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January 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Fell 27.2 Percent from January 2008 (State Rankings in Tables 5 and 7)

Surface transportation trade between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico was 27.2 percent lower in January 2009 than in January 2008, dropping to \$47.5 billion, the biggest year-to-year percentage decline on record, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (*Table 1*). The \$47.5 billion in U.S.-NAFTA trade in January 2009 was the lowest monthly amount since January 2004.

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico fell 10.3 percent in January from December (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations and other factors.

Surface transportation consists largely of freight movements by truck, rail and pipeline. About 88 percent of U.S. trade by value with Canada and Mexico moves on land.

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico in January was up 3.9 percent in the five-year period compared to January 2004, and up 31.6 percent over the 10-year period compared to January 1999 (*Table 3*). Imports in January were up 26.4 percent compared to January 1999, while exports were up 38.1 percent.

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S.-Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$29.0 billion in January, down 31.1 percent compared to January 2008 (*Table 4*). The value of imports carried by truck was 31.3 percent lower in January 2009 compared to January 2008, while the value of exports carried by truck was 27.2 percent lower.

Illinois led all states in surface trade with Canada in January with \$2.6 billion (*Table 5*).

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U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S.–Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$18.5 billion in January, down 20.0 percent compared to January 2008 (*Table 6*). The value of imports carried by truck was 20.5 percent lower in January 2009 than January 2008 while the value of exports carried by truck was 10.7 percent lower.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in January with \$6.3 billion (*Table 7*).

The TransBorder Freight Data are a unique subset of official U.S. foreign trade statistics released by the U.S. Census Bureau. New data are tabulated monthly and historical data are not adjusted for inflation. January TransBorder numbers include data received by BTS as of March 13.

The news 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 February TransBorder numbers on April 30.

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

Month	2007	2008	2009	Percent Change 2007-2008	Percent Change 2008-2009
January	60,649	65,160	47,459	7.4	-27.2
February	59,667	69,406		16.3	
March	69,768	70,787		1.5	
April	65,015	74,317		14.3	
May	69,423	74,128		6.8	
June	69,526	74,139		6.6	
July	61,823	71,628		15.9	
August	69,158	72,254		4.5	
September	66,771	71,801		7.5	
October	74,249	72,683		-2.1	
November	70,352	60,661		-13.8	
December	60,902	52,910		-13.1	
Annual	797,303	829,875		4.1	

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

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

Mode		January 2008	December 2008	January 2009	Percent Change Dec. 2008 – Jan. 2009	Percent Change January 2008-2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	36,648	28,908	25,552	-11.6	-30.3
	Exports	28,512	24,002	21,907	-8.7	-23.2
	Total	65,160	52,910	47,459	-10.3	-27.2
Truck	Imports	22,495	18,042	16,629	-7.8	-26.1
	Exports	21,887	18,576	17,249	-7.1	-21.2
Rail	Imports	6,630	5,263	4,017	-23.7	-39.4
	Exports	3,827	3,010	2,457	-18.4	-35.8
Pipeline	Imports	6,006	4,384	3,809	-13.1	-36.6
	Exports	418	261	366	39.9	-12.6

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Notes: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all surface modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail and pipeline modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones and other transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page: http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html.

Table 3. January 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Compared with January of Prior Years

Compared to January in...	Percent Change		Total Surface Trade
	Imports	Exports	
2008	-30.3	-23.2	-27.2
2007	-27.0	-14.6	-21.7
2006	-29.1	-12.9	-22.4
2005	-15.1	-1.5	-9.3
2004	-3.0	13.2	3.9
2003	1.3	18.3	8.5
2002	7.7	24.5	14.9
2001	-5.0	12.8	2.5
2000	4.8	17.2	10.2
1999	26.4	38.1	31.6

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <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		January 2008	December 2008	January 2009	Percent Change Dec. 2008 – Jan. 2009	Percent Change January 2008-2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	23,752	17,821	15,655	-12.2	-34.1
	Exports	18,290	15,072	13,317	-11.6	-27.2
	Total	42,043	32,893	28,972	-11.9	-31.1
Truck	Imports	11,584	9,047	7,956	-12.1	-31.3
	Exports	13,922	11,488	10,133	-11.8	-27.2
Rail	Imports	4,947	3,484	3,050	-12.4	-38.3
	Exports	2,069	1,679	1,427	-15.0	-31.0
Pipeline	Imports	5,984	4,378	3,800	-13.2	-36.5
	Exports	353	217	321	47.9	-9.2

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all surface modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail and pipeline modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones and other transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page: http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html.

Table 5. Top 10 States Trading with Canada
by Surface Modes of Transportation
Ranked by January 2009 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	January 2009
1	Illinois	2,625
2	Michigan	2,340
3	New York	1,972
4	Texas	1,818
5	Ohio	1,712
6	California	1,691
7	Washington	1,344
8	Pennsylvania	1,284
9	Minnesota	1,003
10	Tennessee	873

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data,
<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		January 2008	December 2008	January 2009	Percent Change Dec. 2008 – Jan. 2009	Percent Change January 2008-2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	12,895	11,086	9,897	-10.7	-23.3
	Exports	10,222	8,931	8,590	-3.8	-16.0
	Total	23,117	20,017	18,487	-7.6	-20.0
Truck	Imports	10,911	8,996	8,673	-3.6	-20.5
	Exports	7,965	7,088	7,116	0.4	-10.7
Rail	Imports	1,683	1,779	967	-45.7	-42.6
	Exports	1,757	1,332	1,030	-22.7	-41.4
Pipeline	Imports	22	6	8	41.8	-61.7
	Exports	65	45	45	1.1	-30.9

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all surface modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail and pipeline modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones and other transportation. For additional detail refer to the "Data Fields" Section of the TransBorder web page:

http://www.bts.gov/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html

Table 7. Top 10 States Trading with Mexico
by Surface Modes of Transportation

Ranked by January 2009 Surface Trade Value

(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	January 2009
1	Texas	6,342
2	California	3,207
3	Michigan	1,070
4	Arizona	933
5	Illinois	669
6	Ohio	541
7	Pennsylvania	347
8	North Carolina	325
9	Tennessee	321
10	Wisconsin	295

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data,

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

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