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February 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Fell 30.9 Percent from February 2008 (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 was 30.9 percent lower in February 2009 than in February 2008, dropping to \$47.9 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*). February was the fourth consecutive month with a yearly decline of greater than 13 percent.

During the first two months of 2009, the value of surface trade dropped 29.1 percent compared to the first two months of 2008.

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico rose 1.0 percent in February 2009 from January 2009 (*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 February was down 0.5 percent compared to February 2004, a period of five years, and up 24.3 percent compared to February 1999, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in February were up 19.5 percent compared to February 1999, while exports were up 30.3 percent.

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S.–Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$29.8 billion in February, down 33.8 percent compared to February 2008 (*Table 4*). The value of imports carried by truck was 32.0 percent lower in February 2009 compared to February 2008, while the value of exports carried by truck was 28.1 percent lower during this period.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in February with \$3.1 billion (*Table 5*).

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U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S.–Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$18.1 billion in February, down 25.7 percent compared to February 2008 (*Table 6*). The value of imports carried by truck was 26.4 percent lower in February 2009 than February 2008 while the value of exports carried by truck was 15.4 percent lower.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in February with \$6.1 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. February TransBorder numbers include data received by BTS as of April 9.

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 March TransBorder numbers on May 28.

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	47,938	16.3	-30.9
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	
2-month total	120,316	134,566	95,398	11.8	-29.1
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		February 2008	January 2009	February 2009	Percent Change Jan. 2009 – Feb. 2009	Percent Change February 2008-2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	39,533	25,552	25,586	0.1	-35.3
	Exports	29,874	21,907	22,352	2.0	-25.2
	Total	69,406	47,459	47,938	1.0	-30.9
Truck	Imports	24,013	16,629	16,981	2.1	-29.3
	Exports	22,522	17,249	17,199	-0.3	-23.6
Rail	Imports	7,524	4,017	4,279	6.5	-43.1
	Exports	4,257	2,457	2,661	8.3	-37.5
Pipeline	Imports	6,738	3,809	3,277	-14.0	-51.4
	Exports	354	366	508	38.9	43.5

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. February 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Compared with February of Prior Years

Compared to February in...	Percent Change		
	Imports	Exports	Total Surface Trade
2008	-35.3	-25.2	-30.9
2007	-24.7	-13.0	-19.7
2006	-26.1	-11.3	-19.8
2005	-17.0	-1.7	-10.5
2004	-8.1	10.0	-0.5
2003	0.6	21.4	9.4
2002	6.7	26.1	14.9
2001	0.9	14.8	6.9
2000	0.9	8.8	4.4
1999	19.5	30.3	24.3

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		February 2008	January 2009	February 2009	Percent Change Jan. 2009 – Feb. 2009	Percent Change February 2008-2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	25,600	15,655	15,630	-0.2	-38.9
	Exports	19,398	13,317	14,165	6.4	-27.0
	Total	44,998	28,972	29,795	2.8	-33.8
Truck	Imports	12,536	7,956	8,528	7.2	-32.0
	Exports	14,636	10,133	10,529	3.9	-28.1
Rail	Imports	5,364	3,050	3,026	-0.8	-43.6
	Exports	2,438	1,427	1,512	6.0	-38.0
Pipeline	Imports	6,724	3,800	3,270	-14.0	-51.4
	Exports	273	321	466	45.3	70.8

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

Rank	State	February 2009
1	Michigan	3,090
2	Illinois	2,533
3	New York	2,195
4	California	1,751
5	Ohio	1,691
6	Texas	1,632
7	Washington	1,300
8	Pennsylvania	1,267
9	Indiana	898
10	Minnesota	879

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		February 2008	January 2009	February 2009	Percent Change Jan. 2009 – Feb. 2009	Percent Change February 2008-2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	13,933	9,897	9,956	0.6	-28.5
	Exports	10,476	8,590	8,187	-4.7	-21.8
	Total	24,409	18,487	18,143	-1.9	-25.7
Truck	Imports	11,477	8,673	8,453	-2.5	-26.4
	Exports	7,886	7,116	6,670	-6.3	-15.4
Rail	Imports	2,159	967	1,253	29.6	-42.0
	Exports	1,819	1,030	1,149	11.6	-36.8
Pipeline	Imports	14	8	7	-16.8	-50.0
	Exports	81	45	42	-6.1	-48.0

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 7. Top 10 States Trading with Mexico
by Surface Modes of Transportation
Ranked by February 2009 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	February 2009
1	Texas	6,140
2	California	3,046
3	Michigan	1,378
4	Arizona	766
5	Illinois	693
6	Ohio	521
7	Tennessee	356
8	North Carolina	339
9	Pennsylvania	310
10	Wisconsin	287

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