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## BTS Data

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### **Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Rose 1.5% in December from November**

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) rose 1.5 percent in December from its November level, rising after one monthly decline, 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 6.9 percent over the last 19 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 19 months (Table 2). In 2010, the index increased 0.4 percent (Table 3). With next month's release, BTS will conduct a comprehensive revision, delayed one month from the previously announced 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 December Freight TSI of 100.0 is a 6.9 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 December Freight TSI is down 11.4 percent from its historic peak of 112.9 reached in May 2006.

Although the index rose 0.4 percent from December 2009 to December 2010, it remains below the level of every other December since 2001 when it was 97.4 (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 years before the most recent year.

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The freight index is down 10.1 percent in the five years from December 2005. The index is up 2.1 percent in the 10 years from December 2000 despite recent declines (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 January index is scheduled for March 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 fell 0.4 percent in December from its November level (Table 6). The Passenger TSI December 2010 level of 114.4 was 4.1 percent above the December 2009 level after a 0.8 percent decline from December 2008 to December 2009 (Table 7). The index is up 4.6 percent in five years and up 13.4 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 rose 1.0 percent in December from its November level (Table 8). The combined TSI December 2010 level of 103.2 was 1.3 percent higher than the December 2009 level (Table 9). The combined index is down 6.6 percent in five years and up 4.4 percent in 10 years despite recent declines (Table 5). The combined TSI merges the freight and passenger indexes into a single index.

### **4th Quarter Changes**

The Freight TSI rose 1.3 percent in the fourth quarter, the fifth quarterly increase in the past six quarters (Table 10). The Passenger TSI rose 1.6 percent in the fourth quarter, rising in three of the last four quarters (Table 11). The combined TSI rose 1.4 percent in the fourth quarter, the fifth quarterly increase in the past six quarters (Table 12).

### **More on TSI**

Note: TSI numbers for August (Freight, Passenger and Combined) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The August Freight TSI is 102.5, revised from the 97.6 reported in last month's release. The August Passenger TSI is 112.8, revised from 111.5. The August Combined TSI is 104.8, revised from 100.7. The TSI for September, October, November and December are preliminary.

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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 June 2010**

**Percent Change by Month**

(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
June	102.7	0.1	112.7	0.8	104.9	0.3
July	103.1	0.4	112.8	0.0	105.2	0.3
August <sup>R</sup>	102.5	-0.5	112.8	0.1	104.8	-0.4
September <sup>P</sup>	98.7	-3.8	112.6	-0.2	101.7	-2.9
October <sup>P</sup>	98.9	0.2	113.8	1.1	102.2	0.4
November <sup>P</sup>	98.5	-0.3	114.8	0.9	102.1	0.0
December <sup>P</sup>	100.0	1.5	114.4	-0.4	103.2	1.0

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	0.4
August	0.7	-2.2	0.7	(R) -0.5
September	-1.0	-1.6	0.1	(P) -3.8
October	1.7	-0.6	-0.9	(P) 0.2
November	0.6	-2.2	2.8	(P) -0.3
<b>December</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>(P) 1.5</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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**Table 3: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes Year-to-Date Change, 2001-2010**  
Percent change from December of previous year  
December to December

Year	Freight	Passenger	Combined
2001	-0.5	-9.6	-3.3
2002	7.3	7.4	7.3
2003	3.3	2.9	3.2
2004	2.6	5.9	3.5
2005	0.3	2.5	0.9
2006	-1.7	4.9	-0.1
2007	0.5	3.1	1.1
2008	-8.7	-6.4	-8.1
2009	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8
<b>2010<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2001	97.4	-0.5
2002	104.6	7.3
2003	108.0	3.3
2004	110.9	2.6
2005	111.2	0.3
2006	109.3	-1.7
2007	109.8	0.5
2008	100.3	-8.7
2009	99.5	-0.8
<b>2010<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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

