



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Research and
Innovative Technology
Administration**

Key Transportation Indicators November 2008

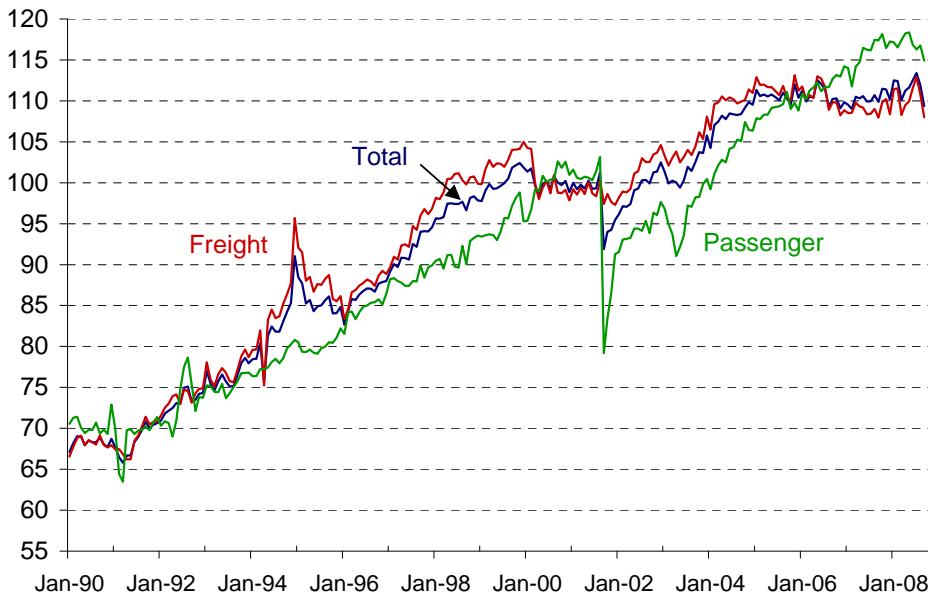
Table of Contents

Transportation Services Index	3
Air Travel Price Index	4
Domestic Airline Jet Fuel	5
Major U.S. Air Carriers On-Time Performance.....	6
Motor Fuel Prices: Retail Diesel Prices	8
Motor Fuel Prices: Retail Gasoline.....	9
U.S. Highway Vehicle Miles Traveled.....	10
Amtrak Ridership.....	11
Index of Railroad Fuel Prices	12
Rail Capacity Utilization: Rail Passenger Load Factor.....	13
Rail Freight: Revenue Ton-Miles	14
Rail On-Time Performance.....	15
Use of Passenger Rail: Revenue Passenger Miles.....	16
U.S. Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico	17

Transportation Services Index

Monthly data, seasonally adjusted

Index: 2000 = 100



The Transportation Services Index (TSI) is a measure of the month-to-month change in the output of services provided by the for-hire transportation industry. The index can be examined together with other economic indicators to produce a better understanding of the current and future course of the economy.

Transportation Services Index	Aug-08	Sep-08
Total Transportation Services (Index: 2000=100)	111.89	109.35
Percent change from previous month	-1.33	-2.27
Freight Transportation Services (Index: 2000=100)	110.77	108.01
Percent change from previous month	-1.87	-2.50
Passenger Transportation Services (Index: 2000=100)	116.75	114.92
Percent change from previous month	0.39	-1.57

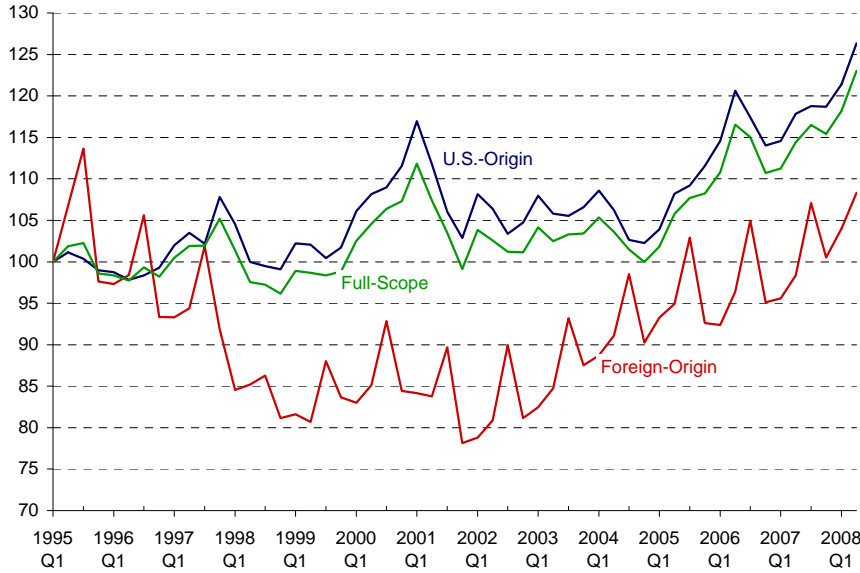
NOTES: TSI is updated monthly with the latest four months' index numbers considered preliminary. Each month BTS releases the latest preliminary TSI, and replaces the oldest preliminary TSI with a revised TSI.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *Transportation Services Index*, available at <http://www.bts.gov/> as of November 2008.

