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BTS Data

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August 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Fell 24.9 Percent from August 2008 (State Rankings in Tables 5 and 7)

Trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico was 24.9 percent lower in August 2009 than in August 2008, dropping to \$54.3 billion, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (*Table 1*).

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico rose 5.3 percent in August 2009 from July 2009 (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations and other factors.

Surface transportation consists largely of freight movements by truck, rail and pipeline. About 88 percent of U.S. trade by value with Canada and Mexico moves on land.

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico in August was up 1.3 percent compared to August 2004, and up 26.0 percent compared to August 1999, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in August were up 18.8 percent compared to August 1999, while exports were up 35.5 percent.

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S.–Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$32.9 billion in August, down 29.6 percent compared to August 2008 (*Table 4*). The value of imports carried by truck was 26.1 percent lower in August 2009 compared to August 2008, while the value of exports carried by truck was 17.0 percent lower during this period.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in August with \$3.8 billion (*Table 5*).

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U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S.–Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$21.3 billion in August, down 16.2 percent compared to August 2008 (*Table 6*). The value of imports carried by truck was 13.5 percent lower in August 2009 than August 2008 while the value of exports carried by truck was 14.7 percent lower.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in August with \$7.4 billion (*Table 7*).

The TransBorder Freight Data are a unique subset of official U.S. foreign trade statistics released by the U.S. Census Bureau. New data are tabulated monthly and historical data are not adjusted for inflation. August TransBorder numbers include data received by BTS as of Oct. 9.

The news release and summary tables can be found at www.bts.gov. More information on TransBorder Freight Data and data from previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>. BTS will release September TransBorder numbers on Dec. 1.

Table 1. Value of Monthly U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada and Mexico
(millions of U.S. dollars)

Month	2007	2008	2009	Percent Change 2007-2008	Percent Change 2008-2009
January	60,649	65,160	47,459	7.4	-27.2
February	59,667	69,406	47,938	16.3	-30.9
March	69,768	70,787	51,055	1.5	-27.9
April	65,015	74,317	49,729	14.3	-33.1
May	69,423	74,128	47,881	6.8	-35.4
June	69,526	74,139	50,753	6.6	-31.5
July	61,823	71,628	51,545	15.9	-28.0
August	69,158	72,254	54,254	4.5	-24.9
September	66,771	71,801		7.5	
October	74,249	72,683		-2.1	
November	70,352	60,661		-13.8	
December	60,902	52,910		-13.1	
Year-to-date	525,028	571,819	400,614	8.9	-29.9
Annual	797,303	829,875		4.1	

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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Table 2. U.S. Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico by Mode of Transportation
(millions of U.S. dollars)

Mode		August 2008	July 2009	August 2009	Percent Change July 2009 - August 2009	Percent Change August 2008- 2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	40,821	27,611	28,862	4.5	-29.3
	Exports	31,434	23,934	25,392	6.1	-19.2
	Total	72,254	51,545	54,254	5.3	-24.9
Truck	Imports	22,919	18,102	18,380	1.5	-19.8
	Exports	23,917	18,829	20,065	6.6	-16.1
Rail	Imports	8,287	4,239	5,350	26.2	-35.4
	Exports	4,779	2,681	3,074	14.7	-35.7
Pipeline	Imports	8,151	4,225	4,130	-2.3	-49.3
	Exports	367	259	147	-43.1	-59.9

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Notes: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all surface modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail and pipeline modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page: http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html.

Table 3. August 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Compared with August of Prior Years

Compared to August	Percent Change		Total Surface Trade
	Imports	Exports	
2008	-29.3	-19.2	-24.9
2007	-26.7	-14.8	-21.6
2006	-23.5	-11.3	-18.2
2005	-16.4	-1.1	-9.9
2004	-7.6	13.7	1.3
2003	11.2	33.2	20.5
2002	7.9	27.1	16.1
2001	8.0	24.4	15.1
2000	2.3	14.8	7.8
1999	18.8	35.5	26.0

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data,
<http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

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Table 4. U.S. Merchandise Trade with Canada by Surface Modes of Transportation
(millions of U.S. dollars)

Mode		August 2008	July 2009	August 2009	Percent Change July 2009 - August 2009	Percent Change August 2008-2009
All	Imports	26,804	16,317	16,955	3.9	-36.7
Surface	Exports	19,986	14,703	15,971	8.6	-20.1
Modes	Total	46,791	31,020	32,925	6.1	-29.6
Truck	Imports	11,510	8,252	8,511	3.1	-26.1
	Exports	14,960	11,313	12,423	9.8	-17.0
Rail	Imports	6,054	3,060	3,589	17.3	-40.7
	Exports	2,856	1,471	1,783	21.2	-37.6
Pipeline	Imports	8,126	4,208	4,115	-2.2	-49.4
	Exports	291	166	100	-39.7	-65.7

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Notes: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all surface modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail and pipeline modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page: http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html.

Table 5. Top 10 States Trading with Canada
by Surface Modes of Transportation
Ranked by August 2009 Surface Trade Value
(millions of U.S. dollars)

Rank	State	August 2009
1	Michigan	3,826
2	Illinois	3,065
3	California	2,381
4	Ohio	2,151
5	New York	1,849
6	Texas	1,535
7	Pennsylvania	1,356
8	Washington	1,321
9	Indiana	1,249
10	Tennessee	928

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data,
<http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

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Table 6. U.S. Merchandise Trade with Mexico by Surface Modes of Transportation
(millions of U.S. dollars)

Mode		August 2008	July 2009	August 2009	Percent Change July 2009 - August 2009	Percent Change August 2008-2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	14,016	11,294	11,907	5.4	-15.0
	Exports	11,448	9,230	9,421	2.1	-17.7
	Total	25,464	20,524	21,328	3.9	-16.2
Truck	Imports	11,410	9,850	9,869	0.2	-13.5
	Exports	8,958	7,516	7,641	1.7	-14.7
Rail	Imports	2,233	1,178	1,761	49.5	-21.1
	Exports	1,923	1,210	1,291	6.7	-32.9
Pipeline	Imports	25	18	15	-16.3	-40.5
	Exports	76	93	47	-49.1	-37.7

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Notes: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all surface modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail and pipeline modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page: http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html.

Table 7. Top 10 States Trading with Mexico by Surface Modes of Transportation
Ranked by August 2009 Surface Trade Value
(millions of U.S. dollars)

Rank	State	August 2009
1	Texas	7,352
2	California	3,519
3	Michigan	1,993
4	Illinois	705
5	Arizona	581
6	Ohio	557
7	Tennessee	460
8	Indiana	398
9	Pennsylvania	388
10	North Carolina	358

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

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