



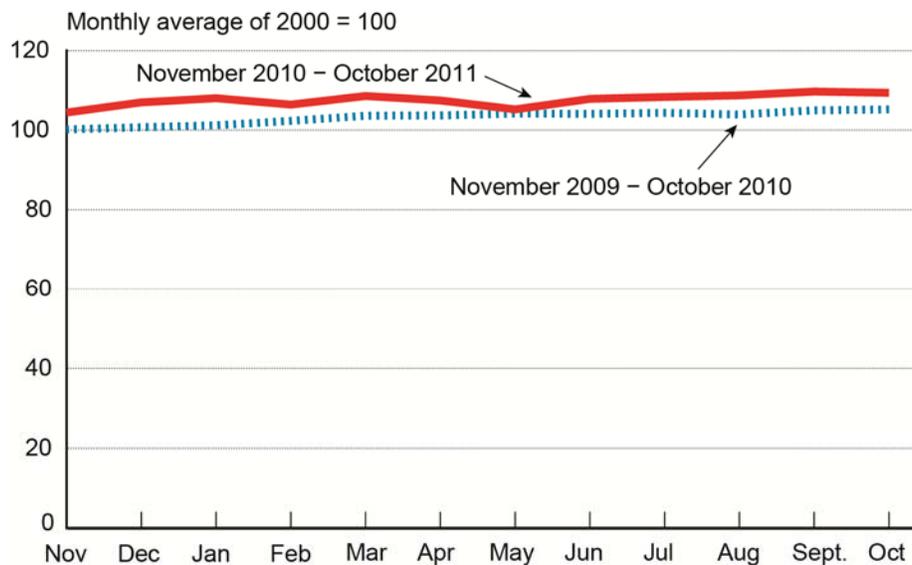
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BTS Data

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Freight Shipments Fell 0.2% in October from September

Freight Transportation Services Index, November 2009-October 2011



The amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry fell 0.2 percent in October from September, the first monthly decrease after four consecutive increases, 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 at 109.4 the level of freight shipments, measured by the Freight TSI, declined slightly from the recent peak achieved in September, but still remained higher than any other month since July 2008 (Table 2A).

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE ADD TWO

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 October 2011 (109.4 on the index) were at the second highest level since July 2008 (109.9) after reaching the highest level in more than three years in September (109.6). July 2008, the previous high, was followed by six straight months of decline. After dipping to a recent low in April 2009 (94.3), freight shipments increased in 21 of the last 30 months, rising 16.0 percent during that period (Tables 2, 2A). For additional historic data, go to <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>.

Year-to-date: For the first 10 months of 2011, freight shipments measured by the index were up 2.3 percent (Table 3).

Index highs and lows: Freight shipments in October 2011 (109.4 on the index) rose 16.0 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 October 2011 level is down 3.5 percent from the historic freight shipment peak reached in January 2005 (113.3).

Long-term trend: Freight shipments are down 0.5 percent in the five years from October 2006. Shipments are up 11.6 percent in the 10 years from October 2001 despite declines in recent years (Table 5).

Same month of previous year: Although October 2011 freight shipments rose 4.0 percent from October 2010 and 12.4 percent from October 2009, they remain below the all-time high for the month of October (110.4) reached in both 2004 and 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 November index is scheduled for Jan. 11.

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 fell 0.3 percent in October from its September level (Table 6). The Passenger TSI October 2011 level of 116.1 was 1.2 percent above the October 2010 level (Table 7). The index is up 3.8 percent in five years and up 39.7 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

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.

