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**BTS DATA**

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**BTS Releases April Airline Traffic Data;  
April 2004 Domestic Traffic Up 13.1 Percent From April 2003**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today reported, in a release of preliminary data, that U.S. airlines carried 53.6 million domestic passengers in April, 13.1 percent more than in April 2003 (Table 1).

These passengers were carried on 814,033 flights, up 5.3 percent from the flights operated in April 2003.

In other domestic comparisons from April 2003 to April 2004:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 16.2 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 10.1 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 4.1 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 5.0 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 2.7 percent.

The number of domestic airline passengers fell 1.7 percent in April from March (Table 2). Month-to-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal factors.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 7.1 million domestic passengers in April, the most of any airline (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta continued in April to be the busiest domestic airport, with 3.2 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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**Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel in April**

	<b>April 2003</b>	<b>April 2004</b>
<b>Passengers</b>	47,368,701	53,558,777
<b>Flights</b>	773,199	814,033
<b>Revenue Passenger Miles(000)</b>	39,791,787	46,244,603
<b>Available Seat-Miles(000)</b>	55,075,814	60,640,730
<b>Load factor</b>	72.2%	76.3%
<b>Flight stage length</b>	575	604
<b>Passenger trip length</b>	840	863

Source: T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

**Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Month</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>January</b>	43,282,657	44,163,608
<b>February</b>	41,449,003	45,626,458
<b>March</b>	50,370,774	54,494,386
<b>April</b>	47,368,701	53,558,777
<b>May</b>	49,461,887	
<b>June</b>	52,538,182	
<b>July</b>	56,153,032	
<b>August</b>	54,320,293	
<b>September</b>	44,437,552	
<b>October</b>	50,342,428	
<b>November</b>	47,453,413	
<b>December</b>	49,914,438	

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

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."

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**Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by April 2004 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Airline Name</b>	<b>April 2003</b>	<b>March 2004</b>	<b>April 2004</b>	<b>April 2003 Rank</b>
1	Southwest Airlines	6,137,024	7,089,890	7,120,432	2
2	Delta Air Lines	6,160,049	6,947,233	6,711,378	1
3	American Airlines	5,907,580	6,425,910	6,211,663	3
4	United Airlines	4,537,823	5,029,770	5,022,073	4
5	Northwest Airlines	3,500,259	4,021,053	3,834,684	5
6	US Airways	3,227,126	3,335,691	3,413,018	6
7	Continental Airlines	2,521,969	2,762,806	2,751,538	7
8	America West Airlines	1,593,759	1,710,680	1,648,376	8
9	American Eagle Airlines	933,073	1,166,685	1,170,293	11
10	AirTran Airways	955,332	1,142,815	1,143,034	10

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

**Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by April 2004 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Airport Name</b>	<b>April 2003</b>	<b>March 2004</b>	<b>April 2004</b>	<b>April 2003 Rank</b>
1	Hartsfield-Jackson International	2,846,063	3,298,435	3,209,642	1
2	O'Hare International	2,291,174	2,636,935	2,557,543	2
3	Dallas-Ft Worth International	1,772,905	2,234,246	2,119,749	3
4	Los Angeles International	1,553,639	1,778,262	1,814,798	4
5	Las Vegas McCarran International	1,336,767	1,698,023	1,648,323	6
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor International	1,499,621	1,687,051	1,593,288	5
7	Denver International	1,288,935	1,706,754	1,548,628	7
8	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	1,161,724	1,304,586	1,319,087	8
9	Orlando International	1,075,628	1,351,597	1,301,622	10
10	Minneapolis-St. Paul International	1,118,590	1,425,824	1,265,398	9

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers detailing operations, passenger traffic and freight traffic. April 2004 traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 109 airlines as of July 13. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from March and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release May traffic data on August 12.

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