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**BTS Releases September Airline Traffic Data;
Nine-Month Domestic Traffic Up 7.5 Percent From 2003**

U.S. airlines carried 7.5 percent more domestic passengers and flew 3.7 percent more domestic flights during the first nine months of this year than they did during the same period last year, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today reported, in a release of preliminary data (Table 2).

The airlines carried 472.3 million domestic passengers during the first nine months of 2004, up from the 439.6 million carried between January and September 2003 (Table 1). The passengers were carried on 7.4 million flights, up 3.7 percent from the 7.2 million flights operated in 2003 (Table 2).

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

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 10.5 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 7.9 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 1.7 points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 4.6 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 2.8 percent.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 61.0 million domestic passengers during the first nine 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 nine months of 2004, with 28.1 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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**AIR TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD ONE**

September 2004 Airline Traffic

In September 2004, U.S. airlines carried 47.8 million domestic passengers, 7.2 percent more than in September 2003 (Table 5).

These passengers were carried on 803,243 flights, up 1.3 percent from the flights operated in September 2003.

In other month-to-month domestic comparisons from September 2003 to September 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 4.8 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 3.4 points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 4.1 percent.

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

The number of domestic airline passengers declined 15.0 percent in September from August (Table 1). Month-to-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal factors.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 6.1 million domestic passengers during September, the most of any airline (Table 6).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during September, with 2.7 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. September traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 212 airlines as of Dec. 7. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from August 2004 and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release October traffic data on Jan. 13.

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**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
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Table 1. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements

Month	2003	2004
January	43,301,100	44,115,683
February	41,503,697	45,612,845
March	50,387,301	54,512,292
April	47,363,867	53,610,655
May	49,412,318	53,320,696
June	52,539,413	57,239,910
July	56,148,255	59,869,741
August	54,319,794	56,257,589
September	44,576,369	47,794,910
October	50,350,562	
November	47,455,309	
December	50,126,721	
Jan-September Total	439,552,114	472,334,321

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 2: Domestic Airline Travel January to September

	Jan-Sep 2003	Jan-Sep 2004	Change
Passengers	439,552,114	472,334,321	7.5%
Flights	7,158,809	7,421,467	3.7%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	372,742,314	411,732,441	10.5%
Available Seat-Miles(000)	509,391,495	549,850,683	7.9%
Load factor	73.17%	74.88%	1.7 pts
Flight stage length	574	601	4.6%
Passenger trip length	848	872	2.8%

Source: T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

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**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD THREE**

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

Rank	Airline Name	Jan-Sep 2003	Jan-Sep 2004	Jan-Sep 2003 Rank
1	Southwest Airlines	56,355,197	60,954,558	2
2	Delta Air Lines	58,373,359	59,493,659	1
3	American Airlines	54,851,441	54,663,177	3
4	United Airlines	42,485,760	45,590,457	4
5	Northwest Airlines	32,545,109	34,453,224	5
6	U.S. Airways	27,859,107	28,203,578	6
7	Continental Airlines	23,156,589	23,547,756	7
8	America West Airlines	14,508,410	15,069,456	8
9	Alaska Airlines	9,860,378	10,808,645	9
10	American Eagle Airlines	8,564,144	10,565,247	11

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

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

Rank	Airport Name	Jan-Sep 2003	Jan-Sep 2004	Jan-Sep 2003 Rank
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	26,614,454	28,135,037	1
2	O'Hare Int'l	21,282,125	23,284,557	2
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth Int'l	16,985,311	19,302,699	3
4	Los Angeles Int'l	14,736,482	16,074,476	4
5	Denver Int'l	12,975,235	14,876,363	6
6	Las Vegas McCarran Int'l	12,602,609	14,411,715	7
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	13,282,313	13,730,353	5
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul Int'l	11,269,760	12,232,223	8
9	Detroit Metro-Wayne County	10,541,126	11,336,847	9
10	Orlando Int'l	9,313,221	10,658,306	11

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 5: Domestic Airline Travel in September

	Sep. 2003	Sep. 2004	Change
Passengers	44,576,369	47,794,910	7.2%
Flights	793,214	803,243	1.3%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	37,211,565	40,968,033	10.1%
Available Seat-Miles(000)	55,566,995	58,207,225	4.8%
Load factor	66.97%	70.38%	3.4 pts
Flight stage length	572	596	4.1%
Passenger trip length	835	857	2.7%

Source: T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

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**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD FOUR**

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

Rank	Airline Name	Sept. 2003	Sept. 2004	Sept. 2003 Rank
1	Southwest Airlines	5,746,988	6,128,380	1
2	Delta Air Lines	5,745,634	5,609,903	2
3	American Airlines	5,271,735	5,326,779	3
4	United Airlines	4,265,898	4,805,982	4
5	Northwest Airlines	3,254,774	3,455,637	5
6	U.S. Airways	2,570,689	2,732,847	6
7	Continental Airlines	2,228,328	2,267,568	7
8	America West Airlines	1,495,731	1,625,499	8
9	American Eagle Airlines	933,656	1,228,603	10
10	SkyWest Airlines	908,686	1,190,535	11

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 7. Top 10 Airports ranked by September 2004 Domestic Enplanements

Rank	Airport Name	Sept. 2003	Sept. 2004	Sept. 2003 Rank
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	2,717,758	2,657,899	1
2	O'Hare Int'l	2,233,957	2,558,465	2
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth Int'l	1,681,424	1,990,584	3
4	Los Angeles Int'l	1,443,026	1,617,954	4
5	Las Vegas McCarran Int'l	1,370,317	1,566,456	6
6	Denver Int'l	1,380,021	1,553,272	5
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	1,289,461	1,417,208	7
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul Int'l	1,147,233	1,244,026	8
9	Detroit Metro-Wayne County	1,092,552	1,191,297	9
10	Seattle-Tacoma Int'l	988,241	1,100,124	11

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

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