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## BTS Data

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Contact: Dave Smallen  
Tel: 202-366-5568

### **Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell 0.3% in November from October**

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) fell 0.3 percent in November from its October level, declining after two monthly increases, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1).

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the Freight TSI rose 5.4 percent over the last 18 months, starting in June 2009, after declining 15.3 percent in the previous 10 months beginning in August 2008. The index has increased in 14 of the last 18 months (Table 2). Through the first 11 months of 2010, the index declined 1.0 percent (Table 3). With next month's release, BTS will conduct a comprehensive revision. The revision will result in changes to the 2010 numbers, especially for those months that have not undergone the monthly revision and are currently classified as preliminary. For additional historic data, go to <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>

The Freight TSI measures the month-to-month changes in freight shipments in ton-miles, which are then 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.

The November Freight TSI of 98.5 is a 5.4 percent increase from the recent low of 93.5 reached in May 2009. In May 2009, the index was at its lowest level since June 1997. The November Freight TSI is down 12.7 percent from its historic peak of 112.9 reached in May 2006.

Although the index rose 0.1 percent from November 2009 to November 2010, it remains below the level of every other November since 2001 when it was 97.6 (Table 4). January 2010 was the first month since July 2008 in which the Freight TSI exceeded the level of the same month of the previous year. The index has exceeded the previous year's level every month since January but still remains below the level of recent earlier years.

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## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

### ADD ONE

The freight index is down 12.7 percent in the five years from November 2005. The index is down 0.5 percent in the 10 years from November 2000 (Table 5).

The TSI is a seasonally adjusted index that measures changes from the monthly average of the base year of 2000. It includes historic data from 1990 to the present. Release of the December index is scheduled for Feb. 9.

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.

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

The TSI for passengers rose 0.9 percent in November from its October level (Table 6). The Passenger TSI November 2010 level of 114.8 was 4.4 percent above the November 2009 level after a 1.5 percent decline from November 2008 to November 2009 (Table 7). The index is up 4.2 percent in five years and up 12.1 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

The passenger TSI measures the month-to-month changes in travel conducted in the for-hire passenger transportation sector. The seasonally adjusted index consists of data from air, local transit and intercity rail.

### **Combined Freight and Passenger Index**

The combined freight and passenger TSI was virtually unchanged in November from its October level, falling very slightly (Table 8). The combined TSI November 2010 level of 102.1 was 1.2 percent higher than the November 2009 level (Table 9). The combined index is down 8.7 percent in five years and up 2.0 percent in 10 years despite recent declines (Table 5). The combined TSI merges the freight and passenger indexes into a single index.

### **More on TSI**

Note: TSI numbers for July (Freight, Passenger and Combined) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The July Freight TSI is 103.1, revised from the 98.2 reported in last month's release. The July Passenger TSI is 112.8, revised from 111.2. The July Combined TSI is 105.2, revised from 101.1. The TSI for August, September, October and November are preliminary.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD TWO

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 monthly revision policy, is available at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>

More information about the comprehensive revision conducted with the July 2009 release is provided under 2009 Comprehensive Revision at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>

**Table 1: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes since May 2010**

**Percent Change by Month**

(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
May	102.6	-0.2	111.8	0.7	104.6	0.0
June	102.7	0.1	112.7	0.8	104.9	0.3
July <sup>R</sup>	103.1	0.4	112.8	0.0	105.2	0.3
August <sup>P</sup>	97.6	-5.3	111.5	-1.1	100.7	-4.3
September <sup>P</sup>	98.7	1.0	112.6	1.0	101.7	1.0
October <sup>P</sup>	98.9	0.2	113.8	1.1	102.2	0.4
<b>November<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>114.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>102.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 2: Freight Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2007-2010**  
**Percent change from previous month**

	2007 % Growth	2008 % Growth	2009 % Growth	2010 % Growth
January	-0.6	2.3	-2.5	0.9
February	-0.3	-0.9	1.0	0.5
March	1.9	-1.4	-3.6	1.3
April	-0.7	0.6	-1.8	0.5
May	-0.4	0.0	-0.1	-0.2
June	-1.0	-0.8	0.6	0.1
July	-0.3	0.8	1.9	(R) 0.4
August	0.7	-2.2	0.7	(P) -5.3
September	-1.0	-1.6	0.1	(P) 1.0
October	1.7	-0.6	-0.9	(P) 0.2
<b>November</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>(P) -0.3</b>
December	-0.1	-2.8	1.2	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD THREE

