



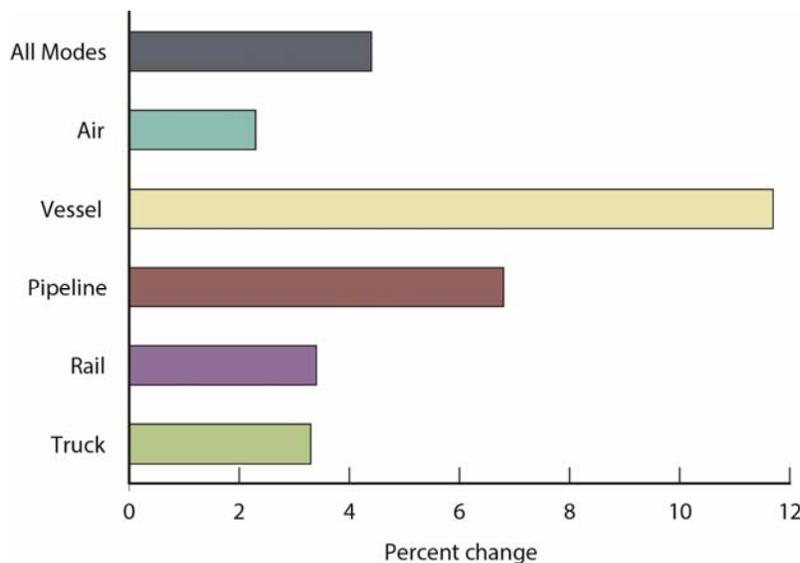
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
<http://www.dot.gov/briefingroom>

BTS Data

BTS 49-14
Thursday, October 23, 2014
Contact: Dave Smallen
Tel: 202-366-5568

August 2014 North American Freight Numbers

**Figure 1. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode:
August 2013 - August 2014**



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

U.S.-NAFTA freight totaled \$100.6 billion in August 2014 as all five major transportation modes – air, vessel, pipeline, rail, and trucks – carried more U.S.-NAFTA freight than in August 2013, 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). August was the sixth consecutive month with U.S.-NAFTA freight flows exceeding \$100 billion.

Freight by Mode

In August, the value of commodities moving by vessel grew by the largest percentage of any mode, 11.7 percent. Pipeline freight increased 6.8 percent followed by a rail increase of 3.4 percent, a truck increase of 3.3 percent, and an air increase of 2.3 percent (Figure 1, Table 2).

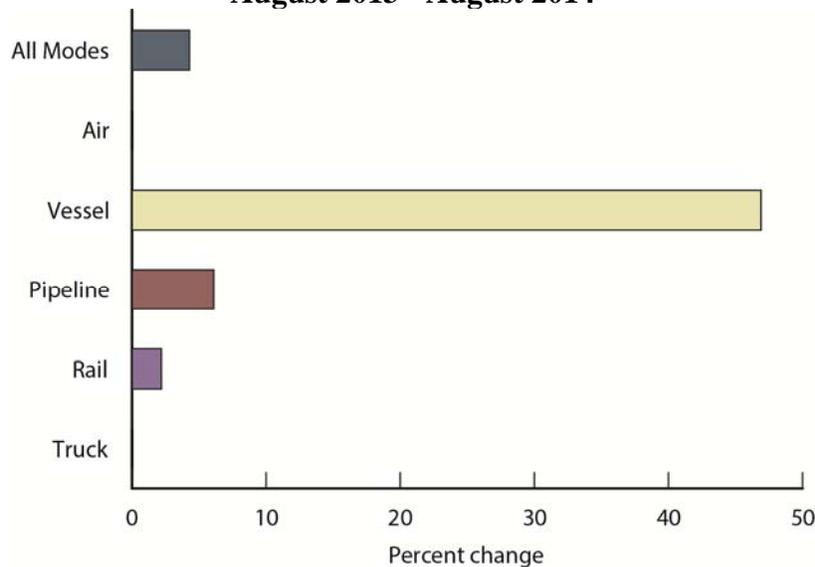
Of the \$4.2 billion increase in the value of US-NAFTA freight from August 2013, truck freight contributed the most, \$1.9 billion, followed by rail, \$514 million (Table 2). The trucking increase was due almost entirely to growth in truck freight with Mexico as U.S.-Canada truck trade remained almost unchanged (Tables 4, 6).

Trucks carry three-fifths of U.S.-NAFTA freight and are the most heavily utilized mode for moving goods to and from both U.S.-NAFTA partners. Trucks carried 59.6 percent of U.S.-NAFTA freight in August 2014, accounting for \$31.2 billion of exports and \$28.8 billion of imports.

