



New Data for New Purposes

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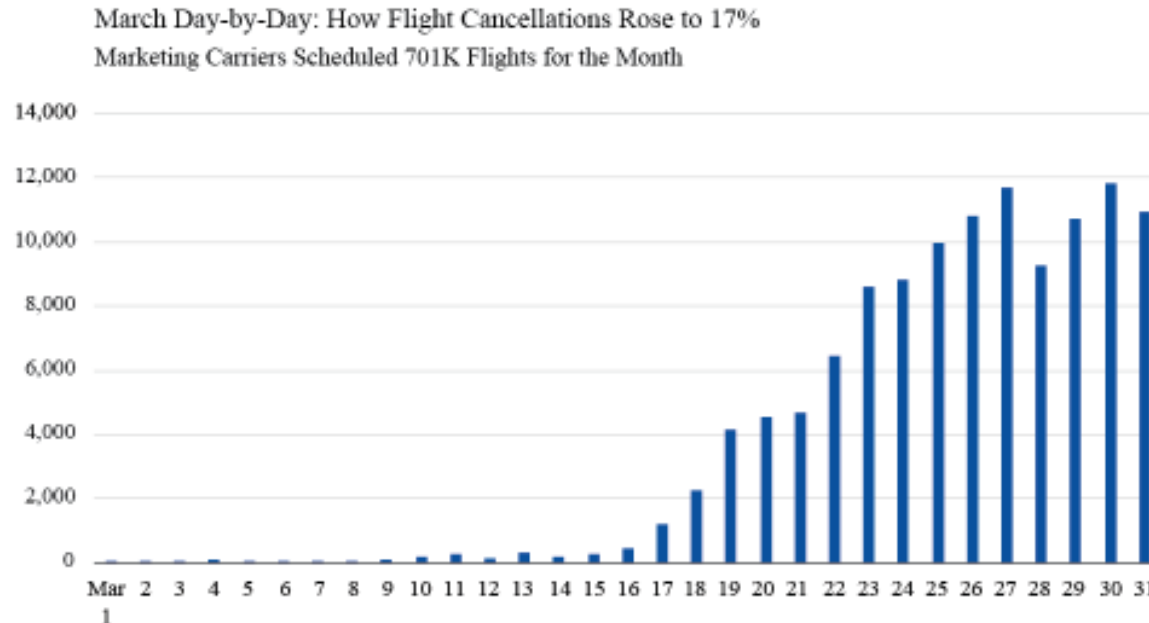
FCSM Session on Leveraging Official Statistics Programs
to Address Emerging Issues: Providing Information
Relevant to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Pre-Pandemic

- Traditional statistical products are annual and monthly
- Vetting is a deliberative process
- Preliminary estimates are based on stable trends
- General wish for more timely products

The Pandemic arrives

- Anecdotal evidence of immediate effects on transportation system
- Strong hunger by departmental leadership for immediate data to understand magnitude of changes



The BTS Response

- Search for surrogate indicators
- New approaches to preliminary measures
- New sources for traditional measures
- Rapid prototyping
- Numbers now, vetting later
- Daily and weekly products

The BTS Response

- The Week in Transportation
- Daily statistics for the Secretary
- Daily travel reported weekly from mobile devices rather than surveys
- County transportation profiles for geographic detail
- Travel on the 4th of July – setting a new norm for timeliness

The BTS Response

Average Percent of People Staying at Home per Day

Select a Month:

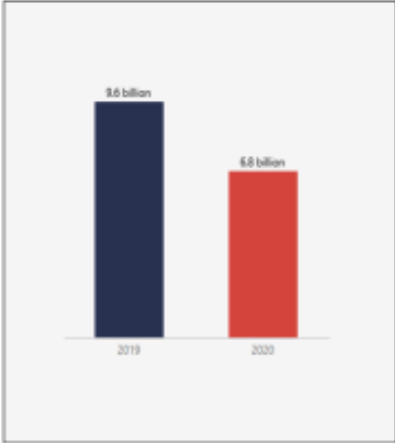
Select a Geographic Level: State County

Select a Metric:

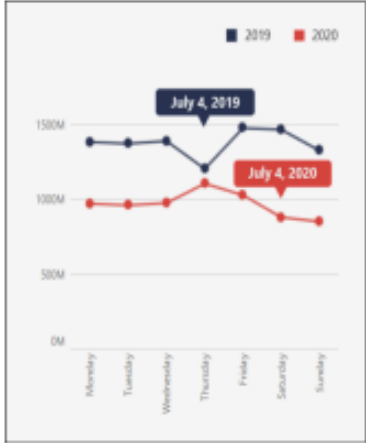
1.93 77.51



Total Trips Taken Monday-Sunday During the Week of the 4th of July, 2019 and 2020



Total Trips Taken Daily Monday-Sunday Week of the 4th of July, 2019 and 2020



People Screened At All Airports



Metric:

Trips by State
Change compared to 2019



Making the BTS Response Possible

- Previous development of the daily travel data system as exploratory research
- Previous development of the data pipeline
- Contacts with data sources for traditional compilations
- Cross-office team
- Pre-existing arrangements for telework
- Sense of challenge and urgency

The new normal

- Daily statistics reported weekly to capture temporal variation, tabulated at the county level to capture geographic variation
- Explore and vet the new data sources
- Remote operations

www.bts.gov/covid-19

The screenshot shows the Bureau of Transportation Statistics website. The top navigation bar is blue with the text "Bureau of Transportation Statistics" on the left, "Ask-A-Librarian" and "A-Z Index" on the right, and a search box labeled "Search BTS site". Below the navigation bar are five menu items: "Topics and Geography", "Statistical Products and Data", "National Transportation Library", "Newsroom", and "About BTS".

On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with the following items: "Home", "COVID-19 Related Transportation Statistics" (highlighted), "Daily Travel (National, State, and County)", "Docked Bikeshare Ridership", "Ferry Operations", and "Pandemic-Related Data Spotlights".

The main content area features a section titled "COVID-19 Related Transportation Statistics". The text reads: "Responding to interest in the most recent pandemic-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."

Below this text is a sub-section titled "DAILY TRAVEL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC" with a bulleted list:

- **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

At the bottom of the main content area, there is a link titled "MOBILITY OVER TIME BY STATE AND BY TRIP DISTANCE".