**Table 3: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes Year-to-Date Change, 2001-2010**

Percent change from December of previous year  
December to November

<b>Year</b>	<b>Freight</b>	<b>Passenger</b>	<b>Combined</b>
2001	-0.3	-14.1	-4.6
2002	6.4	5.3	6.1
2003	0.8	1.9	1.1
2004	3.1	5.9	3.9
2005	1.8	3.3	2.2
2006	-3.0	3.9	-1.3
2007	0.5	2.2	1.0
2008	-6.0	-5.5	-5.9
2009	-1.9	-0.6	-1.6
<b>2010<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

**Table 4: Freight Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year Percent change in the November Freight TSI**

(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

	<b>Freight TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2001	97.6	-1.4
2002	103.7	6.2
2003	105.4	1.6
2004	111.4	5.7
2005	112.8	1.3
2006	107.9	-4.4
2007	109.9	1.9
2008	103.2	-6.1
2009	98.4	-4.7
<b>2010<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD FOUR

**Table 5: Transportation Services Indexes from Previous Years  
Percent Change to 2010 (November to November)**

Since November . .	Duration in years	Freight TSI Percent change to November 2010	Passenger TSI Percent change to November 2010	Combined TSI Percent change to November 2010
2009	1	0.1	4.4	1.2
2008	2	-4.6	2.7	-2.8
2007	3	-10.4	-2.1	-8.4
2006	4	-8.7	1.1	-6.4
2005	5	-12.7	4.2	-8.7
2004	6	-11.5	7.6	-7.1
2003	7	-6.5	15.1	-1.4
2002	8	-5.0	19.6	0.8
2001	9	0.9	32.6	8.3
2000	10	-0.5	12.1	2.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to November 2010 are all preliminary.

**Table 6: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2007-2010  
Percent change from previous month**

	2007 % Growth	2008 % Growth	2009 % Growth	2010 % Growth
January	0.3	-0.2	-0.7	0.8
February	-0.7	-1.0	-0.4	-2.3
March	2.0	0.2	-0.9	2.4
April	-0.3	1.1	1.4	0.2
May	2.4	-0.5	-1.2	0.7
June	-2.1	-0.4	0.5	0.8
July	-0.3	-0.2	1.3	(R) 0.0
August	1.0	-1.1	0.0	(P) -1.1
September	1.4	-0.6	-0.2	(P) 1.0
October	-0.8	-1.4	0.2	(P) 1.1
<b>November</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>(P) 0.9</b>
December	0.9	-0.9	-0.1	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD FIVE

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

	<b>Passenger TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2001	86.6	-15.5
2002	96.0	10.9
2003	99.7	3.9
2004	106.7	7.0
2005	110.2	3.3
2006	113.6	3.1
2007	117.3	3.2
2008	111.8	-4.7
2009	110.1	-1.5
<b>2010<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>114.8</b>	<b>4.4</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, 2007-2010  
Percent change from previous month**

	<b>2007 % Growth</b>	<b>2008 % Growth</b>	<b>2009 % Growth</b>	<b>2010 % Growth</b>
January	-0.4	1.7	-2.1	0.8
February	-0.4	-0.9	0.7	-0.2
March	1.9	-1.0	-2.9	1.6
April	-0.6	0.7	-1.0	0.5
May	0.3	-0.1	-0.4	0.0
June	-1.3	-0.7	0.6	0.3
July	-0.3	0.6	1.7	(R) 0.3
August	0.8	-2.0	0.5	(P) -4.3
September	-0.4	-1.3	0.0	(P) 1.0
October	1.1	-0.8	-0.6	(P) 0.4
<b>November</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>(P) 0.0</b>
December	0.2	-2.4	0.8	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD SIX

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

	<b>TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2001	94.3	-5.9
2002	101.4	7.5
2003	103.6	2.2
2004	109.9	6.1
2005	111.9	1.8
2006	109.1	-2.6
2007	111.5	2.2
2008	105.1	-5.7
2009	101.0	-3.9
<b>2010<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>102.1</b>	<b>1.2</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 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 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.

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