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BTS Data

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October 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Fell 15.5 Percent from October 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 15.5 percent lower in October 2009 than in October 2008, dropping to \$61.4 billion, 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 U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico rose 7.2 percent in October 2009 from September 2009 (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations and other factors.

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 in October was up 7.9 percent compared to October 2004, and up 34.7 percent compared to October 1999, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in October were up 31.9 percent compared to October 1999, while exports were up 38.1 percent.

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S.–Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$36.3 billion in October, down 19.0 percent compared to October 2008 (*Table 4*). The value of imports carried by truck was 15.8 percent lower in October 2009 compared to October 2008, while the value of exports carried by truck was 9.5 percent lower during this period.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in October with \$4.8 billion (*Table 5*).

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U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S.–Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$25.1 billion in October, down 10.0 percent compared to October 2008 (*Table 6*). The value of imports carried by truck was 4.2 percent lower in October 2009 than October 2008 while the value of exports carried by truck was 13.5 percent lower.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in October with \$8.6 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. October TransBorder numbers include data received by BTS as of Dec. 11.

The news release and summary tables can be found at 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 November TransBorder numbers on Jan. 28.

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
May	69,423	74,128	47,881	6.8	-35.4
June	69,526	74,139	50,753	6.6	-31.5
July	61,823	71,628	51,545	15.9	-28.0
August	69,158	72,254	54,254	4.5	-24.9
September	66,771	71,801	57,294	7.5	-20.2
October	74,249	72,683	61,400	-2.1	-15.5
November	70,352	60,661		-13.8	
December	60,902	52,910		-13.1	
Year-to-date	666,049	716,304	519,308	7.5	-27.5
Annual	797,303	829,875		4.1	

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.

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

Mode		October 2008	September 2009	October 2009	Percent Change September 2009 - October 2009	Percent Change October 2008 - 2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	39,905	30,817	33,104	7.4	-17.0
	Exports	32,778	26,476	28,296	6.9	-13.7
	Total	72,683	57,294	61,400	7.2	-15.5
Truck	Imports	23,824	20,017	21,464	7.2	-9.9
	Exports	25,316	21,057	22,511	6.9	-11.1
Rail	Imports	7,625	5,648	6,292	11.4	-17.5
	Exports	4,842	3,169	3,382	6.7	-30.1
Pipeline	Imports	6,789	4,161	4,218	1.4	-37.9
	Exports	303	185	237	27.8	-21.8

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, and other transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page: http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html.

Table 3. October 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Compared with October of Prior Years

Compared to October in...	Percent Change		
	Imports	Exports	Total Surface Trade
2008	-17.0	-13.7	-15.5
2007	-21.1	-12.3	-17.3
2006	-12.8	-2.1	-8.1
2005	-11.0	5.6	-4.0
2004	1.6	16.5	7.9
2003	10.9	25.7	17.3
2002	17.5	31.9	23.7
2001	23.6	35.7	28.9
2000	13.0	26.2	18.7
1999	31.9	38.1	34.7

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

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

Mode		October 2008	September 2009	October 2009	Percent Change September 2009 - October 2009	Percent Change October 2008 - 2009
All	Imports	25,048	18,154	19,009	4.7	-24.1
Surface	Exports	19,704	16,612	17,250	3.8	-12.5
Modes	Total	44,752	34,766	36,260	4.3	-19.0
Truck	Imports	11,720	9,527	9,865	3.6	-15.8
	Exports	15,098	13,028	13,669	4.9	-9.5
Rail	Imports	5,233	3,776	4,143	9.7	-20.8
	Exports	2,577	1,838	1,739	-5.4	-32.5
Pipeline	Imports	6,768	4,148	4,201	1.3	-37.9
	Exports	217	99	138	39.1	-36.4

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, and other transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page: http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html.

Table 5. Top 10 States Trading with Canada
by Surface Modes of Transportation
Ranked by October 2009 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	October 2009
1	Michigan	4,774
2	Illinois	3,121
3	California	2,744
4	New York	2,291
5	Ohio	2,241
6	Texas	1,720
7	Pennsylvania	1,559
8	Washington	1,437
9	Indiana	1,136
10	Tennessee	1,033

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

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

Mode		October 2008	September 2009	October 2009	Percent Change September 2009 - October 2009	Percent Change October 2008 - 2009
All	Imports	14,857	12,663	14,095	11.3	-5.1
Surface	Exports	13,074	9,864	11,045	12.0	-15.5
Modes	Total	27,932	22,527	25,140	11.6	-10.0
Truck	Imports	12,104	10,490	11,599	10.6	-4.2
	Exports	10,218	8,029	8,842	10.1	-13.5
Rail	Imports	2,392	1,872	2,149	14.8	-10.2
	Exports	2,265	1,331	1,643	23.5	-27.5
Pipeline	Imports	21	14	18	29.8	-15.5
	Exports	86	86	99	14.8	15.3

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, and other transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page: http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html.

Table 7. Top 10 States Trading with Mexico by Surface Modes of Transportation
Ranked by October 2009 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	October 2009
1	Texas	8,596
2	California	4,363
3	Michigan	2,681
4	Illinois	802
5	Arizona	745
6	Ohio	626
7	Tennessee	528
8	Indiana	449
9	Pennsylvania	398
10	North Carolina	398

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

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