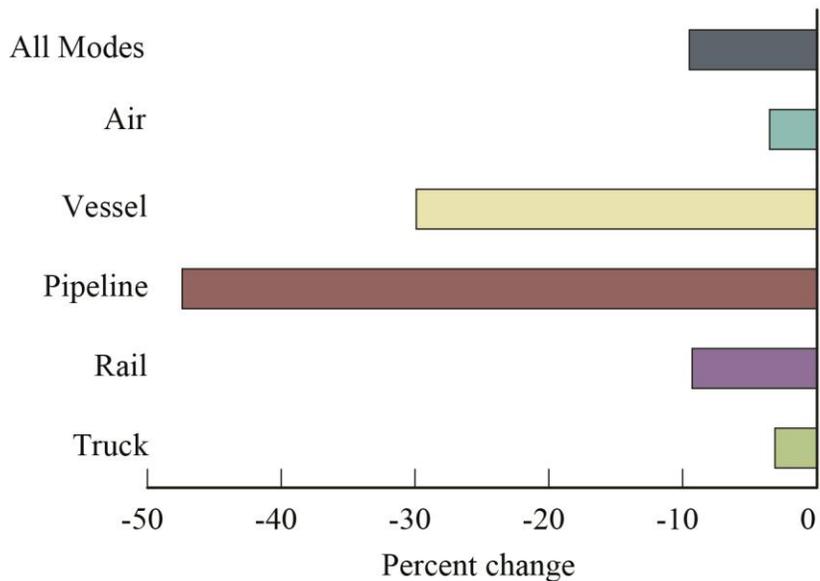


BTS 12-16
Thursday, February 25, 2016
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December 2015 North American Freight Numbers

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



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

The value of U.S.-NAFTA freight totaled \$86.7 billion in December 2015 as all modes of transportation – air, vessel, pipeline, rail, and trucks – 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). Large decreases in the value of commodities moved by pipeline and vessel in December were 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 9.5 percent.

Freight by Mode

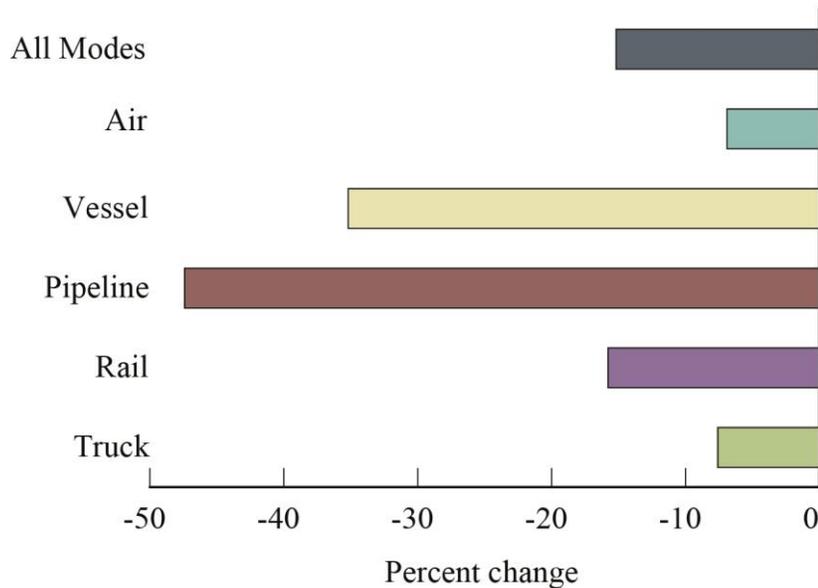
In December 2015 compared to December 2014, the value of commodities moving by truck decreased by 3.1 percent, while the value of air freight decreased by 3.5 percent and rail by 9.3 percent (Figure 1, Table 2). Vessel freight value decreased 29.9 percent and pipeline freight decreased 47.4 percent mainly due to the lower unit price of crude oil (a component of mineral fuels), which comprises a large share of the commodities carried by these modes. Average monthly prices for crude petroleum and refined fuel are available from the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#).

Trucks carried 63.4 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 \$28.0 billion of the \$46.8 billion of imports (60.0 percent) and \$26.9 billion of the \$40.0 billion of exports (67.3 percent) (Table 2).

