



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

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Research and Innovative Technology Administration  
BTS Data

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## **Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Reached a Monthly Record High in October 2005**

Trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico was 12.5 percent higher in October 2005 than in October 2004, reaching \$64 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 4.6 percent in October from September (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations and other factors.

The previous monthly high was \$61.2 billion in September 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 October was up 34.3 percent compared to October 2001, and up 90.7 percent compared to October 1995, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in October were up 103.3 percent compared to October 1995, while exports were up 75.5 percent.

### **U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada**

U.S. – Canada surface transportation trade reached a new monthly high of \$42.1 billion in October, 15.3 percent higher than in October 2004 (*Table 4*). The previous monthly high for U.S.-Canada trade was \$40.4 billion in September 2005. The value of imports carried by truck was 11.3 percent higher in October 2005 than October 2004 while the value of exports carried by truck was 10.1 percent higher.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in October with \$6.5 billion (*Table 5*).

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### U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S. – Mexico surface transportation trade reached a new monthly high of \$21.9 billion in October, 7.4 percent higher than in October 2004 (*Table 6*). The previous monthly high for U.S.-Mexico trade was \$20.8 billion in August 2005. The value of imports carried by truck was 6.8 percent higher in October 2005 than October 2004 while the value of exports carried by truck was 7.6 percent higher.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in October with \$7.2 billion (*Table 7*).

The Transborder 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. October transborder numbers include data received by BTS as of Dec. 14, 2005.

The news release and summary tables can be found at [www.bts.gov](http://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 November transborder numbers on Jan. 31, 2006.

**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	63,985	12.5
November	56,134		
December	52,065		
Year-to-date	525,363	575,989	9.6
Annual	633,563		

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

Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

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

Mode		October 2004	September 2005	October 2005	Percent Change Sept. - October	Percent Change October 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	32,586	35,485	37,199	4.8	14.2
	Exports	24,294	25,682	26,786	4.3	10.3
	Total	56,880	61,166	63,985	4.6	12.5
Truck	Imports	21,288	22,281	23,271	4.4	9.3
	Exports	19,352	20,393	21,126	3.6	9.2
Rail	Imports	6,984	7,174	7,449	3.8	6.7
	Exports	2,814	2,935	3,197	8.9	13.6
Pipeline	Imports	3,281	4,681	5,079	8.5	54.8
	Exports	158	152	169	11.5	6.7

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>; Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

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

Compared to October in...	Percent Change		Total Surface Trade
	Imports	Exports	
2004	14.2	10.3	12.5
2003	24.6	19.0	22.2
2002	32.0	24.8	28.9
2001	38.9	28.5	34.3
2000	27.0	19.5	23.7
1999	48.2	30.7	40.4
1998	63.1	42.8	54.0
1997	77.9	42.7	61.3
1996	90.3	46.9	69.4
1995	103.3	75.5	90.7

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		October 2004	September 2005	October 2005	Percent Change Sept. - October	Percent Change October 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	21,045	23,659	24,857	5.1	18.1
	Exports	15,455	16,711	17,239	3.2	11.5
	Total	36,499	40,370	42,097	4.3	15.3
Truck	Imports	11,817	12,573	13,152	4.6	11.3
	Exports	12,270	13,217	13,508	2.2	10.1
Rail	Imports	5,102	5,258	5,427	3.2	6.4
	Exports	1,444	1,578	1,750	10.9	21.2
Pipeline	Imports	3,281	4,681	5,079	8.5	54.8
	Exports	137	82	100	22.5	-27.2

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>; Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

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

Rank	State	October 2005
1	Michigan	6,479
2	New York	3,144
3	Illinois	3,120
4	California	2,595
5	Ohio	2,579
6	Texas	1,869
7	Washington	1,712
8	Pennsylvania	1,532
9	Indiana	1,346
10	Tennessee	1,344

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		October 2004	September 2005	October 2005	Percent Change Sept. - October	Percent Change October 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	11,542	11,826	12,342	4.4	6.9
	Exports	8,840	8,971	9,547	6.4	8.0
	Total	20,381	20,796	21,888	5.3	7.4
Truck	Imports	9,471	9,707	10,120	4.2	6.8
	Exports	7,082	7,176	7,618	6.2	7.6
Rail	Imports	1,882	1,916	2,023	5.6	7.5
	Exports	1,370	1,357	1,447	6.6	5.6
Pipeline	Imports	0	0	0	NA	NA
	Exports	21	70	69	-1.4	228.6

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>; Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

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

Rank	State	October 2005
1	Texas	7,243
2	California	3,748
3	Michigan	2,314
4	Illinois	699
5	Arizona	673
6	Ohio	504
7	Indiana	496
8	Tennessee	467
9	New York	401
10	Pennsylvania	376

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

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