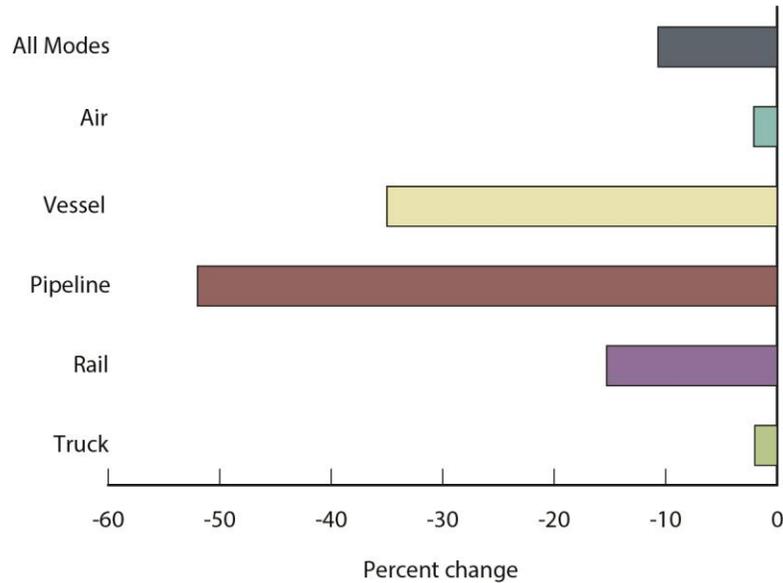


BTS 01-16  
Friday, January 8, 2016  
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## October 2015 North American Freight Numbers

Figure 1. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode: October 2014 - 2015



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

The value of U.S.-NAFTA freight totaled \$96.6 billion in October 2015 as all modes of transportation carried a lower total value of freight than a year earlier, according to the TransBorder Freight Data released today by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) (Figure 1, Table 1). October was the first month on record in which the total value of U.S.-Mexico freight flows exceeded U.S.-Canada freight flows. Although the total freight value to and from both Canada and Mexico fell from October 2014, the decline in freight value with Canada (18.5 percent) was much larger than the decline with Mexico (1.5 percent) primarily due to the reduced unit price of crude oil.

Year-over-year, the value of U.S.-NAFTA freight flows by all modes declined by 10.7 percent.

## Freight by Mode

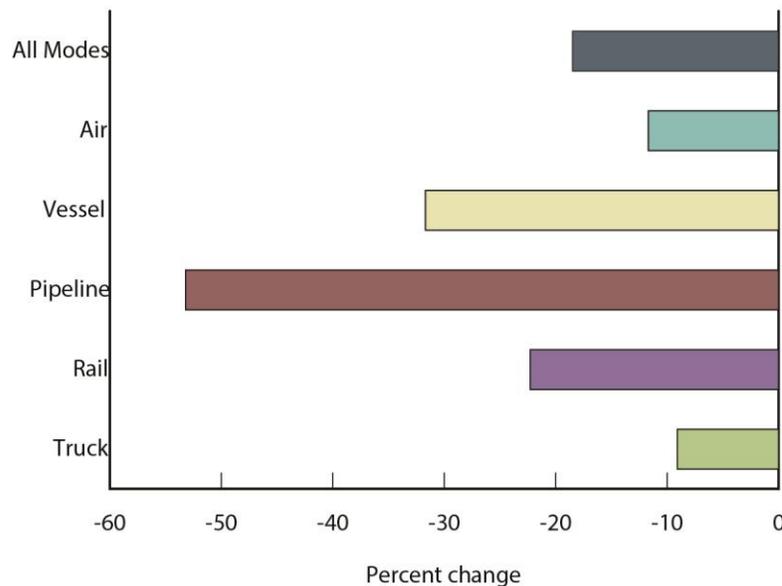
In October 2015 compared to October 2014, the value of commodities moving by truck decreased by 2.0 percent, while the value of air freight decreased by 2.1 percent and rail by 15.3 percent (Figure 1, Table 2). Vessel freight values decreased 35.0 percent and pipeline freight decreased 52.0 percent mainly due to the lower unit price of crude oil, which comprises a large share of the commodities carried by these modes. Apart from the decline in value, there was an 8.0 percent decline in the weight of imported crude oil from October 2014 to October 2015, which was likely due to production declines in Canada and Mexico. Average monthly prices for crude petroleum and refined fuel are available from the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#).

