

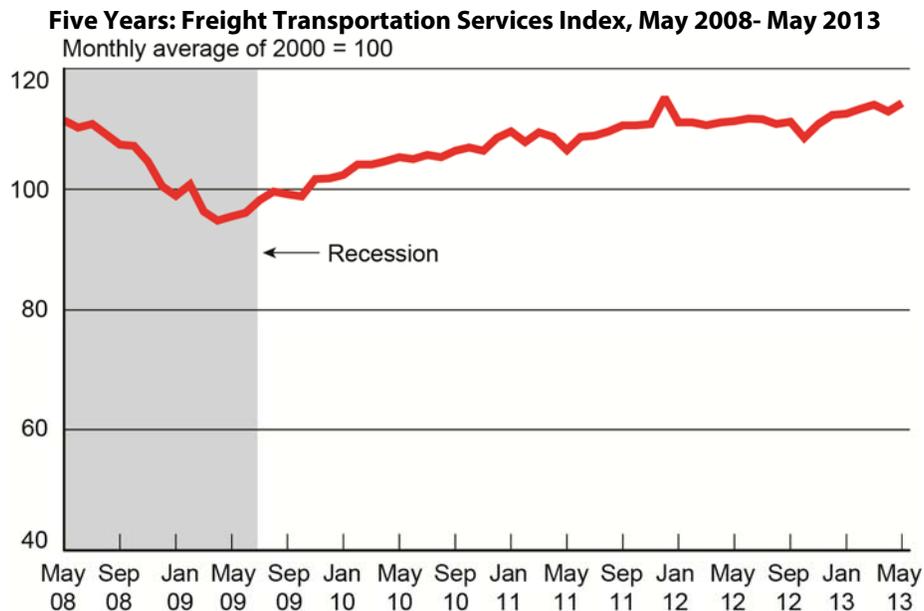


U.S. Department of Transportation  
Office of Public Affairs  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
<http://www.dot.gov/briefingroom>

## BTS Data

BTS 32-13  
Wednesday, July 10, 2013  
Contact: Dave Smallen  
Tel: 202-366-5568  
Embargoed until 11:30 a.m. EDT July 10, 2013

### BTS Releases Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI); Freight Shipments Rose 1.2% in May from April



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 rose 1.2 percent in May from April, rising after a one month decline, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) released today. The May 2013 index level (114.3) was 20.6 percent above the April 2009 low during the most recent recession (Tables 1, 2, and 2A).

--more--

## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

### ADD ONE

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the level of freight shipments in May measured by the Freight TSI (114.3) was 0.8 percent below (Table 3) the all-time high level of 115.2 in December 2011 (Table 2A). BTS' TSI records begin in 2000. See historical [TSI data](#).

The April index was revised to 112.9 from 112.4 in the previous release. Monthly numbers for each month from December through March were also revised, showing slightly higher index levels.

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.

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.

**Analysis:** The 1.2 percent May increase in freight transportation was driven by growth in shipments by truck and rail accompanying broader signs of strength in the general economy. Housing starts grew particularly fast in May, up 6.8 percent from April, which would be important for the Freight TSI since heavy construction materials produce growth in freight tonnage.

**Trend:** With the May increase to 114.3, the index has exceeded its 2012 range for five months in a row. In May, the Freight TSI reached its highest 2013 level and its second highest all-time level. The May level was exceeded only by December 2011 and equal to the January 2005 level before the recession. After dipping to 94.8 in April 2009, the index rose 20.6 percent in the succeeding 49 months. For additional historical data, go to [TSI data](#).

**Index highs and lows:** Freight shipments in May 2013 (114.3) were 20.6 percent higher than the recent low in April 2009 during the recession (94.8). The May 2013 level is down 0.8 percent from the historic peak reached in December 2011 (115.2).

**Year to date:** Freight shipments measured by the index were up 1.7 percent in May compared to the end of 2012 (Table 3)

**Long-term trend:** Freight shipments are up 2.6 percent in the five years from the recession level of May 2008 and are up 11.1 percent in the 10 years from in the 10 years from May 2003 (Table 5).

**Same month of previous year:** May 2013 freight shipments were up 2.7 percent from May 2012 (Tables 4, 5).

--more--

## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE ADD TWO

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 June 2013 index is scheduled for August 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 was unchanged in May from its April level (Table 6). The Passenger TSI May 2013 level of 116.2 was less than 0.1 percent above the May 2012 level (Table 7). The index is down 1.2 percent in five years and up 24.5 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 rose 0.9 percent in May from its April level (Table 8). The combined TSI May 2013 level of 114.8 was 1.9 percent above the May 2012 level (Table 9). The combined index is up 1.4 percent in five years and up 14.6 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 November 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
November	110.8	<b>2.1</b>	114.7	<b>0.5</b>	111.9	<b>1.7</b>
December	112.3	<b>1.4</b>	115.9	<b>1.0</b>	113.3	<b>1.3</b>
January	112.5	<b>0.1</b>	116.6	<b>0.6</b>	113.6	<b>0.3</b>
February	113.3	<b>0.7</b>	116.2	<b>-0.3</b>	114.1	<b>0.4</b>
March	114.0	<b>0.6</b>	116.0	<b>-0.1</b>	114.6	<b>0.4</b>
April	112.9	<b>-1.0</b>	116.2	<b>0.2</b>	113.8	<b>-0.7</b>
<b>May</b>	114.3	<b>1.2</b>	116.2	<b>0.0</b>	114.8	<b>0.9</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

