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New Report Documents Transportation's Role in National Economy

The most up-to-date picture of transportation services shows that these services contributed 60 percent more to the U.S. economy than is shown by traditional economic accounts.

A report, issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), shows that transportation services contributed \$378 billion to the national economy in 1996, the latest year for which figures are available, \$142 billion larger than the estimate from traditional accounts. The transportation sector grew by 21 percent from 1992, the only other year for which comparable figures are available.

The estimates are the latest from the Transportation Satellite Accounts (TSA's), which provide more detailed information on transportation than do traditional economic accounts. For example, the transporting of goods from a grocery company's warehouses to its retail outlets by the company's own trucking fleet is included in retailing in traditional economic accounting systems but is included in transportation in the TSA's.

The TSA's provide answers to such questions as: What is the contribution of transportation to the economy? Which industries are large users of transportation? What goods and services do industries purchase to support transportation operations?

The information from the TSA's is presented in four matrix tables that are available for free in compressed files on BEA's web site (www.bea.doc.gov). Two summary tables showing how different economic sectors use transportation and how their transportation activities contribute to gross domestic product for both 1992 and 1996 are provided below.

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BEA's major national, international, regional, and industry estimates; the *Survey of Current Business*; and BEA news releases are available without charge on BEA's Web site.

<www.bea.doc.gov>

STAT-USA maintains an Internet site that contains BEA estimates, the *Survey of Current Business*, and BEA news releases. For information about STAT-USA, go to

<www.stat-usa.gov>

or call (202) 482-1986. Subscriptions for single-user unlimited access to STAT-USA's Internet information are \$75.00 for 3 months or \$175.00 for one year.

Summary BEA estimates are available on recorded messages at the time of public release at the following telephone numbers:

(202) 606-5306 Gross domestic product
606-5303 Personal income and outlays
606-5362 U.S. international transactions

Most of BEA's estimates and analyses appear in the *Survey of Current Business*, BEA's monthly journal. The printed *Survey of Current Business* is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402. First class mail: Annual subscription \$120.00 domestic. Second class mail: Annual subscription \$48.00 domestic, \$60.00 foreign; single issue \$17.25 domestic, \$21.56 foreign.

Table 1.--Use of Transportation Across Industries, 1992 and 1996

Industry	Millions of dollars at producers' prices						Percent					
	For-hire Transportation		Own-account Transportation /1/		Total Transportation		Share of total for-hire transportation		Share of total own-account transportation/1/		Share of total transportation	
	1992	1996	1992	1996	1992	1996	1992	1996	1992	1996	1992	1996
Total.....	381,300	473,096	165,461	199,652	546,761	672,748	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Intermediate.....	217,925	275,903	165,461	199,652	383,386	475,555	57.1	58.3	100.0	100.0	70.1	70.6
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.....	5,720	7,070	13,177	15,157	18,897	22,227	1.5	1.5	8.0	7.6	3.5	3.3
Mining.....	2,810	2,786	3,870	3,670	6,680	6,456	0.7	0.6	2.3	1.8	1.2	1.0
Construction.....	13,286	16,127	38,950	48,338	52,236	64,465	3.5	3.4	23.5	24.2	9.6	9.6
Manufacturing.....	80,248	94,275	21,806	22,316	102,054	116,591	21.0	19.9	13.2	11.2	18.7	17.3
Railroads and related services; passenger ground transportation.....	3,470	4,271	.....	.....	3,470	4,271	0.9	0.9	.....	.....	0.6	0.6
Motor freight transportation and warehousing.....	35,049	49,392	.....	.....	35,049	49,392	9.2	10.4	.....	.....	6.4	7.3
Water transportation.....	5,889	8,509	.....	.....	5,889	8,509	1.5	1.8	.....	.....	1.1	1.3
Air transportation.....	14,409	17,781	.....	.....	14,409	17,781	3.8	3.8	.....	.....	2.6	2.6
Pipelines, freight forwarders, and related services...	1,294	1,572	.....	.....	1,294	1,572	0.3	0.3	.....	.....	0.2	0.2
State and local government passenger transit.....	173	271	.....	.....	173	271	(*)	0.1	.....	.....	(*)	(*)
Own-account transportation /1/.....	1,306	1,720	.....	.....	1,306	1,720	0.3	0.4	.....	.....	0.2	0.3
Communications and utilities.....	8,803	10,607	1,187	1,294	9,990	11,901	2.3	2.2	0.7	0.6	1.8	1.8
Wholesale and retail trade.....	8,963	12,802	42,819	54,878	51,782	67,680	2.4	2.7	25.9	27.5	9.5	10.1
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	10,523	12,174	899	1,259	11,422	13,433	2.8	2.6	0.5	0.6	2.1	2.0
Services.....	21,482	28,745	42,035	51,918	63,517	80,663	5.6	6.1	25.4	26.0	11.6	12.0
Other /2/.....	4,500	7,801	718	823	5,218	8,624	1.2	1.6	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.3
Final.....	163,375	197,193	.....	.....	163,375	197,193	42.9	41.7	.....	.....	29.9	29.4

