



DATA SPOTLIGHTS

LEVERAGING DATA FROM NEW AND OLD SOURCES
TO HIGHLIGHT TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS RELEVANCE



3 TIERS OF STATISTICAL AGENCY AUDIENCES

Core

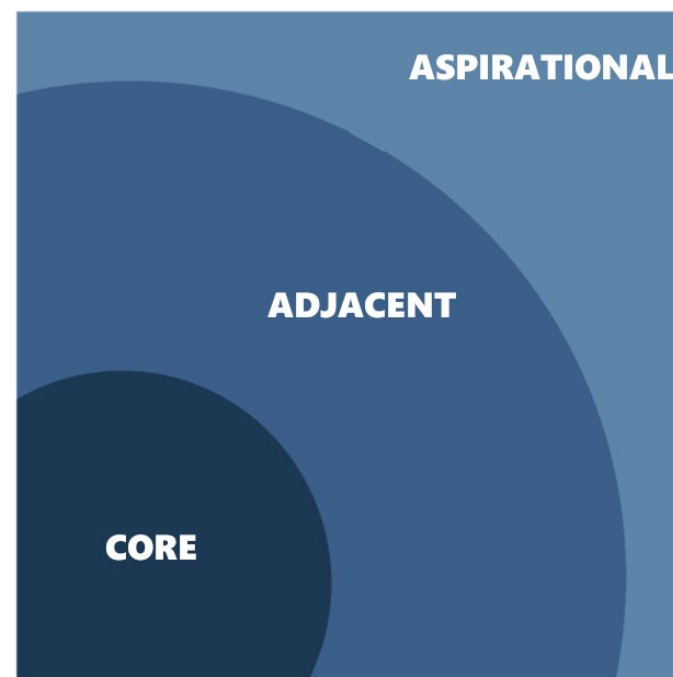
- Internal (gov't)
 - C-Suite, White House, US Congress
- External (academia, associations, for-profit)
 - Planners, Economists, Analysts, Researchers

▪ Adjacent

- Tangential or one-time customers
 - Students, Transportation, Corporate

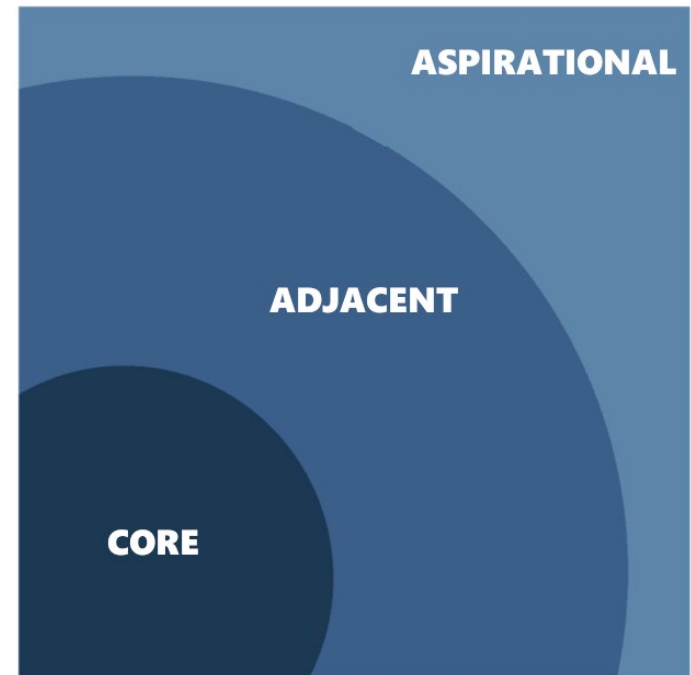
▪ Aspirational

- New customers, general public



3 TIERS OF STATISTICAL AGENCY AUDIENCES

- **Who are they?**
- **What do they want to know?**
- **What can they process?**



