

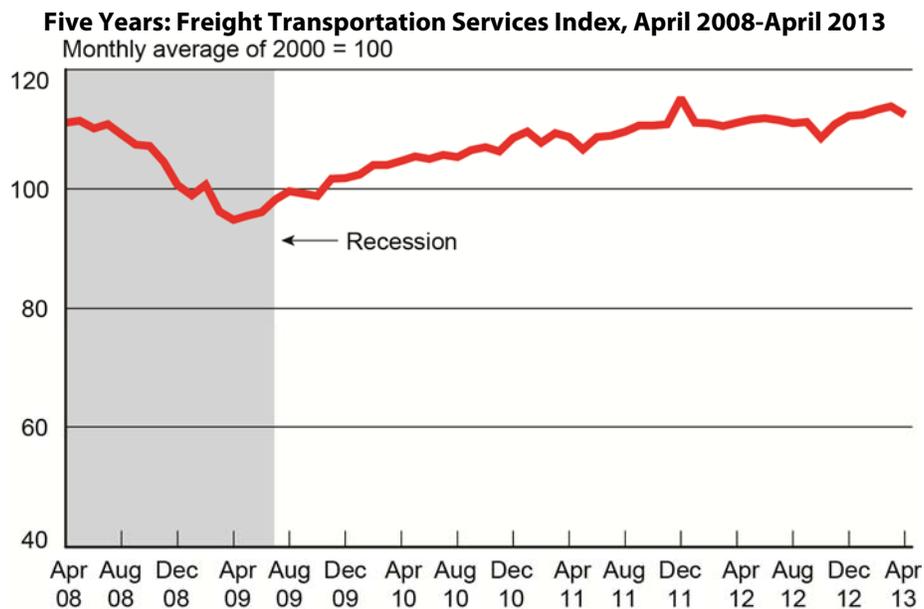


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BTS Data

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Freight Shipments Fell 1.2% in April from March



Source for Recession Dates: National Bureau of Economic Research, [US Business Cycle Expansions and Contractions](#)

The amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry fell 1.2 percent in April from March, declining after five consecutive monthly increases, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) released today. The April 2013 index level (112.4) was 18.5 percent above the April 2009 low during the most recent recession (Tables 1, 2, 2A).

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD ONE

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the level of freight shipments in April measured by the Freight TSI (112.4) was 2.4 percent below the all-time high level of 115.2 in December 2011 (Table 2A). BTS' TSI records begin in 2000. See historical [TSI data](#).

The Freight TSI measures the month-to-month changes in freight shipments by mode of transportation in tons and ton-miles, which are 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.

Beginning with the April release, BTS improved procedures and refined the TSI methodology. As a result there have been minor changes in monthly numbers released previously. Documentation will be made available in the near future.

Analysis: The 1.2% decline in freight transportation was driven by declines in shipments by water, pipeline shipments, and rail intermodal. Waterborne freight reductions in April were partially due to floods and barge accidents that interfered with river operations. Trucking was stable in April on a seasonally adjusted basis. The stability in trucking, the decline in rail intermodal, and the decline in the overall Freight TSI were consistent with a slight decline in manufacturing output, and a larger decline in housing that took place in April.

Trend: Even with the April decrease to 112.4, the index has remained above its 2012 range for four consecutive months. The April level is a return to the level of January 2013, prior to increases in February and March. The April index was still higher than the index had been during any month between April 2009 and the beginning of 2013 except for December 2011, when it reached the all-time high. After dipping to 94.8 in April 2009, the index rose 18.5 percent in the succeeding 48 months. For additional historical data, go to [TSI data](#).

Index highs and lows: Freight shipments in April 2013 (112.4) were 18.5 percent higher than the all-time low in April 2009 during the recession (94.8). The April 2013 level is down 2.4 percent from the historic peak reached in December 2011 (115.2).

Year-to-date: Freight shipments measured by the index were up 0.2 percent in April compared to the end of 2012 (Table 3).

Long-term trend: Freight shipments are up 1.1 percent in the five years from the recession level of April 2008 and are up 8.5 percent in the 10 years from April 2003 (Table 5).

Same month of previous year: April 2013 freight shipments were up 1.2 percent from April 2012 (Tables 4, 5).

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The TSI has three seasonally adjusted indexes that measures changes from the monthly average of the base year of 2000. The three indexes are freight shipments, passenger travel and a combined measure that merges the freight and passenger indexes. TSI includes data from 2000 to the present. Release of the May 2013 index is scheduled for July 2013.

For a webinar on the TSI, see [Past Webinars](#). 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.

Passenger Index: The TSI for passengers rose 0.1 percent in April from its March level (Table 6). The Passenger TSI April 2013 level of 116.9 was 0.8 percent above the April 2012 level (Table 7). The index is up 0.4 percent in five years and up 25.6 percent in 10 years (Table 5). The passenger TSI measures the month-to-month changes in travel that involves the services of the for-hire passenger transportation sector. The seasonally adjusted index consists of data from air, local transit and intercity rail.

Combined Index: The combined freight and passenger TSI fell 0.8 percent in April from its March level (Table 8). The combined TSI April 2013 level of 113.7 was 1.1 percent above the April 2012 level (Table 9). The combined index is up 0.8 percent in five years and up 13.0 percent in 10 years (Table 5). The combined TSI merges the freight and passenger indexes into a single index.

