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**AMERICAN
ECONOMY**

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

News

BTS 09-05
Monday, February 28, 2005

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BTS Releases North American Surface Trade Numbers for 2004; Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 12.6 Percent From 2003

More than \$633.6 billion worth of goods crossed the border by surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico in 2004, 12.6 percent more than 2003, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics reported today (*Table 1*).

Exports increased 11.9 percent from 2003 to 2004 while imports over that same time rose 13.1 percent. The greatest increase was shown in pipeline exports which increased 82.7 percent, while rail exports grew 16.1 percent. (*Table 1A*).

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.

December North American Trade

More than \$52.0 billion worth of goods crossed the border by surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners, Canada and Mexico, in December 2004, 14.6 percent more than in December 2003 (*Table 1*).

Total surface transportation trade fell 7.3 percent in December 2004 from November 2004 (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations and other factors.

Total surface transportation trade value was up 36.1 percent compared to December 2001 and 80.5 percent compared to December 1994, the year NAFTA took effect (*Table 3*). Exports increased 60.2 percent compared to December 1994 while imports over that same time rose 99.7 percent (*Table 3*).

December U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S. – Canada surface transportation trade rose 15.7 percent to \$33.8 billion in December 2004 compared to December 2003. Carrying the largest amount by value, exports by truck increased 17.5 percent compared to December 2003 while imports by truck rose 15.4 percent (*Table 4*).

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in December 2004 with \$5.5 billion (*Table 5*).

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December U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S. – Mexico surface transportation trade rose 12.7 percent to \$18.3 billion in December 2004 compared to December 2003. Carrying the largest amount by value, imports by truck increased 12.1 percent while exports by truck rose 12.0 percent over the same period (*Table 6*).

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in December 2004 with \$5.7 billion (*Table 7*).

November 2004 - Revisions

On January 31, 2005, Statistics Canada announced that November 2004 imports were understated in its January 12, 2005 release. The U.S. Census Bureau and Statistics Canada cooperate in a data exchange program where Canadian import transactions, collected by the Canada Border Services Agency are provided, through Statistics Canada, to the Census Bureau to derive U.S. exports to Canada. Statistics Canada notified the U.S. Census Bureau that Canadian import transactions for November 2004 were omitted in the data exchange resulting in an understatement of U.S. exports to Canada of approximately \$1.4 billion, according to the calculations of Statistics Canada. The Bureau of Transportation Statistics November 2004 export numbers have been revised to include the omitted transactions and are being made available with the release of the December 2004 statistics in this release.

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics 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. The Bureau of Transportation Statistics uses this data to develop the monthly North American Surface Trade data.

The press 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 January 2005 Transborder Freight Data numbers on March 29.

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

Month	2003	2004	Percent Change 2003-2004
January	43,756	45,686	4.4
February	43,835	48,170	9.9
March	49,358	56,269	14.0
April	46,842	53,195	13.6
May	48,813	53,155	8.9
June	47,432	55,422	16.9
July	42,607	48,096	12.9
August	45,024	53,577	19.0
September	48,867	54,913	12.4
October	52,362	56,880	8.6
November	48,456	56,134 ^R	15.8
December	45,425	52,065	14.6
Year to Date	562,777	633,562	12.6
Annual	562,777	633,562	12.6

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

R: Data have been revised since last monthly release

Table 1A. Annual U.S. Merchandise Trade with Canada and Mexico using Surface Transportation
(millions of dollars)

Mode		2003	2004	Percent Change 2003-2004
All Surface Modes	Imports	322,291	364,381	13.1
	Exports	240,486	269,181	11.9
	Total	562,776	633,563	12.6
Truck	Imports	209,249	237,706	13.6
	Exports	194,786	215,247	10.5
Rail	Imports	69,683	78,131	12.1
	Exports	26,041	30,229	16.1
Pipeline	Imports	31,451	36,829	17.1
	Exports	915	1,671	82.7

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>

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**NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS
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Table 2. Monthly U.S. Merchandise Trade with Canada and Mexico using Surface Transportation
(millions of dollars)