Rail remained the second largest mode by value, moving 15.1 percent of all U.S.-NAFTA freight, followed by vessel, 6.4 percent; pipeline, 4.7 percent; and air, 4.3 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 83.2 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: December 2014 - 2015



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

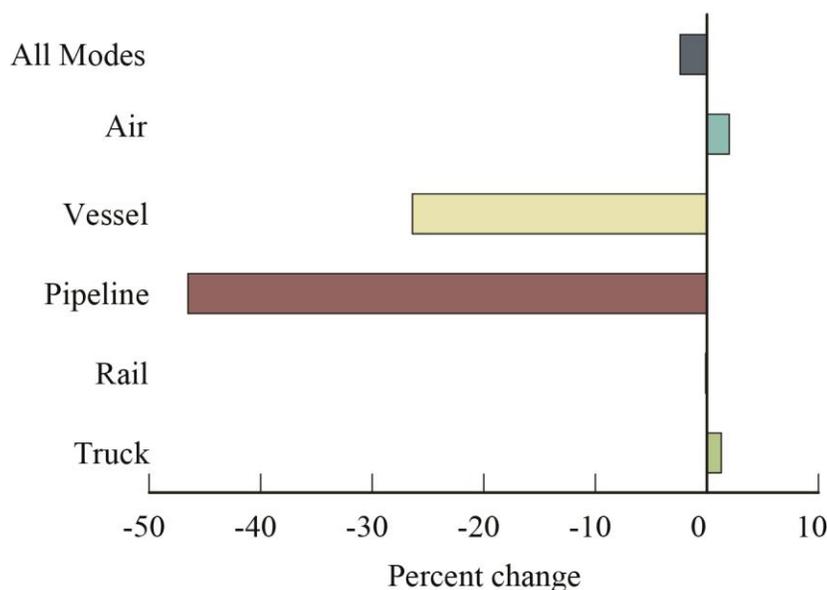
The value of U.S.-Canada freight totaled \$45.0 billion in December 2015, down 15.2 percent from December 2014, as all modes of transportation carried a lower value of U.S.-Canada freight than a year earlier.

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 is a large share of freight carried by vessel and pipeline, which were down 35.2 percent and 47.4 percent respectively year-over-year (Figure 2, Table 3).

Trucks carried 57.3 percent of the \$45.0 billion of freight to and from Canada, followed by rail, 15.9 percent; pipeline, 8.4 percent; air, 4.9 percent; and vessel, 4.5 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 81.6 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: December 2014 - 2015



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

The value of U.S.-Mexico freight totaled \$41.7 billion in December 2015, down 2.4 percent from December 2014, as two out of the five transportation modes – air and truck – carried more U.S.-Mexico freight value than in December 2014. Freight carried by truck increased by 1.3 percent, led by shipments of electrical machinery, which were up 7.4 percent. Air freight value rose 2.0 percent while rail freight value declined 0.1 percent. Pipeline freight value decreased by 46.5 percent and vessel freight value decreased by 26.4 percent mainly due to lower crude oil prices (Figure 3, Table 4).

Trucks carried 70.0 percent of the \$41.7 billion of the value of freight transported to and from Mexico, followed by rail, 14.3 percent; vessel, 8.5 percent; air, 3.7 percent; and pipeline, 0.6 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 84.8 percent of the total U.S.-Mexico freight flows (Table 4).

Commodities

In December 2015, the top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada by all modes was vehicles and parts, of which \$4.9 billion, or 56.7 percent, moved by truck and \$3.5 billion, or 41.1 percent, moved by rail (Figure 4). The top commodity category for all modes transported between the U.S. and Mexico in December 2015 was electrical machinery, of which \$7.4 billion, or 91.1 percent, moved by truck and \$0.5 billion, or 5.6 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 for additional state, port, and commodity data. BTS has scheduled the release of January TransBorder numbers for March 24.

