



U.S Department of Transportation  
Office of Public Affairs  
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590  
[www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm](http://www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm)

## BTS Data

---

**BTS 37-09**  
**Thursday, July 30, 2009**  
**Contact: Dave Smallen**  
**Tel: 202-366-5568**

### **May 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Fell 35.4 Percent from May 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 35.4 percent lower in May 2009 than in May 2008, the biggest decline from the same month of the previous year on record, 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 North American surface trade dropped to \$47.9 billion in the fifth consecutive month with a year-to-year decline of greater than 27 percent. Imports from Canada and Mexico to the U.S. in May were down 38.1 percent from May 2008 while exports from the U.S. declined 32.0 percent (*Table 2*).

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 fell 3.7 percent in May 2009 from April 2009 (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations and other factors.

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico in May 2009 was down 9.9 percent compared to May 2004, and up 16.1 percent compared to May 1999, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in May were up 12.0 percent compared to May 1999, while exports were up 21.2 percent.

--more--

## NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS ADD ONE

### **U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada**

U.S.–Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$29.2 billion in May 2009, down 40.3 percent compared to May 2008 (*Table 4*). The value of imports carried by truck was 35.7 percent lower in May 2009 compared to May 2008, while the value of exports carried by truck was 33.4 percent lower during this period.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in May 2009 with \$2.8 billion (*Table 5*).

### **U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico**

U.S.–Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$18.6 billion in May 2009, down 26.0 percent compared to May 2008 (*Table 6*). The value of imports carried by truck was 23.4 percent lower in May 2009 than May 2008 while the value of exports carried by truck was 21.1 percent lower.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in May 2009 with \$6.2 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. May 2009 TransBorder numbers include data received by BTS as of July 10.

The news release and summary tables can be found at [www.bts.gov](http://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 June TransBorder numbers on Aug. 31.

--more--

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS  
ADD TWO

**Table 1. Value of Monthly U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada and Mexico**  
(millions of 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
<b>May</b>	<b>69,423</b>	<b>74,128</b>	<b>47,881</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>-35.4</b>
June	69,526	74,139		6.6	
July	61,823	71,628		15.9	
August	69,158	72,254		4.5	
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	
<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>324,521</b>	<b>353,798</b>	<b>244,063</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>-31.0</b>
<b>Annual</b>	<b>797,303</b>	<b>829,875</b>		<b>4.1</b>	

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.

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

Mode		May 2008	April 2009	May 2009	Percent Change April 2009 - May 2009	Percent Change May 2008-2009
All	Imports	41,374	26,710	25,595	-4.2	-38.1
Surface	Exports	32,754	23,019	22,286	-3.2	-32.0
Modes	Total	74,128	49,729	47,881	-3.7	-35.4
Truck	Imports	24,498	17,993	17,233	-4.2	-29.7
	Exports	24,701	17,935	17,447	-2.7	-29.4
Rail	Imports	8,253	4,549	4,448	-2.2	-46.1
	Exports	4,432	2,816	2,750	-2.4	-38.0
Pipeline	Imports	7,110	3,082	2,904	-5.8	-59.2
	Exports	634	256	304	18.7	-52.1

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, other and unknown modes of transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page:  
[http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR\\_DataFields.html](http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html).

--more--

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS  
ADD THREE

**Table 3. May 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Compared with June of Prior Years**

Compared to May in...	Percent Change		
	Imports	Exports	Total Surface Trade
2008	-38.1	-32.0	-35.4
2007	-34.2	-26.9	-31.0
2006	-31.3	-22.4	-27.4
2005	-21.3	-12.1	-17.3
2004	-15.3	-2.9	-9.9
2003	-7.7	5.7	-1.9
2002	-7.2	6.3	-1.3
2001	-9.9	5.0	-3.5
2000	-6.7	3.1	-2.4
1999	12.0	21.2	16.1

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

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

Mode		May 2008	April 2009	May 2009	Percent Change April 2009 - May 2009	Percent Change May 2008-2009
All	Imports	26,728	15,563	14,799	-4.9	-44.6
Surface	Exports	22,211	14,654	14,435	-1.5	-35.0
Modes	Total	48,939	30,217	29,234	-3.3	-40.3
Truck	Imports	12,471	8,637	8,022	-7.1	-35.7
	Exports	16,649	11,133	11,091	-0.4	-33.4
Rail	Imports	5,947	3,017	3,098	2.7	-47.9
	Exports	2,576	1,646	1,661	0.9	-35.5
Pipeline	Imports	7,096	3,073	2,892	-5.9	-59.2
	Exports	489	212	259	21.9	-47.1

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. 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, other and unknown modes of transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page: [http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR\\_DataFields.html](http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html).

--more--

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS  
ADD FOUR

**Table 5. Top 10 States Trading with Canada  
by Surface Modes of Transportation**

Ranked by May 2009 Surface Trade Value  
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	May 2009
1	Michigan	2,769
2	Illinois	2,427
3	California	2,142
4	New York	1,872
5	Ohio	1,701
6	Texas	1,609
7	Pennsylvania	1,189
8	Washington	1,052
9	Tennessee	859
10	Indiana	837

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

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

Mode		May 2008	April 2009	May 2009	Percent Change April 2009 - May 2009	Percent Change May 2008-2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	14,646	11,147	10,796	-3.1	-26.3
	Exports	10,542	8,365	7,851	-6.2	-25.5
	Total	25,189	19,512	18,647	-4.4	-26.0
Truck	Imports	12,026	9,356	9,211	-1.6	-23.4
	Exports	8,051	6,803	6,356	-6.6	-21.1
Rail	Imports	2,306	1,532	1,350	-11.9	-41.4
	Exports	1,856	1,170	1,089	-7.0	-41.3
Pipeline	Imports	15	9	12	23.8	-19.4
	Exports	146	44	45	2.9	-69.0

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. 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, other and unknown modes of transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page: [http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR\\_DataFields.html](http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html)

- more -

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS  
ADD FIVE

**Table 7. Top 10 States Trading with Mexico  
by Surface Modes of Transportation**

Ranked by May 2009 Surface Trade Value  
(millions of dollars)

<b>Rank</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>May 2009</b>
1	<b>Texas</b>	6,194
2	<b>California</b>	3,365
3	<b>Michigan</b>	1,454
4	<b>Arizona</b>	754
5	<b>Illinois</b>	682
6	<b>Ohio</b>	490
7	<b>Tennessee</b>	400
8	<b>North Carolina</b>	317
9	<b>New Jersey</b>	308
10	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	307

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

**-end-**