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BTS Data

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April 2009 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Fell 33.1 Percent from April 2008 (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 33.1 percent lower in April 2009 than in April 2008, dropping to \$49.7 billion, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (*Table 1*). April was the fourth consecutive month with a yearly decline of greater than 27 percent.

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico fell 2.6 percent in March 2009 from April 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 April was down 6.5 percent compared to April 2004, and up 22.0 percent compared to April 1999, a period of 10 years (*Table 3*). Imports in April were up 19.5 percent compared to April 1999, while exports were up 24.9 percent.

U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Canada

U.S.–Canada surface transportation trade totaled \$30.2 billion in April, down 38.2 percent compared to April 2008 (*Table 4*). The value of imports carried by truck was 32.8 percent lower in April 2009 compared to April 2008, while the value of exports carried by truck was 31.2 percent lower during this period.

Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada in April with \$3.3 billion (*Table 5*).

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U.S. Surface Transportation Trade with Mexico

U.S.–Mexico surface transportation trade totaled \$19.5 billion in April, down 23.4 percent compared to April 2008 (*Table 6*). The value of imports carried by truck was 22.0 percent lower in April 2009 than April 2008 while the value of exports carried by truck was 18.0 percent lower.

Texas led all states in surface trade with Mexico in April with \$6.6 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. April TransBorder numbers include data received by BTS as of June 10.

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 May TransBorder numbers on July 30.

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	49,729	14.3	-33.1
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	255,098	279,670	196,182	9.6	-29.9
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		April 2008	March 2009	April 2009	Percent Change March 2009 - April 2009	Percent Change April 2008-2009
All Surface Modes	Imports	42,226	27,171	26,710	-1.7	-36.7
	Exports	32,090	23,884	23,019	-3.6	-28.3
	Total	74,317	51,055	49,729	-2.6	-33.1
Truck	Imports	24,859	18,707	17,993	-3.8	-27.6
	Exports	24,482	18,931	17,935	-5.3	-26.7
Rail	Imports	8,063	4,613	4,549	-1.4	-43.6
	Exports	4,447	2,746	2,816	2.6	-36.7
Pipeline	Imports	7,655	2,907	3,082	6.0	-59.7
	Exports	600	285	256	-10.3	-57.3

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

Compared to March in...	Percent Change		Total Surface Trade
	Imports	Exports	
2008	-36.7	-28.3	-33.1
2007	-27.6	-18.1	-23.5
2006	-24.0	-13.5	-19.5
2005	-19.6	-8.3	-14.7
2004	-12.1	1.0	-6.5
2003	0.7	13.4	6.2
2002	-0.2	14.9	6.3
2001	0.2	14.3	6.3
2000	3.1	9.8	6.1
1999	19.5	24.9	22.0

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		April 2008	March 2009	April 2009	Percent Change March 2009 - April 2009	Percent Change April 2008-2009
All	Imports	27,636	15,942	15,563	-2.4	-43.7
Surface	Exports	21,222	15,106	14,654	-3.0	-30.9
Modes	Total	48,859	31,048	30,217	-2.7	-38.2
Truck	Imports	12,858	9,323	8,637	-7.4	-32.8
	Exports	16,185	11,715	11,133	-5.0	-31.2
Rail	Imports	5,791	3,020	3,017	-0.1	-47.9
	Exports	2,394	1,609	1,646	2.3	-31.3
Pipeline	Imports	7,640	2,900	3,073	6.0	-59.8
	Exports	529	247	212	-14.0	-59.9

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 April 2009 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	April 2009
1	Michigan	3,278
2	Illinois	2,487
3	California	2,020
4	New York	1,985
5	Ohio	1,821
6	Texas	1,588
7	Pennsylvania	1,200
8	Washington	1,148
9	Minnesota	948
10	Indiana	931

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		April 2008	March 2009	April 2009	Percent Change March 2009 - April 2009	Percent Change April 2008-2009
All	Imports	14,590	11,230	11,147	-0.7	-23.6
Surface	Exports	10,868	8,778	8,365	-4.7	-23.0
Modes	Total	25,458	20,007	19,512	-2.5	-23.4
Truck	Imports	12,001	9,383	9,356	-0.3	-22.0
	Exports	8,298	7,216	6,803	-5.7	-18.0
Rail	Imports	2,272	1,593	1,532	-3.8	-32.5
	Exports	2,054	1,137	1,170	3.0	-43.0
Pipeline	Imports	15	7	9	26.9	-37.8
	Exports	71	39	44	13.3	-38.0

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, 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 April 2009 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

Rank	State	April 2009
1	Texas	6,598
2	California	3,422
3	Michigan	1,741
4	Arizona	795
5	Illinois	680
6	Ohio	512
7	Tennessee	374
8	North Carolina	334
9	Pennsylvania	319
10	Wisconsin	301

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

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