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North American Surface Trade Numbers for March

Trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico was 27.9 percent lower in March 2009 than in March 2008, dropping to \$51.1 billion, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (*Table 1*). March was the third consecutive month with a yearly decline of greater than 27 percent.

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico rose 6.5 percent in March 2009 from February 2009 (*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 March was down 9.3 percent compared to March 2004, and up 17.4 percent compared to March 1999, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in March were up 11.9 percent compared to March 1999, while exports were up 24.3 percent.

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S.–Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$31.0 billion in March, down 34.2 percent compared to March 2008 (*Table 4*). The value of imports carried by truck was 26.8 percent lower in March 2009 compared to March 2008, while the value of exports carried by truck was 25.1 percent lower during this period.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in March with \$3.2 billion (*Table 5*).

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U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S.–Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$20.0 billion in March, down 15.1 percent compared to March 2008 (*Table 6*). The value of imports carried by truck was 15.5 percent lower in March 2009 than March 2008 while the value of exports carried by truck was 6.4 percent lower.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in March with \$6.8 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 12.

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 July 1.

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

Month	2007	2008	2009	Percent Change 2007 - 2008	Percent Change 2008 - 2009
January	60,649	65,160	47,459	7.4	-27.2
February	59,667	69,406	47,938	16.3	-30.9
March	69,768	70,787	51,055	1.5	-27.9
April	65,015	74,317		14.3	
May	69,423	74,128		6.8	
June	69,526	74,139		6.6	
July	61,823	71,628		15.9	
August	69,158	72,254		4.5	
September	66,771	71,801		7.5	
October	74,249	72,683		-2.1	
November	70,352	60,661		-13.8	
December	60,902	52,910		-13.1	
Year-to-date	190,083	205,353	146,453	8.0	-28.7
Annual	797,303	829,875		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.

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

Mode		March 2008	February 2009	March 2009	Percent Change Feb. 2009 – March 2009	Percent Change March 2008 - 2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	40,089	25,586	27,171	6.2	-32.2
	Exports	30,698	22,352	23,884	6.9	-22.2
	Total	70,787	47,938	51,055	6.5	-27.9
Truck	Imports	23,835	16,981	18,707	10.2	-21.5
	Exports	23,353	17,199	18,931	10.1	-18.9
Rail	Imports	8,065	4,279	4,613	7.8	-42.8
	Exports	4,281	2,661	2,746	3.2	-35.9
Pipeline	Imports	6,657	3,277	2,907	-11.3	-56.3
	Exports	671	508	285	-43.8	-57.4

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, and other 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. March 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Compared with March of Prior Years

Compared to March in...	Percent Change		
	Imports	Exports	Total Surface Trade
2008	-32.2	-22.2	-27.9
2007	-31.9	-20.0	-26.8
2006	-29.3	-19.8	-25.2
2005	-19.2	-7.5	-14.1
2004	-15.1	-1.5	-9.3
2003	-5.3	15.5	3.4
2002	3.7	23.1	12.0
2001	-4.7	10.0	1.6
2000	-5.8	1.6	-2.5
1999	11.9	24.3	17.4

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		March 2008	February 2009	March 2009	Percent Change Feb. 2009 – March 2009	Percent Change March 2008 - 2009
All	Imports	26,465	15,630	15,942	2.0	-39.8
Surface	Exports	20,750	14,165	15,106	6.6	-27.2
Modes	Total	47,216	29,795	31,048	4.2	-34.2
Truck	Imports	12,729	8,528	9,323	9.3	-26.8
	Exports	15,645	10,529	11,715	11.3	-25.1
Rail	Imports	5,854	3,026	3,020	-0.2	-48.4
	Exports	2,606	1,512	1,609	6.4	-38.3
Pipeline	Imports	6,642	3,270	2,900	-11.3	-56.3
	Exports	586	466	247	-47.0	-57.9

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, and other 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 March 2009 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	March 2009
1	Michigan	3,190
2	Illinois	2,581
3	New York	2,022
4	California	1,899
5	Ohio	1,836
6	Texas	1,794
7	Pennsylvania	1,284
8	Washington	1,171
9	Indiana	965
10	Tennessee	913

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		March 2008	February 2009	March 2009	Percent Change Feb. 2009 – March 2009	Percent Change March 2008 - 2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	13,624	9,956	11,230	12.8	-17.6
	Exports	9,948	8,187	8,778	7.2	-11.8
	Total	23,571	18,143	20,007	10.3	-15.1
Truck	Imports	11,106	8,453	9,383	11.0	-15.5
	Exports	7,707	6,670	7,216	8.2	-6.4
Rail	Imports	2,211	1,253	1,593	27.2	-27.9
	Exports	1,675	1,149	1,137	-1.1	-32.1
Pipeline	Imports	15	7	7	5.9	-51.7
	Exports	85	42	39	-8.4	-54.1

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, and other 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 2009 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	March 2009
1	Texas	6,811
2	California	3,366
3	Michigan	1,697
4	Arizona	820
5	Illinois	749
6	Ohio	556
7	Tennessee	373
8	North Carolina	358
9	Pennsylvania	348
10	New Jersey	327

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

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