Mode		December 2003	November 2004 ^R	December 2004	Percent Change Nov.-Dec. 2004	Percent Change December 2003-2004
All Surface Modes	Imports	25,939	32,005	29,668	-7.3	14.4
	Exports	19,486	24,129	22,397	-7.2	14.9
	Total	45,425	56,134	52,065	-7.3	14.6
Truck	Imports	16,805	20,764	19,141	-7.8	13.9
	Exports	15,377	19,062	17,758	-6.8	15.5
Rail	Imports	5,880	6,677	6,199	-7.2	5.4
	Exports	2,259	2,901	2,528	-12.9	11.9
Pipeline	Imports	2,381	3,465	3,309	-4.5	39.0
	Exports	103	104	238	129.4	130.2

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

R: Data have been revised since last monthly release

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: December 2004 Surface Trade Compared with December of Prior Years: Percent Change

Compared to December in...	Percent		
	Imports	Exports	Total Surface Trade
2003	14.4	14.9	14.6
2002	25.7	30.3	27.7
2001	36.1	36.2	36.1
2000	15.8	17.0	16.3
1999	26.9	15.4	21.7
1998	45.6	33.4	40.1
1997	56.5	38.7	48.3
1996	71.1	39.5	55.9
1995	89.7	65.0	78.2
1994	99.7	60.2	80.5

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

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Table 4. U.S. Merchandise Trade with Canada using Surface Transportation
(millions of dollars)

Mode		December 2003	November 2004 ^R	December 2004	Percent Change Nov.-Dec. 2004	Percent Change December 2003-2004
All Surface Modes	Imports	16,763	20,908	19,306	-7.7	15.2
	Exports	12,406	15,316	14,444	-5.7	16.4
	Total	29,169	36,224	33,750	-6.8	15.7
Truck	Imports	9,243	11,569	10,666	-7.8	15.4
	Exports	9,663	12,016	11,357	-5.5	17.5
Rail	Imports	4,460	4,988	4,527	-9.2	1.5
	Exports	1,273	1,584	1,364	-13.9	7.1
Pipeline	Imports	2,381	3,465	3,309	-4.5	39.0
	Exports	97	96	226	135.6	132.9

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

For Note: See Table 2

R: Data have been revised since last monthly release

Table 5. Top 10 States Trading with Canada
using Surface Transportation, ranked
by December 2004 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	December 2004
1	Michigan	5,524
2	New York	2,350
3	Illinois	2,263
4	California	2,198
5	Ohio	2,153
6	Texas	1,513
7	Pennsylvania	1,211
8	Washington	1,163
9	Indiana	1,044
10	Tennessee	987

Source: BTS Transborder Surface Freight Dataset,

<http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

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NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS

Table 6. U.S. Merchandise Trade with Mexico using Surface Transportation
(millions of dollars)

Mode		December 2003	November 2004 ^R	December 2004	Percent Change Nov.-Dec. 2004	Percent Change December 2003-2004
All Surface Modes	Imports	9,176	11,097	10,362	-6.6	12.9
	Exports	7,080	8,813	7,953	-9.8	12.3
	Total	16,256	19,910	18,315	-8.0	12.7
Truck	Imports	7,562	9,195	8,475	-7.8	12.1
	Exports	5,714	7,046	6,401	-9.1	12.0
Rail	Imports	1,421	1,690	1,672	-1.1	17.7
	Exports	987	1,317	1,164	-11.6	18.0
Pipeline	Imports	0	0	0	NA	NA
	Exports	6	8	12	54.7	89.9

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

For Note: See Table 2

R: Data have been revised since last monthly release

Table 7. Top 10 States Trading with Mexico using Surface Transportation, ranked by December 2004 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	December 2004
1	Texas	5,723
2	California	3,404
3	Michigan	1,976
4	Arizona	701
5	Illinois	607
6	Ohio	476
7	Indiana	410
8	Tennessee	403
9	North Carolina	339
10	New York	305

Source: BTS Transborder Surface Freight Dataset,

<http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

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