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**BTS Data**

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## **Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell 2.3 Percent in January from December**

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) fell 2.3 percent in January from its December level, falling for the third consecutive month to 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 January decline was the fifth monthly decrease in six months. The index has declined 7.7 percent in the last six months, the largest six-month decline since an 8.4 percent decline in 1995. The 5.9 percent decline in the three-month November through January period was the largest three-month decline since April 2000 (Tables 1, 2.).

The 2.3 percent decline in January was the second January decline in five years and the largest January decline since 1996. The index dropped 0.3 percent in 2007 (Table 3).

At 102.7 in January, the freight TSI is at its lowest level since May 2003 when it was 102.5 and is down 9.2 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 7.8 percent decline from January to January left the freight index at its lowest January level since 2002 (Table 4).

The 2.3 percent decline in January resulted in a 3.5 percent drop in the freight index in the five years from January 2004, the second five-year decline in the 19-year history of TSI data. The first ever five-year decline was a 2.7 percent decrease from December 2003 to December 2008. The index is still up 2.9 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 February index is scheduled for April 8.

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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 fell 0.3 percent in January from its December level (Table 6). The Passenger TSI January 2009 level of 112.6 was 3.8 percent lower than the January 2008 level, the first January-to-January decrease since 2002 (Table 7). The 3.8 percent decline from January to January left the passenger index at its lowest January level since 2006 (Table 7). Despite the recent declines for the year, the passenger index is up 13.5 percent in five years and 20.6 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 fell 1.8 percent in January from its December level (Table 8). The combined TSI January 2009 level of 104.8 was 6.8 percent lower than the January 2008 level, the first January-to-January decrease since 2007 (Table 9). The 6.8 percent decline from January to January left the combined index at its lowest January level since 2004 (Table 9). However, the combined index is up 0.5 percent in five years and 7.2 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 September (Freight, Passenger and Combined) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The September Freight TSI is 107.0, revised from the 108.0 reported in last month's release. The September Passenger TSI is 116.3, revised from 114.9. The September Combined TSI is 108.9, revised from 109.4. 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. 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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**Table 1: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes since July 2008**

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

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
July	111.3	1.4	118.3	0.0	112.6	1.0
August	108.7	-2.3	116.8	-1.3	110.3	-2.0
September <sup>R</sup>	107.0	-1.6	116.3	-0.4	108.9	-1.3
October <sup>P</sup>	109.1	2.0	114.3	-1.8	110.1	1.1
November <sup>P</sup>	107.6	-1.4	114.0	-0.2	108.8	-1.1
December <sup>P</sup>	105.1	-2.3	113.0	-0.9	106.7	-1.9
<b>January<sup>P</sup></b>	102.7	-2.3	112.6	-0.3	104.8	-1.8

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
<b>January</b>	0.4	-0.3	2.8	(P) -2.3
February	-1.4	0.0	0.1	
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	(R) -1.6	
October	-0.1	1.7	(P) 2.0	
November	-1.4	0.4	(P) -1.4	
December	0.6	-1.7	(P) -2.3	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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

Percent change from December of previous year  
December to January

<b>Year</b>	<b>Freight</b>	<b>Passenger</b>	<b>Combined</b>
2000	-0.7	0.1	-0.5
2001	1.4	0.6	1.1
2002	0.9	0.3	0.7
2003	-1.3	-0.8	-1.2
2004	-1.5	-1.2	-1.4
2005	1.7	1.4	1.6
2006	0.4	1.9	0.8
2007	-0.3	-0.1	-0.3
2008	2.8	-0.1	2.1
<b>2009<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-1.8</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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

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

	<b>Freight TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2000	104.2	4.4
2001	99.2	-4.8
2002	98.2	-1.0
2003	103.3	5.2
2004	106.5	3.1
2005	112.9	6.0
2006	111.7	-1.0
2007	108.5	-2.9
2008	111.4	2.7
<b>2009<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>-7.8</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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**Table 5: Transportation Services Indexes from Previous Years  
Percent Change to 2009 (January to January)**

Since January . . .	Duration in years	Freight TSI Percent change to January 2009	Passenger TSI Percent change to January 2009	Combined TSI Percent change to January 2009
2008	1	-7.8	-3.8	-6.8
2007	2	-5.3	-1.2	-4.3
2006	3	-8.1	1.6	-5.8
2005	4	-9.0	4.4	-5.9
2004	5	-3.5	13.5	0.5
2003	6	-0.5	16.3	3.5
2002	7	4.6	23.0	9.0
2001	8	3.6	10.9	4.8
2000	9	-1.5	18.1	3.4
1999	10	2.9	20.6	7.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to January 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
February	-0.6	-2.0	-0.5	
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	(R) -0.4	
October	0.4	0.7	(P) -1.8	
November	-0.2	-1.5	(P) -0.2	
December	1.1	0.7	(P) -0.9	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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

	<b>Passenger TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2000	95.3	2.1
2001	101.6	6.5
2002	91.5	-9.9
2003	96.8	5.8
2004	99.2	2.5
2005	107.9	8.7
2006	110.9	2.8
2007	114.0	2.8
2008	117.1	2.7
<b>2009<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>112.6</b>	<b>-3.8</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>
<b>January</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>(P) -1.8</b>
February	-1.2	-0.5	-0.1	
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	(R) -1.3	
October	0.1	1.4	(P) 1.1	
November	-1.1	-0.1	(P) -1.1	
December	0.7	-1.1	(P) -1.9	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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**Table 9: Combined Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year  
Percent change in the January Combined TSI  
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	<b>TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2000	101.4	3.7
2001	100.0	-1.4
2002	96.2	-3.8
2003	101.3	5.4
2004	104.3	2.9
2005	111.3	6.8
2006	111.2	-0.1
2007	109.5	-1.6
2008	112.5	2.7
<b>2009<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>104.8</b>	<b>-6.8</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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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 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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