



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

BTS Data

BTS 58-11

Thursday, November 17, 2011

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North American Transportation Statistics: Almost 93 Million Personal Vehicles Entered the United States in 2010

Almost 93 million personal vehicles entered the United States in 2010, 28.9 million from Canada and 64.0 million from Mexico, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS). Additionally, 10.2 million trucks, 334,818 buses, and 33,790 trains entered the United States in 2010 (Table 1).

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, released the data as part of the seventh annual update of the North American Transportation Statistics (NATS) online database. A product of the North American Transportation Statistics Interchange established in 1991, the NATS online database provides three-country comparative information on transportation activity and its impact. The database covers the following subject areas: demographics, transportation, the economy, transportation safety, transportation's impact on energy and the environment, domestic and international freight activity, domestic and international passenger travel, transportation infrastructure, and vehicles.

The NATS online database includes data on U.S. trade and transportation with Canada and Mexico. In 2010, goods valued at more than \$918 billion crossed the U.S. border in trade with Canada and Mexico, 24.9 percent more than in 2009. Although the value of trade in 2010 was lower than the value of trade in 2008, it was higher than the value of trade in 2007 (Table 2).

This seventh annual update of the [NATS online database](#) contains the most comparable transportation-related data available from the United States, Canada, and Mexico in a one-stop online resource. The NATS online database is co-sponsored by BTS and the U.S. Census Bureau with the federal-level transportation and statistical agencies of Canada and Mexico.

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The economic recovery from the recent global economic downturn has shown different effects on freight shipment between the United States, Canada and Mexico. The total trade between the United States and decrease 17 percent in 2009 from 2008, but recovered quickly in 2010 to reach its highest level (\$393 billion) since 2005. Total trade between the United States and Canada decreased 28 percent from 2008 to 2009. Although total trade value increased 22 percent in 2010, the value of trade freight shipment (\$525 billion) between the two countries in 2010 was still below its recent peak (\$596 billion) reached in 2008 (Table 2).

Data in the NATS online database show the importance of the various modes of transportation involved in the movement of goods between Canada, Mexico and the United States. Road carried 61 percent of the total freight valued at \$557 billion in 2010. Rail carried 14 percent, followed by maritime with 9 percent, pipeline with 7 percent, and air with 5 percent. Among all modes, road had the largest increase in shipment value, \$102 billion, from 2009 to 2010. The value of freight shipment for both road and air modes reached their highest level since 2005 ([NATS online database, Table 6-1c](#)).

Data in the NATS online database also show America's top gateways for trade with Canada and Mexico. In 2010, Laredo, TX was the top road gateway with \$99.0 billion in international road shipments passing through that gateway (Table 3).

Three new maritime indicators on the number of water ports and facilities and top handling ports by tonnage and TEUs for each country were added to the NATS online database this year. These new indicators were developed in response to the need for harmonized data to support maritime transportation decision-making at national and trilateral levels.

With text available in English, French, and Spanish, the NATS online database can be found at <http://nats.sct.gob.mx/>. Additionally, the NATS incorporates technical and methodological footnotes to provide users with interpretation and analysis.

Table 1 – 2010 Vehicle Crossings into the United States

	From Canada	From Mexico	Total
Personal Vehicle	28,884,267	64,044,852	92,929,119
Truck	5,444,405	4,742,925	10,187,330
Bus	116,064	218,754	334,818
Train	26,123	7,667	33,790

Notes:

Truck crossings: Number of arriving trucks; does not include privately owned pick-up trucks.

Train crossings: Rail data for U.S.-Mexico border are for rail (loaded and unloaded) containers and U.S.-Canada numbers are for number of trains, not containers.

Privately owned vehicle crossings: Number of privately owned vehicles (POVs) arriving at a particular port. Includes pick-up trucks, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, taxis, snow-mobiles, ambulances, hearses, and other motorized private ground vehicles.

Bus crossings: Number of arriving buses at a particular port, whether or not they are carrying passengers.

SOURCE: North American Transportation Statistics Online Database, available at <http://nats.sct.gob.mx/>, Nov. 17, 2011.

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**Table 2 - U.S. Merchandise Trade with Canada and Mexico by Freight Transportation Mode
(billions of current dollars)**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Percent change, '05 - '10	Average Annual growth rate (%) '05 - '10
Total trade with Canada and Mexico	790	866	909	964	735	918	16.2	3.0
Air	33	36	38	41	39	45	36.4	6.4
Pipeline	52	57	59	88	49	63	21.2	3.9
Rail	116	129	138	140	96	131	12.9	2.5
Road	491	534	555	554	455	557	13.4	2.1
Water transport	58	70	74	93	59	81	39.7	6.9
Total: percent change from previous year 2005-2010	10.9	9.6	5.0	6.1	-23.8	24.9	-	-
Total trade with Canada	499	534	562	596	430	525	5.2	1.0
Air	23	24	26	28	24	27	17.4	3.3
Pipeline	51	56	58	86	48	61	19.6	3.6
Rail	80	86	91	93	61	83	3.8	0.7
Road	295	314	325	320	248	297	0.7	0.1
Water transport	18	21	25	32	20	27	50.0	8.4
Total: percent change from previous year 2005-2010	12.1	7.0	5.2	6.0	-27.9	22.1	-	-
Total trade with Mexico	290	332	347	367	306	393	35.5	6.3
Air	10	11	12	13	15	18	80.0	12.5
Pipeline	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.4	0.9	2.2	340.0	34.5
Rail	37	43	46	47	35	48	29.7	5.3
Road	196	219	230	234	207	260	32.7	5.8
Water transport	40	49	49	61	40	54	35.0	6.2
Total: percent change from previous year, 2005-2010	9.0	14.5	4.5	5.8	-16.6	28.4	-	-

NOTE: Individual modes do not sum to total trade figures because the total includes freight moved by "other modes" such as aircraft from manufacturer to customers, pedestrians carrying freight, and miscellaneous.

NOTE: Due to the rounding of certain numbers tabulated, sum totals of U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico trade vary slightly.

SOURCE: North American Transportation Statistics Online Database, available at <http://nats.sct.gob.mx/>, Nov. 17, 2011.

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Table 3 - Top 10 U.S. Gateways Trading with Canada and Mexico by Truck
Ranked by 2010 Road Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	Gateway	2010
1	Laredo, TX	98,976
2	Detroit, MI	91,657
3	Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	56,197
4	El Paso, TX	48,189
5	Port Huron, MI	42,730
6	Otay Mesa, CA	30,746
7	Hidalgo, TX	22,054
8	Champlain-Rouses Point, NY	18,416
9	Pembina, ND	14,332
10	Blaine, WA	13,933

SOURCE: North American Transportation Statistics Online Database, available at <http://nats.sct.gob.mx/>, Nov. 17, 2011.

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