Air Travel Price Index

Quarterly data, not seasonally adjusted

Index: 1995 Q1=100



The U.S.-Origin ATPI measures change in the cost of itineraries originating in the United States, whether the destinations are domestic or international. The Foreign-Origin ATPI measures change in the cost of itineraries with a foreign origin and a U.S. destination. The Full-Scope ATPI combines the domestic and foreign-origin itineraries.

Air Travel Price Index	2007	2008	Average Annual % Growth Rate (1995-2008)
	Quarter 2	Quarter 2	
U.S. - Origin Air Travel Price (Index: 1995 Q1=100)	117.8	126.3	1.73
Foreign - Origin Air Travel Price (Index: 1995 Q1=100)	98.4	108.3	0.11
Full - Scope Air Travel Price (Index: 1995 Q1=100)	114.4	123.0	1.46

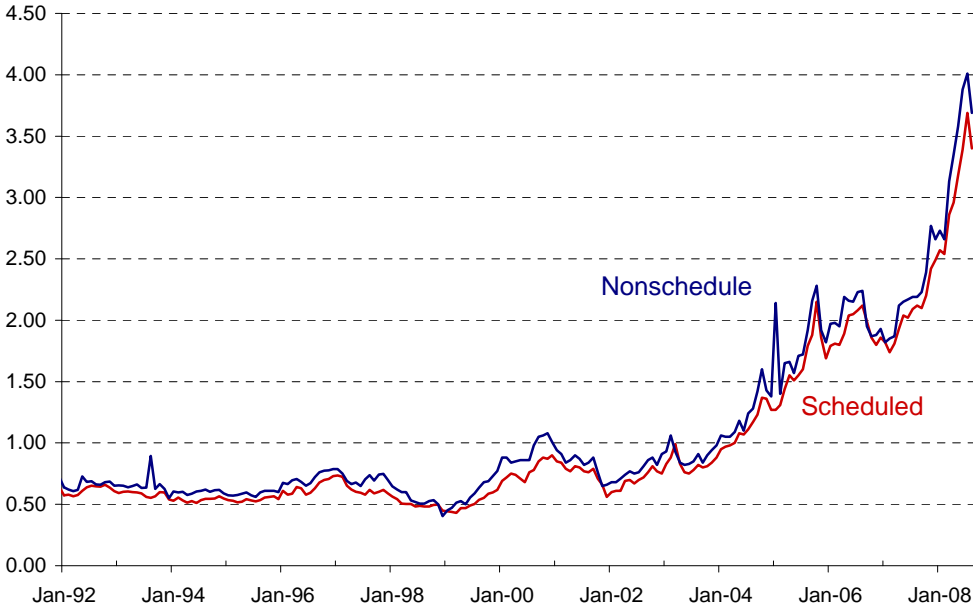
NOTE: The current value is compared to the value from the same period in the previous year to account for seasonality.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *Air Travel Price Index*, available at <http://www.bts.gov/> as of November 2008.

Domestic Airline Jet Fuel

Monthly data, not seasonally adjusted

Dollars per
Gallon



Jet fuel prices reported to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics differ from producer prices. Reports to BTS show the cost per gallon of fuel used by an airline during the month rather than the price charged by a producer on a single day. Fuel costs for scheduled airline services reflect contractual and storage advantages available to large buyers, while fuel costs for nonscheduled airline services reflect economic conditions for smaller buyers. Jet fuel prices also reflect seasonality due to both the seasonality of aviation and because jet fuel has similar refining requirements to heating oil.

Jet Fuel Price by Type of Service	Aug-07	Aug-08
For Nonscheduled Airlines (Current dollars per gallon)	2.19	3.69
Percent change from same month previous year	-2.23	68.49
For Scheduled Airlines (Current dollars per gallon)	2.12	3.40
Percent change from same month previous year	0.00	60.38

