



BTS 10-09
Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Contact: Dave Smallen
Tel.: 202-366-5568

**December 2008 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Fell 13.1 Percent
from
December 2007
(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 13.1 percent lower in December 2008 than in December 2007, dropping to \$52.9 billion, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (*Table 1*). December was the second straight month with a year-to-year decline of greater than 13 percent.

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico fell 12.8 percent in December from November (*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 December was up 16.5 percent compared to December 2003, and up 42.3 percent compared to December 1998, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in December were up 41.9 percent compared to December 1998, while exports were up 42.9 percent.

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S.–Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$32.9 billion in December, down 17.0 percent compared to December 2007 (*Table 4*). The value of imports carried by truck was 15.4 percent lower in December 2008 compared to December 2007, while the value of exports carried by truck was 13.7 percent lower.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in December with \$4.0 billion (*Table 5*).

--more--

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS

ADD ONE

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S.–Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$20.0 billion in December, down 6.0 percent compared to December 2007 (*Table 6*). The value of imports carried by truck was 11.8 percent lower in December 2008 than December 2007 while the value of exports carried by truck was 9.7 percent higher.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in December with \$6.4 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. December TransBorder numbers include data received by BTS as of Feb. 11.

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 January TransBorder numbers on March 31.

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	52,910	3.1	-13.1
Annual	760,127	797,303	829,875	4.9	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.

--more--

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS
ADD TWO

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

Mode		December 2007	November 2008	December 2008	Percent Change Nov. 2008 – Dec. 2008	Percent Change December 2007-2008
All Surface Modes	Imports	34,497	32,808	28,908	-11.9	-16.2
	Exports	26,405	27,853	24,002	-13.8	-9.1
	Total	60,902	60,661	52,910	-12.8	-13.1
Truck	Imports	20,892	19,714	18,042	-8.5	-13.6
	Exports	19,775	21,328	18,576	-12.9	-6.1
Rail	Imports	7,137	6,763	5,263	-22.2	-26.3
	Exports	3,836	3,949	3,010	-23.8	-21.5
Pipeline	Imports	5,116	5,140	4,384	-14.7	-14.3
	Exports	466	343	261	-23.9	-44.0

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, 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. December 2008 Surface Trade with Canada
and Mexico Compared with December of Prior Years**

Compared to December in...	Percent Change		Total Surface Trade
	Imports	Exports	
2007	-16.2	-9.1	-13.1
2006	-14.8	-4.5	-10.4
2005	-16.3	-2.3	-10.5
2004	-2.6	7.2	1.6
2003	11.4	23.2	16.5
2002	22.5	39.6	29.7
2001	32.6	45.9	38.3
2000	12.8	25.4	18.2
1999	23.7	23.6	23.7
1998	41.9	42.9	42.3

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

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS
ADD FOUR

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

Mode		December 2007	November 2008	December 2008	Percent Change Nov. 2008 – Dec. 2008	Percent Change December 2007-2008
All Surface Modes	Imports	21,903	20,433	17,821	-12.8	-18.6
	Exports	17,707	17,349	15,072	-13.1	-14.9
	Total	39,610	37,782	32,893	-12.9	-17.0
Truck	Imports	10,694	9,907	9,047	-8.7	-15.4
	Exports	13,312	13,267	11,488	-13.4	-13.7
Rail	Imports	5,060	4,546	3,484	-23.4	-31.2
	Exports	2,296	2,143	1,679	-21.7	-26.9
Pipeline	Imports	5,099	5,132	4,378	-14.7	-14.1
	Exports	277	255	217	-15.1	-21.9

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, 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 December 2008 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	December 2008
1	Michigan	4,000
2	Illinois	3,034
3	New York	2,169
4	Ohio	2,076
5	California	1,973
6	Texas	1,854
7	Washington	1,395
8	Pennsylvania	1,324
9	Tennessee	1,069
10	Minnesota	1,004

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

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS
ADD FOUR

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

Mode		December 2007	November 2008	December 2008	Percent Change Nov. 2008 – Dec. 2008	Percent Change December 2007-2008
All Surface Modes	Imports	12,593	12,375	11,086	-10.4	-12.0
	Exports	8,698	10,504	8,931	-15.0	2.7
	Total	21,292	22,879	20,017	-12.5	-6.0
Truck	Imports	10,198	9,807	8,996	-8.3	-11.8
	Exports	6,463	8,061	7,088	-12.1	9.7
Rail	Imports	2,077	2,217	1,779	-19.7	-14.4
	Exports	1,540	1,805	1,332	-26.2	-13.5
Pipeline	Imports	17	8	6	-21.3	-65.6
	Exports	189	88	45	-49.4	-76.4

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 7. Top 10 States Trading with Mexico
by Surface Modes of Transportation
Ranked by December 2008 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	December 2008
1	Texas	6,442
2	California	3,308
3	Michigan	2,034
4	Arizona	839
5	Illinois	762
6	Ohio	571
7	Tennessee	392
8	North Carolina	355
9	Pennsylvania	329
10	Georgia	324

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

-end-