Trucks carried 67.1 percent of U.S.-NAFTA freight and continue to be the most heavily utilized mode for moving goods to and from both U.S.-NAFTA partners. Trucks accounted for \$33.6 billion of the \$51.4 billion of imports (65.4 percent) and \$31.2 billion of the \$45.3 billion of exports (69.0 percent) (Table 2).

Rail remained the second largest mode by value, moving 14.3 percent of all U.S.-NAFTA freight, followed by vessel, 5.6 percent; air, 4.2 percent; and pipeline, 3.9 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 85.3 percent of the total U.S.-NAFTA freight flows (Table 2).

## U.S.-Canada Freight

Figure 2. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode: October 2014 - 2015



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

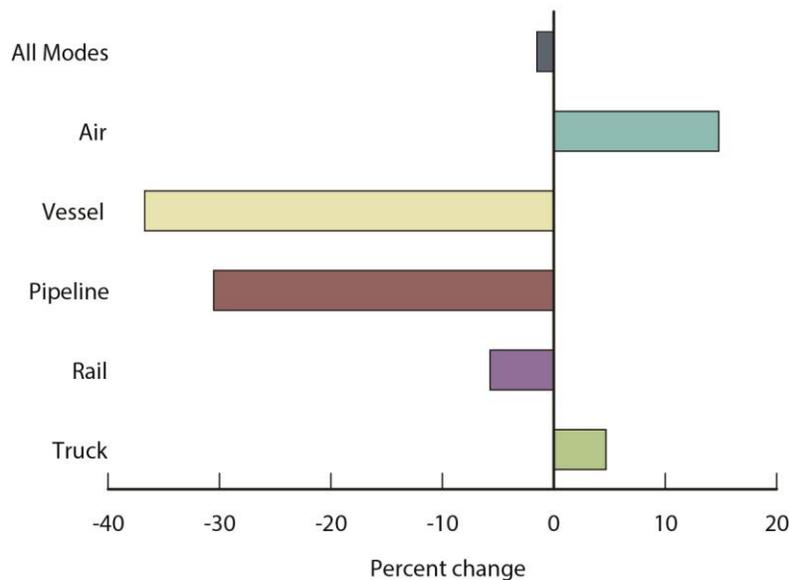
The value of U.S.-Canada freight totaled \$47.7 billion in October 2015, down 18.5 percent from October 2014, as all modes of transportation carried a lower value of U.S.-Canada freight than a year earlier. The year-over-year decline in U.S.-Canada freight flows is the largest since the 19.4 percent decline between October 2008 and October 2009.

Lower crude oil prices contributed to a year-over-year decrease in the value of freight moved between the U.S. and Canada. Crude oil a large share of freight carried by vessel and pipeline, which were down 31.7 percent and 53.2 percent respectively year-over-year (Figure 2, Table 3).

Trucks carried 61.2 percent of the \$47.7 billion of freight to and from Canada, followed by rail, 15.4 percent; pipeline, 7.3 percent; air, 4.9 percent; and vessel, 4.1 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 83.9 percent of the total U.S.-Canada freight flows (Table 3).

### U.S.-Mexico Freight

Figure 3. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode: October 2014 - 2015



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

The value of U.S.-Mexico freight totaled \$48.9 billion in October 2015, down 1.5 percent from October 2014, as two out of the five transportation modes – air and truck – carried more U.S.-Mexico freight than in October 2014. The value of U.S.-Mexico air freight rose 14.8 percent from October 2014 to October 2015, the largest percentage increase of any mode. Freight carried by truck increased by 4.7 percent while rail freight was down 5.7 percent and pipeline freight declined 30.5 percent. Vessel freight decreased by 36.7 percent mainly due to lower crude oil prices (Figure 3, Table 4).

Trucks carried 72.8 percent of the \$48.9 billion of the value of freight transported to and from Mexico, followed by rail, 13.3 percent; vessel, 7.0 percent; air, 3.6 percent; and pipeline, 0.6 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 86.7 percent of the total U.S.-Mexico freight flows (Table 4).

### Commodities

In October 2015, the top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada by all modes was vehicles and parts, of which \$5.7 billion, or 62.1 percent, moved by truck and \$3.2 billion, or 35.6 percent, moved by rail (Figure 4). The top commodity category for all modes transported between the U.S. and Mexico in October 2015 was electrical machinery, of which \$10.1 billion, or 93.0 percent, moved by truck and \$0.5 billion, or 4.5 percent, moved by air (Figure 5).

