



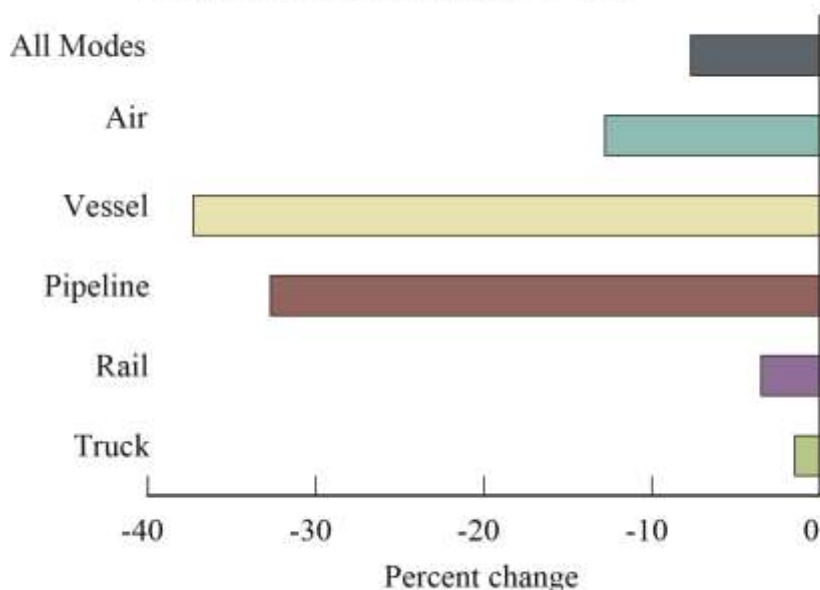
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## BTS Data

BTS 19-16  
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### January 2016 North American Freight Numbers

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



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

All five major transportation modes – truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air – carried less U.S. freight by value with North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico in January 2016 than in January 2015. The total value of cross-border freight carried on all modes fell 7.7 percent from 2015 to \$82.4 billion 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

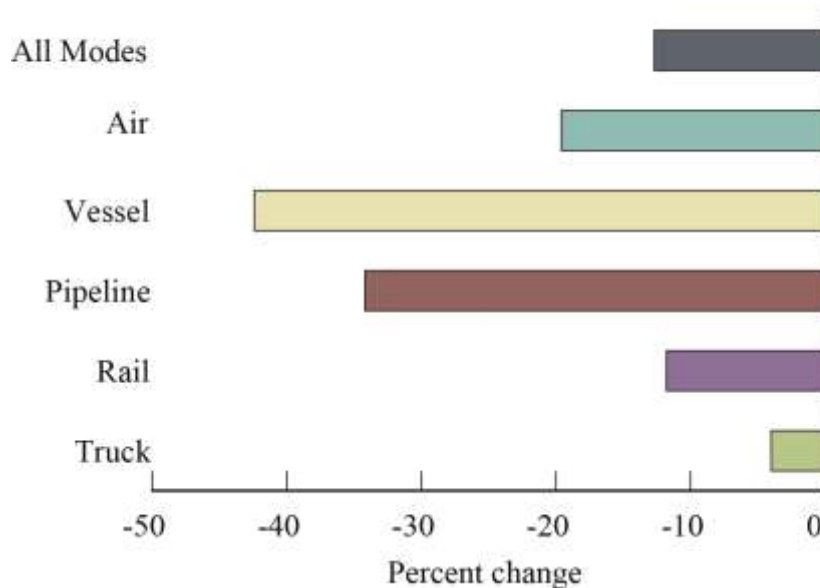
The value of commodities moving by truck declined 1.5 percent, the smallest decrease from 2015 to 2016 of any mode. The value of freight on other modes also declined: vessel 37.3 percent; pipeline 32.7 percent; air 12.8 percent; and rail 3.5 percent (Figure 1, Table 2). A drop in the price of crude oil in 2015 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 66.5 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 \$28.4 billion of the \$44.6 billion of imports (63.7 percent) and \$26.4 billion of the \$37.9 billion of exports (69.7 percent) (Table 2).

Rail remained the second largest mode by value, moving 15.2 percent of all U.S.-NAFTA freight, followed by vessel, 5.3 percent; pipeline, 4.8 percent; and air, 3.7 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 86.4 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: January 2015-2016**



