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**BTS Releases August Airline Traffic Data;
Eight Month Domestic Traffic Down (7.1) Percent from Pre-Sept. 11, 2001**
Airline and Airport Rankings on Pages 3-4

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 7.1 percent fewer domestic passengers during the first eight months of 2003 than in the comparable period in 2001 based on a year-to-year comparison of the airlines that reported traffic data in both years (Table 1).

Traffic was up 1.3 percent for the Continuously Reporting Carriers – the airlines operating large aircraft that were required to report traffic data before October 2002 – during the first eight months of 2003 from the same period in 2002, when it was down sharply from 2001, the pre-Sept. 11 period (Table 1). Commuter and small certificated carriers began reporting traffic data in October 2002.

U.S. airlines carried 1.3 percent more domestic passengers in August 2003 than in August 2002, based on a year-to-year comparison of the airlines that reported traffic data in both months — the Continuously Reporting Carriers of Tables 1 and 2A.

All reporting U.S. airlines carried 54.2 million domestic passengers in August (Table 2). This number includes 51.9 million domestic passengers on Continuously Reporting Carriers and 2.3 million domestic passengers from the collection of commuter and small certificated carriers that began reporting in October 2002 (Table 2A).

Total domestic enplanements fell 3.3 percent in August 2003 from July 2003 for all domestic flights operated by U.S. airlines. (Table 2A). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal factors.

BTS is releasing separate numbers for the Continuously Reporting Carriers and the new group of reporting carriers to allow year-to-year comparisons with comparable data.

Among airlines, Delta Air Lines reported the largest number of domestic enplanements in August 2003 – 7.0 million. (Table 3).

In addition to Southwest, for the first time, a second low cost carrier, AirTran Airways, is listed as one of the Top 10 carriers in the domestic enplanement rankings, replacing American Eagle Airlines. These data do not include traffic of the major carriers' code-share affiliates (Table 3).

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Among airports, Hartsfield International in Atlanta continued in August to be the busiest domestic airport, with 3.2 million passenger boardings (Table 4). Also, for the first time in 2003 Seattle-Tacoma International Airport qualified for the Top 10 airports.

Table 4 includes the domestic enplanements for all reporting carriers, and not just the 'Continuously Reporting Carriers'.

Table 1: Domestic Enplanements for Continuously Reporting Carriers

Month	2001	2002	2003
January	44,107,354	38,557,639	41,829,678
February	43,177,091	38,644,477	39,948,291
March	53,054,589	48,500,814	48,455,595
April	50,791,568	45,436,188	45,571,834
May	51,119,648	47,115,873	47,389,270
June	53,471,052	49,190,604	50,377,477
July	55,802,826	51,167,969	53,664,437
August	56,404,948	51,227,445	51,915,732
Year to Date	407,929,076	369,841,001	379,152,314

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements

Month	2001	2002	2003
January	44,107,354	38,557,639	43,435,951
February	43,177,091	38,644,477	41,529,313
March	53,054,589	48,500,814	50,474,701
April	50,791,568	45,436,188	47,558,874
May	51,119,648	47,115,873	49,539,495
June	53,471,052	49,190,604	52,641,085
July	55,802,826	51,167,969	56,027,922
August	56,404,948	51,227,445	53,180,009
September	30,546,412	40,219,163	
October	40,290,718	48,321,906	
November	40,691,635	44,270,425	
December	40,901,001	49,888,460	
Year to Date	407,929,076	369,841,001	395,387,350
Annual	560,358,842	552,540,963	

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

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Table 2A: Domestic Enplanements for New and Continuously Reporting Carriers

	Continuously Reporting Carriers	Carriers Reporting Beginning in Oct. 2002	Total
October 2002	46,300,940	2,020,966	48,321,906
November	42,340,135	1,930,290	44,270,425
December	47,888,352	2,000,108	49,888,460
January 2003	41,829,678	1,606,273	43,435,951
February	39,948,291	1,581,022	41,529,313
March	48,455,595	2,019,106	50,474,701
April	45,571,834	1,987,040	47,558,874
May	47,389,270	2,150,225	49,539,495
June	50,377,477	2,263,608	52,641,085
July	53,664,437	2,363,485	56,027,922
August	51,915,732	2,264,277	54,180,009

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.”

Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by August 2003 Domestic Enplanements

Rank	Airline Name	August 2002	July 2003	August 2003	Aug. 2002 Rank
1	Delta Air Lines, Inc.	7,695,594	7,190,969	7,009,446	1
2	Southwest Airlines, Co.	6,766,287	7,134,968	6,836,277	3
3	American Airlines, Inc.	7,247,622	7,007,963	6,699,904	2
4	United Airlines, Inc.	5,792,186	5,400,012	5,223,454	4
5	Northwest Airlines, Inc.	4,235,223	4,212,743	4,050,711	5
6	US Airways, Inc.	4,010,035	3,493,982	3,370,622	6
7	Continental Airlines, Inc.	2,871,211	3,020,299	2,806,609	7
8	America West Airlines, Inc.	1,774,776	1,825,634	1,779,472	8
9	Alaska Airlines, Inc.	1,316,426	1,376,591	1,393,919	9
10	AirTran Airways, Inc.	879,370	1,129,971	1,104,533	11

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

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Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by August 2003 Domestic Enplanements

Rank	Airport Name	August 2002	July 2003	August 2003	Aug. 2002 Rank
1	Hartsfield International, Atlanta	3,104,297	3,351,663	3,245,193	1
2	O'Hare International, Chicago	2,535,874	2,658,558	2,570,836	2
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth International	2,003,535	2,222,103	2,061,932	3
4	Los Angeles International	1,938,515	1,930,941	1,945,745	4
5	Denver International	1,564,114	1,738,008	1,661,733	5
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor International	1,356,431	1,620,310	1,516,570	8
7	Las Vegas-McCarran International	1,413,758	1,481,539	1,503,373	6
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul International	1,392,889	1,491,150	1,445,170	7
9	Seattle-Tacoma International	1,339,431	1,285,577	1,314,907	9
10	Detroit Metro Wayne County	1,298,452	1,353,002	1,272,998	10

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with the Bureau of Transportation Statistics by commercial air carriers detailing operations, passenger traffic and freight traffic. August 2003 traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS as of Dec. 9. Data are subject to revision.

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

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