



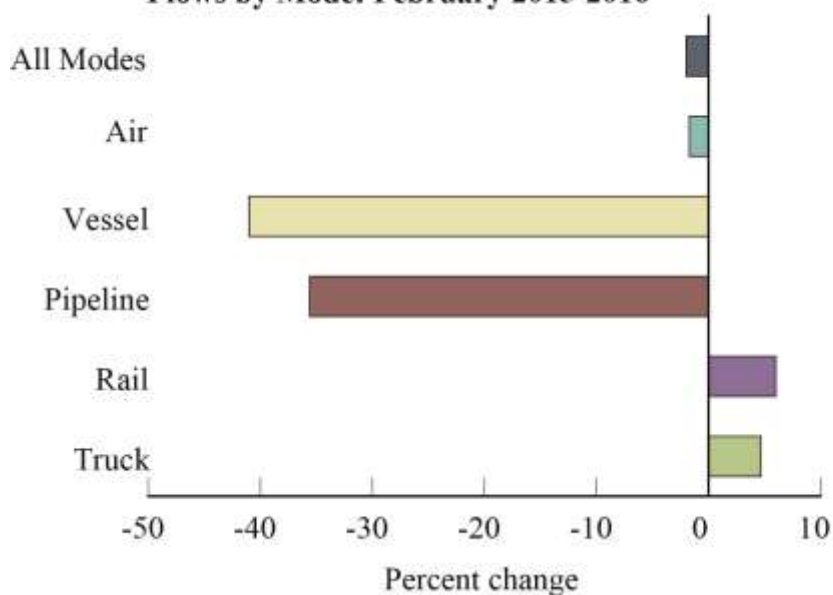
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BTS Data

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February 2016 North American Freight Numbers

Figure 1. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode: February 2015-2016



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

Two transportation modes – rail and truck – carried more U.S. freight by value with North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico in February 2016 than in February 2015. However, the total value of cross-border freight carried on all modes fell 2.0 percent from February 2015 to \$84.0 billion in February 2016 in current dollars, according to the TransBorder Freight Data released today by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) (Figure 1, Table 1).

Freight by Mode

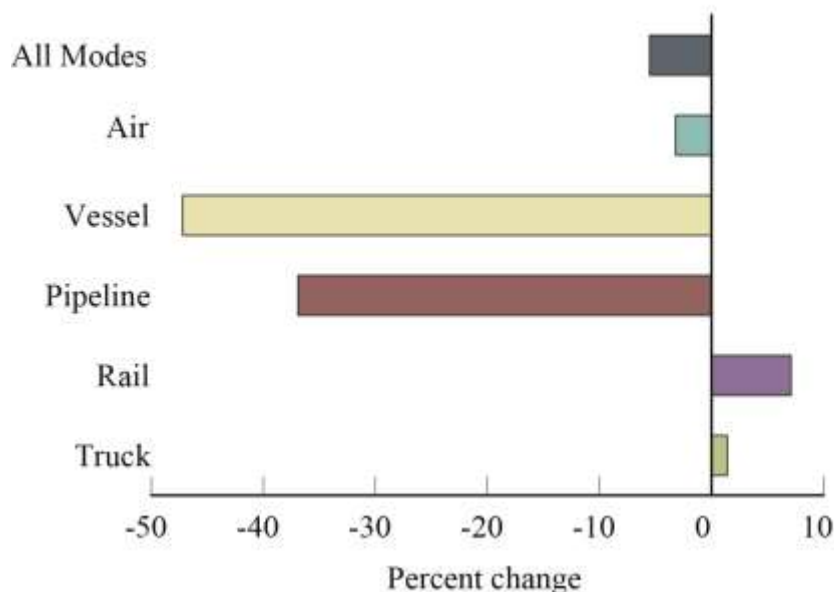
The value of commodities moving by rail increased 6.0 percent, the largest increase from 2015 to 2016 of any mode. The 6.0 percent year-over-year growth in the value of rail freight is largely due to an increase in imports of vehicles and parts, the largest commodity carried by rail. The value of commodities moved on trucks increased by 4.7 percent from 2015 to 2016. The value of freight on other modes declined: air 1.7 percent; pipeline 35.6 percent; and vessel 41.0 percent (Figure 1, Table 2). A drop in the price of crude oil in 2015-2016 played a key role in the large declines in the dollar value of goods shipped by vessel and pipeline. Crude oil (a component of mineral fuels) comprises a large share of the commodities carried by these modes. Average monthly prices for crude petroleum and refined fuel are available from the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#).

