



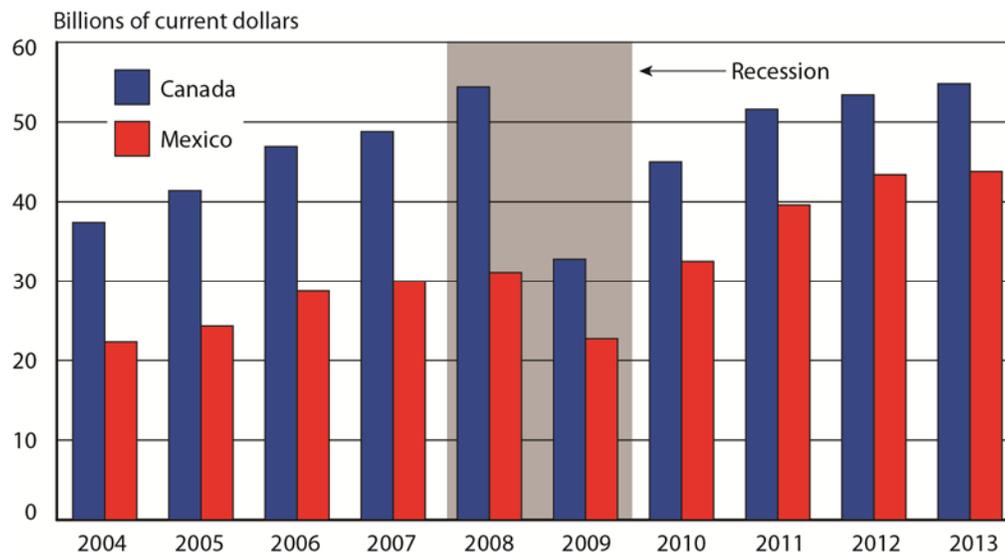
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
<http://www.dot.gov/briefingroom>

BTS Data

BTS 36-13
Wednesday, July 31, 2013
Contact: Dave Smallen
Tel: 202-366-5568

Trucks Transported 60.8% of U.S.-NAFTA Trade in May 2013

**Figure 1. May U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by All Modes of Transportation
2004-2013
(May of each year)**



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

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation today released May North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) freight numbers showing that trucks carried 60.8 percent of the \$98.6 billion of freight moved in May 2013 between the United States and its NAFTA partners, Canada and Mexico. Trucks were followed by rail at 15.1 percent, vessels at 8.6 percent, pipelines at 6.8 percent and air at 3.9 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 82.7 percent of the total NAFTA freight flows (Figure 3).

-more-

NORTH AMERICAN FREIGHT FLOWS

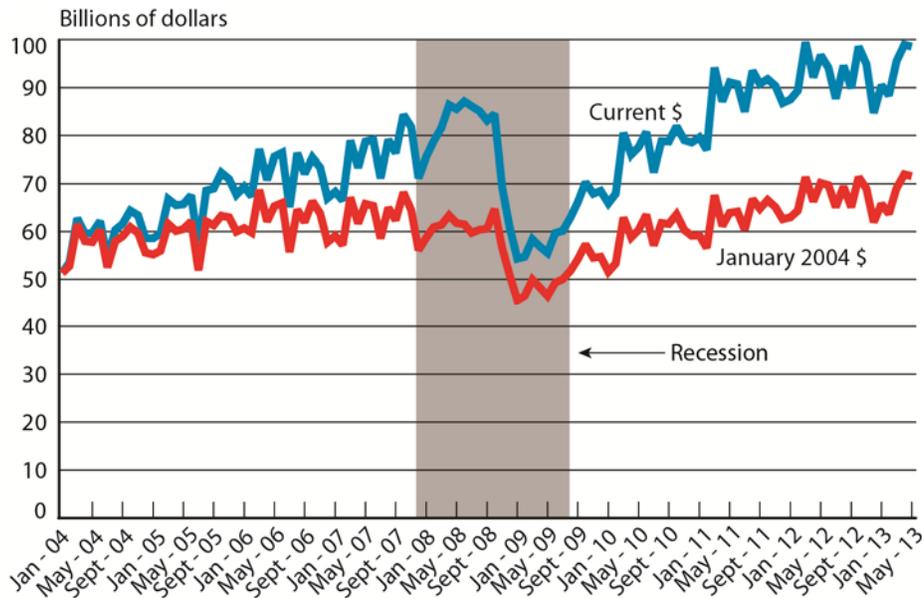
ADD ONE

BTS, a part of the Department's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that in May, for freight flows with Canada, trucks carried 55.2 percent of the \$54.8 billion of the freight, followed by rail at 16.5 percent, pipelines at 11.4 percent, vessels at 6.4 percent and air at 4.6 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 83.2 percent of the total U.S.-Canada freight flows (Table 4).