NEW DATA

COVID-19 Pandemic Stimulates Interest in New Data Sources

Data calls in-house, White House, Congress

- **Daily Travel**
 - Univ. of Maryland CATT Lab – distance bands, nationally, by state, by county
 - INRIX - VMT
- **Commercial Aviation**
 - U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) – persons screened
- **Trade**
 - Maritime – container port activity
 - TransBorder – truck activity at the Niagara bridges
 - Rail – carloads and intermodal containers from Amer. Assoc. of Railroads

WEEKLY COVID-19 CARD

- **Audience: Core**

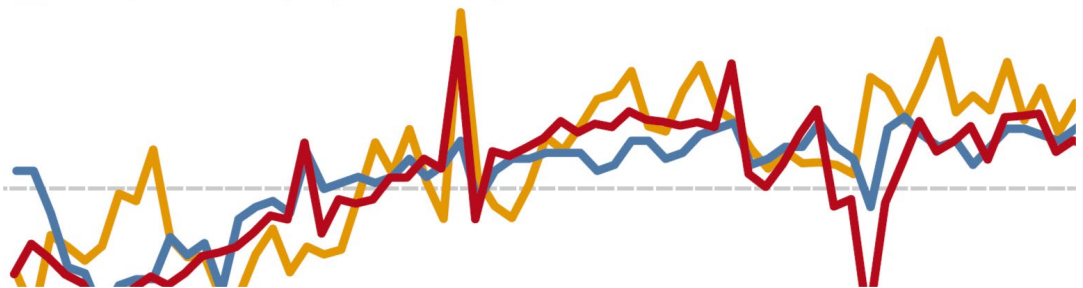
- Internal

- **Content**

- Tables and line charts, multiple measures, peaks, lows, current, % difference from baseline
- No explanatory text

Indicator	Week Ending	Lowest	since 3/15/20	Peak	since Lowest	Current	Baseline	Change from Baseline
People Staying Home (Average) *	17 Apr	65,393,541	(05/23/20)	101,544,451	(12/26/20)	72,516,017	66,268,518	9% ▲
People Not Staying Home (Average)	17 Apr	225,622,983	(12/26/20)	261,773,893	(05/23/20)	255,723,506	259,898,902	-2% ▼
INRIX Personal Vehicle Travel Index (Seasonally Adj)	28 May	51	(04/10/20)	112	(04/02/21)	110	100	10% ▲
Interstate All Vehicles VMT (Passenger and Truck) (Million)	30 May	8,700	(04/12/20)	16,700	(04/11/21)	16,500	————	-1% ▼

- Freight Rail, Intermodal
- Truck Freight, Interstate Truck VMT
- Maritime, TEU Vessel Capacity of Containerships



THE WEEK IN TRANSPORTATION

- **Audience: All 3 tiers**
 - Internal and external
- **Content**
 - Line or bar charts, maps, one or two measures, current, baseline
 - Tooltips

