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BTS Data

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4th-Quarter 2009 Air Fare Data: Average 4th-Quarter Domestic Air Fares Fell 7.4% from 4th Quarter 2008

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

Average domestic air fares in the fourth quarter of 2009 fell to their lowest October-to-December level since 2006, dropping 7.4 percent from the fourth quarter of 2008 in the largest year-to-year decline since 2001 (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 \$319 fourth-quarter 2009 average fares were down 10.8 percent from the all-time high, not inflation-adjusted, of \$358 in the third quarter of 2008 and down 24.4 percent from the inflation-adjusted high for any fourth-quarter since 1995 set in 2000. The fourth quarter 2009 average fares were up 7.4 percent from the post-9/11 fourth-quarter low of \$297 in 2004 (Table 1). BTS air fare records reach back to 1995. See [BTS Air Fare web page](#) for historic data.

Fourth quarter average fares were up 4.2 percent from the third quarter of 2009. Quarter-to-quarter changes may be affected by seasonal factors (Table 2).

While air fares in the fourth quarter of 2009 declined 6.1 percent since the fourth quarter of 2000, overall prices measured by the inflation rate rose 24.1 percent during that period (Table 6). In the 14 years from 1995, the first year of BTS records, air fares rose 10.9 percent compared to a 40.7 percent inflation rate. In 1995 dollars, the average air fare in the fourth quarter of 2009 was \$227, compared to \$288 in 1995 and \$300 in 2000 (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>

See tables below for the following information about the [top 100 airports](#) based on 2008 originating passengers:

Table 3: Five highest and five lowest average fares in the fourth quarter: Huntsville, AL, had the highest average fare, \$492, while Atlantic City, NJ, had the lowest, \$190. For the Top 100 Airports, see [Table 8](#) on the BTS website.

Table 4: Five largest increases and five largest decreases from the fourth quarter of 2008 to the fourth quarter of 2009: Savannah, GA, had the largest increase, 4.0 percent, and Cincinnati had the largest decrease, 30.8 percent. For the Top 100 Airports, see [Table 9](#) on the BTS website.

Table 5: Five largest increases and five largest decreases from the fourth quarter of 1995 to the fourth quarter of 2009: Dallas Love had the largest increase, 208.5 percent, and White Plains, NY, had the largest decrease, 40.5 percent. For the Top 100 Airports, see [Table 10](#) on the BTS website.

See the [BTS Air Fare web page](#) for average fares for the top 100 airports.

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>. First-quarter 2010 average fare data will be released on July 28.

The [Air Travel Price Index](#) (ATPI) for the fourth quarter of 2009 will be posted on the [BTS website](#) on May 26. The ATPI is a separate statistical measure of the level of air fares.

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Table 1: 4th 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 4Q Fares (\$)	Average Fares (4Q to 4Q)	Inflation (Dec from previous Dec)*	Cumulative Average Fares (4Q of each year)	Cumulative inflation rate (Dec of each year from Dec 1995)*	Average Fare in 1995 dollars
1995	288					288
1996	278	-3.3	3.3	-3.3	3.3	269
1997	294	5.5	1.7	2.0	5.1	279
1998	316	7.7	1.6	9.9	6.8	296
1999	318	0.6	2.7	10.5	9.6	290
2000	340	7.0	3.4	18.2	13.4	300
2001	300	-11.8	1.6	4.2	15.1	260
2002	309	3.0	2.4	7.3	17.9	262
2003	316	2.2	1.9	9.7	20.1	263
2004	297	-5.9	3.3	3.3	24.0	240
2005	315	5.9	3.4	9.4	28.2	246
2006	318	1.1	2.5	10.5	31.5	242
2007	330	3.6	4.1	14.6	36.8	241
2008	345	4.6	0.1	19.8	37.0	252
2009	319	-7.4	2.7	10.9	40.7	227

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
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
4Q 2009	319	4.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

* Average fares from 1Q 2008 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 4th 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	4th Quarter 2009 (\$)
Highest Average Fares		
1	Huntsville, AL	492
2	Savannah, GA	424
3	Grand Rapids, MI	412
4	Knoxville TN	410
5	Newark, NJ	405
Average Fare at All Airports		319
Lowest Average Fares		
1	Atlantic City, NJ	190
2	Long Beach, CA	230
3	Dallas Love, TX	235
4	Orlando, FL	239
5	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	240

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	4th Quarter 2008 (\$)	4th Quarter 2009 (\$)	Percent Change from 4th Qtr 2008
Largest Increases/Smallest Decreases				
1	Savannah, GA	407	424	4.0
2	Burlington, VT	341	353	3.5
3	Atlantic City, NJ	184	190	3.2
4	New Orleans, LA	293	297	1.3
5	Detroit, MI	334	336	0.7
Average Fare at All Airports		345	319	-7.4
Largest Decreases				
1	Cincinnati, OH	554	384	-30.8
2	Milwaukee, WI	331	247	-25.4
3	Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN	435	347	-20.3
4	Santa Ana (Orange County), CA	336	286	-14.8
5	San Francisco, CA	405	351	-13.2

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	4th Quarter 1995 (\$)	4th Quarter 2009 (\$)	Percent Change from 4th Qtr 1995
Largest Increases				
1	Dallas Love, TX	76	235	208.5
2	Colorado Springs, CO	181	370	104.1
3	Houston Hobby, TX	136	265	95.4
4	El Paso, TX	159	304	91.5
5	Reno, NV	154	286	86.2
Average Fare at All Airports		288	319	10.9
Largest Decreases				
1	White Plains, NY	476	283	-40.5
2	Manchester, NH	427	305	-28.7
3	Rochester, NY	392	285	-27.3
4	Richmond, VA	439	323	-26.5
5	Akron/Canton, OH	367	270	-26.4

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

(4th Quarter to 4th Quarter for fares; December to December 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 4th Quarter ...	Duration in Years	Average 4Q Itinerary Fare (\$)	4th Quarter 2009 Average Fare Compared to Previous Years (% change)	Inflation Rate to Dec 2009
2009		319		
2008	1	345	-7.4	2.7
2007	2	330	-3.2	2.8
2006	3	318	0.4	7.0
2005	4	315	1.4	9.7
2004	5	297	7.4	13.5
2003	6	316	1.1	17.2
2002	7	309	3.4	19.4
2001	8	300	6.5	22.2
2000	9	340	-6.1	24.1
1999	10	318	0.4	28.3
1998	11	316	1.0	31.8
1997	12	294	8.8	33.9
1996	13	278	14.7	36.2
1995	14	288	10.9	40.7

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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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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