### Reporting Notes

BTS press releases and the BTS website define surface transportation modes as truck, rail and pipeline. See [North American TransBorder Freight Data](#) on the BTS website for additional data for surface modes since 1995 and all modes since 2004. The category of all modes of transportation cited in the following tables includes freight movements by truck, rail, vessel, pipeline, air, [other](#) and unknown modes of transport.

Data in this press release are not seasonally adjusted and are not adjusted for inflation. Additional summary data adjusted for inflation and exchange rates can be found on the BTS website under [TransBorder Indexed Freight Flow Data](#). The BLS indexes used in the adjustments for inflation and exchange rates may be revised in each of the three months after original publication. For more information, see [TransBorder Press Releases](#) for previous press releases and summary tables. See [TransBorder Freight Data](#) for data from previous months, and more state, port, or commodity data. BTS has scheduled the release of November TransBorder numbers for Jan. 28.

**Table 1. Value of Monthly U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows**  
(millions of current dollars)

Month	2013	2014	2015	Percent Change 2013-2014	Percent Change 2014-2015
January	90,766	90,326	89,258	-0.5	-1.2
February	88,894	89,557	85,723	0.7	-4.3
March	95,757	101,478	96,070	6.0	-5.3
April	98,956	100,141	93,327	1.2	-6.8
May	98,742	103,942	92,707	5.3	-10.8
June	93,502	102,978	99,030	10.1	-3.8
July	93,080	101,075	92,995	8.6	-8.0
August	96,426	100,624	92,442	4.4	-8.1
September	94,465	102,245	93,246	8.2	-8.8
<b>October</b>	<b>103,140</b>	<b>108,243</b>	<b>96,624</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>-10.7</b>
November	96,136	96,252		0.1	
December	90,906	95,811		5.4	

<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>953,728</b>	<b>1,000,609</b>	<b>931,424</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>-6.9</b>
<b>Annual</b>	<b>1,140,770</b>	<b>1,192,671</b>		<b>4.5</b>	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTE: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 2. Value of Monthly U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation**  
(millions of current dollars)

<b>Mode</b>		<b>October 2014</b>	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>Percent Change October 2014-2015</b>
All Modes	Imports	58,024	51,361	-11.5
	Exports	50,219	45,263	-9.9
	Total	108,243	96,624	-10.7
All Surface Modes	Imports	49,780	45,840	-7.9
	Exports	40,582	36,592	-9.8
	Total	90,362	82,432	-8.8
Truck	Imports	32,325	33,597	3.9
	Exports	33,819	31,217	-7.7
	Total	66,144	64,814	-2.0
Rail	Imports	10,574	9,167	-13.3
	Exports	5,738	4,656	-18.9
	Total	16,312	13,822	-15.3
Pipeline	Imports	6,882	3,077	-55.3
	Exports	1,024	719	-29.8
	Total	7,906	3,796	-52.0
Vessel	Imports	4,598	2,511	-45.4
	Exports	3,715	2,894	-22.1
	Total	8,313	5,404	-35.0
Air	Imports	1,744	1,584	-9.2
	Exports	2,416	2,490	3.0
	Total	4,160	4,074	-2.1

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail, please refer to the "Data Fields" section of the TransBorder web page:

[http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/TransBorder/TBDR\\_DataFields.html](http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/TransBorder/TBDR_DataFields.html)

**Table 3. Value of Monthly U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation**  
(millions of current dollars)

<b>Mode</b>		<b>October 2014</b>	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>Percent Change October 2014-2015</b>
All Modes	Imports	30,613	23,735	-22.5
	Exports	27,962	23,987	-14.2
	Total	58,575	47,722	-18.5
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All Surface Modes	Imports	26,742	21,135	-21.0
	Exports	22,299	18,895	-15.3
	Total	49,041	40,030	-18.4
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Truck	Imports	13,514	12,923	-4.4
	Exports	18,611	16,273	-12.6
	Total	32,125	29,196	-9.1
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Rail	Imports	6,366	5,159	-19.0
	Exports	3,063	2,170	-29.1
	Total	9,428	7,329	-22.3
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Pipeline	Imports	6,862	3,053	-55.5
	Exports	626	452	-27.8
	Total	7,488	3,505	-53.2
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Vessel	Imports	1,372	870	-36.6
	Exports	1,520	1,104	-27.4
	Total	2,892	1,974	-31.7
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Air	Imports	1,130	915	-19.0
	Exports	1,517	1,421	-6.3
	Total	2,646	2,336	-11.7