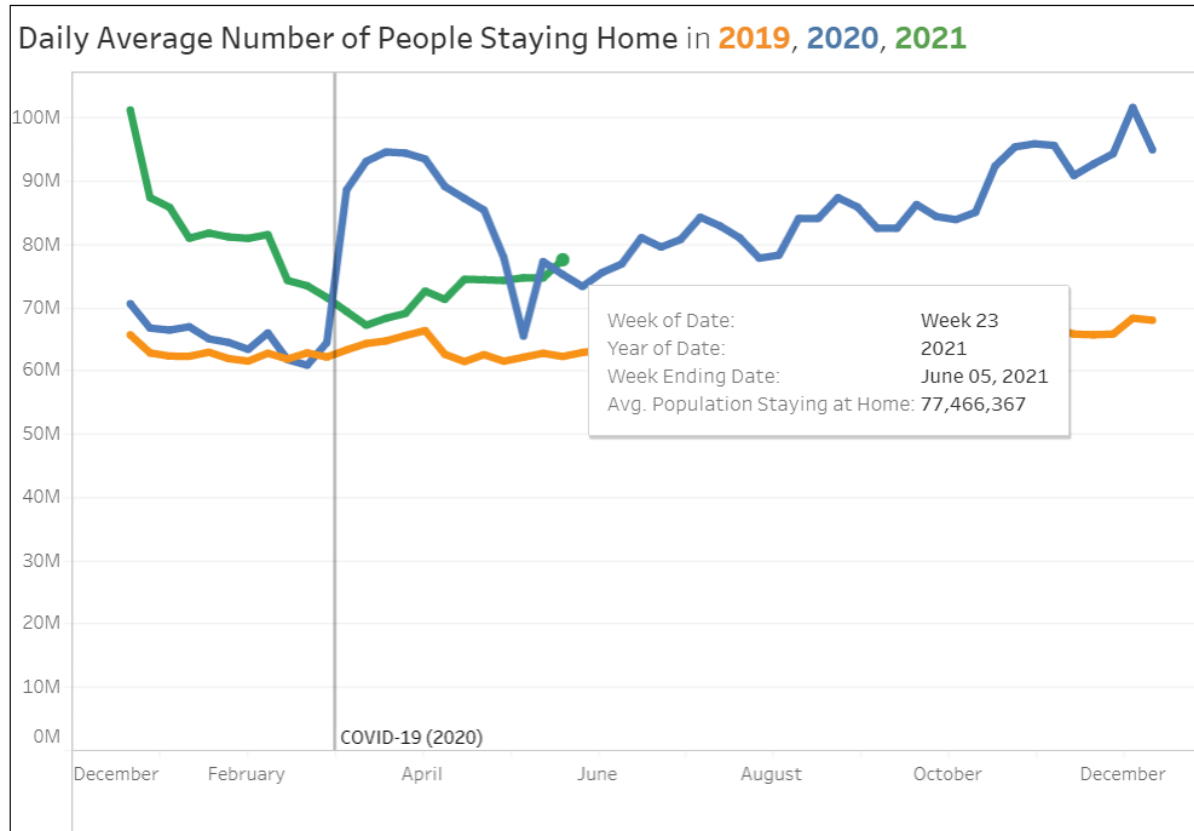
The Week in Transportation

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

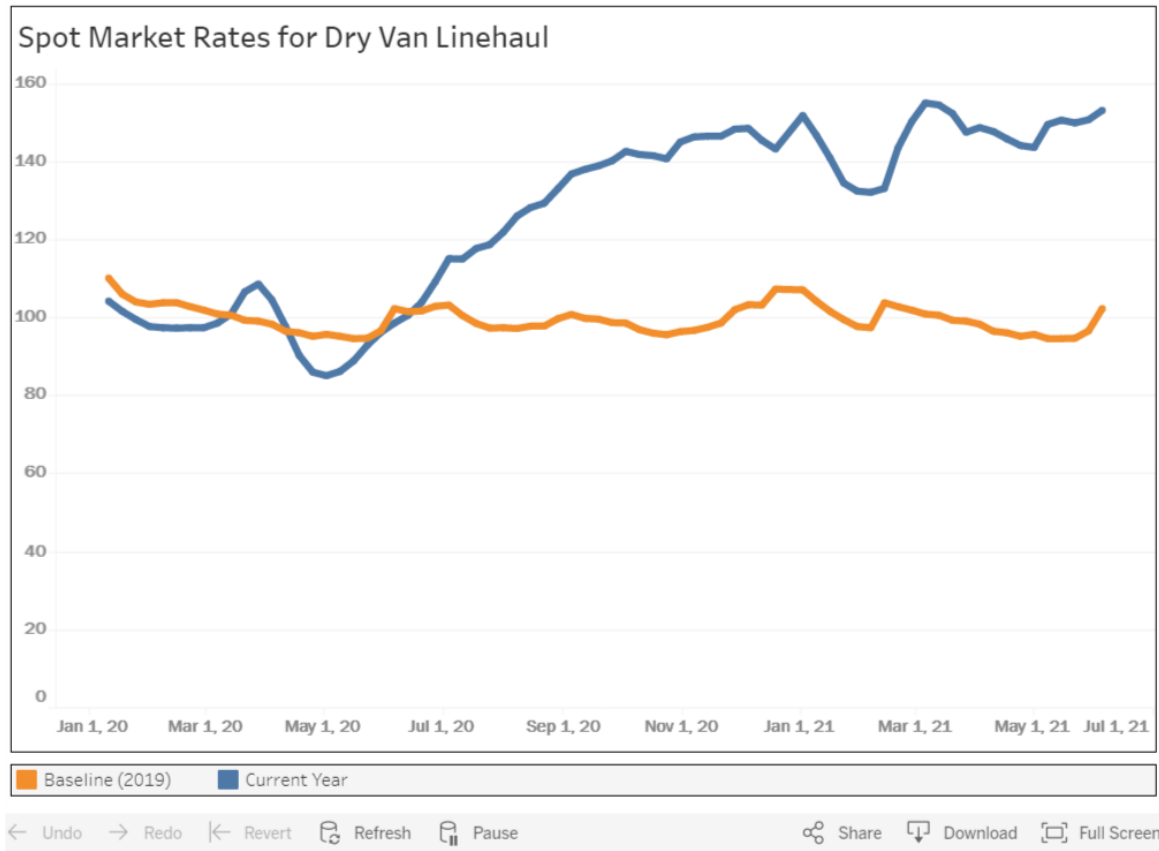
Selected transportation measures compiled by BTS during the COVID-19 public health emergency

