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BTS Data

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Transportation Services Index (TSI) Rose 0.1 Percent in April from March

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) rose 0.1 percent in April from its March level, rising for the second consecutive month, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

Prior to the increases in March and April, the last time there were at least two consecutive monthly increases was in October and November 2004 (Table 2).

For the first four months of 2006, the TSI, a combination of the freight and passenger indexes, rose 0.6 percent, the third consecutive January-to-April rise (Table 3).

The April level of 111.2 for the combined freight and passenger index was 0.3 percent lower than the April 2005 level, the first decline from April of the previous year since 2002 (Table 4). The April level was 13.2 percent higher than the April level of the base year of 2000 (Table 5).

TSI is a single seasonally adjusted index of the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire transportation industries, including railroad, air, truck, inland waterways, pipeline, and local transit.

The index includes historic data from 1990 to the present. The TSI is still under development and is considered experimental. The index measures changes from the monthly average of the base year of 2000. Release of the May index is scheduled for July 6.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD ONE

Transportation Services Index for Freight

The TSI for freight fell 0.5 percent in April from the March level, turning down after a one-month rise (Table 6). The Freight TSI April 2006 level is 1.3 percent lower than the April 2005 level, the first decline from April of the previous year since 2000 (Table 7). For the first four months of 2006, the Freight TSI rose 0.1 percent, the third consecutive rise in the January-to-April period (Table 3).

Transportation Services Index for Passengers

The TSI for passengers rose 1.2 percent in April from the March level, rising for the second consecutive month (Table 8). The Passenger TSI April 2006 level rose 1.2 percent from the April 2005 level, the third consecutive rise from April of the previous year (Table 9). For the first four months of 2006, the Passenger TSI rose 0.9 percent, the third consecutive January-to-April rise (Table 3).

More on TSI

Note: TSI numbers for December 2005 (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The December TSI is 110.5, revised from the 111.3 reported in the May release. The December Freight TSI is 110.9, revised from 111.8. The December Passenger TSI is 109.5, revised from 110.0. The TSI for January, February, March and April are preliminary.

TSI revision policy: TSI is updated monthly with the latest four months' index numbers considered preliminary. Each month BTS releases the latest preliminary TSI, and replaces the oldest preliminary TSI with a revised TSI. All other revisions are held until an annual comprehensive revision of the TSI which will be released as part of the following June TSI release. More information about the revision policy and the TSI index is available at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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Table 1: Percent changes in the Transportation Services Index by Month Since October 2005 (Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
October	109.8	-0.9	109.9	-0.6	109.4	-1.9
November	111.5	1.6	112.1	2.0	109.9	0.4
December ^R	110.5	-0.9	110.9	-1.1	109.5	-0.4
January ^P	111.3	0.7	112.3	1.3	108.7	-0.7
February ^P	110.2	-0.9	111.4	-0.8	107.4	-1.2
March ^P	111.0	0.8	111.6	0.2	109.2	1.7
April ^P	111.2	0.1	111.0	-0.5	110.5	1.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

**Table 2: Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006
Percentage change from previous month**

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-1.0	-1.4	1.5	(P) 0.7
February	-1.9	2.8	-1.4	(P) -0.9
March	0.9	0.7	1.5	(P) 0.8
April	-0.5	0.7	0.0	(P) 0.1
May	-0.2	-0.4	0.4	
June	1.0	1.0	-0.5	
July	1.3	-0.2	-0.1	
August	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1	
September	1.1	0.5	-0.3	
October	0.7	0.1	-0.9	
November	-0.1	0.9	1.6	
December	2.3	-0.3	(R) -0.9	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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Table 3: Transportation Services Index Year-to-Date Change, 1997-2006
Percentage change from December of previous year
December to April

Year	TSI	Freight	Passenger
1997	3.0	4.0	1.0
1998	0.8	1.0	0.4
1999	2.1	2.3	1.8
2000	-3.7	-6.9	4.2
2001	0.8	0.9	0.6
2002	2.8	2.3	4.2
2003	-2.5	-0.6	-7.3
2004	2.7	2.5	3.1
2005	1.5	1.2	2.3
2006 ^P	0.6	0.1	0.9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

