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BTS Data

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North American Transportation Statistics: Over 97 Million Personal Vehicles Entered the U.S. in 2009

More than 97 million personal vehicles entered the United States in 2009, 26.7 million from Canada, and 70.3 million from Mexico, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) (Table 1). Additionally, 9.3 million trucks, 344,809 buses, and 31,509 trains entered the U.S. in 2009 ([NATS database, Table 12-3](#)).

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, released the data today as part of the sixth annual update of the North American Transportation Statistics (NATS) online database.

The NATS online database also includes data on U.S. trade and transportation with Canada and Mexico. Goods valued at more than \$735 billion crossed the U.S. border in trade with Canada and Mexico in 2009, 23.7 percent lower than the record high set in 2008, according BTS (Table 2).

U.S. merchandise trade with Canada and Mexico, its two largest trading partners, rose by more than \$24 billion or by 3.3 percent in the five years between 2004 and 2009 (Table 2).

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

The value of freight shipments moving between the United States, Canada and Mexico grew at an average rate of 0.7 percent per year between 2004 and 2009. The total value of U.S. freight shipments with Mexico grew 14.6 percent or 2.8 percent annually. Goods shipped in trade with Canada declined 3.5 percent or 0.7 percent annually (Table 2).

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Trucks carried 62 percent of this freight measured by value, \$455 billion in 2009. Rail carried 13 percent, followed by maritime with 8 percent, pipeline with 7 percent, and air with 5 percent. Truck was the largest modal decrease in shipment value from 2008 to 2009 - \$100 billion, followed by rail, down \$45 billion, and pipeline, down \$39 billion ([NATS database, Table 6-1c](#)).

Data in the NATS database shows America’s top gateways for trade with Canada and Mexico. In 2009, Laredo, TX, was the top road gateway with \$79.8 billion in international road shipments passing through that gateway (Table 3).

The NATS-OD figures show, among other things, the importance of the various modes of transportation involved in the movement of goods between Canada, Mexico and the U.S., and presents statistics indicating the relationships among transportation, international trade, economy, security, energy and the environment. Additionally, the NATS-OD incorporates technical and methodological footnotes in English, French and Spanish to provide users with interpretation and analysis.

A product of the North American Transportation Statistics Interchange established in 1991, the NATS database provides three-country comparative information on transportation activity and its impact. It covers the following subject areas: country overview, transportation and the economy, transportation safety, transportation’s impact on energy and the environment, domestic freight activity, North American merchandise trade, international merchandise trade, domestic passenger travel, North American passenger travel, international passenger travel, transportation infrastructure, and vehicles.

As of this year, NATS-OD includes a new indicator on the fuel efficiency of new vehicles. This new indicator was developed in response to the need for harmonized data to support environmental and transportation decision-making at national and trilateral levels.

With text available in English, French, and Spanish, the NATS database can be found at <http://nats.sct.gob.mx/>

Table 1 – 2009 Vehicle Crossings into the United States

	From Canada	From Mexico
Personal Vehicle	26,698,239	70,304,756
Truck	5,020,633	4,291,465
Bus	116,355	228,454
Train	24,034	7,475

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/nats>, November 18, 2010.

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

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Percent change, '04 - '09	Average Annual growth rate (%) '04 - '09
Total trade with Canada and Mexico	712	790	866	909	964	735	3.3	0.7
Air	32	33	36	38	41	39	22.6	4.2
Pipeline	38	52	57	59	88	49	27.8	5.0
Rail	108	116	129	138	140	96	-11.8	-2.5
Road	453	491	534	555	554	455	0.4	0.1
Water transport	46	58	70	74	93	59	28.6	5.2
Total: percent change from previous year 2004-2009	13.1	10.9	9.7	4.9	6.1	-23.7	-	-
Total trade with Canada	445	499	534	562	596	430	-3.5	-0.7
Air	23	23	24	26	28	24	8.0	1.6
Pipeline	38	51	56	58	86	48	25.6	4.7
Rail	75	80	86	91	93	61	-18.1	-3.9
Road	269	295	314	325	320	248	-7.8	-1.6
Water transport	14	18	21	25	32	20	40.9	7.1
Total: percent change from previous year 2004-2009	13.1	12.2	6.9	5.2	6.2	-28.0	-	-
Total trade with Mexico	267	290	332	347	367	306	14.6	2.8
Air	9	10	11	12	13	15	57.2	9.5
Pipeline	0.1	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.4	0.9	978.1	60.9
Rail	34	37	43	46	47	35	2.3	0.5
Road	184	196	219	230	234	207	12.4	2.4
Water transport	32	40	49	49	61	40	23.3	4.3
Total: percent change from previous year, 2004-2009	13.2	8.9	14.5	4.5	5.8	-16.9	-	-

NOTE: Individual modes do not sum to total trade figures because the total excludes 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/nats>, November 18, 2010.

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Table 3 - Top 10 U.S. Gateways Trading with Canada and Mexico by Truck
Ranked by 2009 Road Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	Gateway	2009
1	Laredo, TX	79,781
2	Detroit, MI	72,461
3	Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	47,847
4	El Paso, TX	37,457
5	Port Huron, MI	35,152
6	Otay Mesa, CA	28,213
7	Hidalgo-Pharr, TX	18,823
8	Champlain-Rouses Point, NY	16,070
9	Pembina, ND	12,847
10	Blaine, WA	12,318

SOURCE: North American Transportation Statistics Online Database, available at <http://nats.sct.gob.mx/nats>, November 18, 2010.

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