For freight flows with Mexico in May, trucks carried 67.8 percent of the \$43.8 billion of the freight, followed by rail at 13.4 percent, vessel at 11.4 percent, air at 3.0 percent and pipelines at 0.9 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 82.1 percent of the total U.S.-Mexico freight flows (Table 7).

Beginning with January 2013, BTS monthly TransBorder press releases contain data for all modes of transportation. Press releases and the BTS website now define surface transportation modes as truck, rail and pipeline. Data on surface modes can be found in Figure 3 and in Tables 2, 3, 4 and 7. See [North American TransBorder Freight Data](#) on the BTS website for additional data for surface modes since 1995 and all modes since 2004.

**Figure 2. Monthly U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows
January 2004-May 2013**



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

-more-

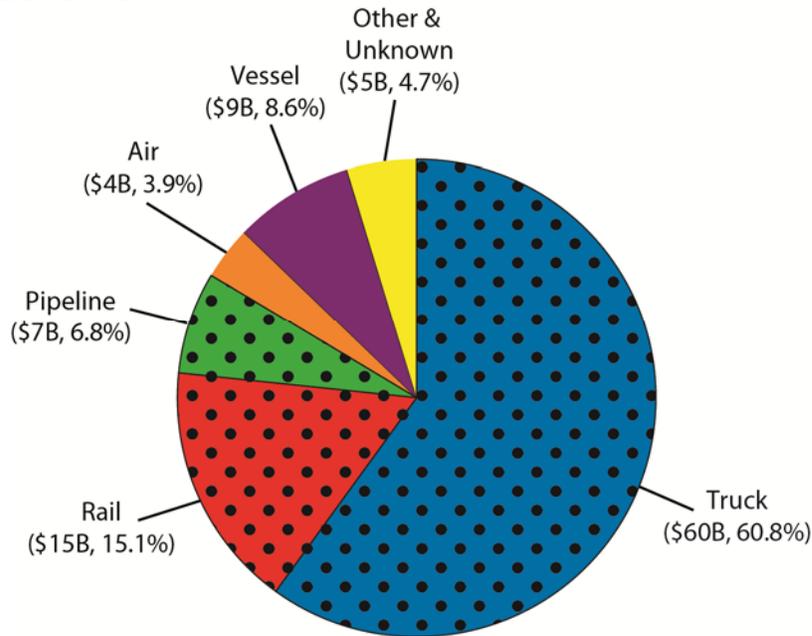
NORTH AMERICAN FREIGHT FLOWS ADD TWO

The value of goods moving between the U.S. and its NAFTA partners by all modes of transportation increased 1.8 percent from May 2012 and rose 77.5 percent from May 2009 (Tables 1, 3). Data in this press release are not adjusted for inflation, except for the monthly totals illustrated in Figure 2 for comparison.

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. Figure 3 below provides a breakdown by value and percentage of each mode of freight transportation used in moving goods between the U.S. and its NAFTA partners in May. The dotted slices represent surface modes, which accounted for 82.7 percent of the total. By value, truck is the most heavily utilized mode for moving goods to and from both U.S.-NAFTA partners, accounting for \$31.1 billion of exports and \$28.9 billion of imports.

Figure 3. U.S.-NAFTA Freight by Mode, May 2013

Current dollars, Share of total



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

-more-

NORTH AMERICAN FREIGHT FLOWS ADD THREE

Freight flows by all modes of transportation between the U.S. and its NAFTA partners decreased 0.4 percent in May 2013 from April 2013, measured in current dollars (Table 2). Freight moving across the borders by truck was virtually unchanged, up just 0.02 percent, while freight moving by rail decreased by 0.4 percent from one month prior. Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal factors such as the number of days in each month.

From May 2012 to May 2013, the value of freight carried by truck rose 0.2 percent while the value of freight carried by rail grew 11.3 percent (Table 2). For statistics by mode and individual NAFTA partner, see Table 4 for Canada and Table 7 for Mexico.

In May, for the 10th consecutive month, Michigan led all states in goods transported to and from Canada, at \$6.4 billion. Washington had the largest year-to-year percentage increase among the top 10 states, at 21.8 percent. Minnesota had the largest year-to-year decrease at 13.0 percent (Table 5). The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada in May was mineral fuels, of which \$5.6 billion was imported by pipeline (Table 6).

Texas continued to lead all states in goods transported to and from Mexico, at \$17.0 billion. Texas has been the top state for trade with Mexico for all of the 230 months since the start of the TransBorder database in 1994. Illinois had the largest year-to-year percentage increase among the top 10 states, at 20.1 percent (Table 8). The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada in May was mineral fuels, two-thirds of which is crude petroleum, and which increased in value by 4 percent from May 2012. This increase includes a 59 percent rise to \$581 million in the value of mineral fuel shipments imported by rail while \$5.6 billion was imported by pipeline (Table 9).

