



**M O V I N G T H E**  
**AMERICAN**  
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Research and Innovative Technology Administration  
BTS Data

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## **March Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 5.6 Percent from March 2004**

The United States traded \$59.4 billion in goods in March 2005 with its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico using surface transportation. This amount was 5.6 percent more than March 2004, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation reported today (*Table 1*).

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.

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), reported that total surface transportation trade rose 10.9 percent in March from February (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations and other factors.

Total surface transportation trade value in March was up 30.3 percent compared to March 2002, and 80.5 percent compared to March 1995, a period of ten years (*Table 3*). Exports in March were up 64.6 percent compared to March 1995, while imports were up 94.8 percent (*Table 3*).

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

U.S. – Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$39.5 billion in March, up 8.4 percent compared to March 2004. Exports by truck increased 7.9 percent from March 2004, the largest amount by value, while imports by truck rose 3.8 percent (*Table 4*).

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in March, with \$6.3 billion (*Table 5*).

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# NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS

## ADD ONE

### U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S. – Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$19.9 billion in March, up 0.5 percent compared to March 2004, imports by truck increased 0.7 percent compared to March 2004, the largest amount by value, while exports by truck fell 1.5 percent (*Table 6*).

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in March, with \$6.4 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. March transborder numbers include data received by BTS as of May 13, 2005.

The press 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 April Transborder numbers on June 30.

**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		
May	53,155		
June	55,422		
July	48,096		
August	53,577		
September	54,913		
October	56,880		
November	56,134		
December	52,065		
Year to Date	150,125	165,362	10.1
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		March 2004	February 2005	March 2005	Percent Change February - March	Percent Change March 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	32,022	30,844	33,627	9.0	5.0
	Exports	24,247	22,748	25,808	13.5	6.4
	Total	56,269	53,592	59,436	10.9	5.6
Truck	Imports	21,438	19,899	21,955	10.3	2.4
	Exports	19,443	17,938	20,317	13.3	4.5
Rail	Imports	6,895	6,676	7,075	6.0	2.6
	Exports	2,833	2,805	3,210	14.4	13.3
Pipeline	Imports	2,773	3,240	3,550	9.6	28.0
	Exports	126	219	359	64.1	184.1

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: March 2005 Surface Trade Compared with March of Prior Years**

Compared to March in...	Percent Change		
	Imports	Exports	Total Surface Trade
2004	5.0	6.4	5.6
2003	17.2	24.8	20.4
2002	28.4	33.0	30.3
2001	17.9	18.9	18.3
2000	16.6	9.7	13.5
1999	38.5	34.4	36.7
1998	56.0	34.2	45.7
1997	77.3	57.0	67.8
1996	87.7	60.2	74.7
1995	94.8	64.6	80.5

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		March 2004	February 2005	March 2005	Percent Change February - March	Percent Change March 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	20,702	20,453	22,234	8.7	7.4
	Exports	15,751	14,902	17,269	15.9	9.8
	Total	36,433	35,354	39,503	11.7	8.4
Truck	Imports	11,994	11,388	12,449	9.3	3.8
	Exports	12,466	11,663	13,445	15.3	7.9
Rail	Imports	5,253	4,967	5,364	8.0	2.1
	Exports	1,560	1,609	1,897	17.9	21.6
Pipeline	Imports	2,773	3,240	3,550	9.6	28.0
	Exports	126	179	331	85.4	163.1

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

Rank	State	March 2005
1	Michigan	6,283
2	New York	2,776
3	Ohio	2,668
4	Illinois	2,598
5	California	2,538
6	Texas	1,714
7	Pennsylvania	1,572
8	Indiana	1,386
9	Washington	1,366
10	Tennessee	1,122

Source: BTS Transborder Surface Freight Dataset,  
<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		March 2004	February 2005	March 2005	Percent Change February - March	Percent Change March 2004-2005
All Surface Modes	Imports	11,320	10,392	11,394	9.6	0.6
	Exports	8,516	7,846	8,539	8.8	0.3
	Total	19,836	18,237	19,933	9.3	0.5
Truck	Imports	9,443	8,511	9,506	11.7	0.7
	Exports	6,977	6,274	6,872	9.5	-1.5
Rail	Imports	1,642	1,709	1,712	0.2	4.2
	Exports	1,273	1,196	1,313	9.8	3.2
Pipeline	Imports	0	0	0	NA	NA
	Exports	1	40	28	-30.2	4497.5

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

Rank	State	March 2005
1	Texas	6,444
2	California	3,471
3	Michigan	1,917
4	Arizona	784
5	Illinois	704
6	Ohio	526
7	Indiana	463
8	Tennessee	432
9	New York	385
10	North Carolina	378

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

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