- Daily Travel and Staying Home
- Commercial Aviation
- Freight and Border Activity
- Transit Ridership
- Notes and Sources

THE WEEK IN TRANSPORTATION



THE WEEK IN TRANSPORTATION



DEEP: THE WEEK IN TRANSPORTATION

Notes

These selected measures are provisional indicators of transportation activity and have not been reviewed for representativeness or other aspects of statistical quality. Additional measures will be added as they become available.

- **People Staying Home, Traveling, Trips by Distance:** These data are experimental and may not meet all of our quality standards. Experimental data products are created using new data sources or methodologies that benefit data users in the absence of other relevant products. We are seeking feedback from data users and stakeholders on the quality and usefulness of these new products. Experimental data products that meet our quality standards and demonstrate sufficient user demand may enter regular production if resources permit. The *baseline* for these measures is the same day of the same week last year. A *trip* is considered a movement that includes at least 1 stay of longer than 10 minutes at an anonymized location away from home. *High* and *Low Points* consider dates thus far in calendar year 2020. For more information, and to download the data or access the API, please visit our [Daily Travel](#) page.
- **Commercial Flights:** The baseline is the same week last year. The low point of 7,062 flights operated occurred on 4/25/2020.
- **People Screened at Airports:** The baseline is the same week last year. The low point of 88,000 passengers screened occurred on 4/14/2020.
- **Vessel Traffic:** These data are experimental and may not meet all of our quality standards. Experimental data products are created using new data sources or methodologies that benefit data users in the absence of other relevant products. We are seeking feedback from data users and stakeholders on the quality and usefulness of these new products. Experimental data products that meet our quality standards and demonstrate sufficient user demand may enter regular production if resources permit.
- **MTA:** Data reported on a weekly basis from Saturday to Friday. These are adjusted numbers which are obtained by normalizing only the outliers using historical trends. This adjustment affected less than 0.7% of the data.
- **WMATA:** Data for 2020 is PRELIMINARY. Ridership is compared to the equivalent calendar day in 2019.
- **BART:** Ridership is compared to projected ridership, based on pre-pandemic BART budgeting, for the same period.

