



M O V I N G T H E
AMERICAN
ECONOMY

U.S. Department of Transportation
Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Washington, D.C.
www.bts.gov



BTS 07-05
Monday, Feb. 7, 2005

Dave Smallen
Tel.: (202) 366-5568

BTS Releases Transportation Services Index (TSI) Index Rose 0.7 Percent in November from October

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) rose 0.7 percent in November to 127.6 (1996=100) for the second consecutive monthly rise, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics reported today (Table 1).

The November level of 127.6 for the combined freight and passenger index was 6.7 percent higher than the November 2003 level of 119.6 (Table 2). The November 2004 level was 25.5 percent higher than the November level 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.

The index includes historic data from 1990 to the present. The TSI is still under development and is considered experimental. The index measures change from the monthly average for the base year of 1996. The next release is scheduled for March 7.

Transportation Services Index for Freight

The TSI for freight rose 1.0 percent to 128.9 in November from the October level of 127.6 for the second consecutive monthly rise (Table 1). The November 2004 level of 128.9 is 7.0 percent higher than the November 2003 level of 120.4 (Table 4).

Transportation Services Index for Passengers

The TSI for passengers remained virtually unchanged at 125.1 in November from the October level of 125.2 (Table 1). The November 2004 level of 125.1 is 6.1 percent higher than the November 2003 level of 117.9 (Table 5).

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**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD ONE**

More on TSI

During the six months ending in November, the TSI rose 2.0 percent, the Freight TSI rose 1.7 percent and the Passenger TSI rose 2.9 percent.

Note: TSI numbers for August (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The August TSI is 125.5, revised from the 124.5 reported in the January release. The August Freight TSI is 126.4, revised from the 125.6 reported in the January release. The August Passenger TSI is 124.0, revised from the 122.3 reported in the January 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. 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 May 2004 (Seasonally Adjusted)

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
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	126.0	0.4	127.2	0.5	123.9	0.4
August ^R	125.5	-0.4	126.4	-0.6	124.0	0.1
September ^P	125.1	-0.4	126.2	-0.1	122.8	-0.9
October ^P	126.7	1.3	127.6	1.1	125.2	1.9
November ^P	127.6	0.7	128.9	1.0	125.1	0.0

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 November TSI (Monthly average of 1996 = 100)

	TSI	Percent change from previous year
1996	101.7	4.4
1997	109.0	7.2
1998	113.9	4.4
1999	118.7	4.2
2000	115.5	-2.7
2001	108.9	-5.6
2002	116.6	7.0
2003	119.6	2.5
2004 ^P	127.6	6.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

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

November to November

Percent change to November 2004	Since November . . .	Duration
6.7	2003	One Year
9.4	2002	Two Years
17.2	2001	Three Years
10.5	2000	Four Years
7.5	1999	Five Years
12.1	1998	Six Years
17.0	1997	Seven Years
25.5	1996	Eight Years

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

	Freight TSI	Percent change from previous year
1996	102.3	4.6
1997	110.6	8.1
1998	115.7	4.6
1999	119.3	3.1
2000	113.2	-5.1
2001	111.3	-1.7
2002	118.5	6.5
2003	120.4	1.6
2004 ^P	128.9	7.0

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
November Passenger TSI (Monthly average of 1996 = 100)**

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from previous year
1996	100.4	4.0
1997	105.8	5.4
1998	110.1	4.0
1999	117.6	6.8
2000	121.4	3.2
2001	103.8	-14.5
2002	112.5	8.4
2003	117.9	4.8
2004 ^P	125.1	6.1

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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