



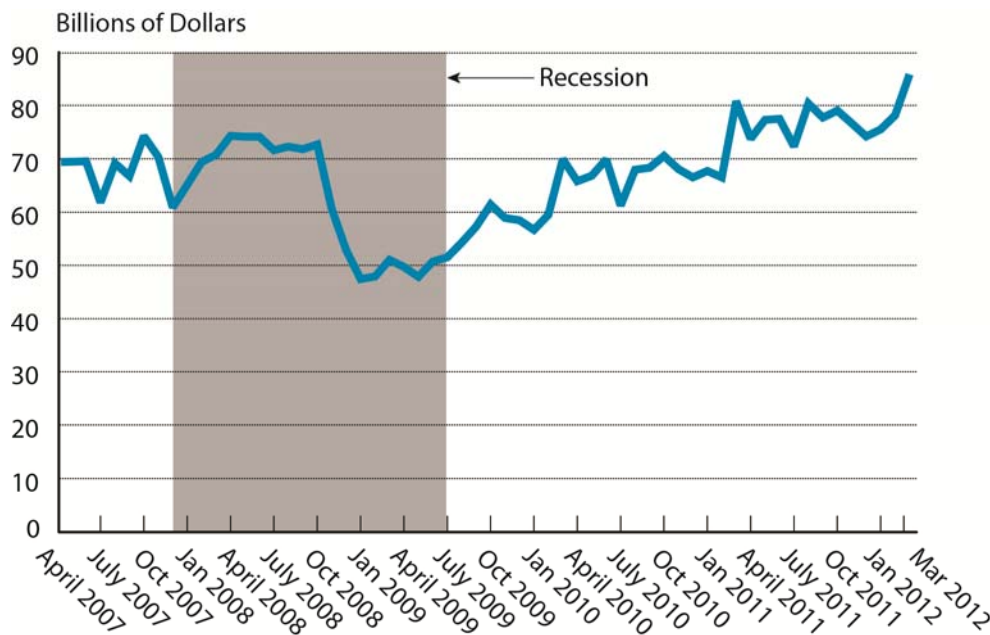
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## BTS Data

BTS 26-12  
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### March 2012 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Highest on Record, Exceeding \$85 Billion for First Time

North American Surface Trade, Five Years: April 2007-March 2012 (Figure 1)



Trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners, Canada and Mexico, was 6.2 percent higher in March 2012 than in March 2011, totaling \$85.8 billion (*Table 1*), according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation. March 2012 was the highest month for NATFA trade value since collection of data began in 1994, exceeding \$85 billion for the first time and topping the previous record of \$80.8 billion in March 2011.

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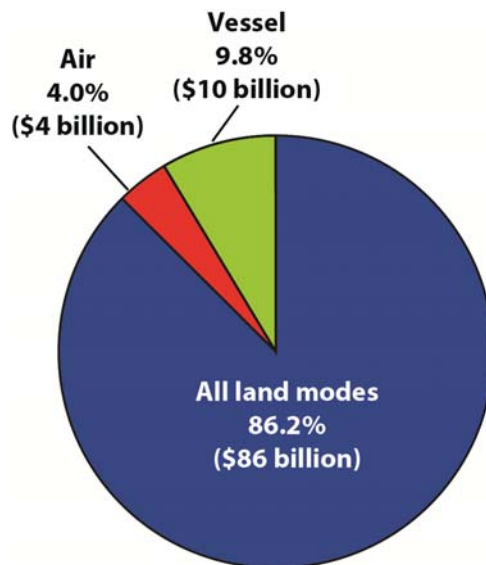
## NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS ADD ONE

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the March 2012 value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico rose 21.2 percent from March 2008, early in the recession, and 68.1 percent from March 2009, late in the recession (*Table 3*). Numbers in the press release are not adjusted for inflation.

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico in March increased by 88.2 percent compared to March 2002, a period of 10 years. Imports in March were up 76.1 percent since March 2002, while exports were up 104.5 percent (*Table 3*). See [Transborder Press Releases](#) for historical data.

Surface transportation includes freight movements by truck, rail, pipeline, mail, Foreign Trade Zones, and [other](#) modes of transport. In March, 86.2 percent of U.S. trade by value with Canada and Mexico moved via land, 9.8 percent moved by vessel, and 4.0 percent moved by air (*Figure 2*).