Sources

- **People Staying Home, Traveling, Trips by Distance:** The Maryland Transportation Institute (MTI) and the Center for Advanced Transportation Technology Laboratory (CATT Lab) at the University of Maryland, available for further viewing on our [Daily Travel](#) page or at <https://data.covid.umd.edu/>, and for download at <https://data.bts.gov>
- **US Commercial Flights:** Aviation System Performance Metrics (ASPM)
- **People Screened:** Transportation Security Administration (TSA), similar to <https://www.tsa.gov/coronavirus/passenger-throughput>
- **Spot Market Rates for Dry Van Linehaul:** DAT Freight & Analytics, available at <https://www.dat.com/industry-trends/trendlines>
- **Weekly Rail Traffic:** Association of American Railroads, available at <https://www.aar.org/rail-traffic>
- **Border Crossings:** Customs and Border Protection, personal communication, passenger vehicle traffic from Canada and Mexico to the U.S.
- **Niagara Falls Border Crossings:** Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, Traffic Statistics, Westbound Into Canada, available at <https://niagarafallsbridges.com/index.php/services/traffic-statistics>
- **Vessel Traffic:** calculated using daily Automatic Identification System (AIS) data provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' AIS Analysis Package (AISAP), available at https://aisap.usacegis.us/aisap_portal/
- **MTA:** available at <http://web.mta.info/developers/turnstile.html>
- **WMATA:** available at <https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/ridership-portal/index.cfm#other>; FTA Weekly Ridership Report.
- **BART:** available at <https://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2020/news20200225>

DATA SPOTLIGHTS

- **Audience: All 3 tiers**

- Internal and external

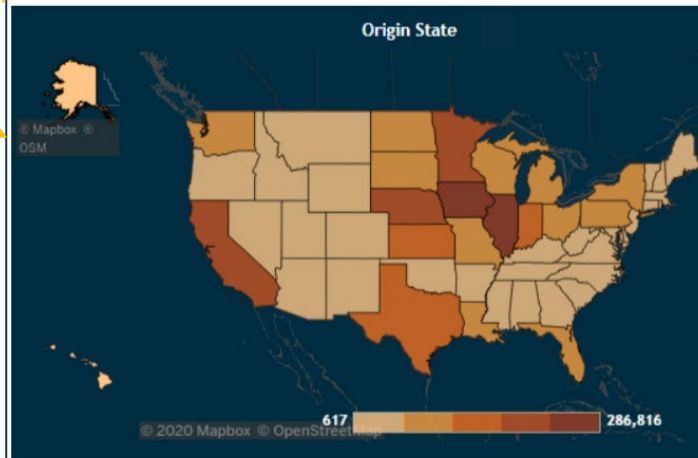
- **Content**

- Single topic
- Line or bar charts, maps, one measure at a time, in succession
- Contextualized
- Explanatory Text
- Subheads as transitions
- Tooltips
- Encourage exploration

Transportation Delivers Harvest from Field and Farm to Family Tables

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

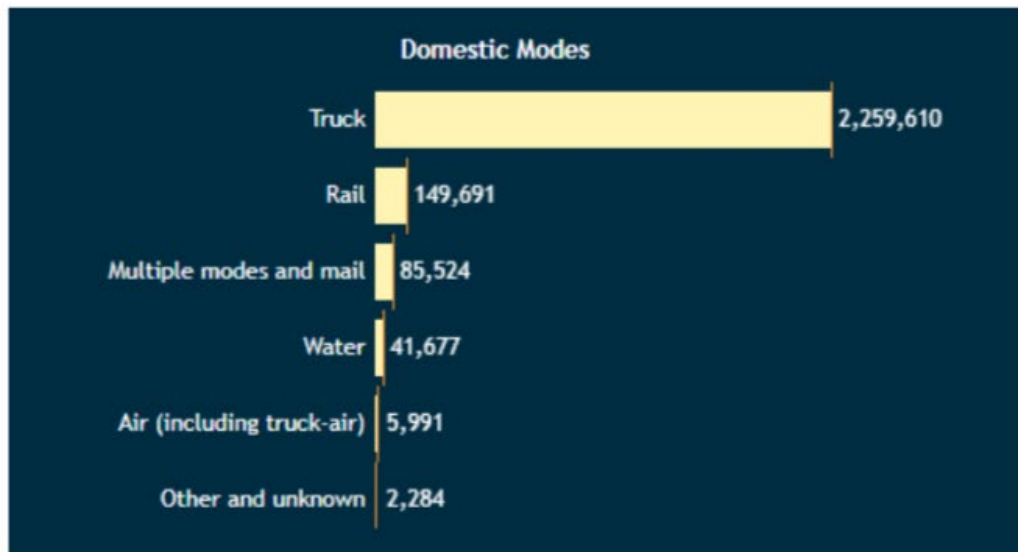
It is customary in November to express thanks for the bounty of the American harvest. That harvest is a major portion of the 3.3 billion tons of agricultural products moved in 2018.



