



U.S Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590
www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm

BTS Data

BTS 33-09

Thursday, July 9, 2009

Contact: Dave Smallen

Tel: 202-366-5568

Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) Fell 0.6 Percent in May from April

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) fell 0.6 percent in May from its April level, declining for the third consecutive month to the lowest level in 12 years, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today (Table 1). The May decline was the smallest of the three consecutive decreases.

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the May decrease was the ninth decline in the Freight TSI in the last 10 months (Table 2). The index has declined 14.8 percent in that 10-month period. For additional historical data, go to <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

The May Freight TSI of 94.0 is the lowest level since June 1997 when it was 92.4. The Freight TSI is down 16.7 percent from its historic peak of 112.9 reached in May 2006.

The 6.3 percent decline in the first five months of 2009 was the largest in the last decade, exceeding the 5.3 percent decline for the first five months of 2000 (Table 3).

The Freight TSI measures the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire freight transportation industries. The index consists of data from for-hire trucking, rail, inland waterways, pipelines and air freight.

The 14.8 percent decline in the Freight TSI from May 2008 to May 2009 was the largest May-to-May decline in the 20 years for which the TSI is calculated (Table 4).

The freight index is also down 14.6 percent in the five years from May 2004, the sixth consecutive month in which the index declined for a five-year period. The index is down 8.4 percent in 10 years for the fifth-ever and the largest 10-year decline in the 20-year history of TSI data (Table 5). All these five 10-year declines took place in first five months of 2009.

--more--

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD ONE

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 June index is scheduled for Aug. 12.

BTS has issued a technical report explaining the TSI. *BTS Technical Report: Transportation Services Index and the Economy* is available for download at <https://www.bts.gov/pdc/index.xml> in the BTS bookstore.

Transportation Services Index for Passengers

The TSI for passengers fell 0.9 percent in May from its April level (Table 6). The Passenger TSI May 2009 level of 109.4 was 7.3 percent lower than the May 2008 level, the largest May-to-May decrease in the 20-year history of the series, and exceeded the 6.1 percent decrease in 2002 caused by Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack (Table 7). Despite the recent declines, the passenger index is up 6.8 percent in five years and 17.6 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

The passenger TSI measures the month-to-month changes in the output of services provided by the for-hire passenger transportation industries. 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 fell 0.7 percent in May from its April level (Table 8). The combined TSI May 2009 level of 97.4 was 13.0 percent lower than the May 2008 level, leaving the index at its lowest May level since 1998 (Table 9). The combined index is down 9.6 percent in five years for the sixth five-year decline in the history of the combined index, and is down 2.1 percent in 10 years for the third-ever 10-year decline in the index (Table 5). All these five-year and 10-year declines took place consecutively in the past several months.

The combined TSI merges the freight and passenger indexes into a single index.

More on TSI

In this month's release, BTS conducted its third comprehensive revision to the TSI in which all index numbers through April 2009 were revised to reflect revisions to the source data and changes in the estimated seasonal factors and the method for calculating aggregation weights. More information about the comprehensive revision and its effects on index numbers is provided under 2009 Comprehensive Revision at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

Note: TSI numbers for January (Freight, Passenger and Combined) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The January Freight TSI is 97.8, revised from the 102.7 reported in last month's release. The January Passenger TSI is 110.0, revised from 112.6. The January Combined TSI is 100.5, revised from 104.8. The TSI for February, March, April and May are preliminary.

--more--

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>

Table 1: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes since November 2008

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

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
November	103.2	-2.2	111.8	-1.8	105.1	-2.1
December	100.3	-2.8	110.8	-0.9	102.6	-2.4
January ^R	97.8	-2.5	110.0	-0.7	100.5	-2.1
February ^P	99.1	1.3	110.2	0.2	101.6	1.1
March ^P	95.6	-3.6	108.8	-1.2	98.5	-3.0
April ^P	94.6	-1.0	110.3	1.4	98.1	-0.4
May^P	94.0	-0.6	109.4	-0.9	97.4	-0.7

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, 2006-2009
Percent change from previous month