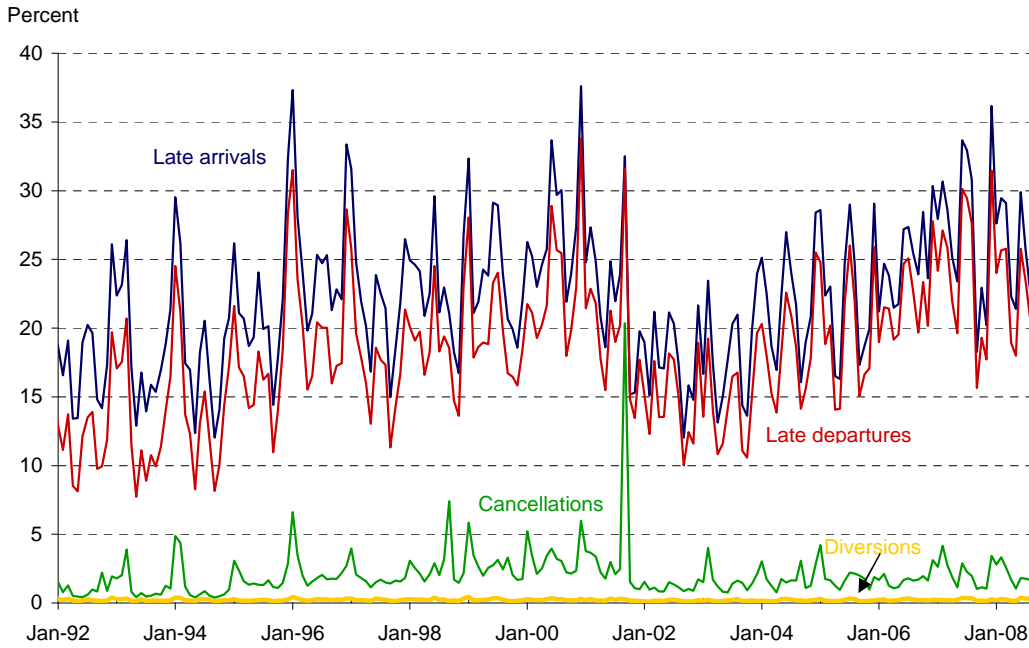
NOTES: The current value is compared to the value from the same period in the previous year to account for seasonality.

Data for June 2008 to August 2008 are preliminary due to late reports by carriers.

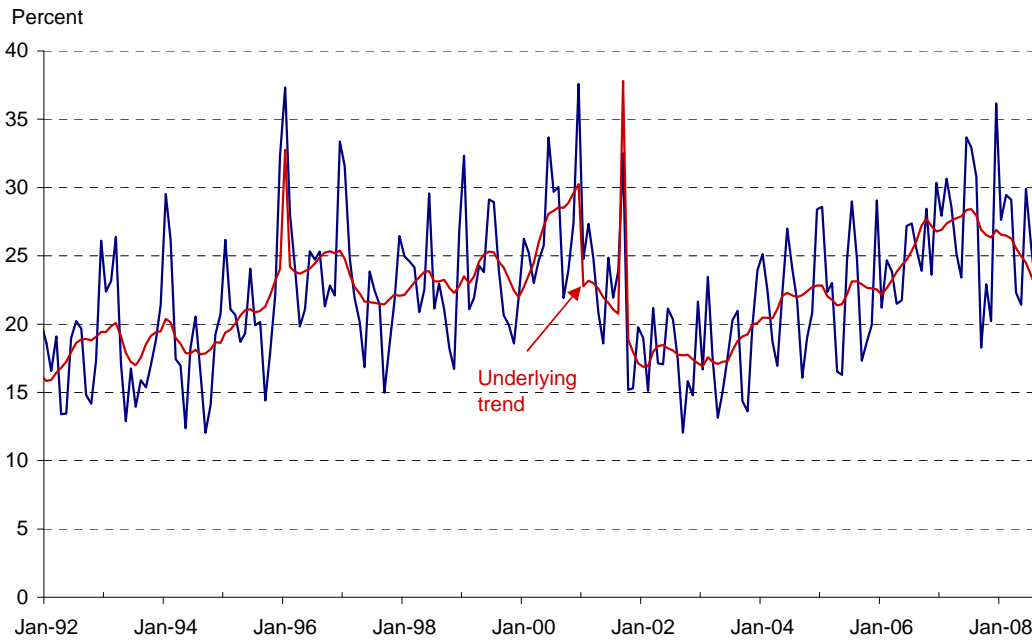
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Office of Airline Information, available at http://www.bts.gov/programs/airline_information/ as of November 2008.

Major U.S. Air Carrier On-time Performance

Major U.S. Air Carrier On-Time Performance (monthly data, not seasonally adjusted)



Flights Not Arriving On-Time (monthly data, not seasonally adjusted)



The number of flights not departing or arriving on time, cancellations, and diversions are measures of service quality. These indicators are strongly seasonal and are affected by weather and heavy demand in winter and summer months, respectively.

Flight On-Time Performance	Sep-07	Sep-08
Number of scheduled flights	575,226	520,054
Percent change from same month previous year	-0.76	-9.59
Percent of flights not arriving on time	18.28	13.77
Percent change from same month previous year	-23.52	-24.66
Percent of flights not departing on time	15.64	11.99
Percent change from same month previous year	-20.56	-23.31
Percent of cancelled flights*	1.03	1.66
Percent change from same month previous year	-39.50	61.21
Percent of diverted flights**	0.16	0.12
Percent change from same month previous year	-26.19	-26.51

* Also counted in flights not arriving or departing on time.

** Also counted in flights not arriving on time.

NOTES: The current value is compared to the value from the same period in the previous year to account for seasonality. Data are available for those carriers that had at least 1% of domestic enplanements in the previous year. The last 25 months of data include only carriers that reported in each of the last 25 months to retain comparability. Earlier data includes all reporting carriers.

