



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

Research and Innovative Technology Administration
BTS Data

BTS 27-08
Thursday, May 29, 2008

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

**Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 1.5 Percent from
March 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 1.5 percent higher in March 2008 than in March 2007, reaching \$70.8 billion, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (*Table 1*).

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico rose 2.0 percent in March from February (*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 90 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 March was up 43.4 percent compared to March 2003, and up 73.5 percent compared to March 1998, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in March were up 85.9 percent compared to March 1998, while exports were up 59.6 percent.

Data for exports to Canada by pipeline in March 2008 were unavailable at the time of this release. These exports amounted to \$222 million in March 2007 and \$273 million in February 2008, less than 1 percent of U.S.-Canada trade in those months (*Table 4*).

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S.-Canada surface transportation trade excluding U.S. pipeline exports to Canada totaled \$47.2 billion in March (*Table 4*). The value of imports carried by truck was 7.3 percent lower in March 2008 than March 2007, while the value of exports carried by truck was 2.2 percent higher.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in March with \$6.3 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 \$23.6 billion in March, down 4.6 percent compared to March 2007 (*Table 6*). The value of imports carried by truck was 8.8 percent lower in March 2008 than March 2007 while the value of exports carried by truck was 2.3 percent lower.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in March with \$7.2 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. March TransBorder numbers include data received by BTS as of May 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 April TransBorder numbers on June 30.

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		5.3	
May	65,994	69,423		5.2	
June	66,898	69,526		3.9	
July	55,939	61,823		10.5	
August	66,354	69,158		4.2	
September	63,295	66,771		5.5	
October	66,846	74,249		11.1	
November	64,805	70,352		8.6	
December	59,049	60,902		3.1	
3-month total	189,205	190,083	205,353	0.5	8.0
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. Canada pipeline export data are currently not available for March 2008.

--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		March 2007	February 2008	March 2008	Percent Change Feb. 2008 – Mar. 2008	Percent Change March 2007-2008
All Surface Modes	Imports	39,912	39,533	40,089	1.4	0.4
	Exports	29,856	29,874	30,698	2.8	2.8
	Total	69,768	69,406	70,787	2.0	1.5
Truck	Imports	25,910	24,013	23,835	-0.7	-8.0
	Exports	23,191	22,522	23,353	3.7	0.7
Rail	Imports	8,465	7,524	8,065	7.2	-4.7
	Exports	4,018	4,257	4,281	0.6	6.5
Pipeline	Imports	4,313	6,738	6,657	-1.2	54.4
	Exports	271	354	NA	NA	NA

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.

Canada pipeline export data are currently not available for March 2008. NA = Not Available

Table 3. March 2008 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Compared with March of Prior Years

Compared to March in...	Percent Change		
	Imports	Exports	Total Surface Trade
2007	0.4	2.8	1.5
2006	4.3	3.1	3.8
2005	19.2	18.9	19.1
2004	25.2	26.6	25.8
2003	39.8	48.5	43.4
2002	53.0	58.2	55.2
2001	40.6	41.4	40.9
2000	39.0	30.5	35.2
1999	65.2	59.8	62.8
1998	85.9	59.6	73.5

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data,

<http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

Canada pipeline export data are currently not available for March 2008.

--more--

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS
ADD THREE

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

Mode		March 2007	February 2008	March 2008	Percent Change Feb. 2008 – Mar. 2008	Percent Change March 2007-2008
All Surface Modes	Imports	25,187	25,600	26,465	3.4	5.1
	Exports	19,865	19,398	20,750	7.0	4.5
	Total	45,053	44,998	47,216	4.9	4.8
Truck	Imports	13,737	12,536	12,729	1.5	-7.3
	Exports	15,306	14,636	15,645	6.9	2.2
Rail	Imports	6,188	5,364	5,854	9.1	-5.4
	Exports	2,343	2,438	2,606	6.9	11.3
Pipeline	Imports	4,282	6,724	6,642	-1.2	55.1
	Exports	222	273	NA	NA	NA

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.

Canada pipeline export data are currently not available for March 2008. NA = Not available

Table 5. Top 10 States Trading with Canada by Surface Modes of Transportation
Ranked by March 2008 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	March 2008
1	Michigan	6,263
2	Illinois	4,250
3	New York	3,384
4	Ohio	2,847
5	California	2,758
6	Texas	2,514
7	Washington	2,100
8	Pennsylvania	1,875
9	Minnesota	1,628
10	Indiana	1,353

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

Canada pipeline export data are currently not available for March 2008.

--more--

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS
ADD FOUR

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

Mode		March 2007	February 2008	March 2008	Percent Change Feb. 2008 – Mar. 2008	Percent Change March 2007-2008
All Surface Modes	Imports	14,724	13,933	13,624	-2.2	-7.5
	Exports	9,991	10,476	9,948	-5.0	-0.4
	Total	24,715	24,409	23,571	-3.4	-4.6
Truck	Imports	12,173	11,477	11,106	-3.2	-8.8
	Exports	7,885	7,886	7,707	-2.3	-2.3
Rail	Imports	2,277	2,159	2,211	2.4	-2.9
	Exports	1,676	1,819	1,675	-7.9	0.0
Pipeline	Imports	31	14	15	9.5	-50.3
	Exports	49	81	85	3.8	72.1

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. 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 March 2008 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	March 2008
1	Texas	7,223
2	California	3,958
3	Michigan	2,642
4	Arizona	960
5	Illinois	826
6	Ohio	623
7	Tennessee	486
8	North Carolina	472
9	Georgia	432
10	Pennsylvania	395

Source: BTS TransBorder Freight Data,

<http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

-end-