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BTS Data

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Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell 0.4 Percent in July from June

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) fell 0.4 percent in July from its June level, dropping for the second consecutive month, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

The declines in June and July are the first consecutive monthly declines in the TSI since October 2005, which was the last of five consecutive monthly declines (Table 2).

For the first seven months of 2006, the TSI, a combination of the freight and passenger indexes, rose 0.9 percent, the third consecutive December-to-July rise but the smallest increase since a decline in 2003 (Table 3).

The July level of 111.5 for the combined freight and passenger index was 0.1 percent higher than the July 2005 level, the fifth consecutive increase from July of the previous year but the smallest year-to-year rise since no change in 2001 (Table 4). The July level was 12.3 percent higher than the July 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 the August index is scheduled for Oct. 6.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD ONE

Transportation Services Index for Freight

The TSI for freight fell 0.8 percent in July from the June level, turning down for the second consecutive month (Table 6). The Freight TSI rose from 111.6 in July 2005 to 111.7 in July 2006, the fifth consecutive rise from July of the previous year but the smallest year-to-year rise since a decline in 2001 (Table 7). For the first seven months of 2006, the Freight TSI rose 0.7 percent, the third consecutive rise in the December-to-July period but the smallest increase since a decline in 2003 (Table 3).

Transportation Services Index for Passengers

The TSI for passengers rose 0.2 percent in July from the June level, rising after three consecutive monthly decreases (Table 8). The Passenger TSI July 2006 level fell 0.2 percent from the July 2005 level, the first decline following three years of increases (Table 9). For the first seven months of 2006, the Passenger TSI rose 0.7 percent, the third consecutive December-to-July rise but the smallest rise in the December-to-July period since a decline in 2003 (Table 3).

More on TSI

Note: TSI numbers for March 2006 (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The March TSI is 110.9, revised from the 111.0 reported in the August release. The March Freight TSI is 110.6, revised from 111.6. The March Passenger TSI is 111.0, revised from 109.2. The TSI for April, May, June and July 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 at the end of the calendar year. 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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Table 1: Transportation Services Index Since January 2006
Percent Change by Month
(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
January	110.9	0.3	111.1	0.2	110.2	0.6
February	109.4	-1.3	109.7	-1.3	108.7	-1.3
March ^R	110.9	1.3	110.6	0.9	111.0	2.1
April ^P	111.2	0.3	111.0	0.4	110.5	-0.5
May ^P	112.4	1.1	113.2	1.9	110.2	-0.3
June ^P	111.9	-0.4	112.6	-0.5	110.0	-0.2
July ^P	111.5	-0.4	111.7	-0.8	110.2	0.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-1.0	-1.4	1.5	0.3
February	-1.9	2.8	-1.4	-1.3
March	0.9	0.7	1.5	(R) 1.3
April	-0.5	0.7	0.0	(P) 0.3
May	-0.2	-0.4	0.4	(P) 1.1
June	1.0	1.0	-0.5	(P) -0.4
July	1.3	-0.2	-0.1	(P) -0.4
August	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1	
September	1.1	0.5	-0.3	
October	0.7	0.1	-0.9	
November	-0.1	0.9	1.6	
December	2.3	-0.3	-0.9	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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Table 3: Transportation Services Index Year-to-Date Change, 1997-2006
Percent change from December of previous year
December to July

Year	TSI	Freight	Passenger
1997	3.0	3.9	1.2
1998	2.6	3.6	0.5
1999	2.1	2.5	1.2
2000	-1.8	-4.6	5.5
2001	0.7	1.1	-0.1
2002	4.4	4.3	4.7
2003	-1.7	-1.0	-3.7
2004	3.3	3.0	4.1
2005	1.4	0.9	2.5
2006 ^P	0.9	0.7	0.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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

Year	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1997	92.8	6.2
1998	97.7	5.2
1999	100.3	2.7
2000	99.2	-1.1
2001	99.2	0.0
2002	100.3	1.1
2003	102.0	1.6
2004	109.2	7.1
2005	111.3	2.0
2006 ^P	111.5	0.1

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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**Table 5: Transportation Services Index from Previous Years
Percent Change to 2006 (July to July)**

Percent change to July 2006	Since July ...	Duration in years
0.1	2005	1
2.1	2004	2
9.3	2003	3
11.1	2002	4
12.3	2001	5
12.3	2000	6
11.1	1999	7
14.1	1998	8
20.0	1997	9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Note: The percent changes to May 2006 are all preliminary.

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

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-1.1	-1.6	1.4	0.2
February	-1.4	2.6	-1.2	-1.3
March	1.2	0.9	1.0	(R) 0.9
April	0.7	0.6	0.0	(P) 0.4
May	-1.2	-0.3	0.2	(P) 1.9
June	0.8	0.8	-0.5	(P) -0.5
July	0.5	-0.5	-0.5	(P) -0.8
August	-0.1	-0.6	0.4	
September	0.6	0.5	-1.3	
October	1.3	-0.5	-0.6	
November	-0.8	1.3	2.0	
December	2.9	-0.4	-1.1	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics
NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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**Table 7: Freight Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
Percent change in the July Freight TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1997	94.7	7.2
1998	101.3	7.0
1999	102.1	0.8
2000	98.7	-3.4
2001	98.3	-0.3
2002	103.1	4.9
2003	104.0	0.8
2004	110.9	6.7
2005	111.6	0.7
2006 ^P	111.7	0.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-0.8	-1.1	1.5	0.6
February	-3.1	3.4	-2.0	-1.3
March	0.2	0.1	2.9	(R) 2.1
April	-3.7	0.8	-0.1	(P) -0.5
May	2.3	-0.7	0.8	(P) -0.3
June	1.5	1.6	-0.5	(P) -0.2
July	3.4	0.5	0.9	(P) 0.2
August	-0.6	0.1	-1.3	
September	2.2	0.5	2.3	
October	-0.7	1.6	-1.9	
November	1.3	-0.2	0.4	
December	1.1	-0.2	-0.4	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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**Table 9: Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
Percent change in the July Freight TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1997	88.4	4.2
1998	89.6	1.4
1999	96.0	7.1
2000	100.5	4.7
2001	101.2	0.6
2002	93.6	-7.5
2003	97.2	3.8
2004	104.9	8.0
2005	110.4	5.2
2006 ^P	110.2	-0.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD SEVEN

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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