



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics  
Washington, D.C.  
www.bts.gov  
**BTS DATA**

BTS 11-04  
Thursday, May 13, 2004

Contact: Dave Smallen  
Tel.: 202-366-5568

---

**BTS Releases February Airline Traffic Data;  
February 2004 Domestic Traffic Up 9.3 Percent From February 2003**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today reported, in a release of preliminary data, that U.S. airlines carried 45.3 million domestic passengers in February, 9.3 percent more than in February 2003 (Table 1).

These passengers were carried on 746,025 flights, up 9.9 percent from the flights operated in February 2003.

In other domestic comparisons from February 2003 to February 2004:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 13.3 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 12.4 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 0.6 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 3.4 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 3.6 percent.

The number of domestic airline passengers rose 2.5 percent in February from January (Table 2). Month-to-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal factors.

Among airlines, Delta Airlines carried 5.9 million domestic passengers in February, the most of any airline (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta continued in February to be the busiest domestic airport, with 2.8 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

Note that there was one more day in February 2004 than in February 2003 due to Leap Year.

**-more-**

**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE  
ADD ONE**

**Table 1: Domestic Airline Travel in February**

	<b>February 2003</b>	<b>February 2004</b>
<b>Passengers</b>	41,476,519	45,342,809
<b>Flights</b>	678,865	746,025
<b>Revenue Passenger Miles(000)</b>	34,432,952	39,009,650
<b>Available Seat-Miles(000)</b>	50,469,051	56,727,872
<b>Load factor</b>	68.2%	68.8%
<b>Flight stage length</b>	592	612
<b>Passenger trip length</b>	830	860

Source: T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

**Table 2. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Month</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>January</b>	43,376,634	44,223,326
<b>February</b>	41,476,519	45,342,809
<b>March</b>	50,411,031	
<b>April</b>	47,495,199	
<b>May</b>	49,514,098	
<b>June</b>	52,622,787	
<b>July</b>	56,221,839	
<b>August</b>	54,390,529	
<b>September</b>	44,393,540	
<b>October</b>	50,297,960	
<b>November</b>	47,414,121	
<b>December</b>	49,865,851	

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Additional airline traffic data can be found on the BTS website at TranStats, the Intermodal Transportation Database at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. Click on "Aviation", then on "Air Carrier Statistics (Form 41 Traffic)", then click on "T-100 Domestic Market."

- more -

**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE  
ADD TWO**

**Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by February 2004 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Airline Name</b>	<b>February 2003</b>	<b>January 2003</b>	<b>February 2004</b>	<b>Feb. 2003 Rank</b>
1	Delta Airlines	5,871,287	6,261,054	5,947,669	1
2	Southwest Airlines	5,359,029	5,488,639	5,749,214	2
3	American Airlines	5,225,578	5,660,534	5,495,032	3
4	United Airlines	4,103,472	4,373,000	4,197,443	4
5	Northwest Airlines	3,117,397	3,101,026	3,207,660	5
6	US Airways	2,636,579	2,647,486	2,796,944	6
7	Continental Airlines	2,182,741	2,284,065	2,294,786	7
8	America West Airlines	1,366,113	1,404,771	1,468,971	8
9	American Eagle Airlines	867,613	973,514	1,006,408	9
10	Alaska Airlines	856,459	878,763	967,184	10

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

**Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by February 2004 Domestic Enplanements**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Airport Name</b>	<b>February 2003</b>	<b>January 2003</b>	<b>February 2004</b>	<b>Feb. 2003 Rank</b>
1	Hartsfield-Jackson International	2,559,290	2,690,759	2,781,654	1
2	O'Hare International	2,011,104	2,049,877	2,198,605	2
3	Dallas-Ft Worth International	1,577,100	1,733,235	1,882,726	3
4	Los Angeles International	1,360,900	1,521,371	1,475,487	4
5	Las Vegas McCarran International	1,217,071	1,291,906	1,417,709	6
6	Phoenix Sky Harbor International	1,292,531	1,333,550	1,400,313	5
7	Denver International	1,197,914	1,277,168	1,370,390	7
8	Orlando International	938,082	1,002,883	1,164,245	11
9	Minneapolis-St. Paul International	1,064,964	1,071,851	1,145,021	8
10	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County	1,029,269	982,615	1,069,843	9

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers detailing operations, passenger traffic and freight traffic. February 2004 traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 107 airlines as of May 11. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from January and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release March traffic data on June 10.

**-end-**