



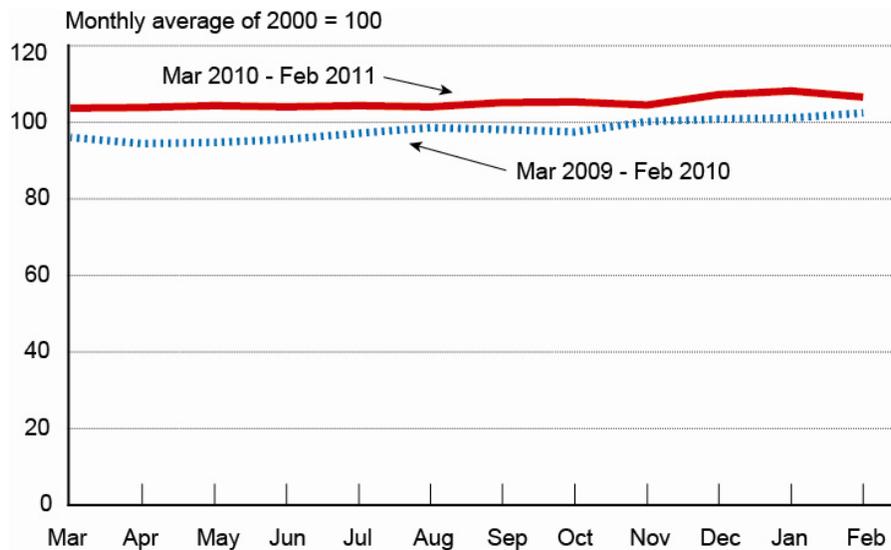
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## BTS Data

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### Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI): Freight Shipments Fell 1.5% in February from January

Freight Transportation Services Index, Mar 2009-Feb 2011



The amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry declined 1.5 percent in February from January, falling after two consecutive monthly 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 shipments measured by the Freight TSI rose 12.9 percent over the last 22 months, starting in May 2009, after declining 15.7 percent in the previous 16 months beginning in January 2008.

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## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE

### ADD ONE

Freight shipments have increased in 16 of the last 22 months (Table 2). In February 2011, freight shipments were at about the same level as in September 2008 when the amount of freight was early in the decline. For additional historic data, go to <http://www.bts.gov/xml/tsi/src/index.xml>

The Freight TSI measures the month-to-month changes in freight shipments 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.

For the first two months of 2011, freight shipments measured by the index were down 0.6 percent, trending down following a 6.4 percent rise in freight shipments for the full year 2010 and a 2.1 percent rise in during the final three months of 2010 (Table 3). See the March 9 TSI [press release](#).

Freight shipments in February (106.5 on the index) rose 12.9 percent, from the recent low in April 2009 (94.3). In April, freight shipments were at their lowest level since July 1997. The February level is down from the historic freight shipment peak reached in January 2005 (113.3)

Although freight shipments rose 4.1 percent from February 2010 to February 2011, they remain below the recent high for the month of February (111.6) reached in 2008 (Table 4). December 2009 was the first month since September 2008 in which shipments measured by the Freight TSI exceeded the level of the same month of the previous year. Since then, shipments have exceeded the previous year's level every month but still remains below the level of years before the most recent year.

The freight index is down 3.0 percent in the five years from February 2006. The index is up 7.7 percent in the 10 years from February 2001 despite recent declines (Table 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 March index is scheduled for May 11.

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.

### **Transportation Services Index for Passengers**

The TSI for passengers fell 1.0 percent in February from its January level (Table 6). The Passenger TSI February 2011 level of 112.9 was 4.2 percent above the February 2010 level (Table 7). The index is up 2.2 percent in five years and up 13.4 percent in 10 years (Table 5).

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## 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 Freight and Passenger Index

The combined freight and passenger TSI fell 1.3 percent in February from its January level (Table 8). The combined TSI February 2011 level of 108.2 was 4.1 percent higher than the February 2010 level (Table 9). The combined index is down 1.6 percent in five years and up 9.1 percent in 10 years despite recent declines (Table 5). The combined TSI merges the freight and passenger indexes into a single index.

