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BTS Data

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Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Rose 2.4 Percent in January from December

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) rose 2.4 percent in January from its December level, matching its largest monthly increase in the last two years, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

The January increase was the third rise in the last four months (Table 2). At 111.5, the freight TSI is down 1.5 percent from its peak of 113.1 achieved in November 2005 but up 3.2 percent in the four months since its recent low of 108.0 in September 2007. For additional historical data, go to <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

With the January increase of 2.4 percent, the freight index had its largest climb to start the year since the January 1993 increase of 4.2 percent (Table 3).

The freight TSI measures the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire freight transportation industries. The index consists of data from for-hire trucking, rail, inland waterways, pipelines and air freight.

The January freight TSI of 111.5 was 2.7 percent higher than the January 2007 level and remains 0.3 percent below the January 2006 level and 1.3 percent lower than the January 2005 level (Table 4).

Despite declines from recent January levels, the freight index has increased 7.9 percent in five years and 13.5 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

The TSI is a seasonally adjusted index that measures changes from the monthly average of the base year of 2000. It includes historic data from 1990 to the present. Release of the February index is scheduled for April 9.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD ONE

BTS has issued a new technical report explaining the TSI. *BTS Technical Report: Transportation Services Index and the Economy* is available for download at <https://www.bts.gov/pdc/index.xml> in the BTS bookstore.

Transportation Services Index for Passengers

The TSI for passengers fell 1.4 percent in January from its December level, falling after a one-month rise (Table 6). The Passenger TSI January 2008 level of 115.5 was 1.3 percent higher than the January 2007 level, marking six consecutive annual increases since January 2003 (Table 7). With the January decline, the passenger index dropped to start the year as it did in 2007 (Table 3). However, the passenger index is up 19.2 percent in five years and 27.6 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

The passenger TSI measures the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire passenger transportation industries. The seasonally adjusted index consists of data from air, local transit and intercity rail.

Combined Freight and Passenger Index

The combined freight and passenger TSI rose 1.5 percent in January from its December level, after a one-month decline (Table 8). The combined TSI January 2008 level of 112.1 was 2.4 percent higher than the January 2007 level (Table 9). With the January increase, the combined index started the year with an increase following a decline to start 2007 (Table 3). The combined index is up 10.7 percent in five years and 17.2 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

The combined TSI merges the freight and passenger indexes into a single index.

More on TSI

Note: TSI numbers for September (Freight, Passenger and Combined) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The September Freight TSI is 108.0, revised from the 108.1 reported in the February release. The September Passenger TSI is 117.4, revised from 117.2. The September Combined TSI is unchanged from 109.9. The TSI for October, November, December and January 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. More information about the monthly revision policy, the 2007 comprehensive revision conducted with the July release and the TSI index is available at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>

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Table 1: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes since July 2007

Percent Change by Month
(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
July	108.4	0.1	116.2	-0.1	109.9	0.0
August	109.0	0.5	117.4	1.1	110.7	0.7
September ^R	108.0	-0.9	117.4	-0.1	109.9	-0.7
October ^P	109.5	1.4	116.0	-1.2	110.7	0.8
November ^P	110.2	0.7	115.0	-0.9	111.0	0.3
December ^P	108.8	-1.3	117.1	1.8	110.5	-0.5
January^P	111.5	2.4	115.5	-1.4	112.1	1.5

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 2: Freight Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2005-2008
Percent change from previous month

	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth	2008 % Growth
January	1.7	0.4	-0.3	(P) 2.4
February	-0.9	-1.4	0.0	
March	0.1	0.4	1.1	
April	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	
May	0.0	2.4	-0.1	
June	-0.4	-0.3	-0.7	
July	-0.5	-0.9	0.1	
August	1.0	-2.5	0.5	
September	-1.3	0.9	(R) -0.9	
October	-0.3	-0.1	(P) 1.4	
November	2.8	-1.4	(P) 0.7	
December	-1.7	0.6	(P) -1.3	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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Table 3: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes Annual Change, 1999-2008

Percent change from December of previous year
December to January

Year	Freight	Passenger	Combined
1999	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
2000	-0.7	0.1	-0.5
2001	1.4	0.6	1.1
2002	0.9	0.3	0.7
2003	-1.3	-0.8	-1.2
2004	-1.5	-1.2	-1.4
2005	1.7	1.4	1.6
2006	0.4	1.9	0.8
2007	-0.3	-0.1	-0.3
2008^P	2.4	-1.4	1.5

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

Table 4: Freight Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year

Percent change in the January Freight TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1999	99.8	1.7
2000	104.2	4.4
2001	99.2	-4.8
2002	98.2	-1.0
2003	103.3	5.2
2004	106.5	3.1
2005	112.9	6.0
2006	111.7	-1.0
2007	108.5	-2.9
2008^P	111.5	2.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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**Table 5: Transportation Services Indexes from Previous Years
Percent Change to 2008 (January to January)**

Since January. . .	Duration in years	Freight TSI Percent change to January 2008	Passenger TSI Percent change to January 2008	Combined TSI Percent change to January 2008
2007	1	2.7	1.3	2.4
2006	2	-0.3	4.1	0.8
2005	3	-1.3	7.0	0.7
2004	4	4.7	16.4	7.5
2003	5	7.9	19.2	10.7
2002	6	13.5	26.1	16.6
2001	7	12.4	13.7	12.1
2000	8	6.9	21.1	10.6
1999	9	11.6	23.6	14.7
1998	10	13.5	27.6	17.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to October 2007 are all preliminary.

**Table 6: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2005-2008
Percent change from previous month**

	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth	2008 % Growth
January	1.4	1.9	-0.1	(P) -1.4
February	-0.1	-0.6	-2.0	
March	0.5	1.0	2.2	
April	0.0	0.3	0.5	
May	0.8	0.6	1.5	
June	0.1	-1.0	-0.2	
July	0.1	0.5	-0.1	
August	0.2	0.0	1.1	
September	1.4	0.9	(R) -0.1	
October	-1.9	0.4	(P) -1.2	
November	0.7	-0.2	(P) -0.9	
December	-0.9	1.1	(P) 1.8	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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**Table 7: Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
Percent change in the January Passenger TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1999	93.4	3.2
2000	95.3	2.1
2001	101.6	6.5
2002	91.5	-9.9
2003	96.8	5.8
2004	99.2	2.5
2005	107.9	8.7
2006	110.9	2.8
2007	114.0	2.8
2008^P	115.5	1.3

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 8: Combined Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2005-2008
Percent change from previous month**

	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth	2008 % Growth
January	1.6	0.8	-0.3	(P) 1.5
February	-0.7	-1.2	-0.5	
March	0.2	0.6	1.4	
April	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	
May	0.2	2.0	0.3	
June	-0.3	-0.4	-0.6	
July	-0.3	-0.6	0.0	
August	0.8	-1.9	0.7	
September	-0.6	0.9	(R) -0.7	
October	-0.7	0.1	(P) 0.8	
November	2.3	-1.1	(P) 0.3	
December	-1.5	0.7	(P) -0.5	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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**Table 9: Combined Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
Percent change in the January TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1999	97.8	2.2
2000	101.4	3.7
2001	100.0	-1.4
2002	96.2	-3.8
2003	101.3	5.4
2004	104.3	2.9
2005	111.3	6.8
2006	111.2	-0.1
2007	109.5	-1.6
2008^P	112.1	2.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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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 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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