Table 4: Percent changes in the Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
April TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

Year	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1997	91.1	6.0
1998	97.4	6.9
1999	99.8	2.4
2000	98.2	-1.5
2001	99.4	1.2
2002	97.7	-1.7
2003	99.9	2.2
2004	108.7	8.8
2005	111.6	2.7
2006 ^P	111.2	-0.3

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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**Table 5: Percent Changes in the Transportation Services Index from Previous Years to 2006
April to April**

Percent change to April 2006	Since April ...	Duration in years
-0.3	2005	1
2.3	2004	2
11.3	2003	3
13.8	2002	4
11.9	2001	5
13.2	2000	6
11.5	1999	7
14.1	1998	8
22.1	1997	9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to March 2006 are all preliminary.

**Table 6: Freight Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006
Percentage change from previous month**

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-1.1	-1.6	1.4	(P) 1.3
February	-1.4	2.6	-1.2	(P) -0.8
March	1.2	0.9	1.0	(P) 0.2
April	0.7	0.6	0.0	(P) -0.5
May	-1.2	-0.3	0.2	
June	0.8	0.8	-0.5	
July	0.5	-0.5	-0.5	
August	-0.1	-0.6	0.4	
September	0.6	0.5	-1.3	
October	1.3	-0.5	-0.6	
November	-0.8	1.3	2.0	
December	2.9	-0.4	(R) -1.1	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD FIVE

**Table 7: Percent changes in the Freight Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
April Freight TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1997	92.5	6.2
1998	100.6	8.7
1999	102.1	1.5
2000	97.9	-4.2
2001	98.6	0.8
2002	99.5	0.8
2003	103.9	4.4
2004	110.9	6.7
2005	112.5	1.5
2006 ^P	111.0	-1.3

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

**Table 8: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006
Percentage change from previous month**

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-0.8	-1.1	1.5	(P) -0.7
February	-3.1	3.4	-2.0	(P) -1.2
March	0.2	0.1	2.9	(P) 1.7
April	-3.7	0.8	-0.1	(P) 1.2
May	2.3	-0.7	0.8	
June	1.5	1.6	-0.5	
July	3.4	0.5	0.9	
August	-0.6	0.1	-1.3	
September	2.2	0.5	2.3	
October	-0.7	1.6	-1.9	
November	1.3	-0.2	0.4	
December	1.1	-0.2	(R) -0.4	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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Table 9: Percent changes in the Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
April Passenger TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1997	87.6	5.6
1998	90.4	3.1
1999	94.3	4.4
2000	99.1	5.0
2001	101.0	1.9
2002	93.5	-7.4
2003	90.5	-3.2
2004	103.4	14.3
2005	109.2	5.5
2006 ^P	110.5	1.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD SEVEN

Brief Explanation of the TSI

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) is a measure of the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire transportation industries.

The TSI tells us how the output of transportation services has increased or decreased from month to month. The index can be examined together with other economic indicators to produce a better understanding of the current and future course of the economy. The movement of the index over time can be compared with other economic measures to understand the relationship of changes in transportation output to changes in Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The TSI is still under development and is therefore considered experimental. It is being examined for refinements in data sources, methodologies and interpretations.

The freight transportation index consists of:

For hire trucking,

Railroad freight services (including rail based intermodal shipments such as containers on flat cars),

Inland waterways transportation,

Pipeline transportation (including principally petroleum and petroleum products and natural gas), and

Air freight.

The index does not include international or coastal waterborne movements, private trucking, courier services, or the US Postal Service.

The passenger transportation index consists of:

Local transit,

Intercity passenger rail, and

Passenger air transportation.

The index does not include intercity bus, sight seeing services, ferry services, taxi service, private automobile usage, or bicycling and other non-motorized transportation.

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