



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

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BTS Data

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Contact: Dave Smallen
Tel.: (202) 366-5568

Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell 0.1 Percent in August from July

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) fell 0.1 percent in August to 111.5 (2000=100) from the July level of 111.6, the second consecutive monthly decline, 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 August level of 111.5 for the combined freight and passenger index was 2.5 percent higher than the August 2004 level of 108.7 (Table 2). The August level was 10.7 percent higher than the August 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 September numbers is scheduled for Dec. 6.

Transportation Services Index for Freight

The TSI for freight rose 0.5 percent to 112.4 in August from the July level of 111.9, turning up after two consecutive monthly declines (Table 1). The August 2005 level of 112.4 is 2.0 percent higher than the August 2004 level of 110.2 (Table 4).

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**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD ONE**

Transportation Services Index for Passengers

The TSI for passengers fell 1.5 percent to 109.1 in August from the July level of 110.8, turning down after three consecutive monthly increases (Table 1). The August 2005 level of 109.1 is 3.9 percent higher than the August 2004 level of 105.0 (Table 5).

More on TSI

During the six months ending in August, the TSI rose 1.4 percent, the Freight TSI rose 0.8 percent and the Passenger TSI rose 2.8 percent (Table 1).

Notes: TSI numbers for May 2005 (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The May TSI is 112.0, revised from 112.6 reported in the October release. The May Freight TSI is 112.8, revised from 113.1. The May Passenger TSI is 110.0, revised from 111.2. The TSI for June, July and August 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, May, 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 February 2005 (Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
February	110.0	-1.4	111.5	-1.2	106.2	-2.0
March	111.6	1.5	112.5	1.0	109.3	2.9
April	111.6	0.0	112.5	0.0	109.2	-0.1
May ^R	112.0	0.4	112.8	0.2	110.0	0.8
June ^P	112.0	0.0	112.6	-0.2	110.3	0.2
July ^P	111.6	-0.3	111.9	-0.6	110.8	0.5
August ^P	111.5	-0.1	112.4	0.5	109.1	-1.5

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 August TSI (Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1996	87.4	2.0
1997	92.9	6.2
1998	97.8	5.3
1999	101.0	3.2
2000	100.7	-0.3
2001	101.5	0.8
2002	100.8	-0.6
2003	101.7	0.9
2004	108.7	6.9
2005 ^P	111.5	2.5

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

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

Percent change to August 2005	Since August ...	Duration in years
2.5	2004	1
9.6	2003	2
10.6	2002	3
9.9	2001	4
10.7	2000	5
10.4	1999	6
14.0	1998	7
20.0	1997	8
27.5	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
August Freight TSI (Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1996	88.2	-0.1
1997	94.6	7.3
1998	100.7	6.5
1999	103.2	2.5
2000	101.1	-2.0
2001	100.7	-0.4
2002	103.0	2.3
2003	103.8	0.8
2004	110.2	6.2
2005 ^P	112.4	2.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

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

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1996	85.4	7.0
1997	88.8	4.0
1998	91.4	2.9
1999	95.8	4.8
2000	99.9	4.3
2001	103.2	3.3
2002	95.6	-7.3
2003	96.6	1.0
2004	105.0	8.8
2005 ^P	109.1	3.9

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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