A scheduled operation consists of any nonstop segment of a flight. The term "late" is defined as 15 minutes after the scheduled departure or arrival time. A cancelled flight is one that was not operated but was listed in a carrier's computer reservation system within seven calendar days of the scheduled departure. A diverted flight is one that left from the scheduled departure airport but flew to a destination point other than the scheduled destination point.

A trend line has been provided for flights not arriving on-time. The trend has been calculated through a statistical procedure called Structural Modeling, in which the time series under study is decomposed into seasonal, trend and irregular components. For further information on this statistical procedure, see: S.J. Kipman, et al., *Structural Time Series Analyzer, Modeler and Predictor (STAMP)*, London: Timberlake Consultants Ltd., 2000.

The dramatic changes in the September 2001 data reflect the impact of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, on aviation, including several days in which commercial air operations were suspended.

Certain flights originating at O'Hare airport and operated by American Airlines (181 flights in April 2002) and United Airlines (256 flights in April 2002) between April 24, 2002 and May 8, 2002 are not included in the calculations due to the participation of these carriers in a pilot test program for enhanced baggage screening. A list of affected flights is available from BTS.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *Airline Service Quality Performance data* as of November 2008.

Motor Fuel Prices: Retail Diesel Prices

Weekly data, not seasonally adjusted

Dollars per gallon, including all taxes



Motor fuel prices are an important cost component of highway transportation. Changes in motor fuel prices impact the behavior of both producers and consumers, and affect the demand for transportation in terms of level and modal mix. In the United States, motor gasoline prices follow world crude oil prices more closely than motor diesel prices. Changes in motor fuel prices affect the profit margin of motor carriers, particularly trucking firms.

Retail On-Highway Diesel Prices	27-Oct-08	3-Nov-08
Retail on-highway diesel prices (Current dollars per gallon)	3.29	3.09
Percent change from previous week	-5.57	-6.08

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, *Weekly On-Highway Diesel Prices*, available at <http://eia.doe.gov/> as of November 2008.

Motor Fuel Prices: Retail Gasoline Prices

Weekly data, not seasonally adjusted

Dollars per gallon



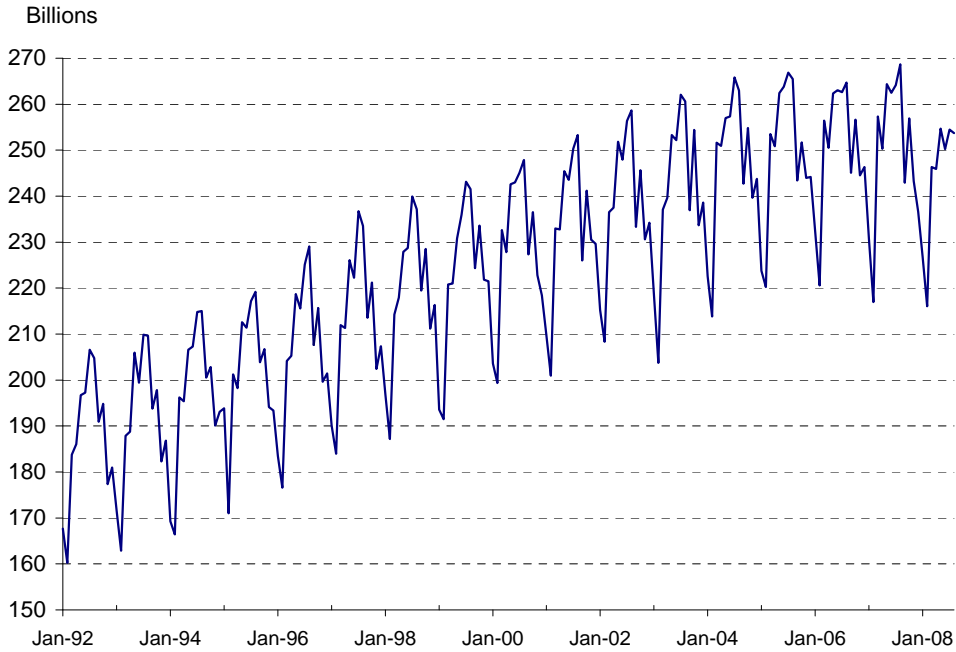
Motor fuel prices are an important cost component of highway transportation. Changes in motor fuel prices impact the behavior of both producers and consumers, and affect the demand for transportation in terms of level and modal mix. In the United States, motor gasoline prices follow world crude oil prices more closely than motor diesel prices. Changes in motor fuel prices affect the profit margin of transportation firms, particularly trucking firms.

Retail Gasoline Prices	27-Oct-08	3-Nov-08
Average regular grade, all formulations (Current dollars per gallon)	2.66	2.40
Percent change from previous week	-8.85	-9.64

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, *Weekly Retail Gasoline Prices*, available at <http://eia.doe.gov/> as of November 2008.

U.S. Highway Vehicle Miles Traveled

Monthly data, not seasonally adjusted



Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) are key data for highway planning and management, and a common measure of roadway use. Along with other data, VMT are often used in estimating congestion, air quality, and potential gas-tax revenues, and can provide a general measure of the level of the nation's economic activity.