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

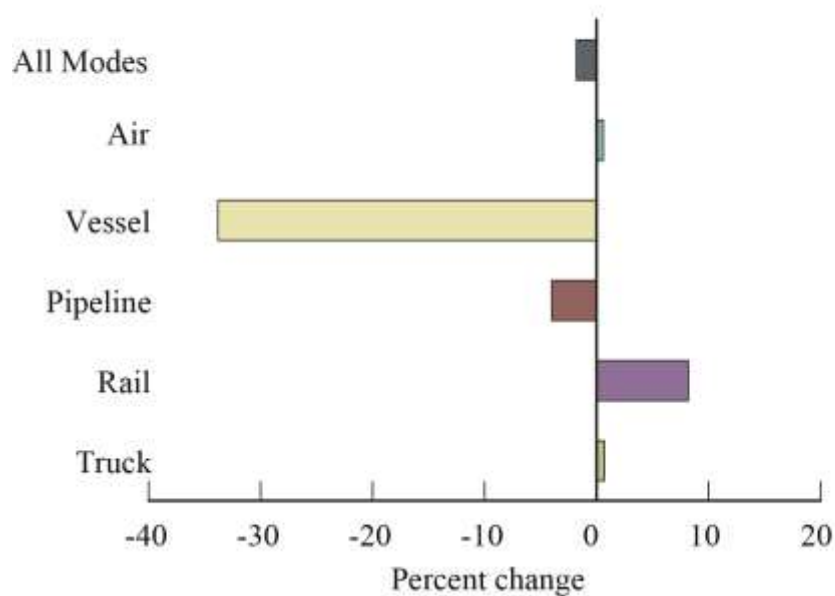
From January 2015 to January 2016, the value of U.S.-Canada freight flows fell 12.7 percent to \$42.0 billion as all modes of transportation carried a lower value of U.S.-Canada freight than a year earlier.

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 vessel and pipeline, which were down 42.5 percent and 34.2 percent respectively year-over-year (Figure 2, Table 3).

Trucks carried 60.5 percent of the value of the freight to and from Canada but the total was down 4.0 percent from January 2015 primarily because of a 9.3 percent decline in the value of U.S. exports to Canada by truck. Rail carried 15.9 percent followed by pipeline, 8.8 percent; air, 4.4 percent; and vessel, 3.9 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 85.2 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: January 2015-2016**



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

From January 2015 to January 2016, the value of U.S.-Mexico freight fell 1.8 percent to \$40.5 billion as three out of the five transportation modes – air, truck and rail– carried more U.S.-Mexico freight value than in January 2015. Freight carried by rail increased by 8.2 percent. Truck freight value rose 0.7 percent while air freight value increased 0.6 percent. Vessel freight value decreased by 33.8 percent, while pipeline freight dropped by 4.0 percent, both due mainly to lower crude oil prices (Figure 3, Table 4).

Trucks carried 72.6 percent of the value of freight to and from Mexico. The total was up because the 4.0 percent growth in U.S. imports by truck outweighed the decline in exports. Rail, carried 14.4 percent followed by vessel, 6.3 percent; air, 2.9 percent; and pipeline, 0.7 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 87.7 percent of the value of total U.S.-Mexico freight flows (Table 4).

## Commodities

In January 2016, the top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada by all modes was vehicles and parts, of which \$4.6 billion, or 59.7 percent, moved by truck and \$2.9 billion, or 37.8 percent, moved by rail (Figure 4). The top commodity category for all modes transported between the U.S. and Mexico in January 2016 was electrical machinery, of which \$7.2 billion, or 91.5 percent, moved by truck and \$0.5 billion, or 5.7 percent, moved by air (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 February TransBorder numbers for April 28.

**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		-4.3	
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	
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>90,326</b>	<b>89,258</b>	<b>82,430</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-7.7</b>
<b>Annual</b>	<b>1,192,671</b>	<b>1,106,325</b>		<b>-7.2</b>	

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)

<b>Mode</b>		<b>January 2015</b>	<b>January 2016</b>	<b>Percent Change January 2015-2016</b>
All Modes	Imports	47,467	44,565	-6.1
	Exports	41,792	37,865	-9.4
	Total	89,258	82,430	-7.7
All Surface Modes	Imports	40,690	39,847	-2.1
	Exports	33,789	31,393	-7.1
	Total	74,479	71,240	-4.3
Truck	Imports	27,405	28,387	3.6
	Exports	28,234	26,390	-6.5
	Total	55,638	54,777	-1.5
Rail	Imports	8,380	8,343	-0.4
	Exports	4,582	4,163	-9.1
	Total	12,962	12,506	-3.5
Pipeline	Imports	4,905	3,116	-36.5
	Exports	974	840	-13.7
	Total	5,878	3,957	-32.7
Vessel	Imports	3,725	2,239	-39.9
	Exports	3,227	2,119	-34.3
	Total	6,953	4,359	-37.3
Air	Imports	1,435	1,278	-10.9
	Exports	2,022	1,736	-14.1
	Total	3,456	3,014	-12.8

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](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)

<b>Mode</b>		<b>January 2015</b>	<b>January 2016</b>	<b>Percent Change January 2015-2016</b>
All Modes	Imports	25,405	22,164	-12.8
	Exports	22,648	19,799	-12.6
	Total	48,053	41,963	-12.7
All Surface Modes	Imports	21,634	19,587	-9.5
	Exports	17,971	16,150	-10.1
	Total	39,605	35,737	-9.8
Truck	Imports	11,370	11,709	3.0
	Exports	15,078	13,677	-9.3
	Total	26,448	25,387	-4.0
Rail	Imports	5,372	4,782	-11.0
	Exports	2,193	1,887	-14.0
	Total	7,566	6,669	-11.8
Pipeline	Imports	4,892	3,096	-36.7
	Exports	700	585	-16.3
	Total	5,591	3,681	-34.2
Vessel	Imports	1,601	1,031	-35.6
	Exports	1,209	587	-51.5
	Total	2,810	1,617	-42.4
Air	Imports	941	797	-15.3
	Exports	1,344	1,039	-22.7
	Total	2,285	1,836	-19.6