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 June TransBorder numbers for Aug. 28.

-more-

NORTH AMERICAN FREIGHT FLOWS
ADD FOUR

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

Month	2011	2012	2013	Percent Change 2011-2012	Percent Change 2012-2013
January	79,608	87,490	90,512	9.9	3.5
February	77,015	89,385	88,449	16.1	-1.0
March	94,228	99,510	95,566	5.6	-4.0
April	87,097	92,199	98,984	5.9	7.4
May	91,126	96,840	98,577	6.3	1.8
June	90,663	94,200		3.9	
July	84,952	87,691		3.2	
August	93,450	94,593		1.2	
September	90,771	89,875		-1.0	
October	91,837	98,632		7.4	
November	90,401	94,877		5.0	
December	86,775	84,695		-2.4	
Year-to-date	429,075	465,425	472,089	8.5	1.4
Annual	1,057,924	1,109,988		4.9	

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.

-more-

NORTH AMERICAN FREIGHT FLOWS
ADD FIVE

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

Mode		May 2012	April 2013	May 2013	Percent Change April 2013 – May 2013	Percent Change May 2012 - 2013
All Modes	Imports	52,706	52,925	52,884	-0.1	0.3
	Exports	44,134	46,060	45,694	-0.8	3.5
	Total	96,840	98,984	98,577	-0.4	1.8
All Surface Modes	Imports	43,250	44,042	44,057	0.0	1.9
	Exports	36,139	37,669	37,490	-0.5	3.7
	Total	79,388	81,711	81,547	-0.2	2.7
Truck	Imports	29,372	28,569	28,868	1.0	-1.7
	Exports	30,452	31,384	31,100	-0.9	2.1
	Total	59,824	59,953	59,968	0.0	0.2
Rail	Imports	8,363	9,572	9,486	-0.9	13.4
	Exports	5,042	5,410	5,431	0.4	7.7
	Total	13,405	14,983	14,917	-0.4	11.3
Pipeline	Imports	5,515	5,900	5,704	-3.3	3.4
	Exports	645	875	958	9.6	48.6
	Total	6,160	6,775	6,662	-1.7	8.1
Vessel	Imports	6,231	5,918	5,386	-9.0	-13.6
	Exports	3,113	3,178	3,116	-1.9	0.1
	Total	9,344	9,095	8,502	-6.5	-9.0
Air	Imports	1,668	1,652	1,803	9.1	8.1
	Exports	2,058	2,143	2,044	-4.6	-0.7
	Total	3,727	3,795	3,847	1.4	3.2

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

-more-

NORTH AMERICAN FREIGHT FLOWS
ADD SIX

Table 3. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode

May 2013 Compared to May in...	Percent Change					
	Truck	Rail	Pipeline	Air	Vessel	All Modes
2012	0.2	11.3	8.1	3.2	-9.0	1.8
2011	12.2	12.7	-6.4	4.1	-15.9	8.2
2010	27.2	30.0	26.5	4.0	21.7	27.2
2009	72.9	107.3	107.7	28.2	83.2	77.5
2008	21.9	17.6	-14.0	9.1	8.1	15.3
2007	23.2	24.5	36.0	25.7	35.8	25.2
2006	26.9	35.1	44.0	24.5	29.8	30.3
2005	44.1	50.8	102.8	42.4	65.9	50.1
2004	57.6	52.8	140.4	51.5	113.8	65.2

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

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

-more-

NORTH AMERICAN FREIGHT FLOWS
ADD SEVEN

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

Mode		May 2012	April 2013	May 2013	Percent Change April 2013 – May 2013	Percent Change May 2012 - 2013
All Modes	Imports	27,829	28,591	28,343	-0.9	1.8
	Exports	25,605	26,158	26,453	1.1	3.3
	Total	53,434	54,749	54,796	0.1	2.5
All Surface Modes	Imports	23,616	24,564	24,045	-2.1	1.8
	Exports	21,170	21,434	21,538	0.5	1.7
	Total	44,787	45,998	45,584	-0.9	1.8
Truck	Imports	12,669	12,303	12,331	0.2	-2.7
	Exports	18,064	17,895	17,933	0.2	-0.7
	Total	30,732	30,198	30,265	0.2	-1.5
Rail	Imports	5,452	6,382	6,035	-5.4	10.7
	Exports	2,740	3,015	3,015	0.0	10.0
	Total	8,192	9,396	9,050	-3.7	10.5
Pipeline	Imports	5,496	5,879	5,679	-3.4	3.3
	Exports	367	525	590	12.4	60.9
	Total	5,862	6,404	6,269	-2.1	6.9
Vessel	Imports	2,138	2,209	2,100	-5.0	-1.8
	Exports	795	1,052	1,399	33.1	76.0
	Total	2,933	3,261	3,499	7.3	19.3
Air	Imports	920	971	1,123	15.7	22.1
	Exports	1,457	1,564	1,404	-10.2	-3.6
	Total	2,376	2,535	2,527	-0.3	6.4

