



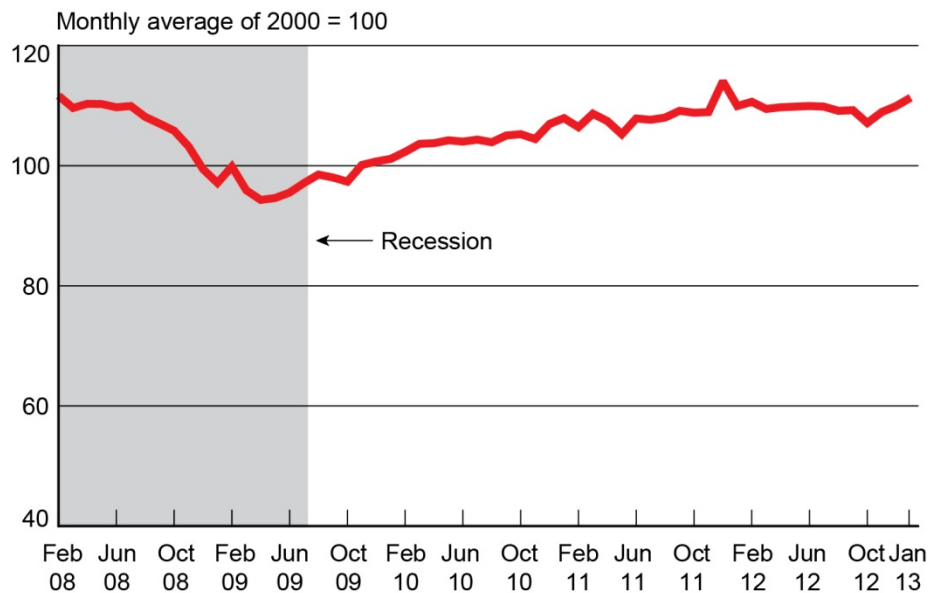
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## BTS Data

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Contact: Dave Smallen  
Tel: 202-366-5568

### Freight Shipments Rose 1.2% in January from December

**Five Years: Freight Transportation Services Index, February 2008-January 2013**



Source for Recession Dates: National Bureau of Economic Research, [US Business Cycle Expansions and Contractions](#)

The amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry rose 1.2 percent in January from December, rising for the third consecutive month, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) released today. The January 2013 index level (111.3) was 18.0 percent above the April 2009 low during the recession and the highest level since December 2011 (Tables 1, 2A).

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## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

### ADD ONE

BTS, a part of the Department's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the level of freight shipments in January measured by the Freight TSI (111.3) was 2.4 percent below the all-time high level of 114.0 in December 2011 (Table 2A). BTS' TSI records began in 1990. See historical [TSI data](#).

The Freight TSI measures the month-to-month changes in freight shipments by mode of transportation in tons and ton-miles, which are combined into one index. The index measures the output of the for-hire freight transportation industry and consists of data from for-hire trucking, rail, inland waterways, pipelines and air freight.

**Analysis:** The Freight TSI increased in January 2013, its third consecutive month of growth with trucking showing a large increase. The TSI increase in January likely resulted from inventory growth. Wholesale inventories grew 1.2 percent during the month, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's [Monthly Wholesale Trade](#) report. The restocking followed the drawdown of inventories in the fourth quarter of 2012.

**Trend:** With the January increase to 111.3, the index rose above the narrow band in which it remained through most of 2012. The exception was a drop in October (107.1) as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The index began 2013 in January at 111.3, the second highest level since April 2009. After dipping to 94.3 in April 2009 during the recession, freight shipments increased in 30 of the last 45 months, rising 18.0 percent during that period (Tables 2, 2A). For additional historical data, go to [TSI data](#).

**Index highs and lows:** Freight shipments in January 2013 (111.3) were 18.0 percent higher than the recent low in April 2009 during the recession (94.3). In April 2009, freight shipments were at their lowest level since June 1997 (92.3). The January 2013 level is down 2.4 percent from the historic peak reached in December 2011 (114.0).

