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BTS Data

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

Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell 0.1 Percent in January from December

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) fell 0.1 percent in January from its December level, falling for the second consecutive month, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today in the first release of the index on an accelerated schedule (Table 1).

Beginning with this release, BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), will be releasing the TSI one month after the end of the reference period. Previous releases were issued two months following the reference period. The December index and annual index numbers through 2005 are included in this release.

The January decline of 0.1 percent was the second consecutive monthly decline after a 1.2 percent rise in November (Table 2).

The TSI, a combination of the freight and passenger indexes, declined in January, as did the passenger TSI. In comparison, both indexes rose to start 2005. The freight index increased in January by a smaller amount than it did a year ago (Table 3).

The January level of 111.3 for the combined freight and passenger index was 0.3 percent lower than the January 2005 level, the first decline from January of the previous year since 2002 (Table 4). The January level was 9.5 percent higher than the January level of the base year of 2000 (Table 5).

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. Release of February numbers is scheduled for April 6.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD ONE

Transportation Services Index for Freight

The TSI for freight rose 0.5 percent in January from the December level, rising after a one-month decrease (Table 6). The Freight TSI January 2006 level is 0.5 percent lower than the January 2005 level, the first decline from January of the previous year since 2002 (Table 7).

Transportation Services Index for Passengers

The TSI for passengers fell 1.2 percent in January from the December level, falling after a one-month increase (Table 8). The Passenger TSI January 2006 level is 0.3 percent higher than the January 2005 level, the smallest increase from January of the previous year since a decline in 2002 (Table 9).

2005 Annual and 4th Quarter 2005 Changes

The combined TSI and its components all increased in 2005 for the fourth consecutive year. The TSI gain of 1.2 percent in 2005 was the smallest annual increase since a 3.6 percent decline in 2001. The Freight TSI gain of 0.5 percent in 2005 was the smallest annual increase since a 0.6 percent decline in 2001. The Passenger TSI gain of 3.0 percent was smaller than the 2004 increase but slightly larger than its 2003 increase (Table 10).

On a quarterly basis, the TSI rise of 0.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2005 was the first quarterly increase since the first quarter of 2005, when the index rose 1.5 percent (Table 11). The Freight TSI increase of 1.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2005 was the first quarterly increase since the first quarter of 2005 (Table 12). The Passenger TSI decrease of 1.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2005 was the first quarterly decrease since the first quarter of 2003 following nine consecutive quarterly increases (Table 13).

More on TSI

Note: TSI numbers for September 2005 (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The September TSI is 110.8, revised from the 111.6 reported in the February release. The September Freight TSI is 110.6, revised from the 111.8. The September Passenger TSI is 111.5, revised from the 110.9. 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. 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 and the TSI index is available at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD TWO

Table 1: Percent changes in the Transportation Services Index by Month Since July 2005 (Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
July	111.3	-0.1	111.6	-0.5	110.4	0.9
August	111.2	-0.1	112.0	0.4	109.0	-1.3
September ^R	110.8	-0.3	110.6	-1.3	111.5	2.3
October ^P	110.9	0.0	111.3	0.6	109.7	-1.7
November ^P	112.2	1.2	113.2	1.7	109.5	-0.2
December ^P	111.3	-0.8	111.8	-1.3	110.0	0.5
January ^P	111.3	-0.1	112.3	0.5	108.7	-1.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

**Table 2: Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006
Percentage change from previous month**

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-1.0	-1.4	1.5	-0.1 ^P
February	-1.9	2.8	-1.4	
March	0.9	0.7	1.5	
April	-0.5	0.7	0.0	
May	-0.2	-0.4	0.4	
June	1.0	1.0	-0.5	
July	1.3	-0.2	-0.1	
August	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1	
September	1.1	0.5	-0.3 ^R	
October	0.7	0.1	0.0 ^P	
November	-0.1	0.9	1.2 ^P	
December	2.3	-0.3	-0.8 ^P	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD THREE

Table 3: Transportation Services Index Year-to-Date Change, 1997-2006
Percentage change from December of previous year
December to January

Year	TSI	Freight	Passenger
1997	0.9	1.0	0.5
1998	-0.6	-0.9	-0.1
1999	0.5	0.2	1.2
2000	-0.4	-0.7	0.2
2001	1.1	1.5	0.3
2002	1.2	0.9	2.0
2003	-1.0	-1.1	-0.8
2004	-1.4	-1.6	-1.1
2005	1.5	1.4	1.5
2006 ^P	-0.1	0.5	-1.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics
NOTE: P = preliminary

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

Year	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1997	89.2	7.7
1998	95.9	7.5
1999	98.2	2.4
2000	101.6	3.5
2001	99.7	-1.9
2002	96.1	-3.6
2003	101.4	5.5
2004	104.3	2.9
2005	111.6	7.0
2006 ^P	111.3	-0.3

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics
NOTE: P = preliminary

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD FOUR

**Table 5: Percent Changes in the Transportation Services Index from Previous Years to 2006
January to January**

Percent change to January 2006	Since January ...	Duration in years
-0.3	2005	1
6.7	2004	2
9.7	2003	3
15.7	2002	4
11.6	2001	5
9.5	2000	6
13.3	1999	7
16.0	1998	8
24.7	1997	9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to January 2006 are all preliminary.