--more--

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD THREE

**Table 2: Freight Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2010-2013**  
Percent change from previous month

	2010	2011	2012	2013
	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change
January	0.5	1.0	-3.5	0.1
February	1.7	-1.7	0.0	0.7
March	0.0	1.5	-0.4	0.6
April	0.5	-0.6	0.5	-1.0
May	0.7	-2.1	0.1	1.2
June	-0.3	2.1	0.4	
July	0.6	0.2	-0.1	
August	-0.4	0.6	-0.7	
September	1.0	0.9	0.3	
October	0.5	0.0	-2.4	
November	-0.5	0.1	2.1	
December	2.0	4.0	1.4	

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	112.5
February	104.1	107.8	111.1	113.3
March	104.1	109.4	110.6	114.0
April	104.6	108.7	111.1	112.9
May	105.3	106.5	111.3	114.3
June	105.0	108.7	111.7	
July	105.7	108.9	111.6	
August	105.3	109.6	110.8	
September	106.4	110.6	111.2	
October	106.9	110.6	108.5	
November	106.4	110.8	110.8	
December	108.5	115.2	112.3	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

--more--

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD FOUR

**Table 3: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes Year-to-Date Change, 2004-2013**

Percent change to May from December of the previous year

<b>Year</b>	<b>Freight</b>	<b>Passenger</b>	<b>Combined</b>
2004	2.4	1.8	2.2
2005	1.2	1.8	1.4
2006	1.0	2.5	1.4
2007	-0.6	5.1	1.0
2008	0.5	1.1	0.6
2009	-5.0	-1.9	-4.2
2010	3.5	1.0	2.7
2011	-1.9	2.3	-0.7
2012	-3.4	0.0	-2.4
<b>2013</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

	<b>May Freight TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2004	110.5	7.4
2005	112.2	1.6
2006	113.2	0.9
2007	109.8	-3.0
2008	111.4	1.5
2009	95.5	-14.3
2010	105.3	10.4
2011	106.5	1.1
2012	111.3	4.5
<b>2013</b>	<b>114.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD FIVE

**Table 5: Transportation Services Indexes from Previous Years  
Percent Change to 2013 (May to May)**

Since May ...	Duration in years	Freight TSI Percent change to May 2013	Passenger TSI Percent change to May 2013	Combined TSI Percent change to May 2013
2012	1	2.7	0.0	1.9
2011	2	7.4	0.5	5.3
2010	3	8.5	4.1	7.2
2009	4	19.7	7.5	16.0
2008	5	2.6	-1.2	1.4
2007	6	4.1	-2.8	2.0
2006	7	0.9	3.9	1.6
2005	8	1.8	6.6	3.0
2004	9	3.4	13.1	5.9
2003	10	11.1	24.5	14.6

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	0.4	0.4	-1.0	0.6
February	-2.4	-1.4	1.4	-0.3
March	3.0	1.9	0.1	-0.1
April	-0.5	0.2	-0.2	0.2
May	0.5	1.2	-0.3	0.0
June	1.0	-0.6	0.0	
July	0.2	0.8	-0.9	
August	0.1	-1.8	1.7	
September	0.8	1.9	-0.9	
October	1.4	-0.3	-1.6	
November	-1.2	-0.1	0.5	
December	-1.1	0.5	1.0	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD SIX

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

	May Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2004	102.7	10.0
2005	109.0	6.1
2006	111.8	2.6
2007	119.5	6.9
2008	117.6	-1.7
2009	108.0	-8.1
2010	111.6	3.3
2011	115.6	3.6
2012	116.1	0.5
<b>2013</b>	<b>116.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>

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	0.3
February	0.4	-1.6	0.4	0.4
March	0.9	1.6	-0.3	0.4
April	0.2	-0.4	0.3	-0.7
May	0.6	-1.2	0.0	0.9
June	0.1	1.3	0.3	
July	0.5	0.4	-0.3	
August	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	
September	1.0	1.2	0.0	
October	0.8	-0.1	-2.2	
November	-0.7	0.1	1.7	
December	1.1	3.0	1.3	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

- more -

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
ADD SEVEN

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

	<b>May Combined TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2004	108.4	8.1
2005	111.5	2.9
2006	113.0	1.4
2007	112.6	-0.4
2008	113.2	0.6
2009	99.0	-12.6
2010	107.1	8.2
2011	109.0	1.8
2012	112.7	3.4
<b>2013</b>	<b>114.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

- more -

# TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

## ADD EIGHT

### **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.

- end -