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**November 2008 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Fell 13.8 Percent
from
November 2007
(State Rankings in Tables 5 and 7)**

The value of trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico was 13.8 percent lower in November 2008 than in November 2007, dropping to \$60.7 billion, the biggest year-to-year decline in almost eight years, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (*Table 1*).

BTS reported that the 13.8 percent decline was the second largest from the same month of the previous year since North American surface freight data collection began in April 1994. NAFTA was implemented on Jan. 1, 1994. Freight value declined 14.6 percent from December 2000 to December 2001 in the post-9/11 period.

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico fell 16.5 percent in November from October (*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 November was up 25.2 percent compared to November 2003, and up 53.6 percent compared to November 1998, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in November were up 52.6 percent compared to November 1998, while exports were up 54.9 percent.

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S.–Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$37.8 billion in November, down 16.4 percent compared to November 2007 (*Table 4*). The value of imports carried by truck was 24.3 percent lower in November 2008 compared to November 2007, while the value of exports carried by truck was 16.8 percent lower.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in November with \$4.4 billion (*Table 5*).

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U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S.–Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$22.9 billion in November, down 9.0 percent compared to November 2007 (*Table 6*). The value of imports carried by truck was 19.6 percent lower in November 2008 than November 2007 while the value of exports carried by truck was 3.4 percent higher.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in November with \$7.3 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. November TransBorder numbers include data received by BTS as of Jan. 15.

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 December TransBorder numbers on March 3.

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

Month	2006	2007	2008	Percent Change 2006-2007	Percent Change 2007-2008
January	61,189	60,649	65,160	-0.9	7.4
February	59,804	59,667	69,406	-0.2	16.3
March	68,213	69,768	70,787	2.3	1.5
April	61,742	65,015	74,317	5.3	14.3
May	65,994	69,423	74,128	5.2	6.8
June	66,898	69,526	74,139	3.9	6.6
July	55,939	61,823	71,628	10.5	15.9
August	66,354	69,158	72,254	4.2	4.5
September	63,295	66,771	71,801	5.5	7.5
October	66,846	74,249	72,683	11.1	-2.1
November	64,805	70,352	60,661	8.6	-13.8
December	59,049	60,902		3.1	
Jan-Nov	701,078	736,401	776,965	5.0	5.5
Annual	760,127	797,303		4.9	

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.

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

Mode		November 2007	October 2008	November 2008	Percent Change Oct. 2008 – Nov. 2008	Percent Change November 2007-2008
All Surface Modes	Imports	39,660	39,905	32,808	-17.8	-17.3
	Exports	30,693	32,778	27,853	-15.0	-9.3
	Total	70,352	72,683	60,661	-16.5	-13.8
Truck	Imports	25,293	23,824	19,714	-17.3	-22.1
	Exports	23,734	25,316	21,328	-15.8	-10.1
Rail	Imports	8,210	7,625	6,673	-11.3	-17.6
	Exports	4,278	4,842	3,949	-18.4	-7.7
Pipeline	Imports	4,684	6,789	5,140	-24.3	9.7
	Exports	259	303	343	13.4	32.7

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, other and unknown modes of 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. November 2008 Surface Trade with Canada
and Mexico Compared with November of Prior Years**

Compared to November in...	Percent Change		Total Surface Trade
	Imports	Exports	
2007	-17.3	-9.3	-13.8
2006	-10.8	-0.6	-6.4
2005	-9.8	5.1	-3.6
2004	2.5	15.4	8.1
2003	20.0	31.9	25.2
2002	25.2	38.5	31.0
2001	30.7	44.3	36.6
2000	16.4	28.9	21.8
1999	29.5	35.7	32.3
1998	52.6	54.9	53.6

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		November 2007	October 2008	November 2008	Percent Change Oct. 2008 – Nov. 2008	Percent Change November 2007-2008
All Surface Modes	Imports	24,798	25,048	20,433	-18.4	-17.6
	Exports	20,405	19,704	17,349	-12.0	-15.0
	Total	45,204	44,752	37,782	-15.6	-16.4
Truck	Imports	13,090	11,720	9,907	-15.5	-24.3
	Exports	15,939	15,098	13,267	-12.1	-16.8
Rail	Imports	5,898	5,233	4,546	-13.1	-22.9
	Exports	2,341	2,577	2,143	-16.8	-8.4
Pipeline	Imports	4,668	6,768	5,132	-24.2	9.9
	Exports	179	217	255	17.5	42.4

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, other and unknown modes of 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 November 2008 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	November 2008
1	Michigan	4,393
2	Illinois	3,769
3	New York	2,459
4	California	2,364
5	Ohio	2,352
6	Texas	2,132
7	Pennsylvania	1,534
8	Washington	1,444
9	Minnesota	1,234
10	Tennessee	1,123

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		November 2007	October 2008	November 2008	Percent Change Oct. 2008 – Nov. 2008	Percent Change November 2007-2008
All Surface Modes	Imports	14,861	14,857	12,375	-16.7	-16.7
	Exports	10,287	13,074	10,504	-19.7	2.1
	Total	25,149	27,932	22,879	-18.1	-9.0
Truck	Imports	12,203	12,104	9,807	-19.0	-19.6
	Exports	7,795	10,218	8,061	-21.1	3.4
Rail	Imports	2,312	2,392	2,217	-7.4	-4.1
	Exports	1,937	2,265	1,805	-20.3	-6.8
Pipeline	Imports	16	21	8	-64.0	-53.1
	Exports	80	86	88	3.0	10.8

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, other and unknown modes of 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 November 2008 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	November 2008
1	Texas	7,337
2	California	3,569
3	Michigan	2,541
4	Arizona	891
5	Illinois	879
6	Ohio	682
7	Tennessee	447
8	North Carolina	440
9	Pennsylvania	388
10	Indiana	334

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

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