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**AMERICAN**  
**ECONOMY**

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Bureau of Transportation Statistics  
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## **BTS Releases November Airline Traffic Data; 11-Month Domestic Traffic Up 7.7 Percent From 2003**

U.S. airlines carried 7.7 percent more domestic passengers and flew 3.9 percent more domestic flights during the first 11 months of 2004 than they did during the same period in 2003, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today reported, in a release of preliminary data (Table 1).

The airlines carried 578.5 million domestic passengers during the first 11 months of 2004, up from the 537.3 million carried between January and November 2003 (Table 2). The passengers were carried on 9.1 million flights, up 3.9 percent from the 8.8 million flights operated in 2003 (Table 1).

In other domestic comparisons from the first 11 months of 2003 to the first 11 months of 2004:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 10.4 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 7.6 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 1.9 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 4.0 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 2.6 percent.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 74.5 million domestic passengers during the first 11 months of 2004, the most of any airline (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during the first 11 months of 2004, with 34.5 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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**November 2004 Airline Traffic**

In November 2004, U.S. airlines carried 51.5 million domestic passengers, 8.5 percent more than in November 2003 (Table 5).

These passengers were carried on 789,376 flights, up 1.7 percent from the flights operated in November 2003. The number of October domestic flights has been revised because of late reports from several carriers. There were 822,129 domestic flights in October 2004, revised from 807,788 flights reported in the January release.

In other month-to-month domestic comparisons from November 2003 to November 2004:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 10.1 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 5.9 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 2.8 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 3.9 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 1.4 percent.

The number of domestic airline passengers fell 3.7 percent in November from October (Table 2). Month-to-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal factors.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 6.6 million domestic passengers during November, the most of any airline (Table 6).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during November, 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 115 airlines as of Feb. 8. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from October 2004 and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release December traffic data on March 10.

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**Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel January to November**

	<b>Jan-Nov 2003</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2004</b>	<b>Change</b>
Passengers	537,318,723	578,497,793	7.7%
Flights	8,764,446	9,106,756	3.9%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	454,470,398	501,933,667	10.4%
Available Seat-Miles(000)	624,475,231	672,123,823	7.6%
Load Factor	72.8	74.7	1.9 points
Flight Stage Length (miles)	576	599	4.0%
Passenger Trip Length (miles)	846	868	2.6%

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

**Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Month</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>January</b>	43,301,100	44,115,683	1.9%
<b>February</b>	41,464,612	45,614,657	10.0%
<b>March</b>	50,387,301	54,512,292	8.2%
<b>April</b>	47,363,867	53,610,915	13.2%
<b>May</b>	49,412,315	53,294,016	7.9%
<b>June</b>	52,539,413	57,242,839	9.0%
<b>July</b>	56,148,081	59,907,777	6.7%
<b>August</b>	54,319,794	57,347,302	5.6%
<b>September</b>	44,576,369	47,898,457	7.5%
<b>October</b>	50,350,562	53,458,333	6.2%
<b>November</b>	47,455,309	51,495,522	8.5%
<b>December</b>	50,126,721		
<b>Jan-Nov Total</b>	<b>537,318,723</b>	<b>578,497,793</b>	<b>7.7%</b>

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

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**Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by January to November 2004 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Jan-Nov 2004 Rank</b>	<b>Airline Name</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2003 Passengers</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2004 Passengers</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2003 Rank</b>
1	Southwest Airlines	68,649,111	74,493,117	2
2	Delta Air Lines	71,288,644	72,776,817	1
3	American Airlines	66,305,269	66,525,534	3
4	United Airlines	51,565,354	55,297,315	4
5	Northwest Airlines	39,587,211	42,115,416	5
6	US Airways	34,174,086	34,729,063	6
7	Continental Airlines	28,180,744	28,836,486	7
8	America West Airlines	17,617,230	18,475,118	8
9	American Eagle Airlines	10,624,529	13,109,257	10
10	Alaska Airlines	11,948,110	13,086,154	9

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

**Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by January-November 2004 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Jan-Nov 2004 Rank</b>	<b>Airport Name</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2003 Passengers</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2004 Passengers</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2003 Rank</b>
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	32,715,111	34,481,737	1
2	O'Hare Int'l	26,082,725	28,504,511	2
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth Int'l	20,875,436	23,575,604	3
4	Los Angeles Int'l	17,858,261	19,528,002	4
5	Denver Int'l	15,790,538	18,028,051	6
6	Las Vegas McCarran Int'l	15,501,431	17,790,624	7
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	16,098,543	17,003,063	5
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul Int'l	13,678,699	14,852,039	8
9	Detroit Metro-Wayne County	12,938,701	13,920,799	9
10	Orlando Int'l	11,429,142	13,014,603	11

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

**Table 5: Domestic Airline Travel in November**

	<b>Nov. 2003</b>	<b>Nov. 2004</b>	<b>Change</b>
Passengers	47,455,309	51,495,522	8.5%
Flights	775,874	789,376	1.7%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	39,784,320	43,794,244	10.1%
Available Seat-Miles(000)	56,427,700	59,730,424	5.9%
Load Factor	70.5%	73.3%	2.8 points
Flight Stage Length (miles)	592	615	3.9%
Passenger Trip Length (miles)	838	850	1.4%

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

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**Table 6. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by November 2004 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Nov 2004 Rank</b>	<b>Airline Name</b>	<b>Nov. 2003</b>	<b>Nov. 2004</b>	<b>Nov. 2003 Rank</b>
1	Southwest Airlines	6,013,106	6,638,969	2
2	Delta Air Lines	6,240,097	6,544,785	1
3	American Airlines	5,449,401	5,820,897	3
4	United Airlines	4,391,521	4,604,759	4
5	Northwest Airlines	3,393,827	3,771,651	5
6	US Airways	3,088,498	3,173,840	6
7	Continental Airlines	2,493,280	2,633,736	7
8	America West Airlines	1,499,507	1,655,280	8
9	American Eagle Airlines	1,014,337	1,216,186	10
10	Alaska Airlines	1,042,001	1,146,903	9

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

**Table 7. Top 10 Airports ranked by November 2004 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Nov 2004 Rank</b>	<b>Airport Name</b>	<b>Nov. 2003</b>	<b>Nov. 2004</b>	<b>Nov. 2003 Rank</b>
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	2,939,836	3,108,168	1
2	O'Hare Int'l	2,318,991	2,441,963	2
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth Int'l	1,944,428	2,094,972	3
4	Los Angeles Int'l	1,558,254	1,702,895	4
5	Las Vegas McCarran Int'l	1,393,491	1,599,275	6
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	1,407,512	1,533,351	5
7	Denver Int'l	1,338,898	1,481,277	7
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul Int'l	1,148,856	1,261,650	9
9	Detroit Metro-Wayne County	1,149,966	1,258,040	8
10	Orlando Int'l	1,070,567	1,214,078	11

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

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