**North American Freight by Mode, March 2012 (Figure 2)**



The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico increased 9.8 percent in March 2012 from February 2012 (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations and other factors.

U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico surface transportation trade in March 2012 both increased compared to March 2011 with U.S.-Canada trade reaching \$50.1 billion, a 2.9 percent increase, and U.S.-Mexico trade reaching \$35.7 billion, an 11.2 percent increase. For trade statistics by mode, see Table 4 for Canada and Table 6 for Mexico.

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## NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS ADD TWO

In March, Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada as it has in previous years, at \$6.3 billion, a 3.0 percent increase from March 2011 (*Table 5*). Of the top 10 states by value, Illinois had the largest percentage increase over March 2011, at 16.5 percent.

The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada by surface modes of transportation in March was vehicles (other than railway), valued at \$9.6 billion (*Table 8*).

Texas also continued to lead all states in surface trade with Mexico at \$12.6 billion, a 11.5 percent increase from March 2011 (*Table 7*). This is the highest monthly level of trading by any state with Mexico and the first time on record that any state has had more than \$12 billion of monthly trade with Mexico. Of the top 10 states by value, Tennessee had the biggest percentage increase, 26.3 percent. The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Mexico by surface modes of transportation in March was electrical machinery with \$7.6 billion in trade (*Table 9*).

For more information, see [Transborder Press Releases](#) for previous' press releases and summary tables. See [TransBorder Freight Data](#) for data from previous months, and individual state data. BTS has scheduled release of April TransBorder numbers for June 26.

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

Month	2010	2011	2012	Percent Change 2010-2011	Percent Change 2011-2012
January	56,697	67,734	75,534	19.5	11.5
February	59,492	66,534	78,135	11.8	17.4
<b>March</b>	<b>69,943</b>	<b>80,822</b>	<b>85,827</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>
April	65,831	73,767		12.1	
May	66,805	77,318		15.7	
June	69,859	77,521		11.0	
July	61,260	72,363		18.1	
August	67,964	80,406		18.3	
September	68,324	77,725		13.8	
October	70,565	79,040		12.0	
November	68,060	76,672		12.7	
December	66,530	74,230		11.6	
<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>186,132</b>	<b>215,090</b>	<b>239,496</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>11.3</b>
<b>Annual</b>	<b>791,329</b>	<b>904,133</b>		<b>14.3</b>	

SOURCE: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/transborder/>

NOTE: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS  
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**Table 2. U.S. Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico by Surface Modes of Transportation**  
(millions of dollars)

Mode		March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	Percent Change February 2012 - March 2012	Percent Change March 2011 - 2012
All Surface Modes	Imports	43,409	42,198	46,132	9.3	6.3
	Exports	37,413	35,937	39,695	10.5	6.1
	Total	80,822	78,135	85,827	9.8	6.2
Truck	Imports	27,489	26,087	28,932	10.9	5.3
	Exports	29,036	27,491	30,826	12.1	6.2
Rail	Imports	8,358	8,668	9,352	7.9	11.9
	Exports	4,817	4,751	5,313	11.8	10.3
Pipeline	Imports	5,954	6,032	6,400	6.1	7.5
	Exports	729	1,144	889	-22.2	22.0

SOURCE: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/transborder/>

NOTES: Numbers might 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, please refer to the "Data Fields" section of the TransBorder web page:

[http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/transborder/TBDR\\_DataFields.html](http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html)

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS  
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**Table 3. March 2012 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Compared with March of Prior Years**

Compared to March in...	Percent Change		
	Imports	Exports	Total Surface Trade
2011	6.3	6.1	6.2
2010	21.4	24.3	22.7
2009	69.8	66.2	68.1
2008	15.1	29.3	21.2
2007	15.6	33.0	23.0
2006	20.0	33.3	25.8
2005	37.2	53.8	44.4
2004	44.1	63.7	52.5
2003	60.8	92.0	73.9
2002	76.1	104.5	88.2

SOURCE: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/transborder/>

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

Mode		March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	Percent Change February 2012 - March 2012	Percent Change March 2011 - 2012
	Exports	23,343	21,489	24,161	12.4	3.5
	Total	48,722	45,440	50,124	10.3	2.9
Truck	Imports	12,493	11,193	12,271	9.6	-1.8
	Exports	18,077	16,124	18,620	15.5	3.0
Rail	Imports	5,722	5,696	6,199	8.8	8.3
	Exports	2,692	2,581	2,939	13.9	9.2
Pipeline	Imports	5,936	6,015	6,376	6.0	7.4
	Exports	400	807	574	-28.8	43.5

