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AMERICAN
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BTS Releases Transportation Services Index (TSI) Index Rose 1.3 Percent in October from September

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) rose 1.3 percent in October to 126.7 (1996=100) for the second consecutive monthly rise, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics reported today (Table 1).

The October level of 126.7 for the combined freight and passenger index was 6.6 percent higher than the October 2003 level of 118.9 (Table 2). The October 2004 level was 24.7 percent higher than October of the base year of 1996 (Table 3).

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.

Changes are measured against the monthly average for the base year of 1996. The index includes historic data from 1990 to the present. The TSI is still under development and is considered experimental. The next release is scheduled for Feb. 7.

Transportation Services Index for Freight

The TSI for freight rose 1.1 percent to 127.6 in October from the September level of 126.2 for the second consecutive monthly rise (Table 1). The October 2004 level of 127.6 is 5.9 percent higher than the October 2003 level of 120.5 (Table 4).

Transportation Services Index for Passengers

The TSI for passengers rose 1.9 percent to 125.2 in October from the September level of 122.8 for the second consecutive monthly rise (Table 1). The October 2004 level of 125.2 is 8.4 percent higher than the October 2003 level of 115.4 (Table 5).

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**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD ONE**

More on TSI

During the six months ending in October, the TSI rose 1.1 percent. The Freight TSI rose 0.8 percent and the Passenger TSI rose 1.9 percent during the six-month period.

Note: TSI numbers for July (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The July TSI is 126.0, revised from the 125.5 reported in the December release. The July Freight TSI is 127.2, revised from the 126.9 reported in the December release. The July Passenger TSI is 123.9, revised from the 122.7 reported in the December release. The TSI for September, October and November are preliminary.

TSI revision policy: TSI is updated monthly with the latest three months' index numbers considered preliminary. Each month BTS releases the latest preliminary TSI, and replaces the oldest preliminary TSI with a revised TSI.

BTS updates the preliminary TSI from three months earlier in its monthly release of the TSI. The most recent month and the two previous months will remain preliminary. 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 is available at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

Table 1: Percent changes in the Transportation Services Index by Month Since April 2004 (Seasonally Adjusted)

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
April	125.4	1.4	127.1	1.5	121.8	1.0
May	125.1	-0.2	126.7	-0.3	121.6	-0.2
June	125.5	0.4	126.6	-0.1	123.4	1.5
July ^R	126.0	0.4	127.2	0.5	123.9	0.4
August ^P	124.5	-1.2	125.6	-1.2	122.3	-1.3
September ^P	125.1	0.5	126.2	0.5	122.8	0.4
October ^P	126.7	1.3	127.6	1.1	125.2	1.9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

R = revised

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Table 2: Percent changes in the Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year October TSI (Monthly average of 1996 = 100)

	TSI	Percent change from previous year
1996	101.6	4.1
1997	108.9	7.2
1998	113.5	4.3
1999	118.8	4.6
2000	115.1	-3.1
2001	108.5	-5.8
2002	116.0	6.9
2003	118.9	2.5
2004 ^P	126.7	6.6

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

Table 3: Percent Changes in the Transportation Services Index from Previous Years to 2004

October to October

Percent change to October 2004	Since October . . .	Duration
6.6	2003	One Year
9.3	2002	Two Years
16.8	2001	Three Years
10.1	2000	Four Years
6.7	1999	Five Years
11.6	1998	Six Years
16.4	1997	Seven Years
24.7	1996	Eight Years

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Table 4: Percent changes in the Freight Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year October Freight TSI (Monthly average of 1996 = 100)

	Freight TSI	Percent change from previous year
1996	101.9	3.5
1997	110.7	8.7
1998	115.4	4.2
1999	119.6	3.7
2000	113.1	-5.4
2001	112.7	-0.4
2002	117.8	4.6
2003	120.5	2.3
2004 ^P	127.6	5.9

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 Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
October Passenger TSI (Monthly average of 1996 = 100)**

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from previous year
1996	100.9	5.6
1997	105.1	4.1
1998	109.7	4.4
1999	117.2	6.9
2000	120.4	2.7
2001	99.0	-17.8
2002	112.1	13.3
2003	115.4	2.9
2004 ^P	125.2	8.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

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 (not including parcel services),
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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