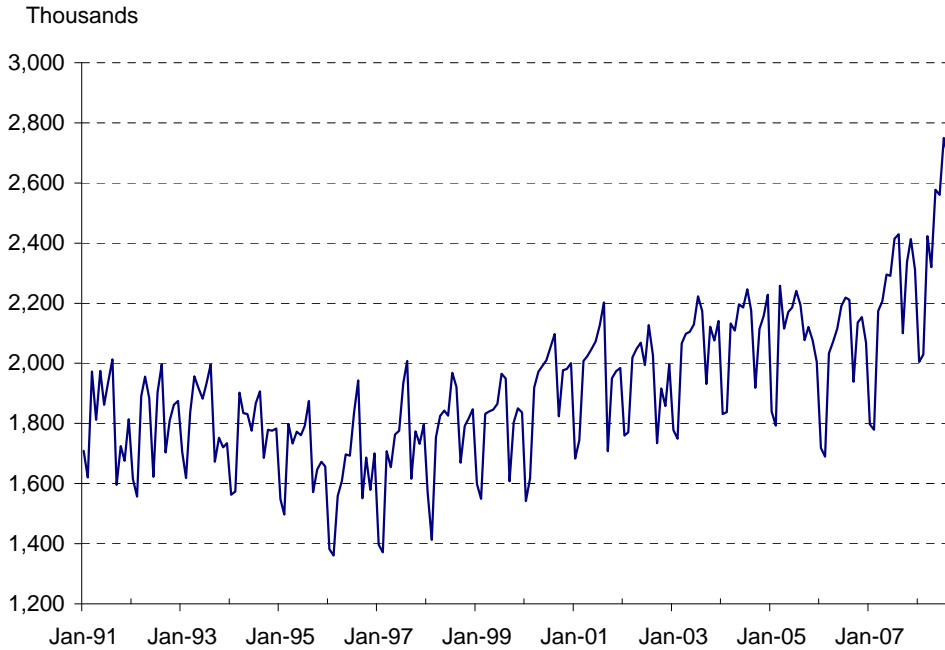
Vehicle Miles Traveled	Aug-07	Aug-08
Highway miles (millions)	268,680	253,684
Percent change from same month previous year	1.51	-5.58

NOTE: The current value is compared to the value from the same period in the previous year to account for seasonality.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Highway Policy Information, *Traffic Volume Trends*, available at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/> as of November 2008.

Amtrak Ridership

Monthly data, not seasonally adjusted



The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) officially began service in May 1971. Amtrak serves more than 500 stations in 46 states and operates over a network of more than 22,000 track miles. Ridership is highly seasonal, with July and August being very high season months. In 2000, Amtrak introduced a high-speed rail service in the northeast U.S., which helped increase ridership.

Amtrak Ridership	Aug-07	Aug-08
Amtrak Ridership	2,429,470	2,683,564
Percent change from same month previous year	9.86	10.46

NOTE: The current value is compared to the value from the same period in the previous year to account for seasonality.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Safety Analysis, available at <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/OfficeofSafety/> as of November 2008.

Index of Railroad Fuel Prices

Monthly data, not seasonally adjusted

Index: July 15, 1990 = 100



This data series represents the average monthly price for fuels purchased by freight railroads during a month, which includes federal excise taxes, transportation and handling expenses.

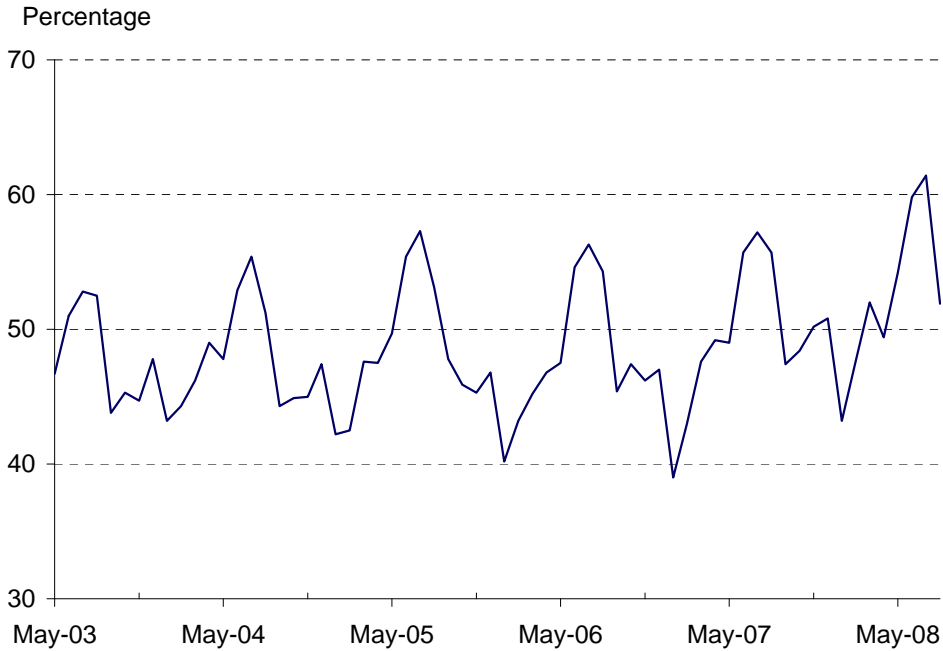
Index of Railroad Fuel Prices	Sep-07	Sep-08
Railroad Fuel Prices (Index: July 15, 1990 = 100)	463.8	638.7
Percent change from same month previous year	16.56	37.71

NOTE: The current value is compared to the value from the same period in the previous year to account for seasonality.

SOURCE: Association of American Railroads, *Monthly Railroad Fuel Price Indexes*, available at <http://www.aar.org/> as of November 2008.

Rail Capacity Utilization: Rail Passenger Load Factor

Monthly data, not seasonally adjusted



Load factor measures potential to actual performance. More specifically, the load factor is calculated by dividing passenger miles, which is total number of passengers times the total miles that a train travels, by seat miles, which is the total number of seats available times total miles a train travels.

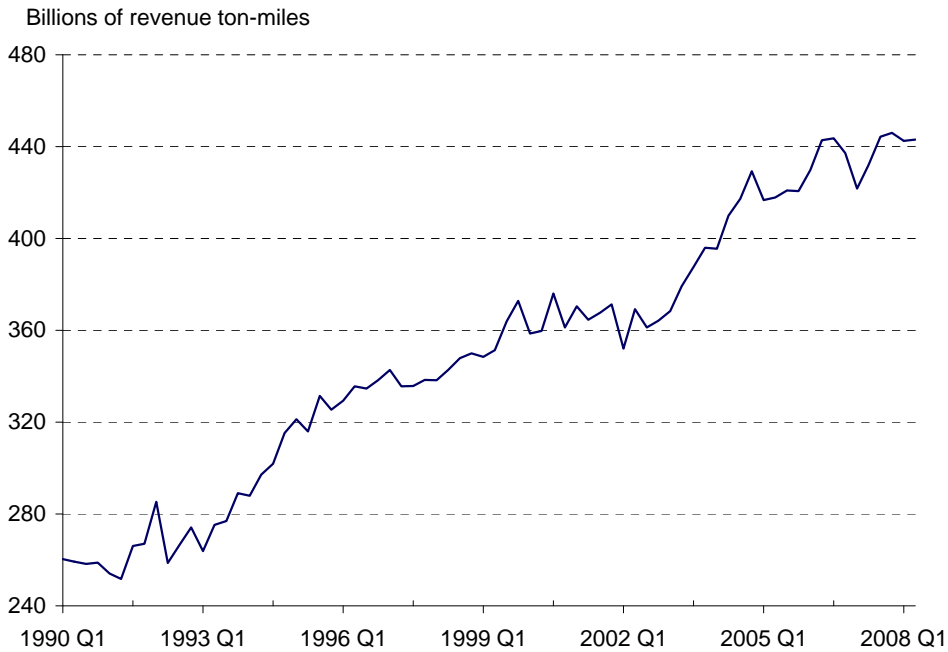
Rail Passenger Load Factor	Aug-07	Aug-08
Passenger load factor (percent)	55.7	51.9
Percent change from same month previous year	2.58	-6.82

NOTES: The current value is compared to the value from the same period in the previous year to account for seasonality.

SOURCE: National Railroad Passenger Corporation Amtrak, *Monthly Performance Reports*, available at <http://www.amtrak.com/> as of November 2008.

Rail Freight: Revenue Ton-Miles

Quarterly data, not seasonally adjusted



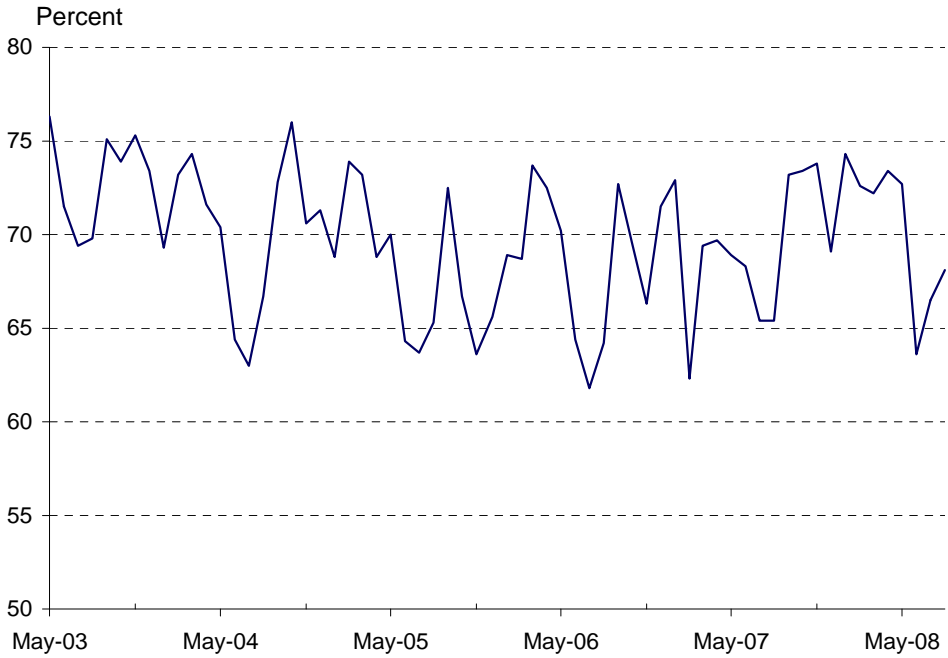
Rail Freight Revenue Ton Miles	2007	2008
	Quarter 2	Quarter 2
Rail Freight Revenue Ton-Miles (billions)	432.0	443.0
Percent change from same quarter previous year	-2.42	2.55