**Year-to-date:** Freight shipments measured by the index were up 1.2 percent in January compared to the end of 2012. In comparison, the index declined 3.6 percent during the same period a year earlier in 2012 (Table 3).

**Long-term trend:** Freight shipments are down 0.5 percent in the five years from its level at the beginning of the recession in January 2008 and are up 7.8 percent in the 10 years from January 2003 despite declines in recent years (Table 5).

**Same month of previous year:** January 2013 freight shipments were up 1.3 percent from January 2012, but rose 14.6 percent from January 2009 during the recession. Shipments measured by the index remained below the level of January 2005 (113.3) prior to the recession (Tables 4, 5).

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## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE ADD TWO

The TSI has three seasonally adjusted indexes that measures changes from the monthly average of the base year of 2000. The three indexes are freight shipments, passenger travel and a combined measure that merges the freight and passenger indexes. TSI includes historical data from 1990 to the present. Release of the February index is scheduled for April 10.

**Passenger Index:** The TSI for passengers fell 1.0 percent in January from its December level (Table 6). The Passenger TSI January 2013 level of 117.3 was 1.8 percent above the January 2012 level (Table 7). The index is up 0.3 percent in five years and up 21.1 percent in 10 years (Table 5). The passenger TSI measures the month-to-month changes in travel that involves the services of the for-hire passenger transportation sector. The seasonally adjusted index consists of data from air, local transit and intercity rail.

**Combined Index:** The combined freight and passenger TSI rose 0.6 percent in January from its December level (Table 8). The combined TSI January 2013 level of 112.9 was 1.4 percent above the January 2012 level (Table 9). The combined index is down 0.3 percent in five years and up 11.4 percent in 10 years despite recent declines (Table 5). The combined TSI merges the freight and passenger indexes into a single index.

**Revisions:** 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 109.2, unchanged from 109.2 reported in last month's release. The September Passenger TSI is 116.0 revised from 118.5. The September Combined TSI is 111.0 revised from 111.7. 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 BTS revision policies is available at [monthly revision policy](#) and [2011 Comprehensive Revision](#).

**Table 1: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes since July 2012**

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

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
July	109.8	-0.1	114.8	-0.9	111.1	-0.3
August	109.1	-0.7	116.2	1.2	110.9	-0.1
September <sup>R</sup>	109.2	0.1	116.0	-0.2	111.0	0.0
October <sup>P</sup>	107.1	-1.9	117.5	1.3	109.9	-1.0
November <sup>P</sup>	108.9	1.7	117.6	0.1	111.2	1.2
December <sup>P</sup>	109.9	1.0	118.4	0.7	112.2	0.9
<b>January<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>117.3</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>112.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD THREE

**Table 2: Freight Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2010-2013**  
Percent change from previous month

	2010 % Change	2011 % Change	2012 % Change	2013 % Change
<b>January</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>(P) 1.2</b>
February	1.1	-1.4	0.7	
March	1.2	2.0	-1.0	
April	0.1	-1.0	0.1	
May	0.5	-2.1	0.1	
June	-0.1	2.5	0.1	
July	0.3	-0.2	-0.1	
August	-0.4	0.4	-0.7	
September	1.1	1.1	(R) 0.1	
October	0.2	-0.3	(P) -1.9	
November	-0.7	0.1	(P) 1.7	
December	2.4	4.7	(P) 1.0	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

**Table 2A: Freight Transportation Services Index by Month, 2010-2013**

	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>January</b>	<b>101.1</b>	<b>107.9</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>(P) 111.3</b>
February	102.3	106.4	110.6	
March	103.6	108.6	109.5	
April	103.7	107.4	109.7	
May	104.2	105.2	109.8	
June	104.0	107.8	109.9	
July	104.3	107.6	109.8	
August	103.9	108.0	109.1	
September	105.0	109.1	(R) 109.2	
October	105.2	108.8	(P) 107.1	
November	104.4	108.9	(P) 108.9	
December	106.9	114.0	(P) 109.9	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
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**Table 3: Year-to-Date Change in Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes, 2004-2013**

