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U.S. Freight Shipments with Canada and Mexico in 2004 Topped Pre-9/11 Levels, According to an Updated Three-Country Database

The amount of goods transported across U.S. borders in trade with Canada and Mexico set a new record in 2004, exceeding a previous high set in 2000, the last full year before the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, according to data released today by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on the North American Transportation Statistics (NATS) online database.

The United States traded \$712 billion in goods with Canada and Mexico in 2004, topping the previous high of \$654 billion in 2000 by \$58 billion. The 2004 trade level was a 13 percent increase from 2003 when \$629 billion was traded. Trade in 2004 was up 18 percent from the low of \$604 billion in 2002 (See Table).

The North American Transportation Statistics (NATS) online database is sponsored by BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), and other cooperating transportation and statistical agencies in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The value of freight shipments moving between the United States, Canada and Mexico has risen 88 percent since 1995, growing at an average rate of 7 percent per year. Since 1995, the total value of U.S. freight shipments with Mexico has grown 146 percent or almost 11 percent annually. Trade with Canada grew 64 percent or almost 6 percent annually.

Trucks carried almost two-thirds of this freight measured by value – \$453 billion in 2004. Rail carried 15 percent, followed by maritime with 6 percent, and air and pipeline with 5 percent each. Freight transported by trucks represented the largest modal increase in value from 2003 to 2004 up \$49 billion, followed by rail up \$12 billion and maritime up \$8 billion.

Trade by pipeline with Canada grew 13 percent annually from 2000 to 2004, making it the fastest growing form of transportation during the four-year period. Total trade by water with Canada and Mexico grew annually by a combined 9 percent during that time while trade by the largest mode by value, truck, grew just over 1 percent annually.

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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 information on 12 subject areas: country overview, transportation and the economy, transportation safety, transportation 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.

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

U.S. Merchandise Trade with Canada and Mexico by Freight Transportation Mode
(Billions of current U.S. dollars)

	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Annual growth rate (%) '00 - '04	Percent change, '95 - '04	Annual growth rate (%) '95 - '04
Total trade with Canada and Mexico	379	653	614	604	629	712	2.2	87.7	7.2
Air	20	45	37	30	28	32	-8.0	59.1	5.3
Water transport	16	33	29	33	38	46	9.0	179.7	12.1
Road	N	429	395	398	404	453	1.4	-	-
Rail	N	94	93	92	96	108	3.6	-	-
Pipeline	N	24	26	23	32	38	13.0	-	-
Total: percent change from previous year 2001-2004	-	-	-6.1	-1.6	4.2	13.1	-	-	-
Total trade with Canada	271	406	381	371	394	445	2.3	64.1	5.7
Air	17	31	25	21	20	23	-8.0	32.0	3.1
Water transport	7	9	9	9	11	14	11.3	111.5	8.7
Road	N	258	235	236	241	269	1.1	-	-
Rail	N	63	60	61	65	75	4.4	-	-
Pipeline	N	23	26	22	32	38	13.3	-	-
Total: percent change from previous year 2001-2004	-	-	-6.1	-2.4	6.0	13.1	-	-	-
Total trade with Mexico	108	246	233	232	236	267	1.9	146.8	10.6
Air	3	13	12	9	8	10	-8.0	205.5	13.2
Water transport	10	24	20	23	27	32	8.1	224.8	14.0
Road	N	171	161	162	163	184	1.9	-	-
Rail	N	32	32	31	31	34	1.7	-	-
Pipeline	N	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.1	-27.4	-	-
Total: percent change from previous year, 2001-2004	-	-	-5.9	-0.3	1.4	13.2	-	-	-

KEY: N = Data are not available for certain categories, but are included in all annual totals.

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 database. Available at <http://nats.sct.gob.mx/nats>, October 2005.