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BTS Data

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3rd-Quarter 2009 Air Fares: Average 3rd-Quarter Domestic Air Fares Fell 14.4% from 3rd Quarter 2008

Top 100 Airports: Highest Fare in Huntsville, Lowest Fare at Atlantic City

Average domestic air fares in the third quarter of 2009 fell to their lowest July-to-September level since 2005, dropping 14.4 percent from the third quarter of 2008 in the largest year-to-year decline on record (Table 1), the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today.

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reports average fares based on domestic itinerary fares, round-trip or one-way for which no return is purchased. Fares are based on the total ticket value which consists of the price charged by the airlines plus any additional taxes and fees levied by an outside entity at the time of purchase. Fares include only the price paid at the time of the ticket purchase and do not include other fees, such as baggage fees, paid at the airport or onboard the aircraft. Averages do not include frequent-flyer or "zero fares" or a few abnormally high reported fares.

The \$306 third-quarter 2009 average fares were down 14.4 percent from the all-time high, not inflation-adjusted, of \$358 in the third quarter of 2008 and down 26.8 percent from the inflation-adjusted high for any third-quarter since 1995 set in 2000. The third quarter 2009 average fares were up 3.3 percent from the post-9/11 third-quarter \$297 in 2004 (Table 1). BTS air fare records reach back to 1995. See [BTS Air Fare web page](#) for historic data.

Third quarter average fares were up 1.7 percent from the second quarter of 2009. Quarter-to-quarter changes may be affected by seasonal factors (Table 2).

While air fares in the third quarter of 2009 rose 1.0 percent since 2001, overall prices measured by the inflation rate rose 21.1 percent during that period (Table 6). In the 14 years from 1995, the first year of BTS records, air fares rose 6.6 percent compared to a 41.0 percent inflation rate. In 1995 dollars, the average air fare in the third quarter of 2009 was \$217. (Table 1)

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Average fares in this release may not be comparable to BTS fare press releases before the second quarter of 2007 which did not exclude frequent flyer fares or abnormally high fares. Bulk fares continue to be excluded as in earlier releases.

Beginning with the first quarter 2008 release, BTS does not include Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico airports in rankings. Average fares for those airports are available on the BTS Air Fare web page: <http://www.bts.gov/xml/atpi/src/index.xml>

Of the top 100 airports based on 2008 originating passengers, the highest third-quarter average fares were in Huntsville, AL, followed by Grand Rapids, MI; Savannah, GA; Washington Dulles; and Knoxville, TN. The lowest fares in the top 100 airports were at Atlantic City, NJ, followed by Orlando, FL; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Dallas Love; and Long Beach, CA. (Table 3). See the [BTS Air Fare web page](#) for average fares for the top 100 airports.

There was only one year-to-year average fare increase for the third quarter among the 100 largest airports ranked by originating passengers at 2.5 percent, in Savannah. Atlantic City; Reno, NV; Dallas Love; and Spokane, WA, had the smallest decreases (Table 4).

The biggest year-to-year average decrease was 38.5 percent in Cincinnati, followed by Minneapolis/St. Paul; Milwaukee; Madison, WI; and Flint, MI (Table 4).

The largest average fare increase from the third quarter of 1995 to the third quarter of 2009 was at Dallas Love followed by El Paso, TX; Houston Hobby; Reno; and Colorado Springs, CO. (Table 5).

The largest average fare decrease from the third quarter of 1995 to the third quarter of 2009 was at White Plains, NY. The other top average fare decreases over this period took place at Manchester, NH; Flint; Akron/Canton, OH; and Rochester, NY (Table 5).

Additional information about average fares, including fares for the top 100 airports based on U.S. originating domestic passengers, can be found on the BTS website at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/atpi/src/index.xml>. Fourth-quarter average fare data will be released on April 28.

The [Air Travel Price Index](#) (ATPI) for the third quarter of 2009 will be posted on the [BTS website](#) on Feb. 12. The ATPI is a separate statistical measure of the level of air fares.

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Table 1: 3rd Quarter Average Fares 1995-2009 Compared to Inflation Rate

Fares based on domestic itinerary fares, round-trip or one-way for which no return is purchased. Fares are based on the total ticket value which consists of the price charged by the airlines plus any additional taxes and fees levied by an outside entity at the time of purchase. Fares include only the price paid at the time of the ticket purchase and do not include other fees, such as baggage fees, paid at the airport or onboard the aircraft. Averages do not include frequent-flyer or “zero fares” or a few abnormally high reported fares. Averages do not include frequent flyer fares.