The map above shows the amount of food (in thousands of tons) shipped from each state with darker shading indicating more tonnage. Source: FAF

DATA SPOTLIGHTS

From farm to market, agricultural products move by all forms of transportation, with trucks carrying the greatest share.



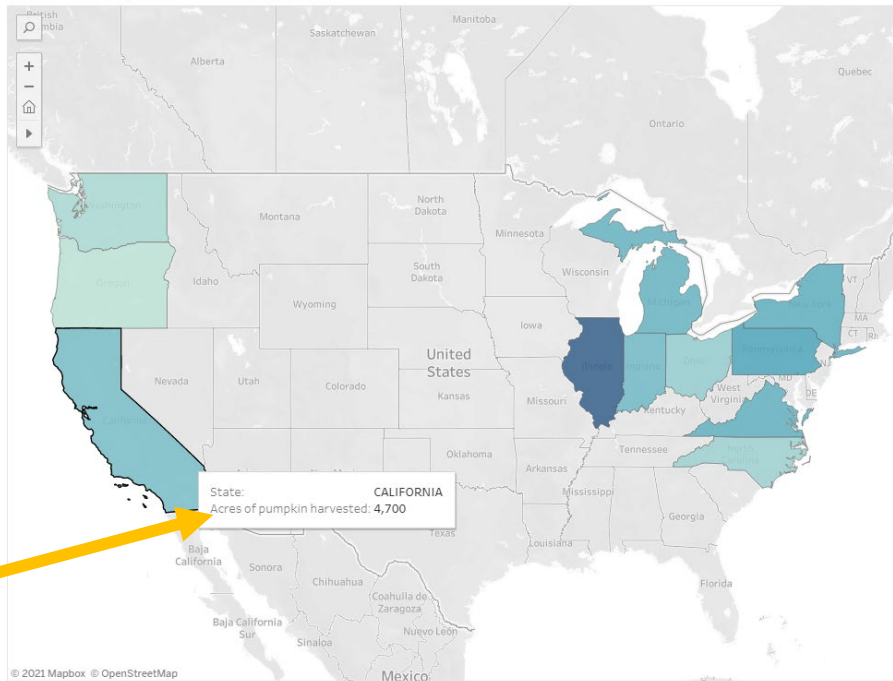
The chart above shows the value of food (in millions of \$) transported in the U.S. by commodity and by mode. Source: FAF

DATA SPOTLIGHTS

There's more to that pie than meets the eye.

A simple pumpkin pie is not just the work of bakers but is the final product of an entire team of agriculture and transportation workers producing and moving pumpkin, wheat, eggs, milk, butter, sugar, and spices.

Acres of Pumpkin Harvested by State



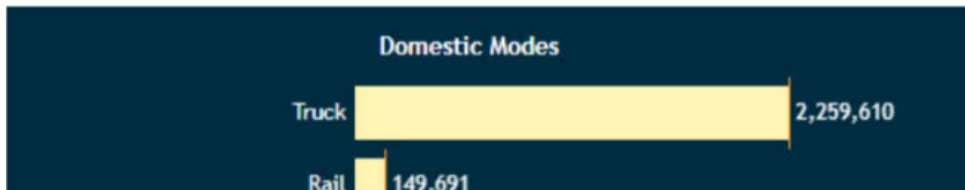
DATA SPOTLIGHTS



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NOTE: On the [BTS Freight Analysis Framework dashboard](#), you can view freight flows in value and tons within and between states and filter by different commodities.

From farm to market, agricultural products move by all forms of transportation, with trucks carrying the greatest share.





- **Questions?**

- **Contact:**

- Steven.Beningo@dot.gov
- Todd.Solomon@dot.gov