### More on TSI

Note: TSI numbers for October (Freight, Passenger and Combined) were revised because of revisions in the output data of the component transportation services. The October Freight TSI is 105.2, unchanged from the 105.2 reported in last month's release. The October Passenger TSI is 114.7, revised from 114.9. The October Combined TSI is 107.7, unchanged from 107.7. The TSI for November, December, January and February 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 August 2010**

#### Percent Change by Month

(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

	Freight		Passenger		Combined	
	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change	Index	Pct. Change
August	103.9	-0.4	112.6	0.2	106.2	-0.2
September	105.0	1.1	113.7	1.0	107.3	1.0
October <sup>R</sup>	105.2	0.2	114.7	0.9	107.7	0.4
November <sup>P</sup>	104.4	-0.8	113.8	-0.8	106.8	-0.8
December <sup>P</sup>	107.1	2.7	112.8	-0.8	108.6	1.7
January <sup>P</sup>	108.1	0.9	113.9	1.0	109.6	0.9
February <sup>P</sup>	106.5	-1.5	112.9	-1.0	108.2	-1.3

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 % Growth	2009 % Growth	2010 % Growth	2011 % Growth
January	1.8	-2.4	0.5	(P) 0.9
<b>February</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>(P) -1.5</b>
March	-1.7	-4.0	1.2	
April	0.6	-1.6	0.1	
May	-0.1	0.3	0.5	
June	-0.4	1.0	-0.1	
July	0.2	1.6	0.3	
August	-1.7	1.5	-0.4	
September	-1.0	-0.5	1.1	
October	-1.1	-0.7	(R) 0.2	
November	-2.5	2.9	(P) -0.8	
December	-3.6	0.6	(P) 2.7	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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

Percent change from December of previous year  
December to February

Year	Freight	Passenger	Combined
2002	1.5	3.8	2.2
2003	-2.2	-2.4	-2.2
2004	2.1	2.9	2.3
2005	1.3	1.5	1.4
2006	-1.5	1.2	-0.7
2007	-1.4	-0.4	-1.1
2008	1.5	1.2	1.4
2009	0.4	-0.5	0.1
2010	1.6	-1.6	0.7
<b>2011<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
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**Table 4: Freight Transportation Services Index from Year-to-Year  
Percent change in the February Freight TSI  
(Monthly average of 2000 = 100)**

	<b>Freight TSI</b>	<b>Percent change from same month previous year</b>
2002	99.3	0.4
2003	102.1	2.9
2004	109.7	7.4
2005	111.6	1.8
2006	109.8	-1.6
2007	108.3	-1.4
2008	111.6	3.0
2009	99.8	-10.5
2010	102.3	2.5
<b>2011<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>106.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 5: Transportation Services Indexes from Previous Years  
Percent Change to 2011 (February to February)**

<b>Since February ...</b>	<b>Duration in years</b>	<b>Freight TSI Percent change to February 2011</b>	<b>Passenger TSI Percent change to February 2011</b>	<b>Combined TSI Percent change to February 2011</b>
<b>2010</b>	1	<b>4.1</b>	4.2	4.1
<b>2009</b>	2	<b>6.7</b>	2.4	5.5
<b>2008</b>	3	<b>-4.5</b>	-4.8	-4.6
<b>2007</b>	4	<b>-1.6</b>	-0.8	-1.4
<b>2006</b>	5	<b>-3.0</b>	2.2	-1.6
<b>2005</b>	6	<b>-4.6</b>	4.4	-2.1
<b>2004</b>	7	<b>-2.9</b>	9.2	0.4
<b>2003</b>	8	<b>4.3</b>	18.6	8.1
<b>2002</b>	9	<b>7.3</b>	21.1	11.0
<b>2001</b>	10	<b>7.7</b>	13.4	9.1

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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

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

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

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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

	Passenger TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2002	93.2	-6.4
2003	95.2	2.1
2004	103.3	8.6
2005	108.1	4.6
2006	110.4	2.2
2007	113.8	3.0
2008	118.5	4.1
2009	110.2	-7.0
2010	108.3	-1.7
<b>2011<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>112.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX RELEASE  
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**Table 8: Combined Transportation Services Index Monthly Changes, 2008-2011**  
Percent change from previous month

	2008 % Growth	2009 % Growth	2010 % Growth	2011 % Growth
January	1.2	-2.0	0.5	(P) 0.9
<b>February</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>(P) -1.3</b>
March	-1.6	-3.3	1.5	
April	0.4	-0.8	0.1	
May	0.1	-0.3	0.5	
June	-0.6	0.9	0.1	
July	0.1	1.6	0.1	
August	-1.6	1.1	-0.2	
September	-1.1	-0.5	1.0	
October	-1.0	-0.5	(R) 0.4	
November	-2.3	2.1	(P) -0.8	
December	-2.6	0.5	(P) 1.7	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

NOTE: P = preliminary; R = revised

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

	Combined TSI	Percent change from same month previous year
2002	97.4	-1.7
2003	100.0	2.7
2004	107.7	7.7
2005	110.5	2.6
2006	109.9	-0.5
2007	109.7	-0.2
2008	113.4	3.4
2009	102.5	-9.6
2010	103.9	1.3
<b>2011<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>

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

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### **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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