**Table 6: Freight Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006
Percentage change from previous month**

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-1.1	-1.6	1.4	0.5 ^P
February	-1.4	2.6	-1.2	
March	1.2	0.9	1.0	
April	0.7	0.6	0.0	
May	-1.2	-0.3	0.2	
June	0.8	0.8	-0.5	
July	0.5	-0.5	-0.5	
August	-0.1	-0.6	0.4	
September	0.6	0.5	-1.3 ^R	
October	1.3	-0.5	0.6 ^P	
November	-0.8	1.3	1.7 ^P	
December	2.9	-0.4	-1.3 ^P	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD FIVE

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

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1997	89.9	7.6
1998	98.4	9.5
1999	100.1	1.6
2000	104.4	4.3
2001	99.2	-4.9
2002	98.1	-1.2
2003	103.3	5.4
2004	106.4	3.0
2005	112.8	6.0
2006 ^P	112.3	-0.5

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

**Table 8: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006
Percentage change from previous month**

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-0.8	-1.1	1.5	-1.2 ^P
February	-3.1	3.4	-2.0	
March	0.2	0.1	2.9	
April	-3.7	0.8	-0.1	
May	2.3	-0.7	0.8	
June	1.5	1.6	-0.5	
July	3.4	0.5	0.9	
August	-0.6	0.1	-1.3	
September	2.2	0.5	2.3 ^R	
October	-0.7	1.6	-1.7 ^P	
November	1.3	-0.2	-0.2 ^P	
December	1.1	-0.2	0.5 ^P	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD SIX

Table 9: Percent changes in the Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year

January Freight TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1997	87.2	7.9
1998	90.1	3.4
1999	93.7	4.0
2000	95.2	1.6
2001	100.6	5.7
2002	91.5	-9.0
2003	96.8	5.7
2004	99.2	2.5
2005	108.4	9.2
2006 ^P	108.7	0.3

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

Table 10: Transportation Services Index Annual Change, 1996-2005

Percentage change from December of previous year
December to December

Year	TSI	Freight	Passenger
1996	4.0	3.1	6.0
1997	7.4	9.2	3.6
1998	2.9	2.8	3.0
1999	4.4	5.3	2.6
2000	-3.4	-7.0	5.6
2001	-3.6	-0.6	-10.6
2002	7.8	7.5	8.8
2003	3.3	3.5	2.8
2004	3.9	2.9	6.4
2005 ^P	1.2	0.5	3.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD SEVEN

Table 11: Transportation Services Index Change by Quarter, 1996-2005
Percentage change from the last month of the previous quarter

Year	1st Quarter (Jan-Mar) % Growth	2nd Quarter (Apr-Jun) % Growth	3rd Quarter (Jul-Sep) % Growth	4th Quarter (Oct-Dec) % Growth
1996	1.3	0.9	0.2	1.6
1997	1.8	1.2	4.0	0.3
1998	1.1	1.8	-0.9	0.9
1999	2.3	-0.2	2.3	0.0
2000	-2.5	0.8	-0.1	-1.6
2001	1.0	-0.3	-7.3	3.3
2002	2.3	2.1	0.7	2.6
2003	-2.0	0.2	2.1	2.9
2004	2.0	1.3	-0.1	0.6
2005	1.5	-0.2	-0.5	0.4 ^P

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

Table 12: Freight Transportation Services Index Change by Quarter, 1996-2005
Percentage change from the last month of the previous quarter

Year	1st Quarter (Jan-Mar) % Growth	2nd Quarter (Apr-Jun) % Growth	3rd Quarter (Jul-Sep) % Growth	4th Quarter (Oct-Dec) % Growth
1997	1.9	1.9	4.2	0.8
1998	1.8	2.6	-1.5	0.0
1999	2.9	-0.4	1.6	1.1
2000	-5.1	0.5	-1.4	-1.1
2001	1.3	-0.2	-1.5	-0.1
2002	1.6	2.7	1.1	1.9
2003	-1.3	0.3	1.0	3.5
2004	1.9	1.1	-0.6	0.4
2005	1.2	-0.3	-1.4	1.1 ^P

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD EIGHT

Table 13: Passenger Transportation Services Index Change by Quarter, 1996-2005
Percentage change from the last month of the previous quarter

Year	1st Quarter (Jan-Mar) % Growth	2nd Quarter (Apr-Jun) % Growth	3rd Quarter (Jul-Sep) % Growth	4th Quarter (Oct-Dec) % Growth
1996	3.0	0.4	1.0	1.5
1997	1.5	-0.3	3.5	-1.0
1998	-0.3	-0.1	0.5	2.8
1999	0.9	0.3	3.7	-2.3
2000	3.9	1.5	2.7	-2.5
2001	0.4	-0.6	-20.9	13.2
2002	4.0	0.7	-0.5	4.3
2003	-3.7	0.0	5.0	1.7
2004	2.3	1.7	1.1	1.2
2005	2.4	0.2	1.9	-1.4 ^P

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

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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 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.

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