



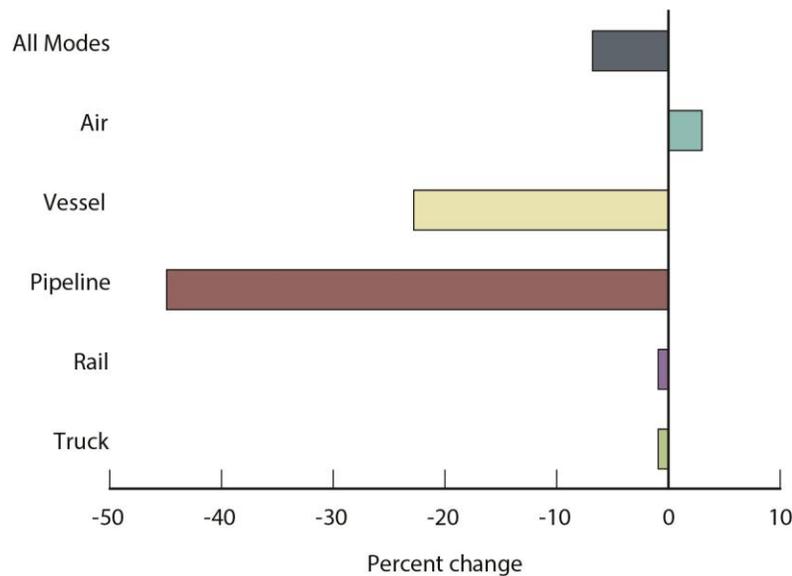
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## BTS Data

BTS 31-15  
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### April 2015 North American Freight Numbers

Figure 1. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode: April 2014 - 2015



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

U.S.-NAFTA freight totaled \$93.3 billion in April 2015 as all modes but air carried less U.S.-NAFTA freight than in April 2014, 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). Year-over-year, the value of U.S.-NAFTA freight flows by all modes decreased by 6.8 percent. Large decreases in the value of NAFTA trade by pipeline and vessel in April were due to the reduced unit price of mineral fuel shipments.

## Freight by Mode

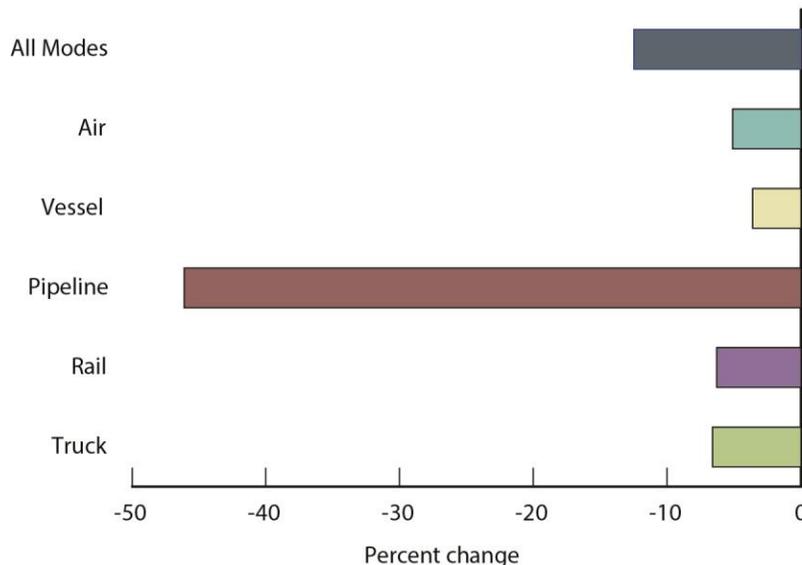
In April 2015 compared to April 2014, the value of commodities moving by air grew by 3.0 percent. The value of commodities shipped by all other modes declined. Truck freight and rail freight both decreased by 0.9 percent (Figure 1, Table 2). Vessel freight decreased by 22.8 percent and pipeline freight decreased by 44.9 percent mainly due to the lower unit price of mineral fuel shipments.