Trucks carried 67.4 percent of U.S.-NAFTA freight and continued to be the most heavily utilized mode for moving goods to and from both U.S.-NAFTA partners. Trucks accounted for \$29.3 billion of the \$45.0 billion of imports (65.1 percent) and \$27.3 billion of the \$39.0 billion of exports (70.0 percent) (Table 2).

Rail remained the second largest mode by value, moving 15.6 percent of all U.S.-NAFTA freight, followed by vessel, 4.3 percent; pipeline, 4.0 percent; and air, 3.8 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 87.0 percent of the total value of U.S.-NAFTA freight flows (Table 2).

U.S.-Canada Freight

Figure 2. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode: February 2015-2016



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

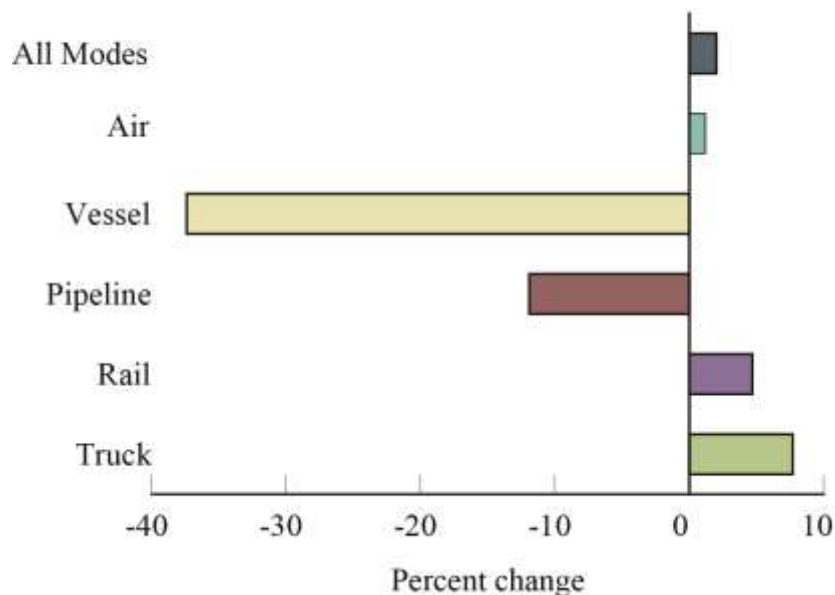
From February 2015 to February 2016, the value of U.S.-Canada freight flows fell 5.5 percent to \$42.6 billion even as two modes of transportation – rail and truck – carried a higher value of U.S.-Canada freight than a year earlier.

Lower crude oil prices contributed to a year-over-year decrease in the value of freight moved between the U.S. and Canada. Crude oil is a large share of freight carried by pipeline and vessel, which were down 36.9 percent and 47.2 percent respectively year-over-year (Figure 2, Table 3). U.S.-Canada air freight value declined 3.2 percent because of a 31.3 percent decline in the value of shipments of aircraft and aircraft parts.

Trucks carried 61.5 percent of the value of the freight to and from Canada. Rail carried 16.6 percent followed by pipeline, 7.4 percent; air, 4.8 percent; and vessel, 2.7 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 85.4 percent of the value of total U.S.-Canada freight flows (Table 3).

U.S.-Mexico Freight

Figure 3. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode: February 2015-2016



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

From February 2015 to February 2016, the value of U.S.-Mexico freight grew 2.0 percent to \$41.4 billion as three out of the five transportation modes – truck, rail, and air – carried more U.S.-Mexico freight value than in February 2015. Freight carried by truck increased 7.7 percent. Rail freight value rose 4.7 percent while air freight value increased 1.2 percent. Vessel freight value decreased by 37.4 percent, while pipeline freight value dropped by 11.9 percent, both due mainly to lower crude oil prices (Figure 3, Table 4).

Trucks carried 73.5 percent of the value of freight to and from Mexico. Rail, carried 14.6 percent followed by vessel, 5.8 percent; air, 2.8 percent; and pipeline, 0.6 percent. The surface

transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 88.7 percent of the value of total U.S.-Mexico freight flows (Table 4).

Commodities

In February 2016, the top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada by all modes was vehicles and parts, of which \$4.9 billion, or 56.2 percent, moved by truck and \$3.6 billion, or 41.5 percent, moved by rail (Figure 4). The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Mexico by all modes in February 2016 was vehicles and parts, of which \$3.5 billion, or 44.7 percent, moved by rail (Figure 5).

Reporting Notes

BTS press releases and the BTS website define surface transportation modes as truck, rail and pipeline. See [North American TransBorder Freight Data](#) on the BTS website for additional data for surface modes since 1995 and all modes since 2004. The category of all modes of transportation cited in the following tables includes freight movements by truck, rail, vessel, pipeline, air, [other](#) and unknown modes of transport.

Data in this press release are not seasonally adjusted and are not adjusted for inflation. Additional summary data adjusted for inflation and exchange rates can be found on the BTS website under [TransBorder Indexed Freight Flow Data](#). The BLS indexes used in the adjustments for inflation and exchange rates may be revised in each of the three months after original publication. For more information, see [TransBorder Press Releases](#) for previous press releases and summary tables. See [TransBorder Freight Data](#) for data from previous months, and for additional state, port, and commodity data. BTS has scheduled the release of March TransBorder numbers for May 26.

Table 1. Value of Monthly U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows
(millions of current dollars)

Month	2014	2015	2016	Percent Change 2014-2015	Percent Change 2015-2016
January	90,326	89,258	82,430	-1.2	-7.7
February	89,557	85,723	84,038	-4.3	-2.0
March	101,478	96,070		-5.3	
April	100,141	93,327		-6.8	
May	103,942	92,707		-10.8	
June	102,978	99,030		-3.8	
July	101,075	92,995		-8.0	
August	100,624	92,442		-8.1	
September	102,245	93,246		-8.8	
October	108,243	96,624		-10.7	
November	96,252	88,154		-8.4	
December	95,811	86,748		-9.5	
Year-to-date	179,883	174,982	166,467	-2.7	-4.9
Annual	1,192,671	1,106,325		-7.2	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, TransBorder Freight Data

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

Table 2. Value of Monthly U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

Mode		February 2015	February 2016	Percent Change February 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	45,734	45,010	-1.6
	Exports	39,990	39,028	-2.4
	Total	85,723	84,038	-2.0
All Surface Modes	Imports	39,268	40,459	3.0
	Exports	32,456	32,667	0.7
	Total	71,724	73,126	2.0
Truck	Imports	26,933	29,301	8.8
	Exports	27,162	27,327	0.6
	Total	54,094	56,629	4.7
Rail	Imports	7,966	8,547	7.3
	Exports	4,396	4,556	3.6
	Total	12,362	13,103	6.0
Pipeline	Imports	4,369	2,611	-40.2
	Exports	898	784	-12.7
	Total	5,267	3,395	-35.6
Vessel	Imports	3,370	1,917	-43.1
	Exports	2,716	1,675	-38.3
	Total	6,086	3,593	-41.0
Air	Imports	1,397	1,423	1.9
	Exports	1,870	1,789	-4.3
	Total	3,267	3,212	-1.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air 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 3. Value of Monthly U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

Mode		February 2015	February 2016	Percent Change February 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	23,258	21,818	-6.2
	Exports	21,863	20,801	-4.9
	Total	45,120	42,620	-5.5
All Surface Modes	Imports	19,851	19,471	-1.9
	Exports	17,553	16,936	-3.5
	Total	37,404	36,408	-2.7
Truck	Imports	11,034	12,071	9.4
	Exports	14,796	14,130	-4.5
	Total	25,830	26,201	1.4
Rail	Imports	4,454	4,808	8.0
	Exports	2,144	2,261	5.4
	Total	6,597	7,068	7.1
Pipeline	Imports	4,363	2,593	-40.6
	Exports	613	546	-11.0
	Total	4,976	3,138	-36.9
Vessel	Imports	1,338	738	-44.9
	Exports	882	433	-50.8
	Total	2,219	1,171	-47.2
Air	Imports	876	893	2.0
	Exports	1,233	1,147	-7.0
	Total	2,109	2,041	-3.2

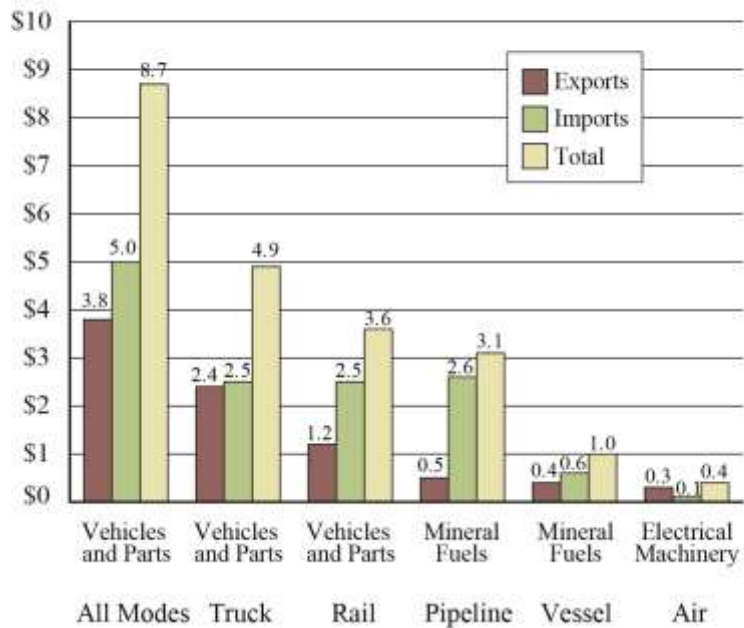
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

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The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air 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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Figure 4. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Canada for Each Mode of Transportation, February 2016 (billions of current dollars)



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Import and export numbers might not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 4. Value of Monthly U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

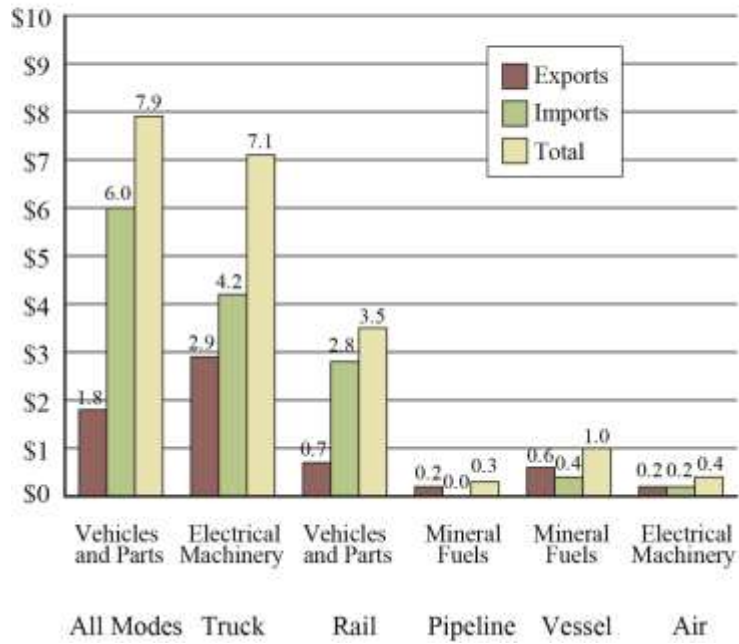
Mode		February 2015	February 2016	Percent Change February 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	22,476	23,192	3.2
	Exports	18,127	18,226	0.5
	Total	40,603	41,418	2.0
All Surface Modes	Imports	19,417	20,988	8.1
	Exports	14,903	15,731	5.6
	Total	34,320	36,718	7.0
Truck	Imports	15,899	17,230	8.4
	Exports	12,365	13,197	6.7
	Total	28,264	30,428	7.7
Rail	Imports	3,512	3,739	6.5
	Exports	2,252	2,295	1.9
	Total	5,765	6,035	4.7
Pipeline	Imports	6	18	204.1
	Exports	285	238	-16.4
	Total	291	256	-11.9
Vessel	Imports	2,032	1,180	-41.9
	Exports	1,834	1,242	-32.3
	Total	3,866	2,422	-37.4
Air	Imports	520	529	1.7
	Exports	637	642	0.7
	Total	1,158	1,172	1.2

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air 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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**Figure 5. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Mexico for Each Mode of Transportation, February 2016
(billions of current dollars)**



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Import and export numbers might not add to totals due to rounding.