Rail remained the second largest mode, moving 15.5 percent of all U.S.-NAFTA freight, followed by vessel at 9.2 percent, pipeline at 7.4 percent, and air at 3.7 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 82.5 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:
August 2013 - August 2014**



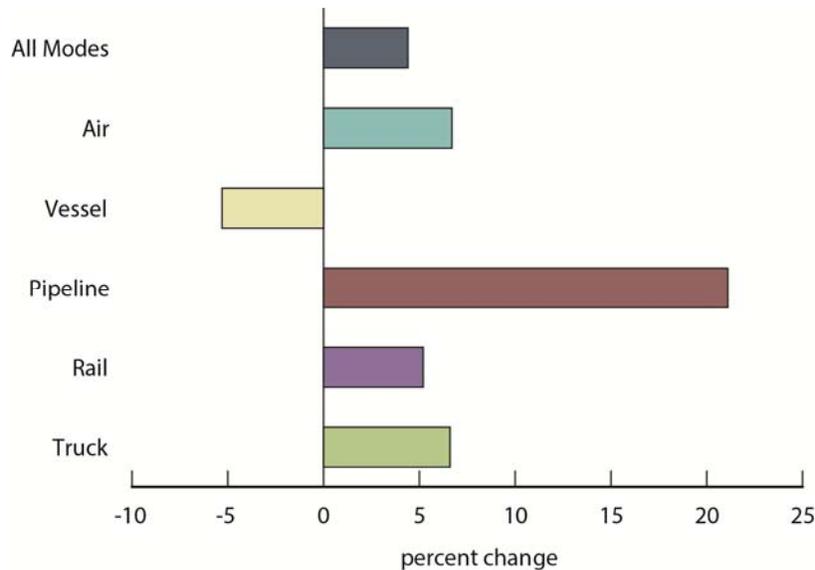
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

Year-over-year, the percent change in the value of U.S.-Canada freight moved by vessel increased the most of any mode, growing 46.9 percent (Figure 2), driven primarily by exports of mineral fuels. Freight moved by pipeline increased 6.1 percent and rail increased by 2.2 percent, while truck and air were essentially unchanged.

Trucks carried 53.0 percent of the \$55.5 billion of freight to and from Canada, followed by rail at 16.4 percent, pipeline at 12.8 percent, vessel at 7.1 percent and air at 4.3 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 82.2 percent of the total U.S.-Canada freight flows (Table 4).

U.S.-Mexico Freight

Figure 3. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode: August 2013 - August 2014



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

Year-over-year, the value of pipeline freight rose 21.1 percent, the largest percentage increase of any U.S.-Mexico mode (Figure 3). Freight moved by air increased 6.7 percent, truck by 6.6 percent and rail by 5.2. Vessel decreased by 5.3 percent; the decrease in vessel freight was principally due to a decline in mineral fuels imports.

Trucks carried 67.7 percent of the \$45.1 billion of freight to and from Mexico, followed by rail at 14.4 percent, vessel at 11.7 percent, air at 2.9 percent and pipeline at 0.8 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 82.9 percent of the total U.S.-Mexico freight flows (Table 6).

Commodities

In August 2014, the top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada was mineral fuels, of which \$7.1 billion, or 56.0 percent, moved by pipeline (Table 5). The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Mexico in August 2014 was electrical machinery, of which \$7.5 billion, or 91.7 percent, moved by trucks (Table 7).

Reporting Notes

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.

BTS is revising the TransBorder Freight Data beginning with January 2009 to include a masking of Aircraft and Airplane parts data. The revision brings the TransBorder Freight Data into conformity with current U.S. Census Bureau policies and practices. In addition, an error involving the exportation of autos and auto parts by rail at the port of Ambrose, North Dakota, from December 2009 to August 2013 has been corrected. Finally, the revised data for 2009 to 2013 also include the Census Bureau's annual foreign trade data revisions.

Data in this press release 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 September TransBorder numbers for Nov. 25.

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

Month	2012	2013	2014	Percent Change 2012-2013	Percent Change 2013-2014
January	87,383	90,766	90,326	3.9	-0.5
February	89,294	88,894	89,557	-0.4	0.7
March	99,726	95,757	101,478	-4.0	6.0
April	92,278	98,956	100,141	7.2	1.2
May	96,778	98,742	103,942	2.0	5.3
June	94,178	93,502	102,978	-0.7	10.1
July	87,815	93,080	101,075	6.0	8.6
August	94,847	96,426	100,624	1.7	4.4
September	89,809	94,465		5.2	
October	98,612	103,140		4.6	
November	94,927	96,136		1.3	
December	84,766	90,906		7.2	
Year-to-date	742,298	756,123	790,121	1.9	4.5
Annual	1,110,413	1,140,770		2.7	

