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Bureau of Transportation Statistics  
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**BTS DATA**

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**BTS Releases May Airline Traffic Data;  
May 2004 Domestic Traffic Up 6.3 Percent From May 2003**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today reported, in a release of preliminary data, that U.S. airlines carried 52.6 million domestic passengers in May, 6.3 percent more than in May 2003 (Table 1).

These passengers were carried on 802,602 flights, up 0.6 percent from the flights operated in May 2003.

In other domestic comparisons from May 2003 to May 2004:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 9.9 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 9.3 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 0.4 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 7.4 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 3.5 percent.

The number of domestic airline passengers fell 2.0 percent in May from April (Table 2). Month-to-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal factors.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 7.1 million domestic passengers in May, the most of any airline (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta continued in May to be the busiest domestic airport, with 3.3 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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**Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel in May**

	<b>May 2003</b>	<b>May 2004</b>
<b>Passengers</b>	49,461,887	52,568,073
<b>Flights</b>	797,817	802,602
<b>Revenue Passenger Miles(000)</b>	41,319,494	45,416,040
<b>Available Seat-Miles(000)</b>	55,797,420	60,971,540
<b>Load factor</b>	74.1%	74.5%
<b>Flight stage length</b>	568	610
<b>Passenger trip length</b>	835	864

Source: T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

**Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Month</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>January</b>	43,294,291	44,191,631
<b>February</b>	41,449,003	45,656,000
<b>March</b>	50,370,774	54,496,497
<b>April</b>	47,368,701	53,632,596
<b>May</b>	49,461,887	52,568,073
<b>June</b>	52,538,181	
<b>July</b>	56,153,032	
<b>August</b>	54,320,275	
<b>September</b>	44,437,529	
<b>October</b>	50,345,778	
<b>November</b>	47,456,557	
<b>December</b>	50,132,233	

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

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."

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**Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by May 2004 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Airline Name</b>	<b>May 2003</b>	<b>April 2004</b>	<b>May 2004</b>	<b>May 2003 Rank</b>
1	Southwest Airlines	6,541,247	7,120,432	7,143,265	1
2	Delta Airlines	6,337,258	6,711,378	6,763,930	2
3	American Airlines	6,218,797	6,211,663	6,081,481	3
4	United Airlines	4,699,311	5,022,073	5,120,358	4
5	Northwest Airlines	3,528,516	3,834,684	3,811,950	5
6	US Airways	3,289,483	3,413,018	3,191,354	6
7	Continental Airlines	2,628,289	2,751,538	2,601,105	7
8	America West Airlines	1,665,788	1,648,376	1,675,911	8
9	American Eagle Airlines	989,319	1,170,293	1,200,075	10
10	Alaska Airlines	1,083,729	1,113,157	1,155,343	9

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

**Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by May 2004 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Airport Name</b>	<b>May 2003</b>	<b>April 2004</b>	<b>May 2004</b>	<b>May 2003 Rank</b>
1	Hartsfield-Jackson International	3,002,209	3,210,277	3,250,108	1
2	O'Hare International	2,427,656	2,557,797	2,595,585	2
3	Dallas-Ft Worth International	1,950,384	2,119,749	2,183,577	3
4	Los Angeles International	1,613,715	1,814,798	1,781,538	4
5	Las Vegas McCarran International	1,389,926	1,648,323	1,682,580	7
6	Denver International	1,397,636	1,548,628	1,652,840	6
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor International	1,546,937	1,593,536	1,567,579	5
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul International	1,173,550	1,265,398	1,281,557	8
9	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	1,167,912	1,319,253	1,263,033	9
10	Orlando International	1,040,020	1,304,036	1,221,340	11

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers detailing operations, passenger traffic and freight traffic. May 2004 traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 103 airlines as of August 10. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from April and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release June traffic data on September 16.

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