NOTE: The current value is compared to the value from the same period in the previous year to account for seasonality.

SOURCE: Association of American Railroads, Surface Transportation Board, *Quarterly Earnings Reports*, available at <http://www.stb.dot.gov/> as of November 2008.

Rail On-Time Performance

Monthly data, not seasonally adjusted



National Railroad Passenger Corporation Amtrak trips of up to 250 miles are considered on time if they arrive less than 10 minutes beyond the scheduled arrival time; 251–350 miles, 15 minutes; 351–450 miles, 20 minutes; 451–550 miles, 25 minutes; and greater than 550 miles, 30 minutes.

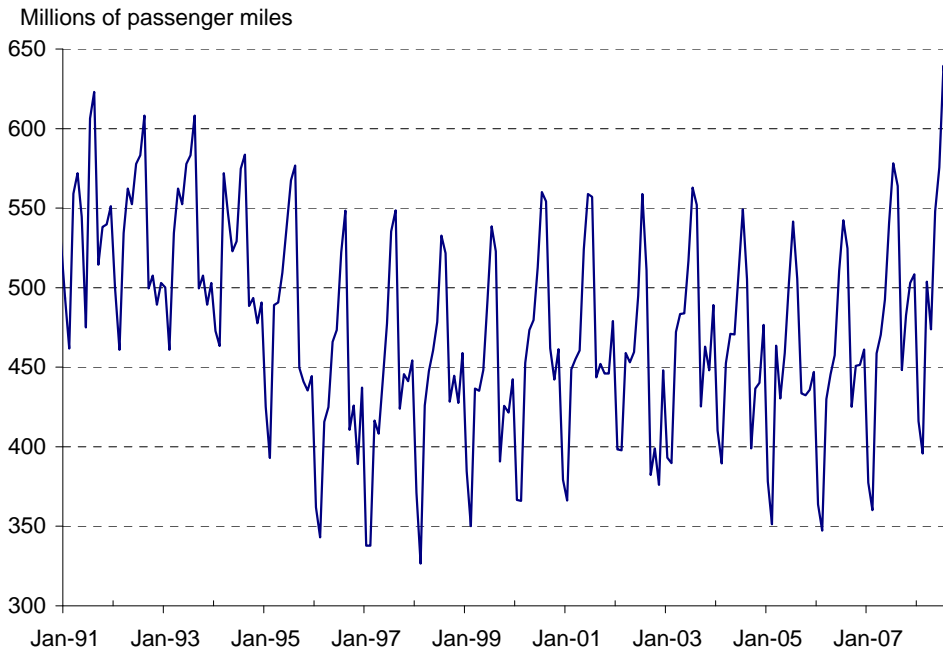
Passenger Rail On-Time Performance	Aug-07	Aug-08
On-time performance (percentage on-time)	65.4	68.1
Percent change from same month previous year	1.87	4.13

NOTE: The current value is compared to the value from the same period in the previous year to account for seasonality.

SOURCE: National Railroad Passenger Corporation Amtrak, *Monthly Performance Reports*, available at <http://www.amtrak.com/> as of November 2008.

Use of Passenger Rail: Revenue Passenger Miles

Monthly data, not seasonally adjusted



The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) officially began service in May 1971. Amtrak offers services in 46 states on a network of over 22,000 track miles. Ridership data are highly seasonal, with July and August being very high season months. In 2000, Amtrak introduced a high-speed rail service in the northeast U.S., which helped increase ridership.