* Less than 0.1 percent.

1. "Own-account transportation" includes transportation by truck and bus provided by nontransportation industries for their own use.
 2. "Other" consists of government enterprises (except state and local government passenger transit) and other I-O special industries. For a description of I-O special industries, see "Benchmark Input-Output Accounts for the U.S. Economy, 1992: Make, Use, and Supplementary Tables," Survey 77 (November 1997): 46-47.

Table 2.--Transportation Value-Added by Industry of Origin, 1992 and 1996

Industry	Millions of dollars						Percent					
	For-hire Transportation		Own-account Transportation /1/		Total Transportation		Share of total for-hire transportation		Share of total own-account transportation/1/		Share of total transportation	
	1992	1996	1992	1996	1992	1996	1992	1996	1992	1996	1992	1996
Total.....	191,644	236,257	121,531	141,981	313,175	378,238	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.....	.....	.....	8,821	9,465	8,821	9,465	.....	.....	7.3	6.7	2.8	2.5
Mining.....	.....	.....	2,965	2,705	2,965	2,705	.....	.....	2.4	1.9	0.9	0.7
Construction.....	.....	.....	30,266	37,444	30,266	37,444	.....	.....	24.9	26.4	9.7	9.9
Manufacturing.....	.....	.....	15,899	15,011	15,899	15,011	.....	.....	13.1	10.6	5.1	4.0
Railroads and related services; passenger ground transportation.....	34,390	41,541	.....	.....	34,390	41,541	17.9	17.6	.....	.....	11.0	11.0
Motor freight transportation and warehousing.....	83,371	101,456	.....	.....	83,371	101,456	43.5	42.9	.....	.....	26.6	26.8
Water transportation.....	12,796	11,215	.....	.....	12,796	11,215	6.7	4.7	.....	.....	4.1	3.0
Air transportation.....	42,166	59,315	.....	.....	42,166	59,315	22.0	25.1	.....	.....	13.5	15.7
Pipelines, freight forwarders, and related services....	19,624	23,192	.....	.....	19,624	23,192	10.2	9.8	.....	.....	6.3	6.1
State and local government passenger transit.....	-703	-462	.....	.....	-703	-462	-0.4	-0.2	.....	.....	-0.2	-0.1
Communications and utilities.....	.....	.....	771	799	771	799	.....	.....	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2
Wholesale and retail trade.....	.....	.....	30,999	39,186	30,999	39,186	.....	.....	25.5	27.6	9.9	10.4
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	.....	.....	607	810	607	810	.....	.....	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.2
Services.....	30,740	36,072	30,740	36,072	25.3	25.4	9.8	9.5
Other /2/.....	463	489	463	489	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1

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