

Commodity Movements Originating in Alabama Summary of 1993 CFS

In Alabama, the CFS measured \$89 billion of goods shipments weighing 219 million tons. Alabama accounted for approximately 2 percent of the value and 2 percent of the weight of total U.S. shipments. The CFS data cover shipments by establishments in mining, manufacturing, wholesale, and selected retail and service industries. The data exclude most shipments of crude oil; therefore, the totals and percentages do not fully reflect the contribution of pipeline shipments.

The major commodities shipped by establishments vary when measured by value and weight. The most important commodity originating in Alabama by value was food or kindred products. Other important commodities by value were: primary metal products; chemicals or allied products; pulp, paper, or allied products; and transportation equipment. Some of the main commodities shipped by weight were: lumber or wood products, excluding furniture; coal; petroleum or coal products; nonmetallic minerals; and clay, concrete, glass, or stone products.

Local transportation of freight is important to Alabama's commerce. The CFS shows that in 1993, about 34 percent of the value and 71 percent of the weight of total shipments from Alabama were shipped to destinations within the state. Approximately 23 percent of the value and 57 percent of the weight of all shipments were between places less than 50 miles apart. In comparison, about 30 percent of the value and 56 percent of the weight of total U.S. shipments were between places less than 50 miles apart. In Alabama, about 34 percent of the value and 71 percent of the weight of shipments were between places less than 100 miles apart.

About 66 percent of the value and 29 percent of the weight of all shipments from Alabama went to other states. The top destination of shipments by value was Georgia. Other important destination states by value were: Florida, Tennessee, Texas, and Mississippi. Important destination states by weight of shipments were: Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, and Louisiana.

Most commodities were moved by truck, about 83 percent of the value and 78 percent of the weight. Rail was used to transport 7 percent of the value and 12 percent of the weight. The CFS data confirm the rising importance of parcel, U.S. postal, and courier services that have emerged in recent years. In 1993, this mode of transport was used to ship 176,000 tons of goods worth about \$4 billion or 5 percent of the value of all shipments in Alabama. In comparison, about 9 percent of the value of total U.S. shipments were moved by this mode.

1993 Commodity Flow Survey State Summary: Alabama
 Tabulation by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation

Summary	Value	Weight
Total shipments originating in Alabama	\$88.8 billion	218.9 million tons
Percent of total U.S. shipments (preliminary U.S. estimate)	1.5	2.2

Commodity Shipments Originating in Alabama Ranked by Value		Commodity Shipments Originating in Alabama Ranked by Weight	
Commodity	Percent of value	Commodity	Percent of weight
Food or kindred products	13.7	Lumber or wood products, excluding furniture	22.6
Primary metal products	9.3	Coal	14.2
Chemicals or allied products	9.1	Petroleum or coal products	13.7
Pulp, paper, or allied products	7.1	Nonmetallic minerals	12.3
Transportation equipment	6.6	Clay, concrete, glass, or stone products	7.8
Other commodities	54.2	Other commodities	29.4
Total	100.0	Total	100.0

Domestic Destinations of Shipments Originating in Alabama Ranked by Value		Domestic Destinations of Shipments Originating in Alabama Ranked by Weight	
State	Percent of value	State	Percent of weight
Alabama	33.8	Alabama	71.2
Georgia	7.7	Georgia	5.6
Florida	5.9	Mississippi	4.1
Tennessee	5.8	Florida	3.2
Texas	4.3	Tennessee	2.2
Mississippi	3.5	Louisiana	1.6
Other States	39.0	Other States	12.1
Total	100.0	Total	100.0

Modes of Transportation for Shipments Originating in Alabama		
Modes	Percent of value	Percent of weight
Parcel, U.S. Postal Service, or courier service	4.5	0.1
Truck (for-hire, private, and both private truck and for-hire truck)	82.6	78.2
Air (including truck and air)	1.4	-
Rail	7.3	12.4
Water (inland water, Great Lakes, deep sea, truck and water, and rail and water)	1.1	3.1
Pipeline*	-	-
Truck and rail intermodal combination	0.3	0.2
Other intermodal (truck and pipeline, inland and Gt. Lakes, inland and deep sea)	**	**
Other, unknown, and withheld for sampling and disclosure reasons	2.8	6.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Domestic Distance Shipped for Commodities Originating in Alabama		
Distance	Percent of value	Percent of weight
Less than 50 miles	23.3	56.9
50 to 99 miles	10.9	13.9
100 to 249 miles	17.3	13.1
250 to 499 miles	18.3	8.0
500 to 749 miles	16.5	4.7
750 to 999 miles	7.1	1.8
1,000 to 1,499 miles	2.1	0.5
1,500 to 1,999 miles	3.1	0.8
2,000 miles or more	1.4	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0

* CFS data for pipelines exclude most shipments of crude oil.

** Some or all data suppressed to avoid disclosure or because data are statistically unreliable.

- Represents zero or less than 1 unit of measurement.

NOTE: Data are estimates based on a sample and subject to error. See Appendix B, "Reliability of the Data," in source document.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1992 Census of Transportation, Communications, and Utilities, 1993 Commodity Flow Survey, TC92-CF (Washington, DC: 1996).