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
October	103,140	108,243	96,624	4.9	-10.7
November	96,136	96,252	88,154	0.1	-8.4
December	90,906	95,811	86,748	5.4	-9.5
Annual	1,140,770	1,192,671	1,106,325	4.5	-7.2

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)

Mode		December 2014	December 2015	Percent Change December 2014-2015
All Modes	Imports	52,516	46,750	-11.0
	Exports	43,295	39,998	-7.6
	Total	95,811	86,748	-9.5
All Surface Modes	Imports	44,256	40,380	-8.8
	Exports	34,640	31,764	-8.3
	Total	78,895	72,144	-8.6
Truck	Imports	28,374	28,049	-1.1
	Exports	28,380	26,937	-5.1
	Total	56,754	54,987	-3.1
Rail	Imports	9,416	8,950	-5.0
	Exports	5,057	4,170	-17.5
	Total	14,473	13,120	-9.3
Pipeline	Imports	6,465	3,381	-47.7
	Exports	1,203	656	-45.5
	Total	7,668	4,037	-47.4
Vessel	Imports	4,492	2,761	-38.5
	Exports	3,444	2,806	-18.5
	Total	7,936	5,567	-29.9
Air	Imports	1,613	1,449	-10.2
	Exports	2,270	2,299	1.3
	Total	3,883	3,748	-3.5

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

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

Mode		December 2014	December 2015	Percent Change December 2014-2015
All Modes	Imports	28,654	23,589	-17.7
	Exports	24,406	21,418	-12.2
	Total	53,060	45,006	-15.2
All Surface Modes	Imports	24,299	19,982	-17.8
	Exports	19,327	16,743	-13.4
	Total	43,626	36,726	-15.8
Truck	Imports	12,069	11,395	-5.6
	Exports	15,831	14,374	-9.2
	Total	27,900	25,770	-7.6
Rail	Imports	5,779	5,228	-9.5
	Exports	2,726	1,930	-29.2
	Total	8,505	7,158	-15.8
Pipeline	Imports	6,451	3,359	-47.9
	Exports	770	438	-43.1
	Total	7,221	3,798	-47.4
Vessel	Imports	1,666	1,094	-34.3
	Exports	1,447	922	-36.3
	Total	3,112	2,016	-35.2
Air	Imports	920	899	-2.3
	Exports	1,458	1,315	-9.8
	Total	2,379	2,214	-6.9

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:

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

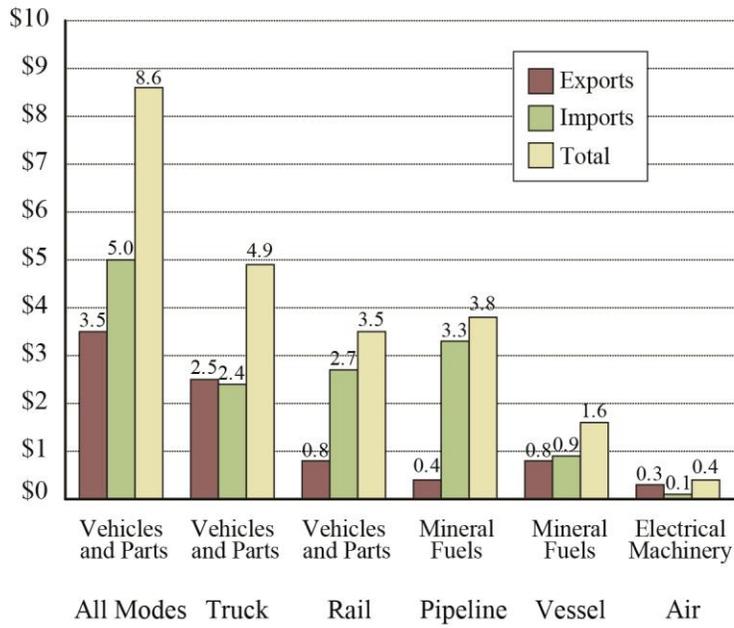


Table 4. Value of Monthly U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

Mode		December 2014	December 2015	Percent Change December 2014-2015
All Modes	Imports	23,862	23,161	-2.9
	Exports	18,889	18,581	-1.6
	Total	42,751	41,742	-2.4
All Surface Modes	Imports	19,957	20,398	2.2
	Exports	15,313	15,020	-1.9
	Total	35,269	35,418	0.4
Truck	Imports	16,305	16,654	2.1
	Exports	12,550	12,563	0.1
	Total	28,855	29,217	1.3
Rail	Imports	3,637	3,722	2.3
	Exports	2,331	2,240	-3.9
	Total	5,968	5,962	-0.1
Pipeline	Imports	14	22	53.4
	Exports	433	217	-49.7
	Total	447	239	-46.5
Vessel	Imports	2,827	1,667	-41.0
	Exports	1,997	1,884	-5.7
	Total	4,824	3,550	-26.4
Air	Imports	693	550	-20.6
	Exports	812	985	21.3
	Total	1,505	1,535	2.0

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:

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

