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March Airline Traffic Data: First Quarter Domestic Traffic Up 6.6 Percent From 2004

U.S. airlines carried 6.6 percent more domestic passengers and flew 1.1 percent more domestic flights during the first three months of 2005 than they did during the same period in 2004, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today reported, in a release of preliminary data (Table 1).

BTS, a part of DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the airlines carried 153.9 million domestic passengers during the first three months of 2005, up from the 144.4 million carried between January and March 2004 (Table 2). The passengers were carried on 2.43 million flights, up 1.1 percent from the 2.40 million flights operated in 2004 (Table 1).

In other domestic comparisons from the first three months of 2004 to the first three months of 2005:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 6.5 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 0.9 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 3.9 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 1.0 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was unchanged at 863 miles per trip.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 19.8 million domestic passengers during the first three months of 2005, the most of any airline (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during the first three months of 2005, with 9.3 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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ADD ONE**

March 2005 Airline Traffic

For the month of March 2005, U.S. airlines carried 58.5 million domestic passengers, 7.2 percent more than in March 2004 (Table 5).

These passengers were carried on 860,226 flights, up 2.1 percent from the flights operated in March 2004.

In other month-to-month domestic comparisons from March 2004 to March 2005:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 7.5 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 1.6 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 4.3 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 1.1 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was up 0.2 percent.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 7.7 million domestic passengers during March, the most of any airline (Table 6).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during March, with 3.6 million passenger boardings (Table 7).

Additional airline traffic data can be found on the BTS website at TranStats, the Intermodal Transportation Database at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. Click on "Aviation," then on "Air Carrier Statistics (Form 41 Traffic)," then click on "T-100 Domestic Market."

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers detailing operations, passenger traffic and freight traffic. March traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 101 airlines as of June 14. March numbers do not include Spirit Airlines. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from February 2005 and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release April traffic data and revised data from March and previous months on July 14.

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Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel January to March

	Jan-Mar 2004	Jan-Mar 2005	Change
Passengers	144,382,885	153,871,888	6.6%
Flights	2,404,238	2,431,484	1.1%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	124,669,951	132,812,666	6.5%
Available Seat Miles(000)	178,327,648	179,920,441	0.9%
Load Factor	69.9	73.8	3.9 points
Flight Stage Length*	600	606	1.0%
Passenger Trip Length**	863	863	0.0%

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

* The average non-stop distance flown per departure in miles

** The average distance flown per passenger in miles

Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements

Month	2003	2004	2005	2004-2005 Pct. Change
January	43,340,260	44,158,365	48,143,817	9.0%
February	41,464,697	45,660,443	47,220,958	3.4%
March	50,387,437	54,564,077	58,507,113	7.2%
April	47,364,281	53,653,708		
May	49,413,135	53,338,386		
June	52,541,086	57,289,410		
July	56,144,204	59,997,802		
August	54,320,569	57,724,502		
September	44,575,000	47,901,458		
October	50,346,823	54,473,796		
November	47,455,664	51,943,697		
December	50,126,985	52,768,872		
Jan.-Mar. Total	135,192,394	144,382,885	153,871,888	6.6%
Annual Total	587,480,141	633,474,516		

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD THREE

Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by January-March 2005 Domestic Enplanements

Jan-Mar 2005 Rank	Carrier	Jan-Mar 2005 Passengers	Jan-Mar 2004 Rank	Jan-Mar 2004 Passengers
1	Southwest Airlines	19,795,083	2	18,201,770
2	Delta Air Lines	19,683,967	1	18,709,116
3	American Airlines	18,098,373	3	17,396,249
4	United Airlines	12,902,571	4	13,382,989
5	Northwest Airlines	11,107,201	5	10,318,991
6	US Airways	9,508,318	6	8,782,342
7	Continental Airlines	7,728,291	7	7,339,272
8	America West Airlines	4,846,303	8	4,646,516
9	American Eagle Airlines	3,689,073	9	3,109,240
10	SkyWest Airlines	3,598,158	12	2,830,617

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by January-March 2004 Domestic Enplanements

Jan-Mar 2005 Rank	Airport Name	Jan-Mar 2005 Passengers	Jan-Mar 2004 Rank	Jan-Mar 2004 Passengers
1	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	9,316,914	1	8,833,235
2	Chicago O'Hare Int'l	7,017,005	2	6,868,016
3	Dallas-Fort Worth Int'l	5,895,330	3	6,037,701
4	Los Angeles Int'l	4,892,727	4	4,766,656
5	Las Vegas McCarran Int'l	4,777,544	6	4,516,059
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	4,646,356	7	4,455,583
7	Denver Int'l	4,595,703	5	4,520,336
8	Orlando Int'l	3,984,678	9	3,637,026
9	Minneapolis-St.Paul Int'l	3,919,361	8	3,731,445
10	Houston-George Bush Intercontinental	3,662,082	11	3,266,219

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
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Table 5: Domestic Airline Travel in March

	March 2004	March 2005	Change
Passengers	54,564,077	58,507,113	7.2%
Flights	842,341	860,226	2.1%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	47,053,212	50,563,715	7.5%
Available Seat Miles(000)	62,545,282	63,568,499	1.6%
Load Factor	75.2	79.5	4.3 points
Flight Stage Length*	600	607	1.1%
Passenger Trip Length**	862	864	0.2%

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

* The average non-stop distance flown per departure in miles

** The average distance flown per passenger in miles

Table 6. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by March 2005 Domestic Enplanements

March 2005 Rank	Carrier	March 2005 Passengers	March 2004 Rank	March 2004 Passengers
1	Southwest Airlines	7,673,320	1	7,089,890
2	Delta Air Lines	7,456,338	2	6,947,233
3	American Airlines	6,838,822	3	6,425,910
4	United Airlines	4,726,521	4	5,029,770
5	Northwest Airlines	4,337,922	5	4,021,053
6	US Airways	3,783,300	6	3,335,691
7	Continental Airlines	3,017,625	7	2,762,806
8	America West Airlines	1,808,604	8	1,710,680
9	American Eagle Airlines	1,402,327	9	1,166,685
10	Frontier Airlines	1,399,229	11	1,142,815

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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**AIR TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
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Table 7. Top 10 Airports ranked by March 2005 Domestic Enplanements

March 2005 Rank	Airport Name	March 2005 Passengers	March 2004 Rank	March 2004 Passengers
1	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	3,561,586	1	3,297,204
2	Chicago O'Hare Int'l	2,712,676	2	2,637,828
3	Dallas-Fort Worth Int'l	2,172,313	3	2,236,096
4	Los Angeles Int'l	1,814,779	4	1,778,262
5	Las Vegas McCarran Int'l	1,790,002	6	1,698,023
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	1,765,948	7	1,687,051
7	Denver Int'l	1,687,298	5	1,706,755
8	Minneapolis-St.Paul Int'l	1,532,950	8	1,445,186
9	Orlando Int'l	1,453,965	9	1,351,597
10	Houson-George Bush Intercontinental	1,394,566	11	1,203,203

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, T-100 Domestic Market

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