SOURCE: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/transborder/>

NOTES: Numbers might 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, please refer to the "Data Fields" section of the TransBorder web page:

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NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS  
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**Table 5. Top 10 States Trading with Canada by All Surface Modes of Transportation**

Ranked by March 2012 Surface Trade Value  
(millions of dollars)

State	March 2011		March 2012		Percent Change March 2011-2012
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	
<b>Michigan</b>	6,118	<b>1</b>	6,300	<b>1</b>	3.0
<b>Illinois</b>	4,720	<b>2</b>	5,500	<b>2</b>	16.5
<b>California</b>	2,889	<b>5</b>	3,199	<b>3</b>	10.7
<b>Ohio</b>	3,321	<b>3</b>	3,019	<b>4</b>	-9.1
<b>Texas</b>	2,651	<b>6</b>	2,947	<b>5</b>	11.1
<b>New York</b>	2,936	<b>4</b>	2,452	<b>6</b>	-16.5
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	1,838	<b>7</b>	1,932	<b>7</b>	5.1
<b>Indiana</b>	1,661	<b>9</b>	1,739	<b>8</b>	4.7
<b>Washington</b>	1,817	<b>8</b>	1,671	<b>9</b>	-8.0
<b>Minnesota</b>	1,449	<b>10</b>	1,508	<b>10</b>	4.1

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

NOTES: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS  
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**Table 6. U.S. Merchandise Trade with Mexico by Surface Modes of Transportation  
(millions of dollars)**

Mode		March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	Percent Change	Percent Change
					February 2012 - March 2012	March 2011 - 2012
All Surface Modes	Imports	18,030	18,248	20,169	10.5	11.9
	Exports	14,070	14,447	15,533	7.5	10.4
	Total	32,099	32,696	35,703	9.2	11.2
Truck	Imports	14,996	14,894	16,662	11.9	11.1
	Exports	10,959	11,367	12,206	7.4	11.4
Rail	Imports	2,636	2,972	3,154	6.1	19.6
	Exports	2,125	2,170	2,373	9.4	11.7
Pipeline	Imports	18	18	24	33.5	33.9
	Exports	329	337	315	-6.5	-4.3

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

NOTES: Numbers might 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, please refer to the "Data Fields" section of the TransBorder web page:

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**Table 7. Top 10 States Trading with Mexico by All Surface Modes of Transportation**

Ranked by March 2012 Surface Trade Value

(millions of dollars)

State	March 2011		March 2012		Percent Change March 2011-2012
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	
Texas	11,341	1	12,640	1	11.5
California	4,442	2	5,187	2	16.8
Michigan	3,612	3	4,203	3	16.4
Arizona	1,095	4	1,282	4	17.1
Illinois	1,059	5	1,178	5	11.2
Ohio	913	6	942	6	3.1
Tennessee	617	7	779	7	26.3
Indiana	572	9	718	8	25.7
North Carolina	547	10	568	9	3.8
Georgia	583	8	470	10	-19.3

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

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding

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NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS  
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**Table 8. Top Five Commodities Transported between the U.S. and Canada by All Surface Modes of Transportation, March 2012 (millions of dollars)**

Commodities	Exports	Imports	Total
Vehicles Other than Railway	4,781	4,852	9,633
Oil and Gas	1,082	7,702	8,784
Computer-Related Machinery and Parts	4,174	1,695	5,869
Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	2,050	702	2,752
Plastics	1,116	922	2,038

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, based on Transborder Freight Data, available at <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>, as of March 20, 2012.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

**Table 9. Top Five Commodities Transported between the U.S. and Mexico by All Surface Modes of Transportation, March 2012 (millions of dollars)**

Commodities	Exports	Imports	Total
Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	2,706	4,863	7,569
Computer-Related Machinery and Parts	2,976	3,785	6,761
Vehicles Other than Railway	1,678	4,400	6,079
Plastics	1,170	321	1,491
Measuring and Testing Instruments	409	883	1,292

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, based on Transborder Freight Data, available at <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>, as of March 13, 2012.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

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