



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

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BTS Data

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## **Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 12.3 Percent from August 2004 to Record High in August 2005 (State Rankings in Tables 5 and 7)**

Trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico rose 12.3 percent in August 2005 from August 2004 to a total of \$60.2 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 21.1 percent in August from July (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations and other factors. Trucks carried 64 percent of imports and 80 percent of exports by value.

The previous monthly high was \$59.4 billion in March 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 August was up 28.8 percent compared to August 2002, and up 89.8 percent compared to August 1995, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in August were up 103.6 percent compared to August 1995, while exports were up 74.0 percent.

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

U.S. – Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$39.4 billion in August, up 14.6 percent compared to August 2004 (*Table 4*). Trucks carried 54 percent of imports and 80 percent of exports by value. The value of imports carried by truck rose 9.2 percent in August 2005 from August 2004 while the value of exports rose 18.1 percent.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in August with \$6.4 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 \$20.8 billion in August, up 8.2 percent compared to August 2004 (*Table 6*). The previous monthly high for U.S.-Mexico trade was \$20.4 billion in October 2004. Trucks carried 84 percent of imports and 80 percent of exports by value. The value of imports carried by truck rose 10.1 percent in August 2005 from August 2004 while the value of exports rose 5.7 percent.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in August with \$6.9 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. August transborder numbers include data received by BTS as of Oct. 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 September transborder numbers on Nov. 29.

**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		
October	56,880		
November	56,134		
December	52,065		
Year-to-date	413,570	450,838	9.0
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		August 2004	July 2005	August 2005	Percent Change July - August	Percent Change August 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	31,242	28,705	34,506	20.2	10.4
	Exports	22,335	20,985	25,681	22.4	15.0
	Total	53,577	49,690	60,188	21.1	12.3
Truck	Imports	20,309	18,476	22,255	20.5	9.6
	Exports	18,098	16,637	20,514	23.3	13.3
Rail	Imports	6,756	5,276	6,788	28.7	0.5
	Exports	2,348	2,273	2,861	25.8	21.9
Pipeline	Imports	3,228	3,624	4,434	22.4	37.4
	Exports	40	205	159	-22.7	297.2

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>

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

Compared to August in...	Percent Change		Total Surface Trade
	Imports	Exports	
2004	10.4	15.0	12.3
2003	32.9	34.7	33.7
2002	29.0	28.5	28.8
2001	29.1	25.8	27.7
2000	22.4	16.1	19.6
1999	42.0	37.0	39.8
1998	75.4	59.4	68.2
1997	83.6	56.1	70.7
1996	82.4	62.7	73.5
1995	103.6	74.0	89.8

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		August 2004	July 2005	August 2005	Percent Change July - August	Percent Change August 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	20,414	18,778	22,887	21.9	12.1
	Exports	13,934	13,040	16,492	26.5	18.4
	Total	34,348	31,817	39,379	23.8	14.6
Truck	Imports	11,424	10,013	12,472	24.6	9.2
	Exports	11,129	10,264	13,148	28.1	18.1
Rail	Imports	5,031	4,029	5,136	27.5	2.1
	Exports	1,289	1,138	1,504	32.2	16.7
Pipeline	Imports	3,228	3,624	4,434	22.4	37.4
	Exports	33	154	116	-24.9	247.8

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 August 2005 Surface Trade Value  
(millions of dollars)**

Rank	State	August 2005
1	Michigan	6,444
2	Illinois	2,719
3	New York	2,616
4	Ohio	2,559
5	California	2,458
6	Texas	1,664
7	Washington	1,586
8	Pennsylvania	1,538
9	Indiana	1,284
10	Tennessee	1,180

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

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NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS  
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**Table 6. U.S. Merchandise Trade with Mexico by Surface Modes of Transportation**  
(millions of dollars)

Mode		August 2004	July 2005	August 2005	Percent Change July - August	Percent Change August 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	10,828	9,927	11,620	17.0	7.3
	Exports	8,400	7,945	9,189	15.7	9.4
	Total	19,228	17,872	20,809	16.4	8.2
Truck	Imports	8,885	8,462	9,783	15.6	10.1
	Exports	6,969	6,372	7,366	15.6	5.7
Rail	Imports	1,726	1,247	1,652	32.5	-4.3
	Exports	1,059	1,136	1,357	19.5	28.1
Pipeline	Imports	0	0	0	NA	NA
	Exports	7	51	43	-15.9	541.2

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>

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

Rank	State	August 2005
1	Texas	6,872
2	California	3,572
3	Michigan	1,959
4	Illinois	746
5	Arizona	619
6	Ohio	514
7	Tennessee	482
8	Indiana	460
9	North Carolina	398
10	New York	377

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

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