Monthly average of 1996 = 100)**

	<b>Freight TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from previous year</b>
1996	99.4	-1.4
1997	103.8	4.4
1998	113.0	8.8
1999	117.3	3.8
2000	113.9	-2.9
2001	113.6	-0.3
2002	113.4	-0.2
2003	118.5	4.5
2004	125.2	5.7
2005 <sup>P</sup>	130.2	4.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

### ADD THREE

**Table 5: Percent changes in the Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year**

**March Passenger TSI (Monthly average of 1996 = 100)**

	<b>Passenger TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from previous year</b>
1996	99.6	5.5
1997	104.0	4.4
1998	105.6	1.6
1999	110.8	4.9
2000	117.2	5.7
2001	119.5	2.0
2002	111.3	-6.9
2003	110.4	-0.7
2004	120.6	9.2
2005 <sup>P</sup>	129.9	7.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

### **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 (not including parcel services),

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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