



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics  
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[www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)  
**BTS DATA**

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### **BTS Releases Transportation Services Index (TSI) Index Rises 0.5 Percent in September from August**

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) rose 0.5 percent in September from its August level of 124.5, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics reported today.

The TSI, which combines freight and passenger indexes, rose in September to 125.1 (1996=100) after a one-month fall in August to 124.5. The September 2004 level of 125.1 is 6.6 percent higher than the September 2003 level of 117.4.

TSI is a single seasonally adjusted index of the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire transportation industries, including railroad, air, truck, inland waterways, pipeline, and local transit.

The index includes historic data from 1990 to the present, allowing for examination of trends, peaks and low-points. Changes are measured against the monthly average for the base year of 1996. The TSI is still under development and is considered experimental. The next release is scheduled for Jan. 6.

### **The Transportation Services Index for Freight**

The TSI for freight increased 0.5 percent to 126.2 in September from the August level of 125.6, following a one-month decline in August. The September 2004 level of 126.2 is 6.4 percent higher than the September 2003 level of 118.7.

### **Transportation Services Index for Passengers**

The TSI for passengers increased 0.4 percent to 122.8 in September from the August level of 122.3, following two months of declines. The September 2004 level of 122.8 is 7.1 percent higher than the September 2003 level of 114.7.

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**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD ONE**

**More on TSI**

During the six months ending in September, the TSI rose 1.1 percent. The Freight TSI rose 0.8 percent and the Passenger TSI rose 1.9 percent during the six-month period.

**Note:** TSI numbers for June (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The June TSI is 125.5, revised from the 125.0 reported in the November release. The June Freight TSI is 126.6, unchanged from the November release. The June Passenger TSI is 123.4, revised from the 121.7 reported in the November release. The TSI for July, August and September are preliminary.

**TSI revision policy:** TSI is updated monthly with the latest three months' index numbers considered preliminary. Each month BTS releases the latest preliminary TSI, and replaces the oldest preliminary TSI with a revised TSI.

BTS updates the preliminary TSI from three months earlier in its monthly release of the TSI. The most recent month and the two previous months will remain preliminary. All other revisions are held until an annual comprehensive revision of the TSI which will be released as part of the following June TSI release. More information about the revision policy is available at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

**Table 1: Percent changes in the Transportation Services Index by Month Since March 2004 (Seasonally Adjusted)**

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
March	123.7	0.7	125.2	1.0	120.6	-0.2
April	125.4	1.4	127.1	1.5	121.8	1.0
May	125.1	-0.2	126.7	-0.3	121.6	-0.2
June <sup>R</sup>	125.5	0.4	126.6	-0.1	123.4	1.5
July <sup>P</sup>	125.5	0.0	126.9	0.3	122.7	-0.6
August <sup>P</sup>	124.5	-0.8	125.6	-1.0	122.3	-0.4
September <sup>P</sup>	125.1	0.5	126.2	0.5	122.8	0.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Note:** P = preliminary  
R = revised

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**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD TWO**

**Table 2: Percent changes in the Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year  
September TSI (Monthly average of 1996 = 100)**

	<b>TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from previous year</b>
1996	100.3	0.6
1997	109.0	8.7
1998	111.5	2.3
1999	117.5	5.3
2000	115.6	-1.6
2001	106.7	-7.7
2002	115.4	8.2
2003	117.4	1.7
2004 <sup>P</sup>	125.1	6.6

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

**Table 3: Percent Changes in the Transportation Services Index from Previous Years  
to 2004  
September to September**

<b>Percent change to September 2004</b>	<b>Since September ...</b>	<b>Duration</b>
6.6	2003	One Year
8.4	2002	Two Years
17.3	2001	Three Years
8.2	2000	Four Years
6.4	1999	Five Years
12.1	1998	Six Years
14.7	1997	Seven Years
24.7	1996	Eight Years

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Table 4: Percent changes in the Freight Transportation Services Index from Year-  
to-Year September Freight TSI (Monthly average of 1996 = 100)**

	<b>Freight TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from previous year</b>
1996	100.2	-1.4
1997	110.1	9.8
1998	113.9	3.5
1999	118.8	4.2
2000	113.3	-4.6
2001	111.9	-1.2
2002	117.3	4.8
2003	118.7	1.2
2004 <sup>P</sup>	126.2	6.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE**  
**ADD THREE**

**Table 5: Percent changes in the Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year September Passenger TSI (Monthly average of 1996 = 100)**

	<b>Passenger TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from previous year</b>
1996	100.5	5.3
1997	106.9	6.3
1998	106.5	-0.3
1999	114.9	7.9
2000	121.5	5.7
2001	94.6	-22.1
2002	111.3	17.7
2003	114.7	3.1
2004 <sup>P</sup>	122.8	7.1

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: P = preliminary

**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 TSI is still under development and is therefore considered experimental. It is being examined for refinements in data sources, methodologies and interpretations.

**The freight transportation index** consists of:

For hire trucking (not including parcel services),  
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.