



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

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Research and Innovative Technology  
Administration  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm](http://www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm)

**BTS Data**

BTS 7-08  
Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Contact: Dave Smallen  
Tel.: 202-366-5568

## **Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell 1.3 Percent in December from November**

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) fell 1.3 percent in December from its November level turning down after two monthly increases in the largest monthly decline since November 2006, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

The December decline dropped the freight index into negative territory in 2007, declining 0.1 percent for the year. Increases in October and November turned the index positive after being down for the first nine months of the year through September (Table 3).

The 0.1 percent decline in 2007 was the second consecutive annual decline. In 2006, the index declined 2.2 percent (Table 3).

The December decline was the first after the index rose a combined 1.9 percent in the previous two months (Table 2). At 108.8, the freight TSI is down 3.8 percent from its peak of 113.1 achieved in November 2005 and up 0.7 percent in the two months from its recent low of 108.1 in September 2007. For additional historical data, go to <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

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 December freight TSI of 108.8 was 0.1 percent lower than the December 2006 level and remains 2.2 percent below the December 2005 level and 2.0 percent lower than the December 2004 level (Table 4).

Despite declines from recent December levels, the freight index has increased 4.0 percent in five years and 12.4 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

--more--

## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE ADD ONE

The TSI is an index of the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by for-hire transportation industries. It includes historic data from 1990 to the present. The TSI is still under development and is considered experimental. The seasonally adjusted index measures changes from the monthly average of the base year of 2000. Release of the January index is scheduled for March 12.

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 passenger index rose 2.5 percent during 2007, the sixth consecutive annual increase since 2001 (Table 3). The TSI for passengers rose 1.8 percent in December from its November level, rising after three monthly declines (Table 6). The Passenger TSI December 2007 level of 117.1 was 2.5 percent higher than the December 2006 level (Table 7). The passenger index is up 19.9 percent in five years and 30.2 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 index rose 0.6 percent during 2007 (Table 3). The combined TSI fell 0.5 percent in December from its November level, falling after two monthly increases (Table 8). The combined TSI December 2007 level of 110.5 was 0.6 percent higher than the December 2006 level (Table 9). The combined index is up 7.8 percent in five years and 16.8 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 August (Freight, Passenger and Combined) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The August Freight TSI is 109.0, revised from the 108.9 reported in the January release. The August Passenger TSI is 117.4, revised from 115.1. The August Combined TSI is 110.7, revised from 110.1. The TSI for September, October, November and December are preliminary.

--more--

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD TWO

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>.

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

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

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
June	108.4	-0.7	116.2	-0.2	109.9	-0.6
July	108.4	0.1	116.2	-0.1	109.9	0.0
August <sup>R</sup>	109.0	0.5	117.4	1.1	110.7	0.7
September <sup>P</sup>	108.1	-0.8	117.2	-0.2	109.9	-0.7
October <sup>P</sup>	109.5	1.3	116.0	-1.0	110.7	0.7
November <sup>P</sup>	110.2	0.7	115.0	-0.9	111.0	0.3
<b>December<sup>P</sup></b>	108.8	-1.3	117.1	1.8	110.5	-0.5

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, 2004-2007**  
Percent change from previous month

	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth
January	-1.5	1.7	0.4	-0.3
February	3.0	-0.9	-1.4	0.0
March	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.1
April	0.7	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4
May	-0.4	0.0	2.4	-0.1
June	0.3	-0.4	-0.3	-0.7
July	-0.2	-0.5	-0.9	0.1
August	-0.4	1.0	-2.5	(R) 0.5
September	0.2	-1.3	0.9	(P) -0.8
October	0.2	-0.3	-0.1	(P) 1.3
November	1.2	2.8	-1.4	(P) 0.7
<b>December</b>	-0.4	-1.7	0.6	(P) -1.3

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD THREE

**Table 3: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes Annual Change, 1998-2007**

Percent change from December of previous year  
December to December

Year	Freight	Passenger	Combined
1998	3.2	4.0	3.5
1999	5.1	1.9	4.1
2000	-6.8	6.0	-2.9
2001	-0.6	-9.6	-3.4
2002	7.5	7.0	7.4
2003	3.3	2.9	3.2
2004	2.7	5.9	3.6
2005	0.2	2.3	0.8
2006	-2.2	4.9	-0.5
<b>2007<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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

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

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1998	99.9	3.2
1999	105.0	5.1
2000	97.9	-6.8
2001	97.3	-0.6
2002	104.6	7.5
2003	108.1	3.3
2004	111.0	2.7
2005	111.3	0.2
2006	108.9	-2.2
<b>2007<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD FOUR

**Table 5: Transportation Services Indexes from Previous Years**  
**Percent Change to 2007 (December to December)**

Since December . . .	Duration in years	Freight TSI Percent change to December 2007	Passenger TSI Percent change to December 2007	Combined TSI Percent change to December 2007
2006	1	-0.1	2.5	0.6
2005	2	-2.2	7.6	0.1
2004	3	-2.0	10.1	0.9
2003	4	0.7	16.6	4.4
2002	5	4.0	19.9	7.8
2001	6	11.8	28.3	15.7
2000	7	11.2	16.0	11.7
1999	8	3.6	22.9	8.4
1998	9	8.9	25.2	12.9
1997	10	12.4	30.2	16.8

