



M O V I N G T H E
**AMERICAN
ECONOMY**

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm

Research and Innovative Technology Administration
BTS Data

BTS 55-05
Tuesday, November 29, 2005

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Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 11.4 Percent from September 2004 to Record High in September 2005

Trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico rose 11.4 percent in September 2005 from September 2004 to a total of \$61.2 billion, the highest monthly level ever recorded, 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 (RITA), reported that total North American surface transportation trade rose 1.6 percent in September from August (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations and other factors. Trucks carried 63 percent of imports and 79 percent of exports by value.

The previous monthly high was \$60.2 billion in August 2005. Surface transportation consists largely of freight movements by truck, rail and pipeline. About 90 percent of U.S. trade by value with Canada and Mexico moves on land.

Total North American surface transportation trade value in September was up 33.6 percent compared to September 2002, and up 93.4 percent compared to September 1995, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in September were up 107.4 percent compared to September 1995, while exports were up 77.0 percent.

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S. – Canada surface transportation trade reached a new monthly high of \$40.4 billion in September, up 14.1 percent compared to September 2004 (*Table 4*). The previous monthly high for U.S.-Canada trade was \$39.5 billion in March 2005. Trucks carried 53 percent of imports and 79 percent of exports by value. The value of imports carried by truck rose 8.9 percent in September 2005 from September 2004 while the value of exports rose 11.4 percent.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in September with \$6.6 billion (*Table 5*).

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U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S.-Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$20.8 billion in September, up 6.5 percent compared to September 2004 (*Table 6*). The September trade value was just \$12 million, or 0.1 percent, below the record high set in August 2005. Trucks carried 82 percent of imports and 80 percent of exports by value. The value of imports carried by truck rose 7.3 percent in September 2005 from September 2004 while the value of exports rose 5.1 percent.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in September with \$6.8 billion (*Table 7*).

The Transborder Surface Freight Dataset is a special extract of the official U.S. foreign trade statistics. The data are tabulated for BTS monthly by the U.S. Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. September transborder numbers include data received by BTS as of Nov. 14, 2005.

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 October transborder numbers on Dec. 30.

Table 1. Value of Monthly U.S. Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico
(millions of dollars)

Month	2004	2005	Percent Change 2004-2005
January	45,686	52,334	14.6
February	48,170	53,592	11.3
March	56,269	59,436	5.6
April	53,195	58,297	9.6
May	53,155	57,870	8.9
June	55,422	59,431	7.2
July	48,096	49,690	3.3
August	53,577	60,188	12.3
September	54,913	61,166	11.4
October	56,880		
November	56,134		
December	52,065		
Year-to-date	468,483	512,004	9.3
Annual	633,563		

Source: BTS Transborder Surface Freight Dataset,
<http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

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

Mode		September 2004	August 2005	September 2005	Percent Change August - September	Percent Change September 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	31,458	34,506	35,485	2.8	12.8
	Exports	23,455	25,681	25,682	0.0	9.5
	Total	54,913	60,188	61,166	1.6	11.4
Truck	Imports	20,596	22,255	22,281	0.1	8.2
	Exports	18,689	20,514	20,393	-0.6	9.1
Rail	Imports	6,858	6,788	7,174	5.7	4.6
	Exports	2,669	2,861	2,935	2.6	10.0
Pipeline	Imports	3,072	4,434	4,681	5.6	52.4
	Exports	141	159	152	-4.3	7.7

Source: BTS Transborder Surface Freight Dataset, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Note: The value of all surface modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail and pipeline modes. The value of trade for all surface modes includes shipments made by truck, rail, pipeline, mail, foreign trade zones, other and unknown modes of transportation. For additional detail refer to the Transborder Surface Freight data "Sources and Reliability" statement: <http://www.bts.gov/ntda/tbscd/srfin.html>

Table 3: September 2005 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Compared with September of Prior Years

Compared to September in...	Percent Change		Total Surface Trade
	Imports	Exports	
2004	12.8	9.5	11.4
2003	26.3	23.7	25.2
2002	35.5	31.0	33.6
2001	45.0	42.7	44.0
2000	26.7	21.3	24.4
1999	46.4	34.2	41.0
1998	65.2	44.2	55.7
1997	78.3	46.6	63.4
1996	88.0	61.8	76.0
1995	107.4	77.0	93.4

Source: BTS Transborder Surface Freight Dataset,
<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		September 2004	August 2005	September 2005	Percent Change August - September	Percent Change September 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	20,441	22,887	23,659	3.4	15.7
	Exports	14,943	16,492	16,711	1.3	11.8
	Total	35,385	39,379	40,370	2.5	14.1
Truck	Imports	11,545	12,472	12,573	0.8	8.9
	Exports	11,861	13,148	13,217	0.5	11.4
Rail	Imports	5,082	5,136	5,258	2.4	3.5
	Exports	1,452	1,504	1,578	4.9	8.7
Pipeline	Imports	3,072	4,434	4,681	5.6	52.4
	Exports	121	116	82	-29.3	-32.4

Source: BTS Transborder Surface Freight Dataset, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Note: The value of all surface modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail and pipeline modes. The value of trade for all surface modes includes shipments made by truck, rail, pipeline, mail, foreign trade zones, other and unknown modes of transportation. For additional detail refer to the Transborder Surface Freight data "Sources and Reliability" statement: <http://www.bts.gov/ntda/tbscd/srfin.html>

**Table 5. Top 10 States Trading with Canada
by Surface Modes of Transportation, Ranked
by September 2005 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)**

Rank	State	September 2005
1	Michigan	6,586
2	New York	2,860
3	Illinois	2,844
4	Ohio	2,659
5	California	2,413
6	Washington	1,620
7	Texas	1,605
8	Pennsylvania	1,370
9	Tennessee	1,317
10	Indiana	1,270

Source: BTS Transborder Surface Freight Dataset,
<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		September 2004	August 2005	September 2005	Percent Change August - September	Percent Change September 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	11,017	11,620	11,826	1.8	7.3
	Exports	8,512	9,189	8,971	-2.4	5.4
	Total	19,528	20,809	20,796	-0.1	6.5
Truck	Imports	9,051	9,783	9,707	-0.8	7.3
	Exports	6,828	7,366	7,176	-2.6	5.1
Rail	Imports	1,776	1,652	1,916	16.0	7.9
	Exports	1,217	1,357	1,357	0.0	11.6
Pipeline	Imports	0	0	0	NA	NA
	Exports	20	43	70	62.6	249.4

Source: BTS Transborder Surface Freight Dataset, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Note: The value of all surface modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail and pipeline modes. The value of trade for all surface modes includes shipments made by truck, rail, pipeline, mail, foreign trade zones, other and unknown modes of transportation. For additional detail refer to the Transborder Surface Freight data "Sources and Reliability" statement: <http://www.bts.gov/ntda/tbscd/srfin.html>

Table 7. Top 10 States Trading with Mexico
by Surface Modes of Transportation, Ranked
by September 2005 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	September 2005
1	Texas	6,830
2	California	3,547
3	Michigan	2,248
4	Illinois	700
5	Arizona	621
6	Ohio	503
7	Tennessee	457
8	Indiana	446
9	New York	375
10	Pennsylvania	374

Source: BTS Transborder Surface Freight Dataset,
<http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

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