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

-more-

NORTH AMERICAN FREIGHT FLOWS
ADD EIGHT

Table 5. Top 10 State Freight Flows with Canada by All Modes of Transportation
Ranked by May 2013 Trade Value
(millions of current dollars)

State	May 2012		May 2013		Percent Change May 2012- 2013
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	
Michigan	6,643	1	6,357	1	-4.3
Illinois	4,877	2	4,794	2	-1.7
California	3,451	3	3,795	3	10.0
Texas	3,379	4	3,709	4	9.8
Ohio	3,245	5	3,229	5	-0.5
New York	2,865	6	3,021	6	5.5
Washington	1,785	10	2,173	7	21.8
Pennsylvania	1,933	7	2,066	8	6.9
Indiana	1,823	8	1,751	9	-4.0
Minnesota	1,813	9	1,578	10	-13.0

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.

Table 6. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Canada for Each Mode of Transportation, May 2013
(millions of current dollars)

Mode	Commodities	Exports	Imports	Total
Truck	Vehicles Other than Railway	3,703	2,383	6,086
Rail	Vehicles Other than Railway	915	2,296	3,211
Pipeline	Mineral Fuels; Oils and Waxes	589	5,648	6,238
Vessel	Mineral Fuels; Oils and Waxes	1,229	1,779	3,008
Air	Pearls; Stones; Metals and Imitation Jewelry	154	365	520

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

Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

-more-

NORTH AMERICAN FREIGHT FLOWS
ADD NINE

Table 7. Value of Monthly U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

Mode		May 2012	April 2013	May 2013	Percent Change April 2013 – May 2013	Percent Change May 2012 - 2013
All Modes	Imports	24,877	24,334	24,541	0.8	-1.4
	Exports	18,529	19,901	19,240	-3.3	3.8
	Total	43,406	44,235	43,781	-1.0	0.9
All Surface Modes	Imports	19,634	19,478	20,012	2.7	1.9
	Exports	14,968	16,235	15,952	-1.7	6.6
	Total	34,602	35,712	35,964	0.7	3.9
Truck	Imports	16,703	16,266	16,536	1.7	-1.0
	Exports	12,388	13,489	13,167	-2.4	6.3
	Total	29,091	29,756	29,703	-0.2	2.1
Rail	Imports	2,911	3,191	3,451	8.1	18.5
	Exports	2,302	2,395	2,417	0.9	5.0
	Total	5,213	5,586	5,867	5.0	12.6
Pipeline	Imports	20	21	25	19.7	28.2
	Exports	278	350	368	5.3	32.3
	Total	298	371	393	6.1	32.1
Vessel	Imports	4,093	3,708	3,286	-11.4	-19.7
	Exports	2,318	2,126	1,716	-19.3	-26.0
	Total	6,411	5,834	5,003	-14.3	-22.0
Air	Imports	749	681	679	-0.2	-9.2
	Exports	602	579	640	10.5	6.4
	Total	1,350	1,260	1,319	4.7	-2.3

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

-more-

NORTH AMERICAN FREIGHT FLOWS
ADD TEN

Table 8. Top 10 State Freight Flows with Mexico by All Modes of Transportation
Ranked by May 2013 Trade Value
(millions of current dollars)

State	May 2012		May 2013		Percent Change May 2012- 2013
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	
Texas	17,180	1	16,960	1	-1.3
California	5,647	2	5,126	2	-9.2
Michigan	4,087	3	4,266	3	4.4
Illinois	1,361	4	1,634	4	20.1
Arizona	1,305	5	1,444	5	10.7
Ohio	987	7	1,138	6	15.3
Louisiana	1,031	6	873	7	-15.3
Tennessee	764	8	847	8	10.9
Florida	700	10	694	9	-0.8
North Carolina	733	9	684	10	-6.8

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

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

Table 9. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Mexico for Each Mode of Transportation, May 2013
(millions of current dollars)

Mode	Commodities	Exports	Imports	Total
Truck	Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	2,867	4,562	7,428
Rail	Vehicles Other than Railway	535	2,508	3,043
Pipeline	Mineral Fuels; Oils and Waxes	368	25	393
Vessel	Mineral Fuels; Oils and Waxes	928	2,662	3,590
Air	Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	233	230	463

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

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

--End--