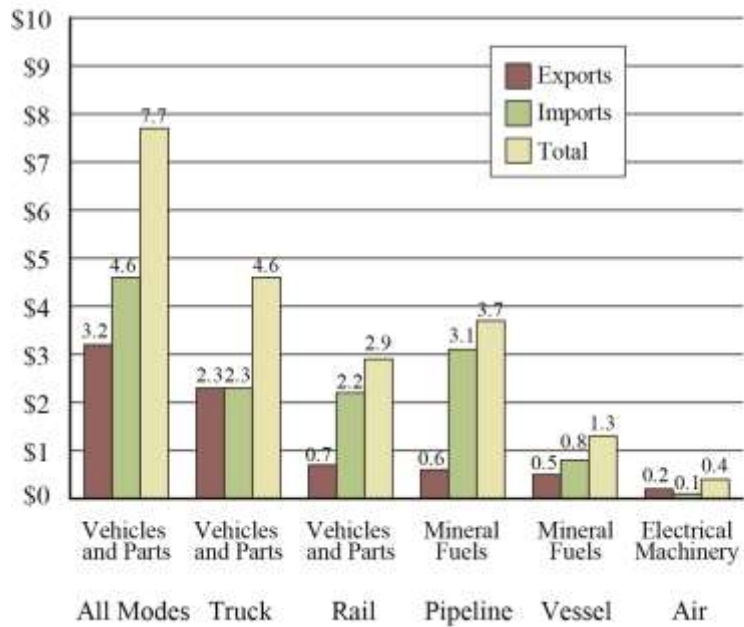
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**Figure 4. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Canada for Each Mode of Transportation, January 2016 (billions of current dollars)**



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)

<b>Mode</b>		<b>January 2015</b>	<b>January 2016</b>	<b>Percent Change January 2015-2016</b>
All Modes	Imports	22,062	22,401	1.5
	Exports	19,144	18,066	-5.6
	Total	41,205	40,467	-1.8
All Surface Modes	Imports	19,056	20,260	6.3
	Exports	15,818	15,243	-3.6
	Total	34,874	35,503	1.8
Truck	Imports	16,034	16,678	4.0
	Exports	13,156	12,712	-3.4
	Total	29,190	29,390	0.7
Rail	Imports	3,008	3,561	18.4
	Exports	2,388	2,276	-4.7
	Total	5,396	5,837	8.2
Pipeline	Imports	13	21	59.7
	Exports	274	255	-7.0
	Total	287	275	-4.0
Vessel	Imports	2,124	1,208	-43.1
	Exports	2,019	1,533	-24.1
	Total	4,143	2,741	-33.8
Air	Imports	493	481	-2.5
	Exports	678	697	2.9
	Total	1,171	1,178	0.6

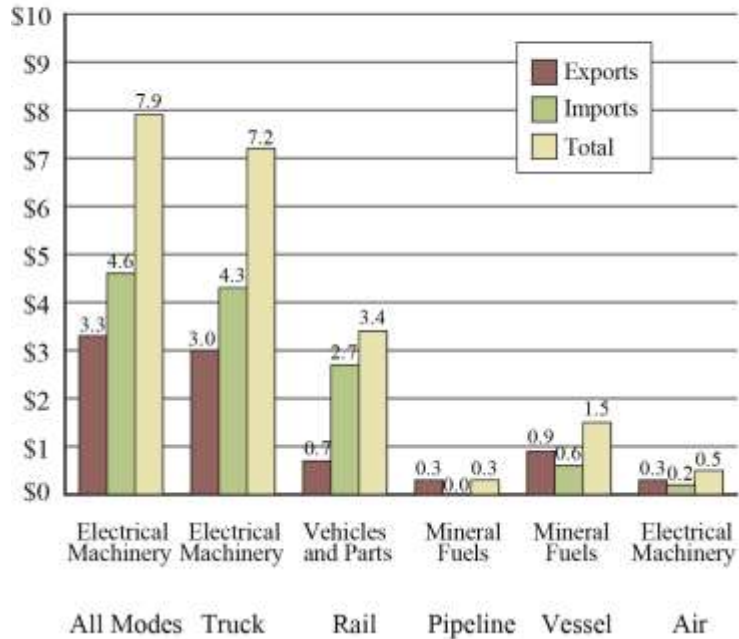
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**Figure 5. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Mexico for Each Mode of Transportation, January 2016  
(billions of current dollars)**



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)  
 NOTES: Import and export numbers might not add to totals due to rounding.