



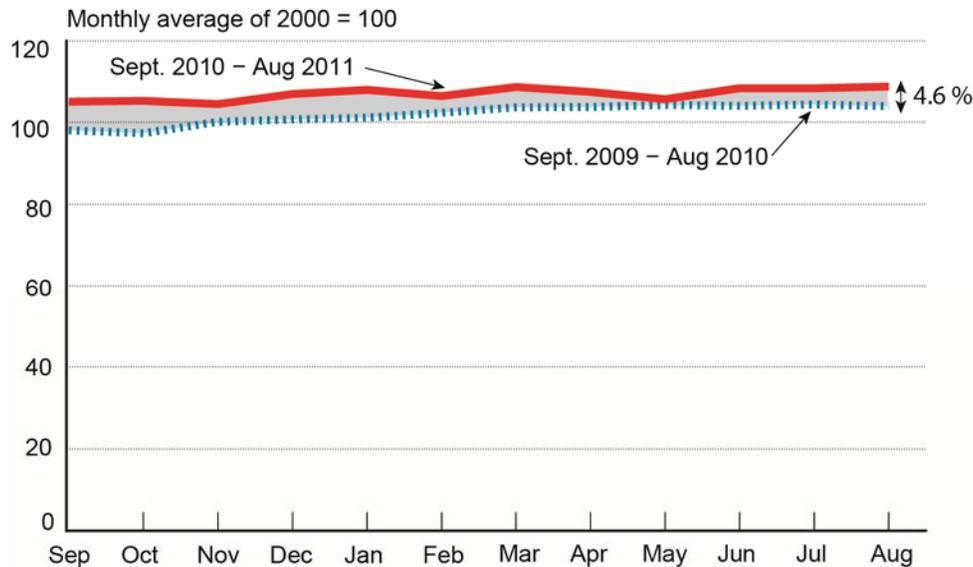
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
www.dot.gov/briefing-room.html

BTS Data

BTS 50-11
Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011
Contact: Dave Smallen
Tel: 202-366-5568

Freight Shipments Rose 0.4% in August from July

Freight Transportation Services Index, September 2009-August 2011



The amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry rose 0.4 percent in August from July, reaching the highest level since July 2008, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI) released today (Table 1).

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the level of freight shipments, measured by the Freight TSI, rose 2.9 percent in the last three months to reach the new level (Table 2A).

--more--

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE ADD ONE

The Freight TSI measures the month-to-month changes in freight shipments by mode of transportation 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.

Trend: Shipments in August 2011 (108.7 on the index) were at the highest level since July 2008 (109.9). July 2008 was followed by six straight months of decline. After dipping to a recent low in April 2009 (94.3), freight shipments increased in 19 of the last 28 months. Shipments rose 15.3 percent over the last 29 months starting from April 2009 after declining 15.6 percent from February 2008 to April 2009 (Tables 2, 2A). For additional historic data, go to <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

Year-to-date: For the first eight months of 2011, freight shipments measured by the index were up 1.6 percent (Table 3).

Index highs and lows: Freight shipments in August (108.7 on the index) rose 15.3 percent from the recent low in April 2009 (94.3). In April 2009, freight shipments were at their lowest level since June 1997 (92.3). The August 2011 level is down 4.1 percent from the historic freight shipment peak reached in January 2005 (113.3).

Long-term trend: Freight shipments are up 0.6 percent in the five years from August 2006. Shipments are up 9.4 percent in the 10 years from August 2001 despite recent declines (Table 5).

Same month of previous year: Although August 2011 freight shipments rose 4.6 percent from August 2010 and 10.3 percent from August 2009, they remain below the all-time high for the month of August (111.4) reached in 2005 (Tables 4, 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 September index is scheduled for Nov. 9.

A BTS [webinar](#) on the TSI and its relationship to the cycles of the general economy will be presented on Oct. 18 at 3 p.m. The session will include time for audience questions.

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 fell 1.4 percent in August from its July level (Table 6). The Passenger TSI August 2011 level of 115.4 was 2.5 percent above the August 2010 level (Table 7). The index is up 4.8 percent in five years and up 11.2 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

--more--

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

ADD TWO

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 Index: The combined freight and passenger TSI fell 0.1 percent in August from its July level (Table 8). The combined TSI August 2011 level of 110.5 was 4.1 percent higher than the August 2010 level (Table 9). The combined index is up 1.7 percent in five years and up 9.7 percent in 10 years despite recent declines (Table 5). The combined TSI merges the freight and passenger indexes into a single index.

Revisions: TSI numbers for April (Freight, Passenger and Combined) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The April Freight TSI is 107.4, revised from the 107.5 reported in last month's release. The April Passenger TSI is 114.3, revised from 113.1. The April Combined TSI is 109.2, revised from 109.0. The TSI for May, June, July and August are preliminary.