	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth	2008 % Growth	2009 % Growth
January	0.3	-0.6	2.3	(R) -2.5
February	-1.4	-0.3	-0.9	(P) 1.3
March	0.7	1.9	-1.4	(P) -3.6
April	-0.4	-0.7	0.6	(P) -1.0
May	2.3	-0.4	0.0	(P) -0.6
June	-0.8	-1.0	-0.8	
July	-0.8	-0.3	0.8	
August	-2.3	0.7	-2.2	
September	2.5	-1.0	-1.6	
October	-1.5	1.7	-0.6	
November	-1.4	0.6	-2.2	
December	1.3	-0.1	-2.8	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD THREE

Table 3: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes Year-to-Date Change, 2000-2009

Percent change from December of previous year
December to May

Year	Freight	Passenger	Combined
2000	-5.3	6.0	-1.9
2001	2.2	-0.3	1.4
2002	3.8	3.5	3.7
2003	-1.9	-5.8	-3.0
2004	1.9	1.6	1.8
2005	0.6	2.1	1.0
2006	1.5	2.2	1.7
2007	-0.2	3.6	0.8
2008	0.5	-0.3	0.3
2009^P	-6.3	-1.2	-5.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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

Percent change in the May Freight TSI

(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)

	Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2000	99.5	-3.1
2001	100.0	0.5
2002	101.1	1.1
2003	102.5	1.4
2004	110.1	7.4
2005	111.5	1.3
2006	112.9	1.2
2007	109.2	-3.3
2008	110.4	1.2
2009^P	94.0	-14.8

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 2009 (May to May)**

Since May ...	Duration in years	Freight TSI Percent change to May 2009	Passenger TSI Percent change to May 2009	Combined TSI Percent change to May 2009
2008	1	-14.8	-7.3	-13.0
2007	2	-13.9	-8.0	-12.4
2006	3	-16.7	-2.1	-13.3
2005	4	-15.7	0.5	-11.9
2004	5	-14.6	6.8	-9.6
2003	6	-8.3	18.7	-2.0
2002	7	-7.0	15.9	-1.7
2001	8	-6.0	8.9	-2.8
2000	9	-5.5	8.5	-2.5
1999	10	-8.4	17.6	-2.1

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to May 2009 are all preliminary.

**Table 6: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2006-2009
Percent change from previous month**

	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth	2008 % Growth	2009 % Growth
January	1.3	0.3	-0.2	(R) -0.7
February	-0.1	-0.7	-1.0	(P) 0.2
March	0.3	2.0	0.2	(P) -1.2
April	0.5	-0.3	1.1	(P) 1.4
May	0.2	2.4	-0.5	(P) -0.9
June	-0.9	-2.1	-0.4	
July	0.2	-0.3	-0.2	
August	-0.9	1.0	-1.1	
September	1.1	1.4	-0.6	
October	1.3	-0.8	-1.4	
November	0.9	-0.5	-1.8	
December	1.0	0.9	-0.9	

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 May Passenger TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2000	100.9	8.5
2001	100.5	-0.4
2002	94.4	-6.1
2003	92.2	-2.3
2004	102.4	11.1
2005	108.9	6.3
2006	111.7	2.6
2007	118.9	6.4
2008	118.0	-0.8
2009^P	109.4	-7.3

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, 2006-2009
Percent change from previous month**

	2006 % Growth	2007 % Growth	2008 % Growth	2009 % Growth
January	0.5	-0.4	1.7	(R) -2.1
February	-1.0	-0.4	-0.9	(P) 1.1
March	0.6	1.9	-1.0	(P) -3.0
April	-0.1	-0.6	0.7	(P) -0.4
May	1.7	0.3	-0.1	(P) -0.7
June	-0.8	-1.3	-0.7	
July	-0.6	-0.3	0.6	
August	-2.0	0.8	-2.0	
September	2.2	-0.4	-1.3	
October	-0.8	1.1	-0.8	
November	-0.9	0.3	-2.1	
December	1.2	0.2	-2.4	

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 May Combined TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2000	99.9	0.4
2001	100.2	0.3
2002	99.1	-1.1
2003	99.4	0.4
2004	107.8	8.4
2005	110.6	2.6
2006	112.4	1.6
2007	111.3	-1.0
2008	112.0	0.7
2009^P	97.4	-13.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

- more -

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 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 -