



U.S. Department of Transportation
Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Washington, D.C.
www.bts.gov
BTS DATA

BTS 15-04
Thursday, June 10, 2004

Contact: Roger Lotz
Tel.: 202-366-2246

**BTS Releases March Airline Traffic Data;
March 2004 Domestic Traffic Up 7.4 Percent From March 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 54.2 million domestic passengers in March, 7.4 percent more than in March 2003 (Table 1).

These passengers were carried on 814,340 flights, up 1.0 percent from the flights operated in March 2003.

In other domestic comparisons from March 2003 to March 2004:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 11.3 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 7.3 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 2.7 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 6.4 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 3.7 percent.

The number of domestic airline passengers rose 19.5 percent in March from February (Table 2). Month-to-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal factors.

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

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta continued in March to be the busiest domestic airport, with 3.3 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

-more-

**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD ONE**

Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel in March

	March 2003	March 2004
Passengers	50,475,121	54,187,141
Flights	806,156	814,340
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	42,151,234	46,915,144
Available Seat-Miles(000)	58,093,721	62,337,697
Load factor	72.6%	75.3%
Flight stage length	579	616
Passenger trip length	835	866

Source: T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements

Month	2003	2004
January	43,436,152	44,075,101
February	41,529,610	45,354,410
March	50,475,121	54,187,141
April	47,559,030	
May	49,587,365	
June	52,701,395	
July	56,221,859	
August	54,390,922	
September	44,393,824	
October	50,338,674	
November	47,414,333	
December	49,866,108	

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."

- more -

**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD TWO**

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

Rank	Airline Name	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	March 2003 Rank
1	Southwest Airlines	6,332,410	5,749,214	7,089,890	2
2	Delta Air Lines	6,974,199	5,947,669	6,947,233	1
3	American Airlines	6,310,554	5,495,032	6,425,910	3
4	United Airlines	4,844,612	4,197,443	5,029,770	4
5	Northwest Airlines	3,907,410	3,207,660	4,021,053	5
6	US Airways	3,321,963	2,796,944	3,335,691	6
7	Continental Airlines	2,686,997	2,301,375	2,762,806	7
8	America West Airlines	1,668,638	1,468,971	1,710,680	8
9	American Eagle Airlines	1,027,069	1,006,408	1,166,685	9
10	Alaska Airlines	1,000,331	967,184	1,159,678	10

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by March 2004 Domestic Enplanements

Rank	Airport Name	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	March 2003 Rank
1	Hartsfield-Jackson International	3,054,374	2,781,748	3,298,313	1
2	O'Hare International	2,455,423	2,198,605	2,636,935	2
3	Dallas-Ft Worth International	1,963,457	1,882,726	2,234,246	3
4	Los Angeles International	1,597,838	1,475,487	1,778,219	5
5	Denver International	1,440,468	1,370,390	1,706,754	7
6	Las Vegas McCarran International	1,453,968	1,417,709	1,697,882	6
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor International	1,627,821	1,400,353	1,687,051	4
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul International	1,338,082	1,145,093	1,425,752	8
9	Orlando International	1,167,943	1,164,245	1,351,561	10
10	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	1,205,713	1,069,843	1,304,539	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. March 2004 traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 101 airlines as of June 8. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from February and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release April traffic data on July 15.

-end-