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**AMERICAN
ECONOMY**

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

April Airline Traffic Data: Four-Month Domestic Traffic Up 5.5 Percent From 2004

U.S. airlines carried 5.5 percent more domestic passengers and flew 0.7 percent more domestic flights during the first four 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 209.0 million domestic passengers during the first four months of 2005, up from the 198.0 million carried between January and April 2004 (Table 2). The passengers were carried on 3.25 million flights, up 0.7 percent from the 3.23 million flights operated in 2004 (Table 1).

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

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 5.6 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 1.2 percent.

Passenger load factor, passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, was up 3.1 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 1.7 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was up 0.1 percent at 864 miles per trip.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 26.9 million domestic passengers during the first four 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 four months of 2005, with 12.7 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD ONE**

April 2005 Airline Traffic

For the month of April 2005, U.S. airlines carried 54.7 million domestic passengers, 1.9 percent more than in April 2004 (Table 5).

These passengers were carried on 815,292 flights, down 1.3 percent from the flights operated in April 2004.

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

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 2.0 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 1.4 percent.

Passenger load factor, passengers carried as a proportion of available seats, was up 0.4 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance flown per departure, was up 3.6 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance flown per passenger, was up 0.1 percent.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 7.1 million domestic passengers during April, the most of any airline (Table 6).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during April, with 3.4 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 128 airlines as of July 12. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from March 2005 and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release May traffic data and revised data from April and previous months on August 11.

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Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel January to April

	Jan-Apr 2004	Jan-Apr 2005	Change
Passengers	198,036,593	209,016,672	5.5%
Flights	3,230,469	3,252,042	0.7%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	170,993,582	180,575,562	5.6%
Available Seat Miles(000)	239,076,110	242,029,945	1.2%
Load Factor	71.5	74.6	3.1 points
Flight Stage Length*	599	609	1.7%
Passenger Trip Length**	863	864	0.1%

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	43,342,462	44,158,365	48,143,817	9.0
February	41,465,820	45,660,443	47,220,958	3.4
March	50,387,895	54,564,077	58,973,278	8.1
April	47,364,607	53,653,708	54,678,619	1.9
May	49,413,135	53,338,386		
June	52,541,294	57,289,410		
July	56,144,204	59,997,802		
August	54,320,946	57,724,502		
September	44,575,720	47,901,458		
October	50,347,370	54,473,796		
November	47,456,128	51,943,699		
December	50,132,111	52,768,872		
Jan.-Apr. Total	182,560,784	198,036,593	209,016,672	5.5

Annual Total 587,491,692 633,474,518

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-April 2005 Domestic Enplanements

Jan-Apr 2005 Rank	Carrier	Jan-Apr 2005 Passengers	Jan-Apr 2004 Rank	Jan-Apr 2004 Passengers
1	Southwest Airlines	26,925,809	2	25,322,202
2	Delta Air Lines	26,544,159	1	25,420,494
3	American Airlines	24,517,553	3	23,607,912
4	United Airlines	17,289,011	4	18,405,062
5	Northwest Airlines	15,175,781	5	14,153,675
6	US Airways	12,935,698	6	12,195,360
7	Continental Airlines	10,478,965	7	10,090,810
8	America West Airlines	6,588,108	8	6,294,892
9	American Eagle Airlines	5,074,068	9	4,279,533
10	SkyWest Airlines	4,870,782	12	3,795,319

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

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

Jan-Apr 2005 Rank	Airport Name	Jan-Apr 2005 Passengers	Jan-Apr 2004 Rank	Jan-Apr 2004 Passengers
1	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	12,683,966	1	12,043,512
2	Chicago O'Hare Int'l	9,592,389	2	9,425,461
3	Dallas-Fort Worth Int'l	7,955,184	3	8,157,450
4	Los Angeles Int'l	6,602,296	4	6,581,454
5	Las Vegas Mc Carran Int'l	6,507,360	5	6,164,382
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	6,320,138	7	6,049,240
7	Denver Int'l	6,112,984	6	6,068,964
8	Orlando Int'l	5,424,082	9	4,940,233
9	Minneapolis-St.Paul Int'l	5,250,158	8	4,996,843
10	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	4,977,546	10	4,669,335

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

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

	April 2004	April 2005	Change
Passengers	53,653,708	54,678,619	1.9%
Flights	826,231	815,292	-1.3%
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	46,323,631	47,273,001	2.0%
Available Seat Miles(000)	60,748,463	61,604,555	1.4%
Load Factor	76.3	76.7	0.4 points
Flight Stage Length*	597	618	3.6%
Passenger Trip Length**	863	865	0.1%

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 April 2005 Domestic Enplanements

April 2005 Rank	Carrier	April 2005 Passengers	April 2004 Rank	April 2004 Passengers
1	Southwest Airlines	7,130,726	1	7,120,432
2	Delta Air Lines	6,860,192	2	6,711,378
3	American Airlines	6,419,180	3	6,211,663
4	United Airlines	4,386,440	4	5,022,073
5	Northwest Airlines	4,068,580	5	3,834,684
6	US Airways	3,427,380	6	3,413,018
7	Continental Airlines	2,750,674	7	2,751,538
8	America West Airlines	1,741,805	8	1,648,376
9	American Eagle Airlines	1,384,995	9	1,170,293
10	AirTran Airways	1,316,209	10	1,143,034

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 April 2005 Domestic Enplanements

April 2005 Rank	Airport Name	April 2005 Passengers	April 2004 Rank	April 2004 Passengers
1	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	3,367,052	1	3,210,277
2	Chicago O'Hare Int'l	2,539,345	2	2,557,445
3	Dallas-Fort Worth Int'l	2,059,854	3	2,119,749
4	Las Vegas McCarran Int'l	1,725,739	5	1,648,323
5	Los Angeles Int'l	1,705,332	4	1,814,798
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	1,673,782	6	1,593,657
7	Denver Int'l	1,517,281	7	1,548,628
8	Orlando Int'l	1,392,308	9	1,303,207
9	Minneapolis-St.Paul Int'l	1,330,797	10	1,265,398
10	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	1,327,028	8	1,317,196

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

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