



**M O V I N G T H E
AMERICAN
ECONOMY**

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BTS Data

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Transportation Services Index (TSI) Rose 0.8 Percent in May from April

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) rose 0.8 percent in May to 112.6 (2000=100) from the April level of 111.7, the third consecutive monthly increase, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

BTS, a part of DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the May level of 112.6 for the combined freight and passenger index was 4.0 percent higher than the May 2004 level of 108.3 (Table 2). The May 2005 level was 12.9 percent higher than the May level of the base year of 2000 (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.

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. The next release is scheduled for Sept. 6.

Transportation Services Index for Freight

The TSI for freight rose 0.5 percent to 113.1 in May from the April level of 112.6, the third consecutive monthly increase (Table 1). The May 2005 level of 113.1 is 2.4 percent higher than the May 2004 level of 110.5 (Table 4).

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**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD ONE**

Transportation Services Index for Passengers

The TSI for passengers rose 1.8 percent to 111.2 in May from the April level of 109.3, the third consecutive monthly increase (Table 1). The May 2005 level of 111.2 is 8.2 percent higher than the May 2004 level of 102.8 and 20.0 percent higher than the May 2003 level of 92.6 (Table 5).

More on TSI

During the six months ending in May, the TSI rose 2.1 percent, the Freight TSI rose 1.3 percent and the Passenger TSI rose 3.9 percent (Table 1).

Notes: TSI numbers for February 2005 (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The February TSI of 110.0 and the February Passenger TSI of 106.2 were unchanged from the July release. The January Freight TSI is 111.5, revised from 111.4. The TSI for March, April and May 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. All other revisions are held until an annual comprehensive revision of the TSI which will be released as part of the following July 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 November 2004 (Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)**

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
November	110.3	0.9	111.7	1.3	107.0	-0.2
December	109.9	-0.3	111.2	-0.4	106.8	-0.2
January	111.6	1.5	112.8	1.4	108.4	1.5
February ^R	110.0	-1.4	111.5	-1.2	106.2	-2.0
March ^P	111.6	1.5	112.5	0.9	109.2	2.8
April ^P	111.7	0.1	112.6	0.1	109.3	0.1
May ^P	112.6	0.8	113.1	0.5	111.2	1.8

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE**ADD TWO****Table 2: Percent changes in the Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
May TSI (Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1996	86.7	2.6
1997	91.3	5.3
1998	97.8	7.2
1999	99.8	2.0
2000	99.7	-0.1
2001	100.0	0.3
2002	99.3	-0.8
2003	99.7	0.4
2004	108.3	8.6
2005 ^P	112.6	4.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

**Table 3: Percent Changes in the Transportation Services Index from Previous Years
to 2005****May to May**

Percent change to May 2005	Since May . . .	Duration in years
4.0	2004	1
13.0	2003	2
13.4	2002	3
12.6	2001	4
12.9	2000	5
12.8	1999	6
15.2	1998	7
23.4	1997	8
29.9	1996	9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1996	87.6	0.9
1997	92.7	5.8
1998	100.7	8.7
1999	102.6	1.8
2000	99.5	-3.0
2001	99.9	0.5
2002	101.3	1.4
2003	102.7	1.3
2004	110.5	7.7
2005 ^P	113.1	2.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD THREE

Table 5: Percent changes in the Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year

May Passenger TSI (Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1996	84.2	6.5
1997	87.7	4.2
1998	91.1	3.9
1999	93.4	2.5
2000	100.3	7.4
2001	100.2	-0.2
2002	94.4	-5.7
2003	92.6	-1.9
2004	102.8	11.0
2005 ^P	111.2	8.2

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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