



**M O V I N G T H E**  
**AMERICAN**  
**ECONOMY**

**U.S. Department of Transportation**  
**Research and Innovative Technology**  
**Administration**  
**Bureau of Transportation Statistics**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**[www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm](http://www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm)**

**BTS Data**

BTS 47-06  
Friday, Oct. 6, 2006

Contact: Dave Smallen  
Tel.: 202-366-5568

## **Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell 2.5 Percent in August from July**

The Transportation Services Index (TSI) fell 2.5 percent in August from its July level, the largest monthly decline in five years, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

The 2.5 percent decline from July to August is the biggest monthly decline since the index dropped 9.3 percent in September 2001. The decline in August was the third consecutive monthly decline, the longest string of monthly declines since five consecutive monthly declines ending in October 2005 (Table 2). For historical data prior to 2003, go to <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

For the first eight months of 2006, the TSI, a combination of the freight and passenger indexes, fell 1.6 percent, the first December-to-August decline since 2003. It was the biggest decline in the eight-month period in at least a decade (Table 3).

The August level of 108.7 for the combined freight and passenger index was 2.2 percent lower than the August 2005 level, the first decline from August of the previous year since August 2002 (Table 4). The August level was 8.0 percent higher than the August level of the base year of 2000 (Table 5).

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. The TSI is still under development and is considered experimental. The index measures changes from the monthly average of the base year of 2000. Release of the September index is scheduled for Nov. 7.

**--more--**

# TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

## ADD ONE

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

The TSI for freight fell 3.2 percent in August from the July level, turning down for the third consecutive month (Table 6). It was the biggest monthly decline in the freight index since September 2001 (<http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>). The Freight TSI fell from 112.0 in August 2005 to 108.1 in August 2006, the first decline from August of the previous year since 2001 and the largest August-to-August decline in the period covered by the index (Table 7). For the first eight months of 2006, the Freight TSI fell 2.6 percent, the first decline in the December-to-August period since 2003 but the biggest decline in the period since 2000 (Table 3).

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

The TSI for passengers fell 1.2 percent in August from the July level, turning down after a one-month rise (Table 8). The Passenger TSI August 2006 level fell 0.1 percent from the August 2005 level, the first August-to-August decline since 2002 (Table 9). For the first eight months of 2006, the Passenger TSI fell 0.6 percent, the first December-to-August decline since 2003 (Table 3).

### **More on TSI**

Note: TSI numbers for April 2006 (Total, Freight, and Passenger) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The April TSI is 110.5, revised from the 111.2 reported in the September release. The April Freight TSI is 109.6, revised from 111.0. The March Passenger TSI is 111.6, revised from 110.5. The TSI for May, June, July and August 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. All other revisions are held until an annual comprehensive revision of the TSI which will be released at the end of the calendar year. More information about the revision policy and the TSI index is available at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

--more--

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD TWO

**Table 1: Transportation Services Index Since February 2006**  
**Percent Change by Month**  
(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	TSI		Freight		Passenger	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
February	109.4	-1.3	109.7	-1.3	108.7	-1.3
March	110.9	1.3	110.6	0.9	111.0	2.1
April <sup>R</sup>	110.5	-0.3	109.6	-0.9	111.6	0.5
May <sup>P</sup>	112.4	1.7	113.2	3.2	110.2	-1.3
June <sup>P</sup>	111.9	-0.4	112.6	-0.5	110.0	-0.2
July <sup>P</sup>	111.5	-0.4	111.7	-0.8	110.2	0.2
August <sup>P</sup>	108.7	-2.5	108.1	-3.2	108.8	-1.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 2: Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006**  
**Percent change from previous month**

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-1.0	-1.4	1.5	0.3
February	-1.9	2.8	-1.4	-1.3
March	0.9	0.7	1.5	1.3
April	-0.5	0.7	0.0	(R) -0.3
May	-0.2	-0.4	0.4	(P) 1.7
June	1.0	1.0	-0.5	(P) -0.4
July	1.3	-0.2	-0.1	(P) -0.4
August	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1	(P) -2.5
September	1.1	0.5	-0.3	
October	0.7	0.1	-0.9	
November	-0.1	0.9	1.6	
December	2.3	-0.3	-0.9	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