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 March release is provided under 2011 Comprehensive Revision at <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

Table 1: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes since February 2011
Percent Change by Month
(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
February	106.4	-1.4	113.3	-0.2	108.2	-1.1
March	108.6	2.0	114.3	0.9	110.1	1.7
April ^R	107.4	-1.0	114.3	-0.1	109.2	-0.8
May ^P	105.6	-1.7	116.3	1.8	108.4	-0.7
June ^P	108.3	2.6	115.7	-0.5	110.3	1.7
July ^P	108.3	0.0	117.1	1.2	110.6	0.3
August^P	108.7	0.4	115.4	-1.4	110.5	-0.1

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

--more--

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD THREE

Table 2: Freight Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2008-2011
Percent change from previous month

	2008 % Change	2009 % Change	2010 % Change	2011 % Change
January	1.8	-2.4	0.5	1.0
February	-0.2	2.8	1.1	-1.4
March	-1.7	-4.0	1.2	2.0
April	0.6	-1.6	0.1	(R) -1.0
May	-0.1	0.3	0.5	(P) -1.7
June	-0.4	1.0	-0.1	(P) 2.6
July	0.2	1.6	0.3	(P) 0.0
August	-1.7	1.5	-0.4	(P) 0.4
September	-1.0	-0.5	1.1	
October	-1.1	-0.7	0.2	
November	-2.5	2.9	-0.7	
December	-3.6	0.6	2.4	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

Table 2A: Freight Transportation Services Index by Month, 2008-2011

	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	111.8	97.1	101.1	107.9
February	111.6	99.8	102.3	106.4
March	109.6	95.9	103.6	108.6
April	110.3	94.3	103.7	(R) 107.4
May	110.2	94.6	104.2	(P) 105.6
June	109.7	95.5	104.0	(P) 108.3
July	109.9	97.1	104.3	(P) 108.3
August	108.1	98.5	103.9	(P) 108.7
September	107.0	98.0	105.0	
October	105.8	97.3	105.2	
November	103.2	100.1	104.4	
December	99.4	100.7	106.9	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

--more--

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD FOUR

Table 3: Freight, Passenger and Combined Transportation Services Indexes Year-to-Date Change, 2002-2011

Percent change from December of previous year
December to August

Year	Freight	Passenger	Combined
2002	4.8	5.4	4.9
2003	-0.9	-1.3	-1.1
2004	2.1	4.7	2.8
2005	1.1	2.2	1.4
2006	-3.0	1.0	-1.9
2007	-1.7	3.3	-0.3
2008	-1.7	-1.8	-1.7
2009	-0.9	-0.4	-0.8
2010	3.2	2.3	3.0
2011^P	1.6	1.9	1.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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

	August Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2002	102.5	3.1
2003	103.4	0.9
2004	109.7	6.1
2005	111.4	1.6
2006	108.1	-3.0
2007	107.9	-0.2
2008	108.1	0.2
2009	98.5	-8.8
2010	103.9	5.4
2011^P	108.7	4.6

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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 2011 (August to August)**

Since August . . .	Duration In years	Freight TSI Percent change to August 2011	Passenger TSI Percent change to August 2011	Combined TSI Percent change to August 2011
2010	1	4.6	2.5	4.1
2009	2	10.3	4.6	8.7
2008	3	0.6	0.4	0.5
2007	4	0.8	-2.1	-0.1
2006	5	0.6	4.8	1.7
2005	6	-2.5	6.1	-0.1
2004	7	-0.9	9.8	2.0
2003	8	5.1	20.0	9.1
2002	9	6.1	22.0	10.4
2001	10	9.4	11.2	9.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to July 2011 are all preliminary.

**Table 6: Passenger Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2008-2011
Percent change from previous month**

	2008 % Change	2009 % Change	2010 % Change	2011 % Change
January	-0.2	-1.0	0.6	0.2
February	1.4	0.5	-2.1	-0.2
March	-1.3	-1.4	2.3	0.9
April	0.0	1.4	0.2	(R) -0.1
May	0.6	-1.7	0.6	(P) 1.8
June	-0.9	0.5	0.8	(P) -0.5
July	-0.1	1.5	-0.2	(P) 1.2
August	-1.3	-0.1	0.2	(P) -1.4
September	-1.4	-0.6	1.0	
October	-0.8	0.1	0.9	
November	-1.7	-0.1	-0.3	
December	0.1	0.2	-1.0	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD SIX

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

	August Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2002	94.6	-8.8
2003	96.2	1.7
2004	105.1	9.3
2005	108.8	3.5
2006	110.1	1.2
2007	118.0	7.1
2008	115.0	-2.5
2009	110.3	-4.1
2010	112.6	2.0
2011^P	115.4	2.5

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, 2008-2011
Percent change from previous month**

	2008 % Change	2009 % Change	2010 % Change	2011 % Change
January	1.2	-2.0	0.5	0.7
February	0.2	2.2	0.2	-1.1
March	-1.6	-3.3	1.5	1.7
April	0.4	-0.8	0.1	(R) -0.8
May	0.1	-0.3	0.5	(P) -0.7
June	-0.6	0.9	0.1	(P) 1.7
July	0.1	1.6	0.1	(P) 0.3
August	-1.6	1.1	-0.2	(P) -0.1
September	-1.1	-0.5	1.0	
October	-1.0	-0.5	0.4	
November	-2.3	2.1	-0.6	
December	-2.6	0.5	1.5	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE
ADD SEVEN

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

	August Combined TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2002	100.1	-0.6
2003	101.2	1.1
2004	108.3	7.0
2005	110.6	2.1
2006	108.6	-1.8
2007	110.6	1.8
2008	109.9	-0.6
2009	101.6	-7.6
2010	106.2	4.5
2011^P	110.5	4.1

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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 -