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BTS Data

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2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Fell 23.3 Percent from 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 decreased by 23.3 percent in 2009 compared to 2008, dropping to \$637 billion, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The 23.3 percent decline in trade was the largest year-to-year decline for the 15 years covered by these data. NAFTA went into effect in 1994 (*Table 1*).

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), reported that the value of trade by surface transportation with Canada and Mexico decreased by 31.1 percent during the first six months of 2009 compared to the same period in 2008. It decreased by 14.9 percent in the final six months of the year but increased by 10.5 percent in December compared to December 2008. For 2009 data by month, see the [BTS December 2009 North American Surface Freight](#) press release.

Total North American surface transportation imports decreased by 26.5 percent in 2009 from 2008, and exports decreased by 19.2 percent during the same period (*Table 2*).

In 2009, 86.6 percent of U.S. merchandise trade by value with Canada and Mexico moved on land. Total North American surface transportation trade value in 2009 increased 0.5 percent compared to 2004, and was up 27.0 percent compared to 1999, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*).

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S. - Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$386 billion in 2009, a decrease of 28.1 percent compared to 2008 (*Table 4*). The value of imports carried by truck was 25.7 percent lower in 2009 than 2008 while the value of exports carried by truck was 20.2 percent lower.

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NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS

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Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in 2009 with \$42.5 billion (*Table 5*).

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S.–Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$251.0 billion in 2009, a decrease of 14.4 percent compared to 2008 (*Table 6*). The value of imports carried by truck was 12.2 percent lower in 2009 than in 2008 while the value of exports carried by truck was 10.8 percent lower.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in 2009 with \$86.0 billion (*Table 7*).

The TransBorder Freight Dataset is a special extract of the official U.S. foreign trade statistics. The data are obtained by BTS from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Foreign Trade Division. TransBorder numbers include data received by BTS as of Feb. 16.

The news release and summary tables can be found at www.bts.gov. More information on Transborder freight data is posted on the BTS website at <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>.

Table 1 Annual Value of U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada and Mexico and Percent Change from Previous Year (millions of dollars)

Year	Amount	Percent Change from Previous Year
1995	370,265	NA
1996	410,382	10.8
1997	425,977	3.8
1998	451,736	6.0
1999	501,250	11.0
2000	575,713	14.9
2001	547,312	-4.9
2002	540,795	-1.2
2003	562,776	4.1
2004	633,563	12.6
2005	697,987	10.2
2006	760,127	8.9
2007	797,303	4.9
2008	829,875	4.1
2009	636,695	-23.3

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, based on Transborder Freight Data, available at <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>, as of February 22, 2010.

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. Merchandise Trade with Canada and Mexico by Surface Modes of Transportation
(millions of dollars)**

Mode		2007	2008	2009	Percent Change 2007- 2008	Percent Change 2008- 2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	452,486	464,606	341,665	2.7	-26.5
	Exports	344,817	365,269	295,031	5.9	-19.2
	Total	797,303	829,875	636,695	4.1	-23.3
Truck	Imports	287,441	275,577	222,866	-4.1	-19.1
	Exports	267,390	278,857	231,961	4.3	-16.8
Rail	Imports	93,022	89,022	60,361	-4.3	-32.2
	Exports	44,837	51,403	35,263	14.6	-31.4
Pipeline	Imports	55,184	82,212	45,786	49.0	-44.3
	Exports	4,122	5,564	3,420	35.0	-38.5

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, based on Transborder Freight Data, available at <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>, as of February 22, 2010.

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.

**Table 3. Prior Year Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico
Compared with 2009**

2009 Compared to	Percent Change to 2009		
	Imports	Exports	Total Surface Trade
2008	-26.5	-19.2	-23.3
2007	-24.5	-14.4	-20.1
2006	-21.3	-9.5	-16.2
2005	-14.8	-0.7	-8.8
2004	-6.2	9.6	0.5
2003	6.0	22.7	13.1
2002	10.5	27.4	17.7
2001	9.3	25.8	16.3
2000	5.5	17.1	10.6
1999	22.6	32.6	27.0

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, based on Transborder Freight Data, available at <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>, as of February 22, 2010.

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

Mode		2007	2008	2009	Percent Change 2007-2008	Percent Change 2008-2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	284,773	301,128	201,089	5.7	-33.2
	Exports	226,058	235,681	184,653	4.3	-21.7
	Total	510,831	536,809	385,742	5.1	-28.1
Truck	Imports	150,404	141,353	105,079	-6.0	-25.7
	Exports	174,343	178,593	142,545	2.4	-20.2
Rail	Imports	65,962	63,757	41,058	-3.3	-35.6
	Exports	25,497	29,438	19,973	15.5	-32.2
Pipeline	Imports	55,016	82,018	45,630	49.1	-44.4
	Exports	3,334	4,313	2,632	29.3	-39.0

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, based on Transborder Freight Data, available at <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>, as of February 22, 2010.

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.

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

Rank	State	2009
1	Michigan	42,453
2	Illinois	34,707
3	California	26,170
4	New York	24,301
5	Ohio	23,746
6	Texas	19,848
7	Washington	15,945
8	Pennsylvania	15,871
9	Indiana	12,174
10	Tennessee	10,881

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, based on Transborder Freight Data, available at <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>, as of February 22, 2010.

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

Mode		2007	2008	2009	Percent Change 2007 - 2008	Percent Change 2008- 2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	167,713	163,478	140,576	-2.5	-14.0
	Exports	118,758	129,587	110,378	9.1	-14.8
	Total	286,472	293,065	250,954	2.3	-14.4
Truck	Imports	137,037	134,224	117,787	-2.1	-12.2
	Exports	93,047	100,264	89,417	7.8	-10.8
Rail	Imports	27,060	25,265	19,303	-6.6	-23.6
	Exports	19,340	21,965	15,291	13.6	-30.4
Pipeline	Imports	169	193	155	14.6	-19.6
	Exports	787	1,250	788	58.8	-37.0

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, based on Transborder Freight Data, available at <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>, as of February 22, 2010.

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

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

Rank	State	2009
1	Texas	86,043
2	California	42,822
3	Michigan	22,237
4	Arizona	8,952
5	Illinois	8,455
6	Ohio	6,557
7	Tennessee	5,081
8	North Carolina	4,391
9	Pennsylvania	4,191
10	Indiana	3,985

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, based on Transborder Freight Data, available at <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>, as of February 22, 2010.

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