--more--

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD THREE

**Table 3: Transportation Services Index Year-to-Date Change, 1997-2006**  
Percent change from December of previous year  
December to August

Year	TSI	Freight	Passenger
1997	5.0	6.3	2.4
1998	3.0	3.7	1.6
1999	3.4	3.3	3.4
2000	-1.3	-3.9	5.1
2001	2.9	3.0	2.8
2002	6.1	5.9	6.6
2003	-0.7	-0.6	-1.0
2004	2.8	2.0	4.7
2005	1.2	0.7	2.1
2006 <sup>P</sup>	-1.6	-2.6	-0.6

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

**Table 4: Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year**  
Percent change in the August TSI  
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

Year	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
1997	92.9	6.2
1998	97.8	5.3
1999	101.0	3.2
2000	100.7	-0.3
2001	101.5	0.8
2002	100.8	-0.6
2003	101.7	0.9
2004	108.7	6.9
2005	111.2	2.3
2006 <sup>P</sup>	108.7	-2.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

--more--

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD FOUR

**Table 5: Transportation Services Index from Previous Years  
Percent Change to 2006 (August to August)**

Percent change to August 2006	Since August ...	Duration in years
-2.2	2005	1
0.0	2004	2
6.9	2003	3
7.8	2002	4
7.1	2001	5
8.0	2000	6
7.7	1999	7
11.1	1998	8
17.1	1997	9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics  
Note: The percent changes to August 2006 are all preliminary.

**Table 6: Freight Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006  
Percent change from previous month**

	2003 % Growth	2004 % Growth	2005 % Growth	2006 % Growth
January	-1.1	-1.6	1.4	0.2
February	-1.4	2.6	-1.2	-1.3
March	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9
April	0.7	0.6	0.0	(R) -0.9
May	-1.2	-0.3	0.2	(P) 3.2
June	0.8	0.8	-0.5	(P) -0.5
July	0.5	-0.5	-0.5	(P) -0.8
August	-0.1	-0.6	0.4	(P) -3.2
September	0.6	0.5	-1.3	
October	1.3	-0.5	-0.6	
November	-0.8	1.3	2.0	
December	2.9	-0.4	-1.1	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics  
NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

- more -

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD FIVE

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

	<b>Freight TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
1997	94.6	7.3
1998	100.7	6.5
1999	103.2	2.5
2000	101.1	-2.0
2001	100.7	-0.4
2002	103.0	2.3
2003	103.8	0.8
2004	110.2	6.2
2005	112.0	1.7
2006 <sup>P</sup>	108.1	-3.5

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 8: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2003-2006  
Percent change from previous month**

	<b>2003 % Growth</b>	<b>2004 % Growth</b>	<b>2005 % Growth</b>	<b>2006 % Growth</b>
January	-0.8	-1.1	1.5	0.6
February	-3.1	3.4	-2.0	-1.3
March	0.2	0.1	2.9	2.1
April	-3.7	0.8	-0.1	(R) 0.5
May	2.3	-0.7	0.8	(P) -1.3
June	1.5	1.6	-0.5	(P) -0.2
July	3.4	0.5	0.9	(P) 0.2
August	-0.6	0.1	-1.3	(P) -1.2
September	2.2	0.5	2.3	
October	-0.7	1.6	-1.9	
November	1.3	-0.2	0.4	
December	1.1	-0.2	-0.4	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD SIX

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

	<b>Passenger TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
1997	88.8	4.0
1998	91.4	2.9
1999	95.8	4.8
2000	99.9	4.3
2001	103.2	3.3
2002	95.6	-7.3
2003	96.6	1.0
2004	105.0	8.8
2005	109.0	3.8
2006 <sup>P</sup>	108.8	-0.1

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

# 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 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,

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.

- end -