Trucks carried 64.2 percent of U.S.-NAFTA freight and are the most heavily utilized mode for moving goods to and from both U.S.-NAFTA partners. Trucks accounted for \$29.8 billion of the \$49.1 billion of imports (60.8 percent) and \$30.1 billion of the \$44.3 billion of exports (67.9 percent) (Table 2).

Rail remained the second largest mode, moving 15.6 percent of all U.S.-NAFTA freight, followed by vessel, 6.5 percent; pipeline, 5.1 percent; and air, 4.1 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 84.9 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: April 2014 - 2015



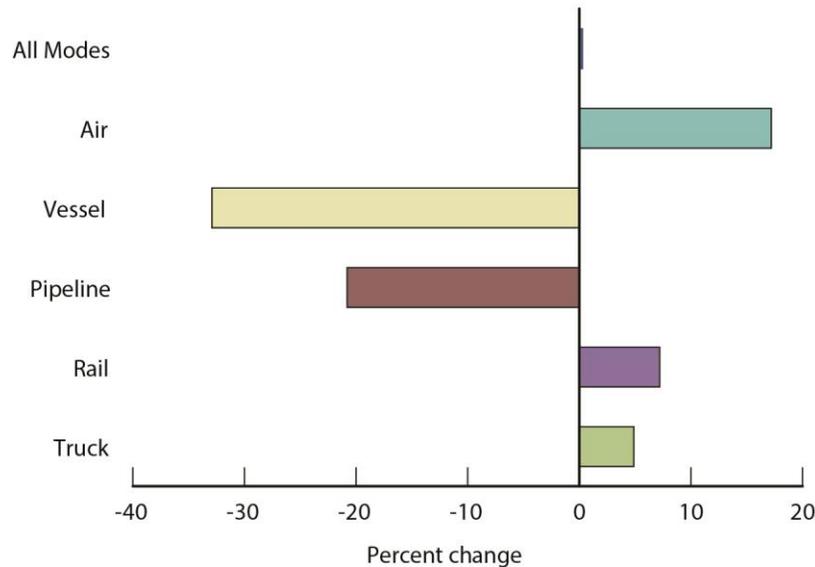
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

U.S.-Canada freight totaled \$48.8 billion in April 2015, down 12.5 percent from April 2014, as all modes of transportation carried a lower value of U.S.-Canada freight than a year earlier. Lower mineral fuel prices contributed to a year-over-year decrease in the value of rail freight, down 6.3 percent. Mineral fuels are a larger share of what is carried by vessel and pipeline which declined 3.6 percent, and 46.1 percent respectively (Figure 2, Table 3). The weight of mineral fuels imported by vessel actually increased 45.3 percent, almost offsetting the large price decline of the commodity.

Trucks carried 58.0 percent of the \$48.8 billion of freight to and from Canada, followed by rail, 16.9 percent; pipeline, 9.1 percent; vessel, 5.4 percent; and air, 4.5 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 84.0 percent of the total U.S.-Canada freight flows (Table 3).

### U.S.-Mexico Freight

Figure 3. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode: April 2014 - 2015



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

U.S.-Mexico freight totaled \$44.5 billion in April 2015, up 0.3 percent from April 2014, as three out of five transportation modes – air, rail, and truck – carried more U.S.-Mexico freight than in April 2014. Year-over-year, the value of U.S.-Mexico air freight rose 17.2 percent, the largest percentage increase of any mode. Freight carried by rail increased by 7.2 percent and truck freight increased by 4.9 percent. Pipeline freight decreased by 20.8 percent and vessel freight decreased by 32.9 percent, mainly due to lower mineral fuel prices (Figure 3, Table 4).

Trucks carried 70.9 percent of the \$44.5 billion of freight to and from Mexico, followed by rail, 14.3 percent; vessel, 7.8 percent; air, 3.5 percent; and pipeline, 0.7 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 85.9 percent of the total U.S.-Mexico freight flows (Table 4).