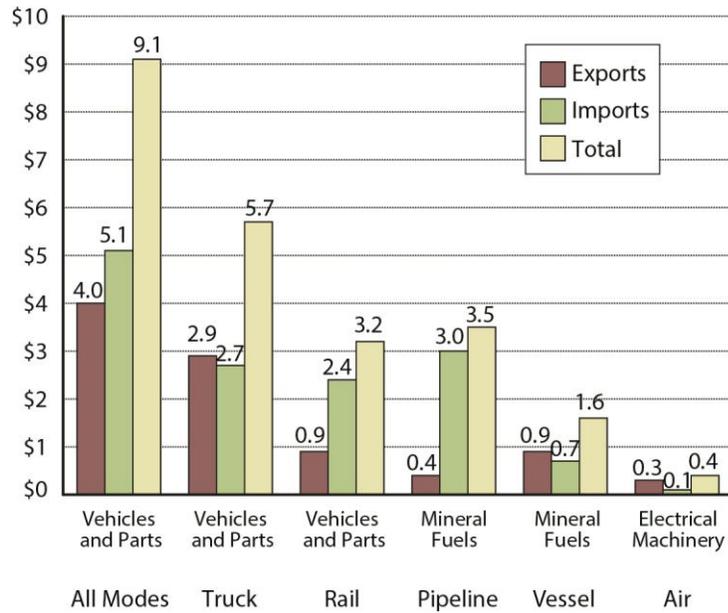
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

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The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail, please refer to the "Data Fields" section of the TransBorder web page:

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Figure 4. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Canada for Each Mode of Transportation, October 2015  
(billions of current dollars)



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)  
NOTE: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding.

**Table 4. Value of Monthly U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation**  
(millions of current dollars)

<b>Mode</b>		<b>October 2014</b>	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>Percent Change October 2014-2015</b>
All Modes	Imports	27,411	27,626	0.8
	Exports	22,257	21,277	-4.4
	Total	49,668	48,903	-1.5
All Surface Modes	Imports	23,039	24,705	7.2
	Exports	18,283	17,697	-3.2
	Total	41,322	42,402	2.6
Truck	Imports	18,810	20,674	9.9
	Exports	15,209	14,944	-1.7
	Total	34,019	35,618	4.7
Rail	Imports	4,208	4,008	-4.8
	Exports	2,676	2,486	-7.1
	Total	6,884	6,494	-5.7
Pipeline	Imports	20	23	17.9
	Exports	398	267	-33.0
	Total	418	290	-30.5
Vessel	Imports	3,225	1,641	-49.1
	Exports	2,195	1,789	-18.5
	Total	5,420	3,430	-36.7
Air	Imports	615	669	8.9
	Exports	899	1,068	18.8
	Total	1,514	1,738	14.8

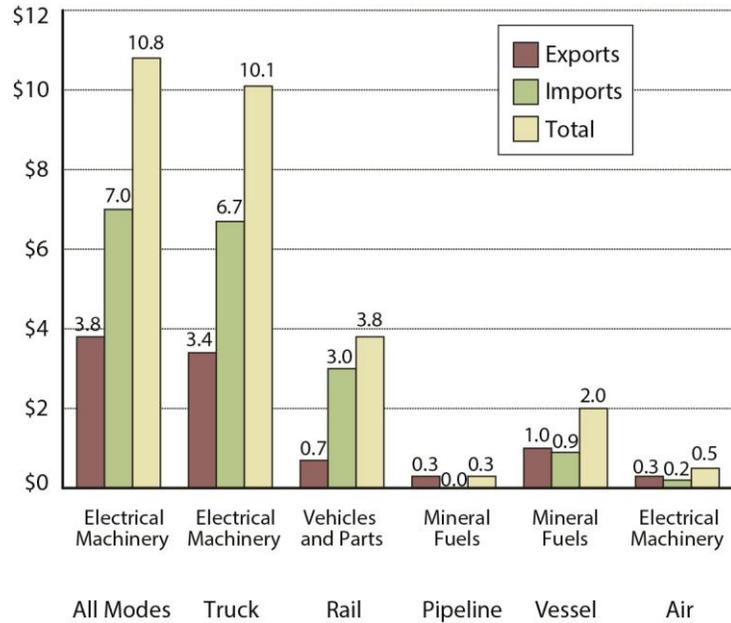
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

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Figure 5. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Mexico for Each Mode of Transportation, October 2015  
(billions of current dollars)



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)  
NOTE: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding.