



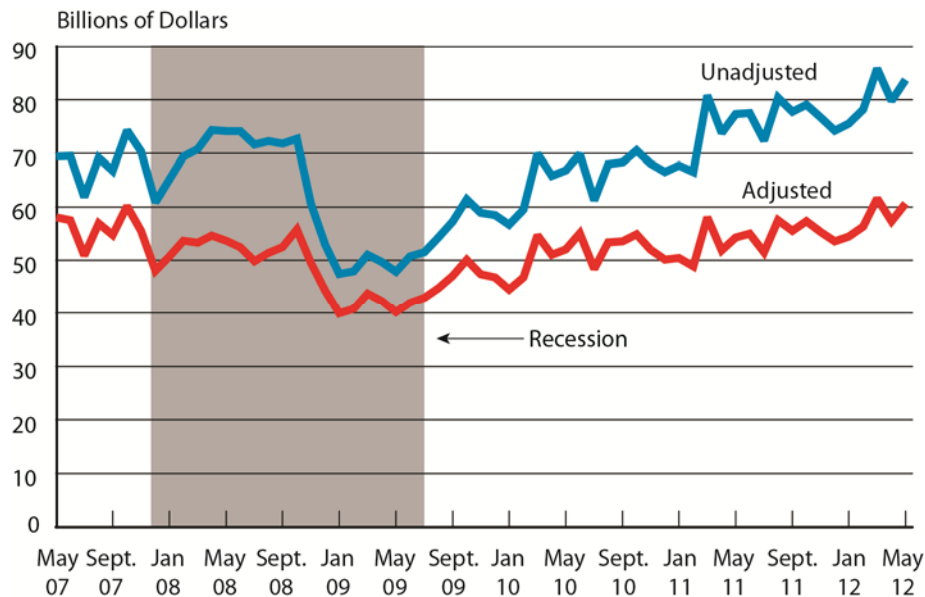
U.S. Department of Transportation
 Office of Public Affairs
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
 Washington, DC 20590
www.dot.gov/briefing-room.html

BTS Data

BTS 37-12
 Tuesday, July 31, 2012
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May 2012 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 8.3 Percent From May 2011

Figure 1: Trade Among the U.S. and NAFTA Countries, May 2007-May 2012
 Unadjusted and Adjusted for Inflation and Exchange Rate Fluctuations



U.S. export data adjusted based on Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), [U.S. Exports by End Use Category for All Commodities](#). U.S. imports adjusted based on BLS [U.S. Import Price Indexes for Canada and Mexico](#). January 2004 = 100. See Technical Note.

Trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners, Canada and Mexico, was 8.3 percent higher in May 2012 than in May 2011, totaling \$83.8 billion, unadjusted for inflation (*Table 1 and Figure 1*), according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Adjusted for inflation and exchange rates, the May 2012 total was \$60.7 billion in 2004 dollars, up 11.7 percent from May 2011.

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NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS

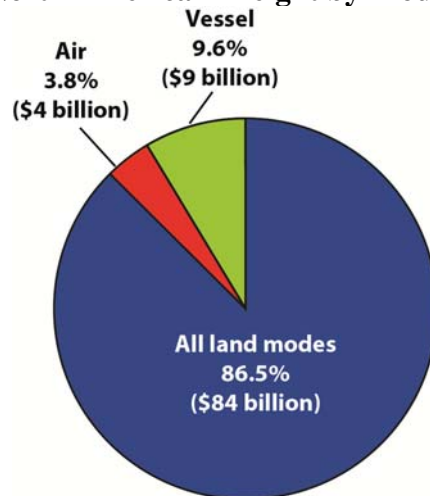
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BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the May 2012 value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico rose 13.0 percent from May 2008, six months into the recession, and 75.0 percent from May 2009, late in the recession (*Table 3*). Data in the press release are not adjusted for inflation, except for monthly totals in Figure 1.

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico in May increased by 72.6 percent compared to May 2002, a period of 10 years. Imports in May were up 62.5 percent since May 2002, while exports were up 85.9 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 May, 86.5 percent of U.S. trade by value with Canada and Mexico moved via land, 9.6 percent moved by vessel, and 3.8 percent moved by air (*Figure 2*).

Figure 2: North American Freight by Mode, May 2012



The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico increased 5.0 percent in May 2012 from April 2012 (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations and other factors.

U.S. trade by surface transportation with Mexico has increased at a faster pace than trade with Canada. U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico surface transportation trade in May 2012 both increased compared to May 2011 with U.S.-Canada trade reaching \$48.1 billion, a 4.0 percent increase, and U.S.-Mexico trade reaching \$35.6 billion, a 14.9 percent increase. For trade statistics by mode, see Table 4 for Canada and Table 6 for Mexico.

In May, Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada, at \$6.5 billion, a 2.6 percent increase from May 2011 (*Table 5*). Of the top 10 states by value, California had the largest percentage increase over May 2011, at 29.7 percent.

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The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada by surface modes of transportation in May was vehicles, valued at \$9.5 billion (*Table 8*).

Texas continued to lead all states in surface trade with Mexico at \$12.9 billion, a 15.6 percent increase from May 2011. This amount is the highest on record, surpassing the \$12.6 billion in Texas – Mexico trade in March 2012. Of the top 10 states by value, North Carolina had the biggest percentage increase, 39.1 percent (*Table 7*), primarily because of a \$59 million increase from May 2011 in the export of inorganic chemicals. The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Mexico by surface modes of transportation in May was electrical machinery with \$7.6 billion in trade (*Table 9*).

Technical Note: The BLS indexes used for Figure 1 adjustment may be revised in each of the three months after original publication. For example, index values released in January 2012 will be subject to revision in February, March and April of that year.

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 the release of June TransBorder numbers for Aug. 28.

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
March	69,943	80,822	85,827	15.6	6.2
April	65,831	73,767	79,784	12.1	8.2
May	66,805	77,318	83,770	15.7	8.3
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	
Year-to-date	318,767	366,174	403,049	14.9	10.1
Annual	791,329	904,133		14.3	

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.

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

Mode		May 2011	April 2012	May 2012	Percent Change April 2012 – May 2012	Percent Change May 2011 - 2012
All Surface Modes	Imports	41,574	42,856	44,807	4.6	7.8
	Exports	35,744	36,928	38,963	5.5	9.0
	Total	77,318	79,784	83,770	5.0	8.3
Truck	Imports	26,156	26,791	29,372	9.6	12.3
	Exports	27,275	28,419	30,452	7.2	11.6
Rail	Imports	8,302	8,807	8,363	-5.0	0.7
	Exports	4,931	5,156	5,042	-2.2	2.2
Pipeline	Imports	6,096	6,035	5,515	-8.6	-9.5
	Exports	1,021	771	645	-16.3	-36.9

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

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Table 3. May 2012 Surface Transportation Trade with Canada and Mexico Compared with May of Prior Years

Compared to May in...	Percent Change		
	Imports	Exports	Total Surface Trade
2011	7.8	9.0	8.3
2010	23.9	27.1	25.4
2009	75.1	74.8	75.0
2008	8.3	19.0	13.0
2007	15.1	27.7	20.7
2006	20.3	35.6	26.9
2005	37.9	53.6	44.8
2004	48.4	69.7	57.6
2003	61.6	84.9	71.6
2002	62.5	85.9	72.6

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

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

Mode		May 2011	April 2012	May 2012	Percent Change April 2012 - May 2012	Percent Change May 2011 - 2012
All Surface Modes	Imports	24,060	24,667	24,772	0.4	3.0
	Exports	22,229	22,483	23,353	3.9	5.1
	Total	46,288	47,150	48,125	2.1	4.0
Truck	Imports	11,769	11,876	12,669	6.7	7.6
	Exports	16,808	17,116	18,064	5.5	7.5
Rail	Imports	5,561	5,873	5,452	-7.2	-2.0
	Exports	2,760	2,841	2,740	-3.6	-0.7
Pipeline	Imports	6,077	6,016	5,496	-8.6	-9.6
	Exports	701	529	367	-30.6	-47.6

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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Table 5. Top 10 States Trading with Canada by All Surface Modes of Transportation

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

State	May 2011		May 2012		Percent Change May 2011-2012
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	
Michigan	6,315	1	6,479	1	2.6
Illinois	4,687	2	4,727	2	0.8
Ohio	2,811	3	3,081	3	9.6
California	2,204	6	2,858	4	29.7
Texas	2,504	5	2,798	5	11.7
New York	2,644	4	2,480	6	-6.2
Pennsylvania	1,653	8	1,813	7	9.7
Indiana	1,565	9	1,764	8	12.8
Minnesota	1,524	10	1,752	9	14.9
Washington	1,678	7	1,577	10	-6.0

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.

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

Mode		May 2011	April 2012	May 2012	Percent Change	Percent Change
					April 2012 - May 2012	May 2011 - 2012
All Surface Modes	Imports	17,514	18,189	20,035	10.2	14.4
	Exports	13,515	14,444	15,609	8.1	15.5
	Total	31,029	32,633	35,645	9.2	14.9
Truck	Imports	14,387	14,915	16,703	12.0	16.1
	Exports	10,467	11,303	12,388	9.6	18.4
Rail	Imports	2,741	2,934	2,911	-0.8	6.2
	Exports	2,170	2,315	2,302	-0.6	6.0
Pipeline	Imports	19	20	20	-1.8	5.7
	Exports	321	242	278	14.9	-13.3

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:

http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/transborder/TBDR_DataFields.html

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

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

State	May 2011		May 2012		Percent Change May 2011-2012
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	
Texas	11,157	1	12,902	1	15.6
California	4,342	2	5,194	2	19.6
Michigan	3,387	3	4,049	3	19.6
Arizona	1,188	4	1,290	4	8.6
Illinois	1,142	5	1,209	5	5.9
Ohio	818	6	950	6	16.2
Tennessee	571	7	732	7	28.1
North Carolina	476	10	662	8	39.1
Indiana	538	8	645	9	19.9
Pennsylvania	419	12	470	10	12.2

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

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding

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Table 8. Top Five Commodities Transported between the U.S. and Canada by All Surface Modes of Transportation, May 2012
(millions of dollars)

Commodities	Exports	Imports	Total
Vehicles Other than Railway	4,665	4,786	9,452
Oil and Gas	947	6,717	7,663
Computer-Related Machinery and Parts	3,939	1,714	5,653
Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	1,879	572	2,451
Plastics	1,147	882	2,030

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 May 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, May 2012
(millions of dollars)

Commodities	Exports	Imports	Total
Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	2,783	4,819	7,602
Computer-Related Machinery and Parts	3,047	4,017	7,064
Vehicles Other than Railway	1,724	4,080	5,803
Plastics	1,203	347	1,550
Measuring and Testing Instruments	387	911	1,298

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 May 13, 2012.

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

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