Since December . .	Duration in years	Freight TSI Percent change to December 2010	Passenger TSI Percent change to December 2010	Combined TSI Percent change to December 2010
2009	1	0.4	4.1	1.3
2008	2	-0.4	3.3	0.5
2007	3	-9.0	-3.3	-7.6
2006	4	-8.6	-0.3	-6.6
2005	5	-10.1	4.6	-6.6
2004	6	-9.8	7.2	-5.8
2003	7	-7.4	13.5	-2.5
2002	8	-4.4	16.8	0.6
2001	9	2.6	25.4	8.0
2000	10	2.1	13.4	4.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to December 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	0.0
August	1.0	-1.1	0.0	(R) 0.1
September	1.4	-0.6	-0.2	(P) -0.2
October	-0.8	-1.4	0.2	(P) 1.1
November	-0.5	-1.8	-0.5	(P) 0.9
<b>December</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>(P) -0.4</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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

	<b>Passenger TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2001	91.2	-9.6
2002	97.9	7.4
2003	100.8	2.9
2004	106.7	5.9
2005	109.4	2.5
2006	114.7	4.9
2007	118.3	3.1
2008	110.8	-6.4
2009	109.9	-0.8
<b>2010<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>114.4</b>	<b>4.1</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	0.3
August	0.8	-2.0	0.5	(R) -0.4
September	-0.4	-1.3	0.0	(P) -2.9
October	1.1	-0.8	-0.6	(P) 0.4
November	0.3	-2.1	1.9	(P) 0.0
<b>December</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>(P) 1.0</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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

	<b>TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2001	95.5	-3.3
2002	102.5	7.3
2003	105.8	3.2
2004	109.5	3.5
2005	110.5	0.9
2006	110.4	-0.1
2007	111.6	1.1
2008	102.6	-8.1
2009	101.8	-0.8
<b>2010<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 10: Freight Transportation Services Index Change by Quarter, 2001-2010  
Percent change from the last month of the previous quarter**

<b>Year</b>	<b>1st Quarter (Jan-Mar) % Growth</b>	<b>2nd Quarter (Apr-Jun) % Growth</b>	<b>3rd Quarter (Jul-Sep) % Growth</b>	<b>4th Quarter (Oct-Dec) % Growth</b>
2001	1.4	-0.5	-1.4	0.0
2002	1.3	2.8	1.1	1.9
2003	-1.4	0.0	1.3	3.3
2004	1.6	0.5	-0.3	0.8
2005	0.8	-0.7	-0.5	0.7
2006	-0.4	1.1	-0.7	-1.6
2007	0.9	-2.0	-0.6	2.2
2008	0.0	-0.3	-3.0	-5.5
2009	-5.0	-1.3	2.7	3.0
<b>2010</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>(P) -3.9</b>	<b>(P) 1.3</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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**Table 11: Passenger Transportation Services Index Change by Quarter, 2001-2010**  
Percent change from the last month of the previous quarter

Year	1st Quarter (Jan-Mar) % Growth	2nd Quarter (Apr-Jun) % Growth	3rd Quarter (Jul-Sep) % Growth	4th Quarter (Oct-Dec) % Growth
2001	-0.5	-0.1	-21.1	15.2
2002	2.3	1.1	-0.5	4.4
2003	-4.2	-0.1	4.9	2.6
2004	1.4	1.8	0.5	1.9
2005	2.0	0.2	1.5	-1.1
2006	1.5	-0.2	0.3	3.2
2007	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.4
2008	-1.0	0.3	-1.8	-4.0
2009	-2.0	0.6	1.1	-0.5
<b>2010</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>(P) -0.1</b>	<b>(P) 1.6</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

**Table 12: Combined Transportation Services Index Change by Quarter, 2001-2010**  
Percent change from the last month of the previous quarter

Year	1st Quarter (Jan-Mar) % Growth	2nd Quarter (Apr-Jun) % Growth	3rd Quarter (Jul-Sep) % Growth	4th Quarter (Oct-Dec) % Growth
2001	0.8	-0.3	-7.5	4.0
2002	1.6	2.3	0.6	2.6
2003	-2.2	0.0	2.3	3.1
2004	1.6	0.8	-0.1	1.1
2005	1.1	-0.5	0.0	0.2
2006	0.1	0.7	-0.5	-0.4
2007	1.0	-1.5	0.1	1.6
2008	-0.3	-0.1	-2.7	-5.2
2009	-4.3	-0.8	2.3	2.1
<b>2010</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>(P) -3.0</b>	<b>(P) 1.4</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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# TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

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### **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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