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

**Table 6: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2004-2007**  
**Percent change from previous month**

	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth
January	-1.2	1.4	1.9	-0.1
February	1.8	-0.1	-0.6	-2.0
March	1.1	0.5	1.0	2.2
April	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.5
May	-0.3	0.8	0.6	1.5
June	1.6	0.1	-1.0	-0.2
July	0.2	0.1	0.5	-0.1
August	0.9	0.2	0.0	(R) 1.1
September	-0.2	1.4	0.9	(P) -0.2
October	2.2	-1.9	0.4	(P) -1.0
November	-0.9	0.7	-0.2	(P) -0.9
<b>December</b>	-0.1	-0.9	1.1	(P) 1.8

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD FIVE

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

	<b>Passenger TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
1998	93.5	4.0
1999	95.3	1.9
2000	101.0	6.0
2001	91.3	-9.6
2002	97.6	7.0
2003	100.5	2.9
2004	106.4	5.9
2005	108.8	2.3
2006	114.2	4.9
<b>2007<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>117.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>

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, 2004-2007  
Percent change from previous month**

	<b>2004 % Growth</b>	<b>2005 % Growth</b>	<b>2006 % Growth</b>	<b>2007 % Growth</b>
January	-1.4	1.6	0.8	-0.3
February	2.6	-0.7	-1.2	-0.5
March	0.4	0.2	0.6	1.4
April	0.7	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2
May	-0.4	0.2	2.0	0.3
June	0.7	-0.3	-0.4	-0.6
July	-0.1	-0.3	-0.6	0.0
August	-0.1	0.8	-1.9	(R) 0.7
September	0.1	-0.6	0.9	(P) -0.7
October	0.7	-0.7	0.1	(P) 0.7
November	0.6	2.3	-1.1	(P) 0.3
<b>December</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>(P) -0.5</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD SIX

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

	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1998	97.8	3.5
1999	101.9	4.1
2000	98.9	-2.9
2001	95.4	-3.4
2002	102.5	7.4
2003	105.8	3.2
2004	109.5	3.6
2005	110.4	0.8
2006	109.8	-0.5
<b>2007<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 10: Freight Transportation Services Index Change by Quarter, 1998-2007  
Percentage change from the last month of the previous quarter**

Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
	(Jan-Mar) % Growth	(Apr-Jun) % Growth	(Jul-Sep) % Growth	(Oct-Dec) % Growth
1998	2.1	2.3	-1.3	0.1
1999	2.9	-0.4	1.7	0.9
2000	-4.8	0.3	-1.4	-0.9
2001	1.6	-0.7	-1.3	-0.1
2002	1.6	2.6	1.1	2.0
2003	-1.5	0.1	1.2	3.5
2004	1.6	0.6	-0.4	1.0
2005	0.9	-0.7	-0.7	0.8
2006	-0.5	1.8	-2.5	-0.9
<b>2007</b>	0.8	-1.3	(P) -0.3	(P) 0.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

- more -

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD SEVEN

**Table 11: Passenger Transportation Services Index Change by Quarter, 1998-2007**  
Percentage change from the last month of the previous quarter

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
	Quarter (Jan- Mar) % Growth	Quarter (Apr- Jun) % Growth	Quarter (Jul- Sep) % Growth	Quarter (Oct- Dec) % Growth
1998	-0.4	0.3	0.3	3.9
1999	0.2	0.4	3.3	-1.9
2000	4.1	0.9	2.5	-1.6
2001	-0.5	-0.2	-21.0	15.2
2002	2.0	1.4	-0.6	4.1
2003	-4.0	-0.2	5.0	2.3
2004	1.6	2.0	0.9	1.2
2005	1.8	0.9	1.7	-2.1
2006	2.2	-0.1	1.4	1.3
<b>2007</b>	0.0	1.8	(P) 0.8	(P) 0.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

**Table 12: Combined Transportation Services Index Change by Quarter, 1998-2007**  
Percentage change from the last month of the previous quarter

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
	Quarter (Jan- Mar) % Growth	Quarter (Apr- Jun) % Growth	Quarter (Jul- Sep) % Growth	Quarter (Oct- Dec) % Growth
1998	1.3	1.7	-0.8	1.2
1999	2.0	-0.2	2.2	0.0
2000	-2.1	0.5	-0.2	-1.2
2001	0.9	-0.5	-7.4	3.9
2002	1.7	2.3	0.6	2.6
2003	-2.2	0.0	2.2	3.2
2004	1.6	1.0	-0.1	1.0
2005	1.2	-0.3	-0.1	0.1
2006	0.1	1.4	-1.6	-0.4
<b>2007</b>	0.6	-0.5	(P) 0.0	(P) 0.5

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

- more -



# TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

## ADD EIGHT

### **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.

- end -