



U.S. Department of Transportation
Bureau of Transportation Statistics

The Role of Transportation Statistics in Measuring the Supply Chain

Rolf R. Schmitt

Cha-Chi Fan

September 25, 2023



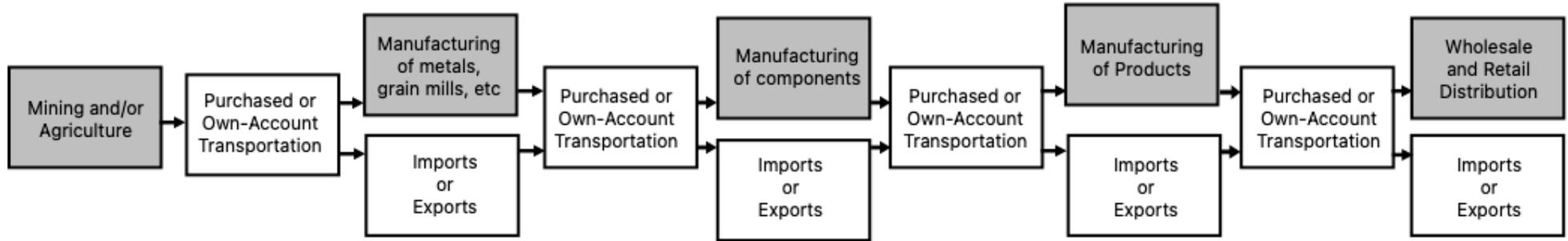
The world of freight transportation

- COVID as a perfect storm
 - Consumer spending shifts from services to goods
 - Ability to deliver the goods reduced by workforce illness
- Bulk freight systems versus high-value high-velocity freight systems
 - Time versus costs
 - Transport costs as a share of value

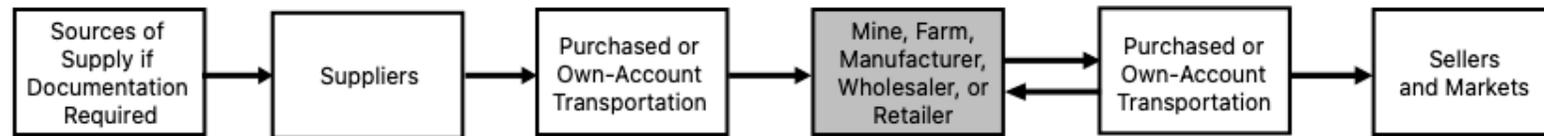


Transportation and supply chains

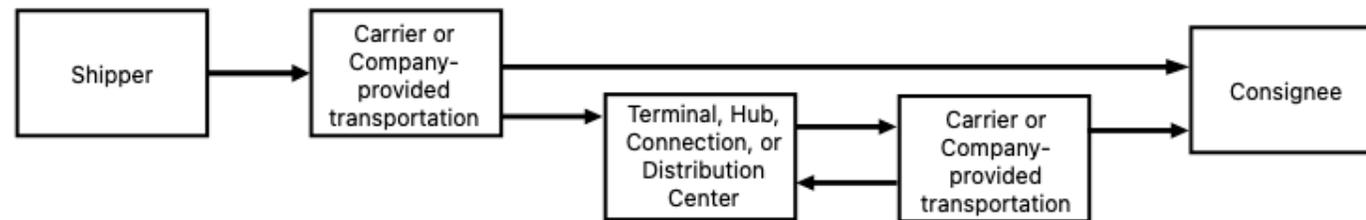
National Economic Perspective



Company Perspective



Transportation Perspective



Sources of transportation data

- Commodity Flow Survey (<https://www.bts.gov/cfs>)
- Transborder Freight Statistics (<https://www.bts.gov/transborder>)
- Freight Analysis Framework (<https://www.bts.gov/faf>)
- Transportation Satellite Account (<https://www.bts.gov/satellite-accounts>)



Data challenges

- Domestic transportation of US foreign trade
- Last mile delivery
- Capacity and throughput at ports and other transportation facilities
- Measuring cost and performance across diverse commodities
- Vulnerability and resilience
- Effects of autonomous transportation, electrification, and other new technology



Parting thought

Statistics shall save us from doing
what we do in wrong places.

A. Lincoln, 1848



For further information

WWW.BTS.GOV

Rolf.Schmitt@dot.gov

ChaChi.Fan@dot.gov

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Bureau of Transportation Statistics" and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are three circular icons representing different transportation modes: a crane for freight, a headset for airline employment, and an airplane for fuel use. Each icon is accompanied by a headline and a brief description of the data. The main content area features a large image of an airplane with the headline "Comparing Post-9/11 Air Travel to COVID-19 Disruptions" and a sub-headline "What shape will a recovery take?". To the right of this image is a "Data Highlights" section with several bullet points. At the bottom, there are two sections: "Newsroom" and "COVID & Transportation".

An official website of the United States government [Learn More About Us](#)

Find the latest Coronavirus-related transportation statistics on the [BTS COVID-19 landing page](#)

United States Department of Transportation

Ask-A-Librarian A-Z Index

Search

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Topics and Geography Statistical Products and Data National Transportation Library Newsroom About BTS

July 2021 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI)

July Airline Industry Employment Ticks Up Nearly 1% from June, Remains 3.7% Below Pre-Pandemic July 2019

U.S. Airlines July 2021 Fuel Use Up 9.6% from June but 20% Lower than in Pre-Pandemic July 2019

What statistics does BTS have, and where can I find what I'm looking for?

Comparing Post-9/11 Air Travel to COVID-19 Disruptions

What shape will a recovery take?

Data Highlights

- Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation Employment: **382K** June 2021, +83.1K from 2020
- Docked Bikeshare Trips: Largest 5 Systems: **3,54M** May 2021, +1.53M from 2020
- Heavy Truck Sales: **38.3K** May 2021, +14.7K from 2020
- North American Transborder Freight: **\$109B** May 2021, up \$52.9B from 2020
- General Aviation Fatalities: **18** June 2021, -12 from 2020
- Regular Gasoline Prices: **\$3.06/gal** June 2021, +\$1.00/gal from 2020

Newsroom

July 2021 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI)

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

COVID & Transportation

Learn how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected freight and passenger transportation in the U.S.