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Combined Index: The combined freight and passenger TSI fell 0.3 percent in October from its September level (Table 8). The combined TSI October 2011 level of 111.2 was 3.2 percent above the October 2010 level (Table 9). The combined index is up 0.7 percent in five years and up 18.9 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 June (Freight, Passenger and Combined) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The June Freight TSI is 107.8, revised from 108.3 reported in last month's release. The June Passenger TSI is 114.9, revised from 115.7. The June Combined TSI is 109.7, revised from 110.3. The TSI for July, August, September and October 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 April 2011
Percent Change by Month
(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
April	107.4	-1.0	114.3	-0.1	109.2	-0.8
May	105.2	-2.1	115.6	1.2	107.9	-1.2
June ^R	107.8	2.5	114.9	-0.6	109.7	1.6
July ^P	108.3	0.5	117.1	1.9	110.6	0.9
August ^P	108.7	0.4	115.4	-1.4	110.5	-0.1
September ^P	109.6	0.9	116.5	0.9	111.4	0.9
October^P	109.4	-0.2	116.1	-0.3	111.2	-0.3

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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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	-1.0
May	-0.1	0.3	0.5	-2.1
June	-0.4	1.0	-0.1	(R) 2.5
July	0.2	1.6	0.3	(P) 0.5
August	-1.7	1.5	-0.4	(P) 0.4
September	-1.0	-0.5	1.1	(P) 0.9
October	-1.1	-0.7	0.2	(P) -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	107.4
May	110.2	94.6	104.2	105.2
June	109.7	95.5	104.0	(R) 107.8
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	(P) 109.6
October	105.8	97.3	105.2	(P) 109.4
November	103.2	100.1	104.4	
December	99.4	100.7	106.9	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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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 October

Year	Freight	Passenger	Combined
2002	6.0	6.2	6.1
2003	1.2	-0.2	0.8
2004	2.7	6.0	3.7
2005	0.2	1.1	0.5
2006	-1.4	2.5	-0.3
2007	-0.4	2.0	0.3
2008	-3.7	-3.9	-3.8
2009	-2.1	-0.9	-1.8
2010	4.4	4.3	4.4
2011^P	2.3	2.5	2.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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

	October Freight TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2002	103.7	5.8
2003	105.7	1.9
2004	110.4	4.4
2005	110.4	0.1
2006	109.9	-0.5
2007	109.3	-0.5
2008	105.8	-3.2
2009	97.3	-8.0
2010	105.2	8.1
2011^P	109.4	4.0

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 (October to October)**

Since October ...	Duration in years	Freight TSI Percent change to October 2011	Passenger TSI Percent change to October 2011	Combined TSI Percent change to October 2011
2010	1	4.0	1.2	3.2
2009	2	12.4	5.7	10.5
2008	3	3.4	3.2	3.3
2007	4	0.1	-0.3	-0.1
2006	5	-0.5	3.8	0.7
2005	6	-1.0	7.8	1.5
2004	7	-0.9	9.0	1.8
2003	8	3.5	19.3	7.7
2002	9	5.5	21.7	9.9
2001	10	11.6	39.7	18.9

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Note: The percent changes to October 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	-0.1
May	0.6	-1.7	0.6	1.2
June	-0.9	0.5	0.8	(R) -0.6
July	-0.1	1.5	-0.2	(P) 1.9
August	-1.3	-0.1	0.2	(P) -1.4
September	-1.4	-0.6	1.0	(P) 0.9
October	-0.8	0.1	0.9	(P) -0.3
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 October Passenger TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	October Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2002	95.4	14.8
2003	97.4	2.1
2004	106.5	9.4
2005	107.7	1.1
2006	111.9	3.9
2007	116.5	4.1
2008	112.5	-3.4
2009	109.8	-2.4
2010	114.7	4.4
2011^P	116.1	1.2

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	-0.8
May	0.1	-0.3	0.5	-1.2
June	-0.6	0.9	0.1	(R) 1.6
July	0.1	1.6	0.1	(P) 0.9
August	-1.6	1.1	-0.2	(P) -0.1
September	-1.1	-0.5	1.0	(P) 0.9
October	-1.0	-0.5	0.4	(P) -0.3
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 October Combined TSI
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	October Combined TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2002	101.2	8.2
2003	103.2	2.0
2004	109.1	5.8
2005	109.6	0.4
2006	110.4	0.7
2007	111.2	0.8
2008	107.6	-3.3
2009	100.6	-6.5
2010	107.7	7.1
2011^P	111.2	3.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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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.

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