



M O V I N G T H E  
**AMERICAN  
ECONOMY**

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Office of Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm](http://www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm)

**News**

BTS 54-07  
Monday, November 19, 2007

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

---

**U.S. Freight Shipments with Canada and Mexico Reached a Record High in 2006**

Goods valued at more than \$866 billion crossed the U.S. border in trade with Canada and Mexico in 2006, 9.7 percent higher than the previous record set in 2005, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) (*Table 1*).

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, released the data today as part of the third annual update of the North American Transportation Statistics (NATS) online database.

Freight weighing nearly 475 million tons was transported through U.S. land borders, airports, and seaports to and from locations in Canada and Mexico in 2006.

U.S. merchandise trade with Canada and Mexico, its two largest trading partners, rose by more than \$252 billion or by 41.1 percent between 2001 and 2006 (See Table).

This third annual update of the NATS database contains the most comparable transportation-related data available from the United States, Canada, and Mexico in a one-stop online resource. The NATS database is co-sponsored by BTS and the U.S. Census Bureau with the federal-level transportation and statistical agencies of Canada and Mexico.

The value of freight shipments moving between the United States, Canada and Mexico grew at an average rate of nearly 7.1 percent per year between 2001 and 2006. The total value of U.S. freight shipments with Mexico grew 42.7 percent or 7.4 percent annually. Goods shipped in trade with Canada grew 40.2 percent or 7.1 percent annually.

Trucks carried 62 percent of this freight measured by value - \$534 billion in 2006. Rail carried 15 percent, followed by maritime with 8 percent, pipeline with 7 percent, and air with 4 percent. Trucks saw the largest modal increase in shipment value from 2005 to 2006 - \$43 billion, followed by rail (up \$12 billion), and maritime (up \$12 billion).

New data in the NATS database shows America's top gateways for trade with Canada and Mexico. In 2006, Detroit was the top road gateway with \$115 billion in international road shipments passing through that gateway (*Table 2*).

- more -

**NATS-OD 2007 PRESS RELEASE**  
**ADD ONE**

A product of the North American Transportation Statistics Interchange established in 1991, the NATS database provides three-country comparative information on transportation activity and its impact. It covers the following subject areas: country overview, transportation and the economy, transportation safety, transportation's impact on energy and the environment, domestic freight activity, North American merchandise trade, international merchandise trade, domestic passenger travel, North American passenger travel, international passenger travel, transportation infrastructure, and vehicles.

With text available in English, French, and Spanish, the NATS database can be found at <http://nats.sct.gob.mx/>

- more -

**NATS-OD 2007 PRESS RELEASE  
ADD TWO**

**Table 1 - U.S. Merchandise Trade with Canada and Mexico by Freight Transportation Mode  
(Billions of current dollars)**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Percent change, '01 - '06	Annual growth rate (%) '01 - '06
<b>Total trade with Canada and Mexico</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Air	37	30	28	32	33	36	-3.0	-0.6
Pipeline	26	23	32	38	52	57	115.0	16.5
Rail	93	92	96	108	116	129	39.1	6.8
Road	395	398	404	453	491	534	35.0	6.2
Water transport	29	33	38	46	58	70	138.9	19.0
<b>Total: percent change from previous year 2001-2006</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total trade with Canada</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Air	25	21	20	23	23	24	-2.3	-0.5
Pipeline	26	22	32	38	51	56	114.5	16.5
Rail	60	61	65	75	80	86	42.5	7.3
Road	235	236	241	269	295	314	33.8	6.0
Water transport	9	9	11	14	18	21	129.7	18.1
<b>Total: percent change from previous year 2001-2006</b>	<b>-7.3</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total trade with Mexico</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Air	12	9	8	9	10	11	-4.3	-0.9
Pipeline	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.8	156.0	20.7
Rail	32	31	31	34	37	43	32.9	5.9
Road	161	162	163	184	196	219	36.6	6.4
Water transport	20	23	27	32	40	49	143.1	19.4
<b>Total: percent change from previous year, 2001-2006</b>	<b>-5.9</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

NOTE: Individual modes do not sum to total trade figures because the total excludes freight moved by "other modes" such as aircraft from manufacturer to customers, pedestrians carrying freight, and miscellaneous.

NOTE: Due to the rounding of certain numbers tabulated, sum totals of U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico trade vary slightly.

SOURCE: North American Transportation Statistics Online Database. Available at <http://nats.sct.gob.mx/nats>, November 2007.

- more -

**NATS-OD 2007 PRESS RELEASE**  
**ADD THREE**

**Table 2. Top 10 U.S. Gateways Trading with Canada and Mexico by Road**  
**Ranked by 2006 Road Trade Value**  
(millions of dollars)

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Gateway</b>	<b>2006</b>
1	Detroit, MI	115,108
2	Laredo, TX	78,502
3	Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	58,855
4	El Paso, TX	42,237
5	Port Huron, MI	37,526
6	Otay Mesa, CA	28,597
7	Hidalgo-Pharr, TX	19,941
8	Champlain-Rouses Point, NY	16,532
9	Pembina, ND	13,674
10	Blaine, WA	13,570

Source: North American Transportation Statistics Online Database  
<http://nats.sct.gob.mx/nats>

- end -