	Percent change from previous year			Percent change from 1995		
	Average Domestic 3Q Fares (\$)	Average Fares (3Q to 3Q)	Inflation (Sep from previous Sep)*	Cumulative Average Fares (3Q 1995 to 3Q of each year)	Cumulative inflation rate (Sep of each year from Sep 1995)*	Average Fare in 1995 dollars
1995	288					288
1996	270	-6.3	3.0	-6.3	3.0	262
1997	282	4.7	2.2	-1.8	5.2	268
1998	315	11.7	1.5	9.6	6.8	295
1999	317	0.6	2.6	10.3	9.6	289
2000	337	6.1	3.5	17.1	13.4	297
2001	303	-10.0	2.6	5.4	16.4	260
2002	303	0.1	1.5	5.5	18.1	257
2003	312	3.0	2.3	8.6	20.9	258
2004	297	-5.1	2.5	3.1	24.0	239
2005	306	3.2	4.7	6.4	29.8	236
2006	330	7.9	2.1	14.8	32.4	249
2007	328	-0.8	2.8	13.9	36.1	241
2008	358	9.3	4.9	24.5	42.8	251
2009	306	-14.4	-1.3	6.6	41.0	217

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Rate calculated using Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index.

Note: Percent change based on unrounded numbers

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Table 2: Quarterly Change in Average Domestic Airline Fares

Percent Change by Quarter

Fares based on domestic itinerary fares, round-trip or one-way for which no return is purchased. Fares are based on the total ticket value which consists of the price charged by the airlines plus any additional taxes and fees levied by an outside entity at the time of purchase. Fares include only the price paid at the time of the ticket purchase and do not include other fees, such as baggage fees, paid at the airport or onboard the aircraft. Averages do not include frequent-flyer or “zero fares” or a few abnormally high reported fares.

	Average Domestic Fares	
	Avg Fare* (\$)	Pct. Change from Previous Quarter
4Q 2007	330	0.7
1Q 2008	333	1.1
2Q 2008	346	3.8
3Q 2008	358	3.4
4Q 2008	345	-3.7
1Q 2009	313	-9.1
2Q 2009	301	-3.8
3Q 2009	306	1.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Average fares from 4Q 2007 to 1Q 2009 revised from July 29, 2009 release.

Note: Percent change based on unrounded numbers

Note: Quarter-to-quarter changes may be affected by seasonal factors.

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Table 3: Highest and Lowest U.S. Domestic Average Itinerary Fares 3rd Quarter 2009

Top 100 Airports* Based on 2008 U.S. Originating Domestic Passengers

Fares based on domestic itinerary fares, round-trip or one-way for which no return is purchased. Fares are based on the total ticket value which consists of the price charged by the airlines plus any additional taxes and fees levied by an outside entity at the time of purchase. Fares include only the price paid at the time of the ticket purchase and do not include other fees, such as baggage fees, paid at the airport or onboard the aircraft. Averages do not include frequent-flyer or “zero fares” or a few abnormally high reported fares.

Rank	Origin	3rd Quarter 2009 (\$)
Highest Average Fares		
1	Huntsville, AL	492
2	Grand Rapids, MI	406
3	Savannah, GA	396
4	Washington Dulles, VA	391
5	Knoxville TN	388
Average Fare at All Airports		306
Lowest Average Fares		
1	Atlantic City, NJ	165
2	Orlando, FL	225
3	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	228
4	Dallas Love, TX	229
5	Long Beach, CA	229

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Not including Alaska, Hawaii or Puerto Rico

Note: Percent change based on unrounded numbers

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Table 4: Top 5 Increases/Smallest Decreases and Top 5 Decreases in U.S. Domestic Average Itinerary Fare, 2008 – 2009

Top 100 Airports* Based on 2008 U.S. Originating Domestic Passengers

Fares based on domestic itinerary fares, round-trip or one-way for which no return is purchased. Fares are based on the total ticket value which consists of the price charged by the airlines plus any additional taxes and fees levied by an outside entity at the time of purchase. Fares include only the price paid at the time of the ticket purchase and do not include other fees, such as baggage fees, paid at the airport or onboard the aircraft. Averages do not include frequent-flyer or “zero fares” or a few abnormally high reported fares.

Rank	Origin	3rd Quarter 2008 (\$)	3rd Quarter 2009 (\$)	Percent Change from 3rd Qtr 2008
Largest Increases/Smallest Decreases				
1	Savannah, GA	386	396	2.5
2	Atlantic City, NJ	166	165	-0.4
3	Reno, NV	301	290	-3.4
4	Dallas Love, TX	238	229	-3.9
5	Spokane, WA	317	303	-4.5
Average Fare at All Airports		358	306	-14.4
Largest Decreases				
1	Cincinnati, OH	597	367	-38.5
2	Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN	472	322	-31.9
3	Milwaukee, WI	336	246	-26.8
4	Madison, WI	490	359	-26.7
5	Flint, MI	340	251	-26.0

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Not including Alaska, Hawaii or Puerto Rico

Note: Percent change based on unrounded numbers

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Table 5: Top 5 U.S. Domestic Average Itinerary Fare Increases and Decreases, 1995-2009

Top 100 Airports* Based on 2008 U.S. Originating Domestic Passengers

Fares based on domestic itinerary fares, round-trip or one-way for which no return is purchased. Fares are based on the total ticket value which consists of the price charged by the airlines plus any additional taxes and fees levied by an outside entity at the time of purchase. Fares include only the price paid at the time of the ticket purchase and do not include other fees, such as baggage fees, paid at the airport or onboard the aircraft. Averages do not include frequent-flyer or “zero fares” or a few abnormally high reported fares.