## Commodities

In April 2015, the top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada was vehicles and parts, of which \$5.2 billion, or 58.2 percent, moved by truck and \$3.5 billion, or 39.2 percent, moved by rail (Figure 4). Vehicles and parts replaced mineral fuels as the top commodity in March 2015 and continues to be the top commodity for a second straight month. Mineral fuels had been the top commodity by value moved between the U.S. and Canada for 29 consecutive months (November 2012 - February 2015). This change is due, in large part, to a decline in the unit price of mineral fuels in recent months. The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Mexico in April 2015 was electrical machinery, of which \$7.6 billion, or 91.5 percent, moved by truck and \$0.4 billion, or 5.2 percent, moved by air (Figure 5).

## Reporting Notes

BTS 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.

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 May TransBorder numbers for July 30.

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

Month	2013	2014	2015	Percent Change 2013-2014	Percent Change 2014-2015
January	90,766	90,326	89,258	-0.5	-1.2
February	88,894	89,557	85,723	0.7	-4.3
March	95,757	101,478	96,070	6.0	-5.3
<b>April</b>	<b>98,956</b>	<b>100,141</b>	<b>93,327</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-6.8</b>
May	98,742	103,942		5.3	
June	93,502	102,978		10.1	
July	93,080	101,075		8.6	
August	96,426	100,624		4.4	
September	94,465	102,245		8.2	
October	103,140	108,243		4.9	
November	96,136	96,252		0.1	
December	90,906	95,811		5.4	
<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>374,373</b>	<b>381,502</b>	<b>364,379</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>-4.5</b>
<b>Annual</b>	<b>1,140,770</b>	<b>1,192,671</b>		<b>4.5</b>	

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)

<b>Mode</b>		<b>April 2014</b>	<b>April 2015</b>	<b>Percent Change April 2014-2015</b>
All Modes	Imports	53,694	49,061	-8.6
	Exports	46,447	44,266	-4.7
	Total	100,141	93,327	-6.8
All Surface Modes	Imports	45,874	43,123	-6.0
	Exports	37,898	36,122	-4.7
	Total	83,771	79,245	-5.4
Truck	Imports	29,796	29,828	0.1
	Exports	30,606	30,060	-1.8
	Total	60,402	59,888	-0.9
Rail	Imports	9,174	9,410	2.6
	Exports	5,540	5,178	-6.5
	Total	14,713	14,588	-0.9
Pipeline	Imports	6,904	3,885	-43.7
	Exports	1,753	884	-49.6
	Total	8,656	4,769	-44.9
Vessel	Imports	4,589	3,199	-30.3
	Exports	3,309	2,900	-12.4
	Total	7,898	6,099	-22.8
Air	Imports	1,607	1,411	-12.2
	Exports	2,069	2,376	14.8
	Total	3,676	3,787	3.0

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

**Table 3. Value of Monthly U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation**  
(millions of current dollars)

<b>Mode</b>		<b>April 2014</b>	<b>April 2015</b>	<b>Percent Change April 2014-2015</b>
All Modes	Imports	29,213	24,606	-15.8
	Exports	26,559	24,211	-8.8
	Total	55,772	48,817	-12.5
All Surface Modes	Imports	25,633	21,473	-16.2
	Exports	21,719	19,524	-10.1
	Total	47,352	40,997	-13.4
Truck	Imports	13,082	12,059	-7.8
	Exports	17,239	16,260	-5.7
	Total	30,320	28,318	-6.6
Rail	Imports	5,663	5,547	-2.1
	Exports	3,124	2,689	-13.9
	Total	8,787	8,236	-6.3
Pipeline	Imports	6,889	3,868	-43.8
	Exports	1,357	576	-57.6
	Total	8,246	4,444	-46.1
Vessel	Imports	1,473	1,427	-3.2
	Exports	1,246	1,196	-4.0
	Total	2,720	2,623	-3.6
Air	Imports	940	872	-7.2
	Exports	1,399	1,348	-3.6
	Total	2,339	2,220	-5.1

