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**BTS Data**

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## **Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Rose 2.0 Percent in February from January**

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) rose 2.0 percent in February from its January level, rising from its lowest level in more than five years, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

The February increase was only the second since August and, at 2.0 percent, was the largest one-month rise since January 2008 and the fourth largest in the last five years (Tables 1, 2).

The 0.3 percent decline in the first two months of 2009 was the third decline to start the year in the last four years. The index rose 2.9 percent during the first two months of 2008 (Table 3).

Other than the January low of 102.7, the Freight TSI has not been this low since September 2003 when it was 104.4. The Freight TSI is down 7.4 percent from its historic peak of 113.1 reached in November 2005. 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 6.0 percent decline from February 2008 to February 2009 left the freight index at its lowest February level since 2003 (Table 4).

Despite the February increase, the index is down 4.4 percent in the five years from February 2004, the third five-year decline in the 19-year history of TSI data. The first ever five-year decline was from December 2003 to December 2008. The index is still up 3.1 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

The TSI is a seasonally adjusted index that measures changes from the monthly average of the base year of 2000. It includes historic data from 1990 to the present. Release of the March index is scheduled for May 13.

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BTS has issued a 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 TSI for passengers rose 0.1 percent in February from its January level (Table 6). The Passenger TSI February 2009 level of 112.8 was 3.2 percent lower than the February 2008 level, the first February-to-February decrease since 2002 (Table 7). Despite the recent declines, the passenger index is up 11.6 percent in five years and 20.5 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 TSI rose 1.5 percent in February from its January level (Table 8). The combined TSI February 2009 level of 106.4 was 5.3 percent lower than the February 2008 level, the third February-to-February decrease in the last four years (Table 9). The 5.3 percent decline from February to February left the combined index at its lowest February level since 2003 (Table 9). The combined index is down 0.6 percent in five years for the first five-year decline in the history of the combined index, but is up 7.4 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 October (Freight, Passenger and Combined) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The October Freight TSI is 106.7, revised from the 109.1 reported in last month's release. The October Passenger TSI is 114.9, revised from 114.3. The October Combined TSI is 108.3, revised from 110.1. The TSI for November, December, January and February 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. More information about the monthly revision policy, the comprehensive revision conducted in July 2007 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: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes since August 2008**

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

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
August	108.7	-2.3	116.8	-1.3	110.3	-2.0
September	107.0	-1.6	116.3	-0.4	108.9	-1.3
October <sup>R</sup>	106.7	-0.3	114.9	-1.2	108.3	-0.5
November <sup>P</sup>	107.6	0.9	114.0	-0.8	108.8	0.5
December <sup>P</sup>	105.1	-2.3	113.0	-0.9	106.7	-1.9
January <sup>P</sup>	102.7	-2.3	112.6	-0.3	104.8	-1.8
<b>February<sup>P</sup></b>	104.8	<b>2.0</b>	112.8	<b>0.1</b>	106.4	<b>1.5</b>

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, 2006-2009**  
Percent change from previous month

	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth	2008 % Growth	2009 % Growth
January	0.4	-0.3	2.8	(P) -2.3
<b>February</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>(P) 2.0</b>
March	0.4	1.1	-2.9	
April	-0.3	-0.4	1.1	
May	2.4	-0.1	0.4	
June	-0.3	-0.7	-0.2	
July	-0.9	0.1	1.4	
August	-2.5	0.5	-2.3	
September	0.9	-0.9	-1.6	
October	-0.1	1.7	(R) -0.3	
November	-1.4	0.4	(P) 0.9	
December	0.6	-1.7	(P) -2.3	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD THREE

**Table 3: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes Year-to-Date Change, 2000-2009**

Percent change from December of previous year  
December to February

Year	Freight	Passenger	Combined
2000	-0.8	1.5	-0.1
2001	0.7	-0.3	0.4
2002	1.7	2.0	1.8
2003	-2.4	-2.8	-2.5
2004	1.4	0.6	1.2
2005	0.9	1.3	1.0
2006	-0.9	1.2	-0.4
2007	-0.3	-2.1	-0.7
2008	2.9	-0.6	2.0
<b>2009<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.3</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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

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

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2000	104.1	2.4
2001	98.5	-5.4
2002	98.9	0.4
2003	102.1	3.2
2004	109.6	7.4
2005	111.9	2.1
2006	110.2	-1.5
2007	108.5	-1.5
2008	111.5	2.7
<b>2009<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>104.8</b>	<b>-6.0</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 2009 (February to February)**

Since February . . .	Duration in years	Freight TSI Percent change to February 2009	Passenger TSI Percent change to February 2009	Combined TSI Percent change to February 2009
2008	1	-6.0	-3.2	-5.3
2007	2	-3.4	0.9	-2.4
2006	3	-4.9	2.4	-3.2
2005	4	-6.4	4.7	-3.8
2004	5	-4.4	11.6	-0.6
2003	6	2.7	18.8	6.5
2002	7	5.9	21.2	9.5
2001	8	6.4	12.1	7.3
2000	9	0.6	16.6	4.6
1999	10	3.1	20.5	7.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to February 2009 are all preliminary.

**Table 6: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2006-2009  
Percent change from previous month**

	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth	2008 % Growth	2009 % Growth
January	1.9	-0.1	-0.1	(P) -0.3
<b>February</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>(P) 0.1</b>
March	1.0	2.2	0.8	
April	0.3	0.5	0.7	
May	0.6	1.5	0.1	
June	-1.0	-0.2	-0.1	
July	0.5	-0.1	0.0	
August	0.0	1.1	-1.3	
September	0.9	-0.1	-0.4	
October	0.4	0.7	(R) -1.2	
November	-0.2	-1.5	(P) -0.8	
December	1.1	0.7	(P) -0.9	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD FIVE

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

	<b>Passenger TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2000	96.7	3.4
2001	100.6	4.0
2002	93.1	-7.5
2003	95.0	2.0
2004	101.0	6.4
2005	107.8	6.7
2006	110.2	2.2
2007	111.7	1.4
2008	116.5	4.3
<b>2009<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>112.8</b>	<b>-3.2</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, 2006-2009  
Percent change from previous month**

	<b>2006 % Growth</b>	<b>2007 % Growth</b>	<b>2008 % Growth</b>	<b>2009 % Growth</b>
January	0.8	-0.3	2.1	(P) -1.8
<b>February</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>(P) 1.5</b>
March	0.6	1.4	-2.0	
April	-0.1	-0.2	1.0	
May	2.0	0.3	0.3	
June	-0.4	-0.6	-0.1	
July	-0.6	0.0	1.0	
August	-1.9	0.7	-2.0	
September	0.9	-0.7	-1.3	
October	0.1	1.4	(R) -0.5	
November	-1.1	-0.1	(P) 0.5	
December	0.7	-1.1	(P) -1.9	

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 February Combined TSI  
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2000	101.7	2.7
2001	99.2	-2.5
2002	97.1	-2.1
2003	99.9	2.9
2004	107.0	7.1
2005	110.6	3.3
2006	109.9	-0.6
2007	109.0	-0.8
2008	112.4	3.1
<b>2009<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>106.4</b>	<b>-5.3</b>

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

## 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 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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