Percent change to January from December of the previous year

<b>Year</b>	<b>Freight</b>	<b>Passenger</b>	<b>Combined</b>
2004	-0.1	-0.8	-0.3
2005	2.8	1.2	2.3
2006	0.0	1.3	0.4
2007	-1.3	0.0	-0.9
2008	1.8	-0.2	1.2
2009	-2.4	-1.0	-2.0
2010	0.5	0.6	0.5
2011	1.0	0.2	0.7
2012	-3.6	-1.0	-2.9
<b>2013<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>0.6</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>January Freight TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2004	107.3	4.0
2005	113.3	5.6
2006	111.5	-1.6
2007	108.4	-2.8
2008	111.8	3.2
2009	97.1	-13.2
2010	101.1	4.2
2011	107.9	6.7
2012	109.9	1.8
<b>2013<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD FIVE

**Table 5: Transportation Services Indexes from Previous Years  
Percent Change to 2013 (January to January)**

January	Duration in years	Freight TSI Percent change to January 2013	Passenger TSI Percent change to January 2013	Combined TSI Percent change to January 2013
2012	1	1.3	1.8	1.4
2011	2	3.1	3.3	3.2
2010	3	10.0	6.0	8.9
2009	4	14.6	6.9	12.5
2008	5	-0.5	0.3	-0.3
2007	6	2.6	2.7	2.7
2006	7	-0.2	6.1	1.6
2005	8	-1.8	8.9	1.1
2004	9	3.6	17.8	7.5
2003	10	7.8	21.1	11.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to January 2013 are all preliminary.

**Table 6: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2010-2013  
Percent change from previous month**

	2010 % Change	2011 % Change	2012 % Change	2013 % Change
January	0.6	0.2	-1.0	(P) -1.0
February	-2.1	-0.2	1.4	
March	2.3	0.9	-0.3	
April	0.2	-0.1	-0.4	
May	0.6	1.2	-0.2	
June	0.8	-0.6	0.1	
July	-0.2	0.1	-0.9	
August	0.2	-1.2	1.2	
September	1.0	1.4	(R) -0.2	
October	0.9	-0.4	(P) 1.3	
November	-0.3	0.5	(P) 0.1	
December	-1.0	0.9	(P) 0.7	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
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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)**

	January Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2004	99.6	2.9
2005	107.7	8.2
2006	110.5	2.6
2007	114.2	3.4
2008	116.9	2.3
2009	109.7	-6.2
2010	110.6	0.9
2011	113.5	2.6
2012	115.2	1.5
<b>2013<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>117.3</b>	<b>1.8</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, 2010-2013  
Percent change from previous month**

	2010 % Change	2011 % Change	2012 % Change	2013 % Change
<b>January</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>(P) 0.6</b>
February	0.2	-1.1	0.9	
March	1.5	1.7	-0.8	
April	0.1	-0.8	0.0	
May	0.5	-1.2	0.0	
June	0.1	1.6	0.1	
July	0.1	-0.1	-0.3	
August	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	
September	1.0	1.2	(R) 0.0	
October	0.4	-0.3	(P) -1.0	
November	-0.6	0.2	(P) 1.2	
December	1.5	3.6	(P) 0.9	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
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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>January Combined TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2004	105.0	3.7
2005	111.6	6.3
2006	111.1	-0.4
2007	109.9	-1.1
2008	113.2	3.0
2009	100.4	-11.3
2010	103.6	3.3
2011	109.4	5.6
2012	111.3	1.7
<b>2013<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>112.9</b>	<b>1.4</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 EIGHT

### **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 freight index measure changes in freight shipments while the passenger index measures changes in passenger travel.

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.

For a webinar on the TSI, see [Past Webinars](#). For a video explanation of the TSI, see [Overview of the Transportation Services Index](#). A BTS report explaining the TSI, [Transportation Services Index and the Economy](#), is available for download.