Revisions: Monthly data has changed from previous releases due to the use of concurrent seasonal analysis, which results in seasonal analysis factors changing as each months data are added.

Table 1: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes since October 2012

Percent Change from Previous Month
(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
October	108.5	-2.4	114.1	-2.1	110.1	-2.3
November	110.8	2.1	114.8	0.6	112.0	1.7
December	112.2	1.2	116.0	1.0	113.3	1.2
January	112.4	0.2	116.1	0.1	113.5	0.2
February	113.2	0.6	116.0	-0.1	114.0	0.4
March	113.8	0.6	116.8	0.7	114.7	0.6
April	112.4	-1.2	116.9	0.1	113.7	-0.8

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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Table 2: Freight Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2010-2013
Percent change from previous month

	2010	2011	2012	2013
	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change
January	0.6	1.1	-3.5	0.2
February	1.6	-1.7	-0.1	0.6
March	0.0	1.5	-0.5	0.6
April	0.6	-0.6	0.6	-1.2
May	0.7	-2.0	0.5	
June	-0.4	2.0	0.1	
July	0.6	0.1	-0.2	
August	-0.3	0.7	-0.5	
September	1.1	0.9	0.2	
October	0.5	0.0	-2.4	
November	-0.6	0.1	2.1	
December	2.0	4.0	1.2	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Table 2A: Freight Transportation Services Index by Month, 2010-2013

	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	102.4	109.6	111.1	112.4
February	104.0	107.7	111.0	113.2
March	104.0	109.3	110.5	113.8
April	104.7	108.7	111.1	112.4
May	105.4	106.6	111.6	
June	105.0	108.7	111.8	
July	105.7	108.9	111.5	
August	105.3	109.6	111.0	
September	106.5	110.6	111.2	
October	107.0	110.6	108.5	
November	106.3	110.8	110.8	
December	108.5	115.2	112.2	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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Table 3: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes Year-to-Date Change, 2004-2013

Percent change to April from December of the previous year

Year	Freight	Passenger	Combined
2004	2.5	3.3	2.8
2005	1.8	1.3	1.7
2006	-0.6	2.3	0.2
2007	0.0	2.3	0.6
2008	0.3	0.1	0.2
2009	-5.7	0.3	-4.0
2010	2.9	0.3	2.1
2011	0.2	1.4	0.6
2012	-3.5	-0.2	-2.6
2013	0.2	0.8	0.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Table 4: Freight Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year

Percent Change in the April Freight TSI

(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

	April Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2004	110.7	6.8
2005	113.0	2.1
2006	111.4	-1.4
2007	110.4	-0.9
2008	111.1	0.7
2009	94.8	-14.7
2010	104.7	10.4
2011	108.7	3.9
2012	111.1	2.2
2013	112.4	1.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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Table 5: Transportation Services Indexes from Previous Years
Percent Change to April 2013 from April

Since April ...	Duration in years	Freight TSI Percent change to April 2013	Passenger TSI Percent change to April 2013	Combined TSI Percent change to April 2013
2012	1	1.2	0.8	1.1
2011	2	3.4	2.0	3.0
2010	3	7.4	5.5	6.8
2009	4	18.5	6.0	14.7
2008	5	1.1	0.4	0.8
2007	6	1.8	0.5	1.4
2006	7	0.9	4.7	1.8
2005	8	-0.5	7.8	1.6
2004	9	1.6	12.4	4.4
2003	10	8.5	25.6	13.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Table 6: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2010-2013
Percent change from previous month

	2010 % Change	2011 % Change	2012 % Change	2013 % Change
January	0.3	0.4	-0.9	0.1
February	-2.2	-1.2	1.5	-0.1
March	2.6	0.8	-0.3	0.7
April	-0.4	1.4	-0.5	0.1
May	0.6	0.7	0.0	
June	1.0	-0.5	-0.1	
July	0.2	0.8	-0.9	
August	0.6	-1.4	1.2	
September	0.1	1.3	0.2	
October	1.7	0.0	-2.1	
November	-1.1	0.0	0.6	
December	-1.0	0.6	1.0	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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Table 7: Passenger Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
Percent change in the April Passenger TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

	April Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2004	104.1	11.8
2005	108.5	4.2
2006	111.6	2.9
2007	116.4	4.2
2008	116.5	0.1
2009	110.3	-5.3
2010	110.8	0.4
2011	114.7	3.5
2012	116.0	1.2
2013	116.9	0.8

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 8: Combined Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2010-2013
Percent change from previous month

	2010 % Change	2011 % Change	2012 % Change	2013 % Change
January	0.5	0.9	-2.8	0.2
February	0.4	-1.6	0.4	0.4
March	0.8	1.3	-0.4	0.6
April	0.3	0.0	0.2	-0.8
May	0.7	-1.2	0.4	
June	0.1	1.3	0.1	
July	0.5	0.3	-0.4	
August	-0.1	0.1	0.0	
September	0.8	1.0	0.2	
October	0.8	0.0	-2.3	
November	-0.7	0.1	1.7	
December	1.1	3.0	1.2	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
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Table 9: Combined Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year
Percent change in the April Combined TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

	April Combined TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2004	109.0	8.3
2005	111.9	2.7
2006	111.7	-0.2
2007	112.2	0.5
2008	112.8	0.5
2009	99.1	-12.1
2010	106.4	7.3
2011	110.4	3.8
2012	112.5	1.9
2013	113.7	1.1

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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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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