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		August 2013	August 2014	Percent Change August 2013-2014
All Modes	Imports	51,781	53,669	3.6
	Exports	44,645	46,955	5.2
	Total	96,426	100,624	4.4
All Surface Modes	Imports	43,380	44,950	3.6
	Exports	36,728	38,057	3.6
	Total	80,108	83,007	3.6
Truck	Imports	27,453	28,759	4.8
	Exports	30,557	31,163	2.0
	Total	58,010	59,922	3.3
Rail	Imports	9,851	9,790	-0.6
	Exports	5,227	5,801	11.0
	Total	15,077	15,591	3.4
Pipeline	Imports	6,077	6,402	5.4
	Exports	944	1,093	15.7
	Total	7,021	7,495	6.8
Vessel	Imports	5,264	5,250	-0.3
	Exports	2,995	3,974	32.7
	Total	8,259	9,224	11.7
Air	Imports	1,448	1,653	14.1
	Exports	2,171	2,049	-5.6
	Total	3,620	3,702	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

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

August 2014 Compared to August in...	Percent Change					
	Truck	Rail	Pipeline	Air	Vessel	All Modes
2013	3.3	3.4	6.8	2.3	11.7	4.4
2012	3.8	6.4	25.4	-1.9	7.7	6.1
2011	6.7	21.7	3.5	-10.4	3.5	8.1
2010	24.0	37.6	39.0	-6.8	34.5	27.2
2009	55.9	85.1	75.3	25.0	61.6	59.9
2008	27.9	19.3	-12.0	8.4	-2.5	18.2
2007	24.7	29.0	52.3	12.7	38.3	27.2
2006	28.1	40.2	48.2	18.3	34.7	31.8
2005	40.1	61.6	63.2	37.9	60.8	46.7
2004	56.0	71.2	129.4	42.2	122.2	66.8

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

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

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

Mode		August 2013	August 2014	Percent Change August 2013-2014
All Modes	Imports	27,789	28,903	4.0
	Exports	25,433	26,618	4.7
	Total	53,222	55,521	4.3
All Surface Modes	Imports	23,786	24,264	2.0
	Exports	21,223	21,361	0.7
	Total	45,009	45,625	1.4
Truck	Imports	11,708	11,960	2.1
	Exports	17,683	17,445	-1.3
	Total	29,391	29,405	0.0
Rail	Imports	6,023	5,924	-1.6
	Exports	2,880	3,172	10.1
	Total	8,903	9,096	2.2
Pipeline	Imports	6,055	6,380	5.4
	Exports	660	745	12.9
	Total	6,715	7,125	6.1
Vessel	Imports	1,959	2,169	10.7
	Exports	728	1,779	144.3
	Total	2,687	3,948	46.9
Air	Imports	855	1,086	27.0
	Exports	1,544	1,314	-14.9
	Total	2,400	2,400	0.0

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:

http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/TransBorder/TBDR_DataFields.html

Table 5. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Canada for Each Mode of Transportation, August 2014

(millions of current dollars)

Mode	Commodities	Exports	Imports	Total
All Modes	Mineral Fuels; Oils and Waxes	2,879	9,776	12,655
Truck	Vehicles Other than Railway	3,061	2,271	5,332
Rail	Vehicles Other than Railway	999	2,345	3,343
Pipeline	Mineral Fuels; Oils and Waxes	730	6,361	7,091
Vessel	Mineral Fuels; Oils and Waxes	1,470	1,814	3,284
Air	Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	327	130	456

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

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

Table 6. Value of Monthly U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

Mode		August 2013	August 2014	Percent Change August 2013-2014
All Modes	Imports	23,992	24,766	3.2
	Exports	19,213	20,337	5.9
	Total	43,204	45,103	4.4
All Surface Modes	Imports	19,594	20,687	5.6
	Exports	15,506	16,696	7.7
	Total	35,100	37,382	6.5
Truck	Imports	15,745	16,799	6.7
	Exports	12,874	13,718	6.6
	Total	28,619	30,517	6.6
Rail	Imports	3,828	3,865	1.0
	Exports	2,347	2,629	12.0
	Total	6,174	6,495	5.2
Pipeline	Imports	22	23	4.3
	Exports	285	348	22.3
	Total	306	371	21.1
Vessel	Imports	3,305	3,081	-6.8
	Exports	2,267	2,195	-3.1
	Total	5,572	5,277	-5.3
Air	Imports	593	567	-4.4
	Exports	627	735	17.2
	Total	1,220	1,302	6.7

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 7. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Mexico for Each Mode of Transportation, August 2014

(millions of current dollars)

Mode	Commodities	Exports	Imports	Total
All Modes	Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	3,219	4,972	8,191
Truck	Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	2,877	4,634	7,511
Rail	Vehicles Other than Railway	610	2,822	3,433
Pipeline	Mineral Fuels; Oils and Waxes	348	23	371
Vessel	Mineral Fuels; Oils and Waxes	1,273	2,290	3,563
Air	Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	247	197	444

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

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