Amtrak Revenue Passenger Miles	Aug-07	Aug-08
Amtrak revenue passenger miles (millions)	564.0	614.9
Percent change from same month previous year	8.00	9.02

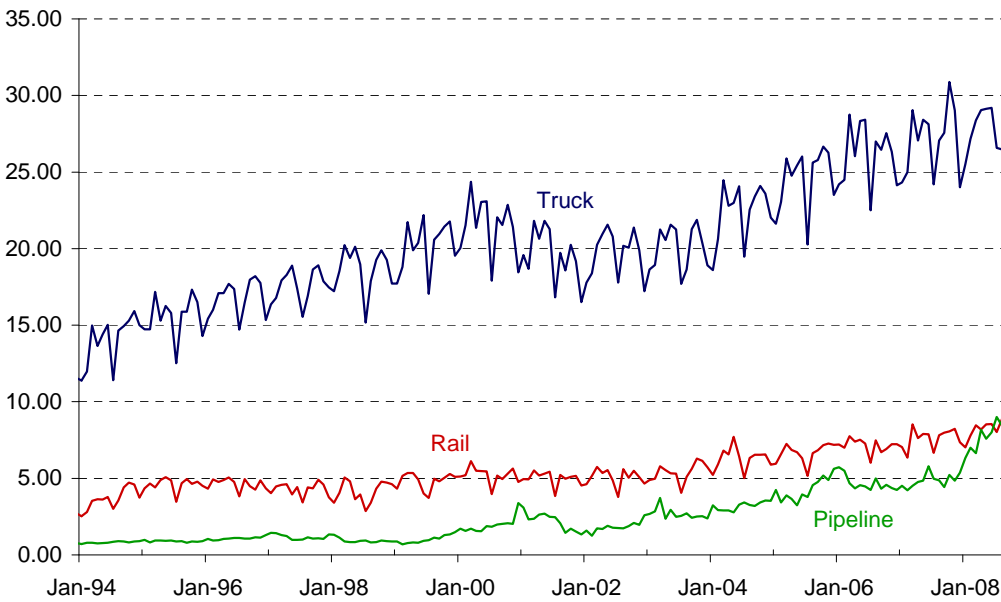
NOTE: The current value is compared to the value from the same period in the previous year to account for seasonality.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Safety Analysis, available at <http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/OfficeofSafety/> as of November 2008.

US Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico

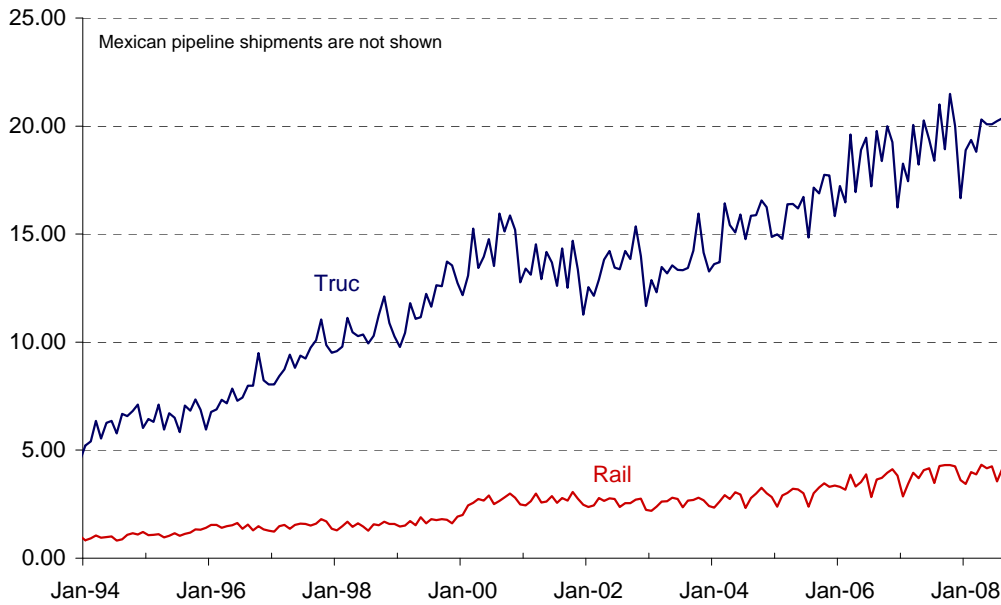
Value of U.S. - Canada Trade (monthly data, not seasonally adjusted)

Billions of dollars



Value of U.S. - Mexico Trade (monthly data, not seasonally adjusted)

Billions of dollars



NOTES: Surface freight is useful in monitoring the value and modal patterns of trade with Canada and Mexico, our North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners. Canada is our largest trading partner. Mexico ranks third. Surface modes include not only truck, rail, and pipeline, but also government mail and other miscellaneous modes.

U.S. - Canada Trade		
	Aug-07	Aug-08
Truck (billions of dollars)	27.06	26.47
Percent change from same month previous year	0.24	-2.20
Rail (billions of dollars)	7.82	8.91
Percent change from same month previous year	4.56	13.93
Pipeline (billions of dollars)	4.86	8.42
Percent change from same month previous year	-2.52	73.19

U.S. - Mexico Trade		
	Aug-07	Aug-08
Truck (billions of dollars)	20.99	20.37
Percent change from same month previous year	6.16	-2.98
Rail (billions of dollars)	4.26	4.16
Percent change from same month previous year	17.10	-2.48
Pipeline (billions of dollars)	0.06	0.10
Percent change from same month previous year	-11.35	62.05

NOTE: The current value is compared to the value from the same period in the previous year to account for seasonality.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, *TransBorder Freight Data*, available at <http://www.bts.gov/ntda/tbscd/prod.html> as of November 2008.

