



Benefits of a New Data Collection Tool for the Commodity Flow Survey Program

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Presentation Outline

- Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)
- Commodity Flow Survey (CFS)
- Benefits of Modernizing
- Data Users Feedback
- New Collection Tool
- Other CFS Research



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6k_q2ILO7y8

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Learn About BTS and Our Work

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

BTS is one of more than a dozen principal federal statistical agencies. Learn about BTS, the federal statistical community, and the policies and methods they use to develop accurate, objective information.



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Catalog of COVID-19 Related Transportation Statistics

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Responding to interest in the most recent coronavirus-related data, BTS has created web pages of transportation statistics allowing comparison of pre-COVID-19 and current numbers for passenger travel and freight shipments. These pages present a wide range of data on all transportation modes from various sources, and BTS will add more measures as they become available.

Daily Travel during the COVID-19 Public health emergency

- **What it shows:** The percent and number of people staying home and not staying home each day, and the number of trips taken each day for 10 different distance groupings.
- **How recent:** One-week lag
- **Update Frequency:** Weekly on Monday
- **Geography level:** National, State, County

Mobility over Time by State and by Trip Distance

- **What it shows:** Changes over time in the number of people staying home and not staying home, and the number of trips taken each day for 10 different distance groupings
- **How recent:** One-week lag
- **Update Frequency:** Weekly on Monday
- **Geography level:** State

The Week in Transportation: Selected Measures During COVID-19

- **What it shows:** The percent and number of people staying home and not staying home each day and the number of trips taken each day for four different distance groupings; commercial flights operated and people screened at airports; transit ridership; truck and rail freight activity; and passenger travel into the U.S. from Mexico and Canada.
- **How recent:** Some measures are as recent as one-day old; others have a one-week lag.

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- Federal Statistical Agency
- Data on:
 - Commercial Aviation
 - Multimodal Freight Activity
 - Transportation Economics

Commodity Flow Survey (CFS)

- Joint Economic Census product
- Goods shipped: value, weight, mode of transportation and destination.
- Comprehensive, multimodal picture of national freight flows for sampled industries.
- Used by: State & Local Government, Academics, Consultants, Derivative Product: Freight Analysis Framework (FAF)

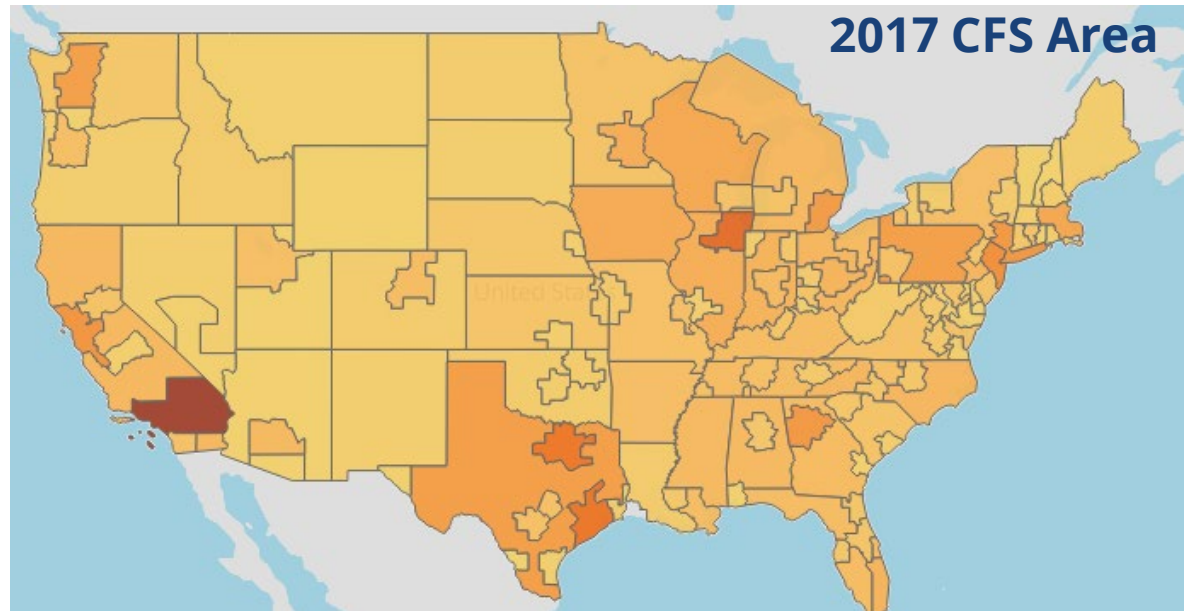


Benefits of Modernizing

- Limited Funds
 - New BTS Projects
 - Need to Automate
 - Minimize manual review
 - Use of Computational Power
 - Efficient use of funds
 - Evaluate Survey Life Cycle
- New Data Collection Methods

Data Users Feedback

- Geography: Zip or County level
 - City or town decisions
 - Costly private data
- Commodity
 - Data Ferret
- Frequency
- Need more data & efficient intake



New Data Collection Tool

- Help improve:
 - Quality by respondent validation
 - Higher quality products, reducing cost
 - Geographic detail
 - Small Area Freight Flow Estimation
 - Understanding e-Commerce
 - Annual CFS data product
 - Buy-in

Other CFS Research

- Differential Sampling
- Sampling Optimization
- Increase Sampling
- Industry Change Research
- Nonresponse Bias Study
- GIS/Satellite Imagery
- Exports Linkage
- Alternative Import Data (Coverage Issue)



Questions and Comments

Many thanks to BTS and Census staff!

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