Rank	Origin	3rd Quarter 1995 (\$)	3rd Quarter 2009 (\$)	Percent Change from 3rd Qtr 1995
Largest Increases				
1	Dallas Love, TX	76	229	199.8
2	El Paso, TX	153	299	95.3
3	Houston Hobby, TX	135	259	92.3
4	Reno, NV	153	290	89.7
5	Colorado Springs, CO	194	356	83.2
Average Fare at All Airports		288	306	6.6
Largest Decreases				
1	White Plains, NY	481	257	-46.6
2	Manchester, NH	462	283	-38.8
3	Flint, MI	407	251	-38.3
4	Akron/Canton, OH	389	241	-37.9
5	Rochester, NY	411	271	-34.1

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Not including Alaska, Hawaii or Puerto Rico

Note: Percent change based on unrounded numbers

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Table 6: Percent Changes to 2009 in Domestic Average Itinerary Fares and the Inflation Rate* by Year Since 1995

(2nd Quarter to 2nd Quarter for fares; June to June for inflation)

Fares based on domestic itinerary fares, round-trip or one-way for which no return is purchased. Fares are based on the total ticket value which consists of the price charged by the airlines plus any additional taxes and fees levied by an outside entity at the time of purchase. Fares include only the price paid at the time of the ticket purchase and do not include other fees, such as baggage fees, paid at the airport or onboard the aircraft.

Averages do not include frequent-flyer or “zero fares” or a few abnormally high reported fares.

Since 3rd Quarter ...	Duration in Years	Average 3Q Itinerary Fare (\$)	3rd Quarter 2009 Average Fare Compared to Previous Years (% change)	Inflation Rate to Sep 2009
2009		306		
2008	1	358	-14.4	-1.3
2007	2	328	-6.5	3.6
2006	3	330	-7.2	6.4
2005	4	306	0.2	8.6
2004	5	297	3.3	13.7
2003	6	312	-1.9	16.6
2002	7	303	1.0	19.3
2001	8	303	1.1	21.1
2000	9	337	-9.0	24.3
1999	10	317	-3.4	28.6
1998	11	315	-2.8	32.0
1997	12	282	8.5	34.0
1996	13	270	13.7	36.9
1995	14	288	6.6	41.0

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Rate calculated using Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

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Note: Percent change based on unrounded numbers

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For **air fares** for the following airports, go to
<http://www.bts.gov/xml/atpi/src/index.xml>.

Multiple airport areas for which a single average fare calculation is available are:
Boston, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco
and Washington, DC.

Airports covered by average fare calculations are:

Alabama	Birmingham, Huntsville*
Arizona	Phoenix, Tucson
Arkansas	Little Rock
California	Burbank, Fresno, Long Beach, Los Angeles Intl, Oakland, Ontario/San Bernardino, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Ana (Orange County)
Colorado	Colorado Springs, Denver
Connecticut	Hartford
District of Columbia	Dulles, Reagan National
Florida	Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Pensacola, Sarasota*, Tampa, West Palm Beach
Georgia	Atlanta, Savannah
Idaho	Boise
Illinois	Chicago Midway, Chicago O'Hare
Indiana	Indianapolis
Iowa	Des Moines
Kansas	Wichita
Kentucky	Louisville
Louisiana	New Orleans
Maine	Portland
Maryland	Baltimore
Massachusetts	Boston
Michigan	Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint
Minnesota	Minneapolis/St. Paul
Mississippi	Jackson/Vicksburg
Missouri	Kansas City, St. Louis
Nebraska	Omaha
Nevada	Las Vegas, Reno
New Hampshire	Manchester
New Jersey	Atlantic City, Newark
New Mexico	Albuquerque
New York	Albany, Buffalo, Islip, Newburgh, New York JFK, New York LaGuardia, Rochester, Syracuse, White Plains

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ADD FIFTEEN

North Carolina	Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh/Durham
Ohio	Akron/Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City, Tulsa
Oregon	Portland
Pennsylvania	Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh
Rhode Island	Providence
South Carolina	Charleston, Greenville/Spartanburg
Tennessee	Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville
Texas	Austin, Dallas Love, Dallas/Ft. Worth, El Paso, Houston Bush, Houston Hobby, Lubbock, San Antonio
Utah	Salt Lake City
Vermont	Burlington
Virginia	Newport News/Williamsburg*, Norfolk, Richmond
Washington	Seattle, Spokane
Wisconsin	Madison, Milwaukee

* Data available on BTS Air Fare Page [BTS Air Fare Page](#) only.

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