90-Percent Confidence Intervals for 1993 Commodity Flow Survey State Summary: Alabama

Tabulation by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation

Summary	Value	Weight
Total shipments originating in Alabama (in billion \$ and million tons)	83.98 - 93.62	198.01 - 239.79
Percent of total U.S. shipments (preliminary U.S. estimate)	1.38 - 1.56	2.00 - 2.44

Commodity Shipments Originating in Alabama Ranked by Value		Commodity Shipments Originating in Alabama Ranked by Weight	
Commodity	Percent of value	Commodity	Percent of weight
Food or kindred products	11.9 - 15.4	Lumber or wood products, excluding furniture	16.9 - 28.4
Primary metal products	7.4 - 11.3	Coal	9.9 - 18.6
Chemicals or allied products	7.4 - 10.8	Petroleum or coal products	9.1 - 18.4
Pulp, paper, or allied products	5.8 - 8.4	Nonmetallic minerals	9.1 - 15.6
Transportation equipment	4.6 - 8.7	Clay, concrete, glass, or stone products	6.2 - 9.3
Other commodities	(NA)	Other commodities	(NA)
Total	(X)	Total	(X)

Domestic Destinations of Shipments Originating in Alabama Ranked by Value		Domestic Destinations of Shipments Originating in Alabama Ranked by Weight	
State	Percent of value	State	Percent of weight
Alabama	31.8 - 35.8	Alabama	67.8 - 74.7
Georgia	7.0 - 8.4	Georgia	4.6 - 6.6
Florida	5.2 - 6.6	Mississippi	3.0 - 5.3
Tennessee	5.0 - 6.6	Florida	2.4 - 4.0
Texas	3.8 - 4.8	Tennessee	1.7 - 2.7
Mississippi	3.2 - 3.8	Louisiana	1.3 - 1.9
Other States	(NA)	Other States	(NA)
Total	(X)	Total	(X)

Modes of Transportation for Shipments Originating in Alabama		
Modes	Percent of value	Percent of weight
Parcel, U.S. Postal Service, or courier service	4.0 - 5.0	(X)
Truck (for-hire, private, and both private truck and for-hire truck)	80.4 - 84.8	74.9 - 81.5
Air (including truck and air)	1.1 - 1.7	(X)
Rail	6.3 - 8.3	10.9 - 13.9
Water (inland water, Great Lakes, deep sea, truck and water, and rail and water)	0.8 - 1.4	2.3 - 3.9
Pipeline*	(X)	(X)
Truck and rail intermodal combination	0.1 - 0.5	0.0 - 0.4
Other intermodal (truck and pipeline, inland and Gt. Lakes, inland and deep sea)	(X)	(X)
Other, unknown, and withheld for sampling and disclosure reasons	2.3 - 3.3	3.5 - 8.5
Total	(X)	(X)

Domestic Distance Shipped for Commodities Originating in Alabama		
Distance	Percent of value	Percent of weight
Less than 50 miles	21.7 - 25.0	53.1 - 60.7
50 to 99 miles	10.2 - 11.6	11.8 - 16.0
100 to 249 miles	16.3 - 18.3	11.6 - 14.6
250 to 499 miles	17.3 - 19.3	6.7 - 9.3
500 to 749 miles	14.9 - 18.2	4.0 - 5.4
750 to 999 miles	6.1 - 8.1	1.3 - 2.3
1,000 to 1,499 miles	1.9 - 2.3	0.3 - 0.7
1,500 to 1,999 miles	2.6 - 3.6	0.6 - 1.0
2,000 miles or more	0.6 - 2.2	(X)
Total	(X)	(X)

* CFS data for pipelines exclude most shipments of crude oil.

NA Not available.

X Not applicable.

NOTE: For explanation of 90-percent confidence intervals see Appendix B, "Reliability of the Data," in source document.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *1992 Census of Transportation, Communications, and Utilities, 1993 Commodity Flow Survey*, TC92-CF (Washington, DC: 1996).

The Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) is a comprehensive effort to learn where and how goods are shipped in the U.S. The CFS measures shipments of commodities by establishments with paid employees and engaged in manufacturing, mining, wholesale trade, or selected retail and services industries. Prior commodity surveys covered shipments only by manufacturing firms. Commodity flows are estimated for a universe of approximately 900,000 establishments.

Data collected on individual shipments include total value, total weight, commodity type, modes of transport, domestic origin and destination; data for export shipments include the city and country of destination, mode and port of exit. Information is also obtained on whether shipments are containerized or a hazardous material. Some firms provided data concerning on-site shipping facilities and access to shipping facilities, plus data on ownership and leasing of transportation equipment.

The CFS is conducted by the Bureau of the Census as part of the Economic Census. Funding and technical guidance is provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Initiated for 1993, the CFS is scheduled for 1997 and every 5 years thereafter for years ending in 2 and 7. Commodity surveys were conducted between 1963 and 1982, but data for 1982 were not published. No data were collected for 1987. Participants will report for a sample of shipments during a 2-week period each quarter during the reporting year.

The CFS is a mail-out/mail-back survey of 200,000 sampled employer establishments in selected industries. Establishments were selected by stratified sample, with strata based on geographic location and industry. Geographic strata are the 89 National Transportation Analysis Regions (NTARs), which provide nationwide coverage and are aggregations of Bureau of Economic Analysis economic areas. Within the strata, all establishments with annualized employment above a specified cutoff were selected with certainty, and the remaining smaller establishments were sampled with probability proportional to annualized payroll.

For 1993, each sampled establishment reported on a sample of individual shipments during a 2 week period in each calendar quarter. In addition, about 20,000 establishments will provide information on transportation facilities and arrangements in their final reporting period.

For further information about survey design and printed products, contact the Commodity Flow Survey Branch, Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233, or by calling 301/457-2805 or 2114. For information on related data programs and studies, contact the Bureau of Transportation Statistics at 202/366-DATA for voice, 202/366-3640 for fax, or CFS@BTS.GOV for e-mail.