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BTS Data**

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October 2005 Airline Traffic Data: 10-Month Domestic Traffic Up 4.6 Percent From 2004

U.S. airlines carried 4.6 percent more domestic passengers and flew 0.5 percent more domestic flights during the first 10 months of 2005 than they did during the same period in 2004, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today reported, in a release of preliminary data (Table 1).

But the airlines carried fewer passengers in October 2005 than in October 2004, the first monthly drop from the previous year since BTS began keeping comparable records of passenger traffic in November 2002 (Table 2). The 5.6 percent decline in the number of flights in October 2005 from October 2004 (Table 5) was the largest decline in a month from the same month in the previous year since 2002 as bankrupt airlines have reduced scheduled service.

BTS, a part of DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), reported that the airlines carried 554.1 million domestic passengers during the first 10 months of 2005, up from the 529.6 million carried between January and October 2004 (Table 2). The passengers were carried on 8.47 million flights, up 0.5 percent from the 8.42 million flights operated in 2004 (Table 1).

In other domestic comparisons from the first 10 months of 2004 to the first 10 months of 2005:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 4.8 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity using the number of seats and the distance flown, were up 1.4 percent.

Passenger load factor, passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, was up 2.6 load factor points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 1.7 percent.

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Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was 868 miles per trip, up only slightly from 866 the first 10 months of 2004.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 73.8 million domestic passengers during the first 10 months of 2005, the most of any airline (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during the first 10 months of 2005, with 32.6 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

October 2005 Airline Traffic

For the month of October 2005, U.S. airlines carried 53.7 million domestic passengers, 1.6 percent less than in October 2004 (Table 5).

These passengers were carried on 822,374 flights, down 5.6 percent from the 871,479 flights operated in October 2004.

In other month-to-month domestic comparisons from October 2004 to October 2005:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were down 0.6 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were down 2.8 percent.

Passenger load factor, passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, was up 1.7 load factor points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 3.6 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was up 1.1 percent.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 7.6 million domestic passengers during October, the most of any airline (Table 6).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel in October with 3.1 million passenger boardings (Table 7).

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. October traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 130 airlines as of Jan. 9. Data are subject to revision.

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Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel January to October

	Jan-Oct. 2004	Jan-Oct. 2005	Change
Passengers	529,582,175	554,053,210	4.6%
Flights	8,422,790	8,468,560	0.5%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	458,586,719	480,815,656	4.8%
Available Seat Miles(000)	613,086,639	621,483,970	1.4%
Load Factor	74.8	77.4	2.6 points
Flight Stage Length*	593	603	1.7%
Passenger Trip Length**	866	868	0.2%

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

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

** The average distance flown per passenger in miles

Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements

Month	2003	2004	2005	2004-2005 Pct. Change
January	43,365,042	44,223,065	48,204,617	9.0%
February	41,480,320	45,726,295	47,327,802	3.5%
March	50,404,158	54,649,236	59,145,660	8.2%
April	47,380,661	53,740,731	55,244,677	2.8%
May	49,430,970	53,421,459	57,583,259	7.8%
June	52,562,332	57,381,300	60,002,560	4.6%
July	56,167,980	60,067,644	62,741,661	4.5%
August	54,347,183	57,793,104	59,389,236	2.8%
September	44,605,229	47,996,736	50,731,053	5.7%
October	50,372,738	54,582,605	53,682,685	-1.6%
November	47,478,546	52,054,399		
December	50,146,795	52,923,041		
Annual Total	587,743,957	634,561,619		
Jan.-Oct. Total	490,116,613	529,582,175	554,053,210	4.6%

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by January-October 2005 Domestic Enplanements

Jan-Oct 2005 Rank	Carrier	Jan-Oct 2005 Passengers	Jan-Oct 2004 Rank	Jan-Oct 2004 Passengers
1	Southwest	73,763,408	1	67,854,148
2	Delta	66,322,374	2	66,232,032
3	American	64,540,045	3	60,704,637
4	United	46,086,115	4	50,692,556
5	Northwest	39,681,204	5	38,343,765
6	US Airways	31,867,507	6	31,555,223
7	Continental	27,232,421	7	26,202,750
8	America West	17,492,550	8	16,819,838
9	American Eagle	13,970,440	10	11,893,071
10	AirTran	13,586,401	12	10,747,418

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by January-October 2005 Domestic Enplanements

Jan-Oct 2005 Rank	Airport Name	Jan-Oct 2005 Passengers	Jan-Oct 2004 Rank	Jan-Oct 2004 Passengers
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta	32,622,096	1	31,375,255
2	Chicago O'Hare	26,174,967	2	26,113,963
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth	21,223,558	3	21,503,968
4	Los Angeles Int'l	17,790,254	4	17,825,025
5	Las Vegas McCarran	17,205,074	6	16,191,349
6	Denver	16,813,225	5	16,547,668
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor	16,224,104	7	15,487,350
8	Minneapolis-St.Paul	14,126,292	8	13,597,197
9	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	13,170,757	9	12,702,471
10	Houston Bush Intercontinental	12,968,236	11	11,760,657

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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Table 5: Domestic Airline Travel in October

	Oct 2004	Oct 2005	Change
Passengers	54,582,605	53,682,685	-1.6%
Flights	871,479	822,374	-5.6%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	46,192,014	45,910,199	-0.6%
Available Seat Miles(000)	62,242,679	60,511,250	-2.8%
Load Factor	74.2	75.9	1.7 points
Flight Stage Length*	588	609	3.6%
Passenger Trip Length**	846	855	1.1%

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

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

** The average distance flown per passenger in miles

Table 6. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by October 2005 Domestic Enplanements

Oct 2005 Rank	Carrier	Oct 2005 Passengers	Oct 2004 Rank	Oct 2004 Passengers
1	Southwest	7,571,730	1	6,899,590
2	American	6,213,660	3	6,041,460
3	Delta	5,810,108	2	6,738,373
4	United	4,612,307	4	5,102,099
5	Northwest	3,628,273	5	3,890,541
6	US Airways	2,825,077	6	3,351,645
7	Continental	2,769,157	7	2,654,994
8	America West	1,708,275	8	1,750,382
9	American Eagle	1,494,990	9	1,327,824
10	SkyWest	1,437,788	10	1,208,791

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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Table 7. Top 10 Airports ranked by October 2005 Domestic Enplanements

Oct 2005 Rank	Airport Name	Oct 2005 Passengers	Oct 2004 Rank	Oct 2004 Passengers
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta	3,056,435	1	3,230,635
2	Chicago O'Hare	2,691,149	2	2,776,725
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth	2,141,584	3	2,197,081
4	Las Vegas McCarran	1,779,390	5	1,722,383
5	Los Angeles Int'l	1,704,210	4	1,742,868
6	Denver	1,642,863	6	1,602,858
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor	1,616,569	7	1,586,452
8	Minneapolis-St.Paul	1,340,026	8	1,360,508
9	Houston Bush Intercontinental	1,324,396	10	1,202,452
10	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	1,249,462	9	1,324,678

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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