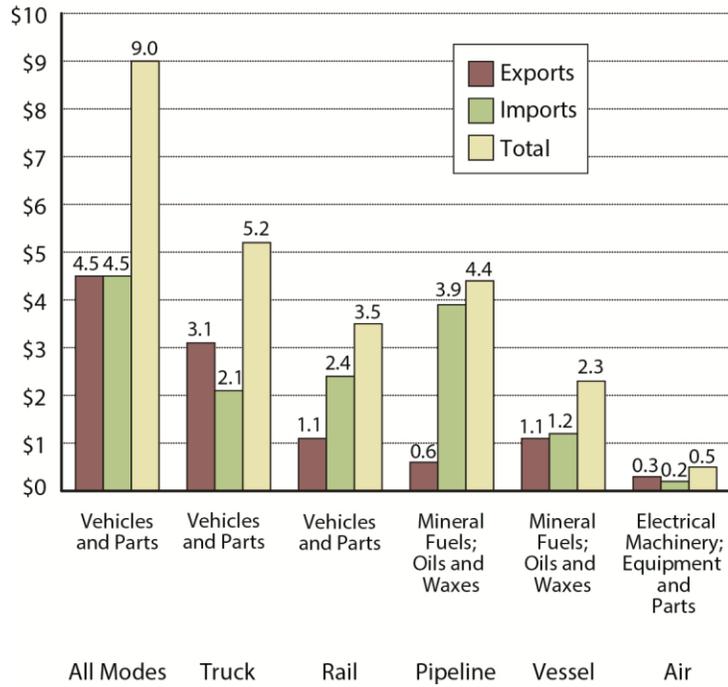
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

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Figure 4. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Canada for Each Mode of Transportation, April 2015 (billions of current dollars)



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)  
 NOTE: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding.

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

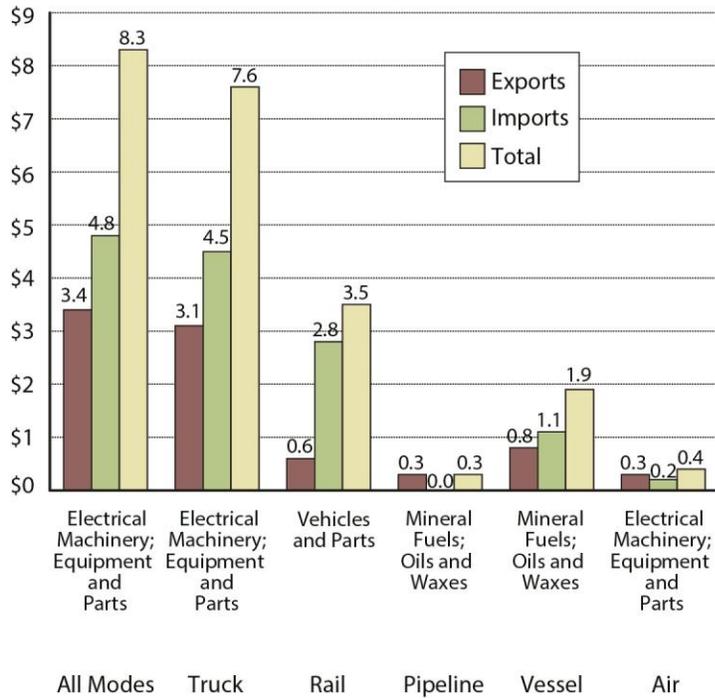
<b>Mode</b>		<b>April 2014</b>	<b>April 2015</b>	<b>Percent Change April 2014-2015</b>
All Modes	Imports	24,481	24,454	-0.1
	Exports	19,888	20,055	0.8
	Total	44,370	44,509	0.3
All Surface Modes	Imports	20,240	21,649	7.0
	Exports	16,179	16,598	2.6
	Total	36,419	38,248	5.0
Truck	Imports	16,715	17,769	6.3
	Exports	13,367	13,801	3.2
	Total	30,082	31,570	4.9
Rail	Imports	3,511	3,864	10.1
	Exports	2,416	2,489	3.0
	Total	5,927	6,353	7.2
Pipeline	Imports	15	16	11.4
	Exports	396	309	-22.0
	Total	411	325	-20.8
Vessel	Imports	3,115	1,772	-43.1
	Exports	2,063	1,704	-17.4
	Total	5,178	3,476	-32.9
Air	Imports	667	539	-19.2
	Exports	670	1,027	53.4
	Total	1,337	1,566	17.2

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

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Figure 5. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Mexico for Each Mode of Transportation, April 2015 (billions of current dollars)



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