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
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

Daily Average Number of People Staying Home in 2019, 2020, 2021

Week of Date: Week 23
Year of Date: 2021
Week Ending Date: June 05, 2021
Avg. Population Staying at Home: 77,466,367
THE WEEK IN TRANSPORTATION

Spot Market Rates for Dry Van Linehaul

- Baseline (2019)
- Current Year
**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.
- **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
- **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
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
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

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

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