



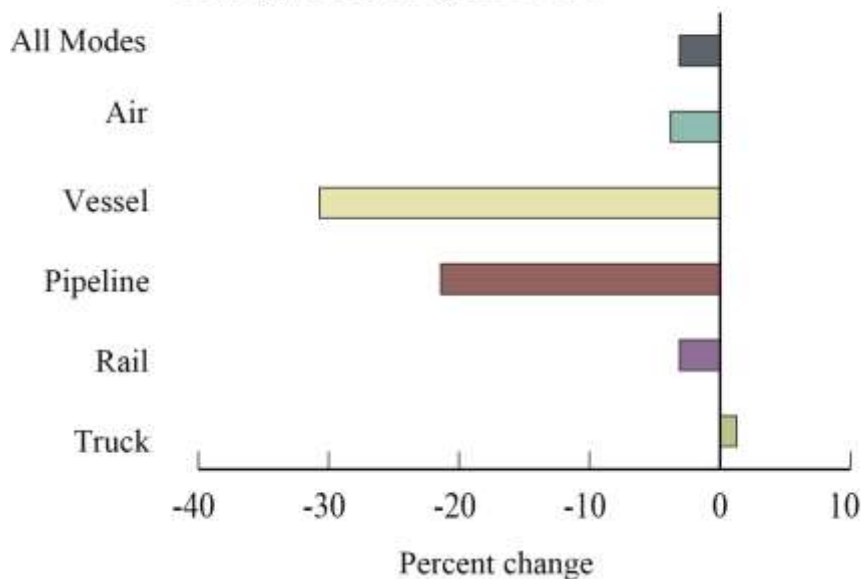
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BTS Data

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May 2016 North American Freight Numbers

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



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

Trucks carried more U.S. freight by value with North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico in May 2016 compared to May 2015 but declines in all other freight modes led to a 3.1 percent decrease to \$89.8 billion in the total current dollar value of cross-border freight. May was the 17th consecutive month that the total value of U.S.-NAFTA freight declined from the same month of the previous year, 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

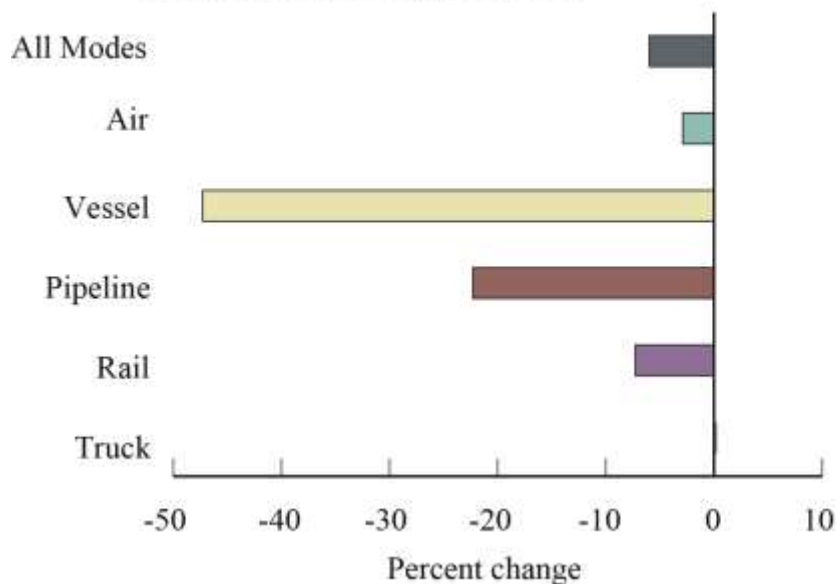
The value of commodities moving by truck increased 1.3 percent as the value of incoming freight from Mexico (up 6.2 percent) and Canada (up 11.4 percent) exceeded the 5.5 percent decrease in shipments from the U.S. Of the top 10 commodities transported between the U.S. and other NAFTA countries by truck, fruits and nuts had the highest year over year increase – 13.2 percent. The value of freight carried on other modes declined: rail 3.1 percent; air 3.8 percent; pipeline 21.4 percent; and vessel 30.7 percent (Figure 1, Table 2). A drop in the price of crude oil played a key role in the large declines in the dollar value of products 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 66.0 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 \$31.2 billion of the \$47.9 billion of imports (65.3 percent) and \$28.1 billion of the \$42.0 billion of exports (66.9 percent) (Table 2).

Rail remained the second largest mode by value, moving 15.8 percent of all U.S.-NAFTA freight, followed by vessel, 5.4 percent; pipeline, 3.9 percent; and air, 3.7 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 85.8 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: May 2015-2016



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

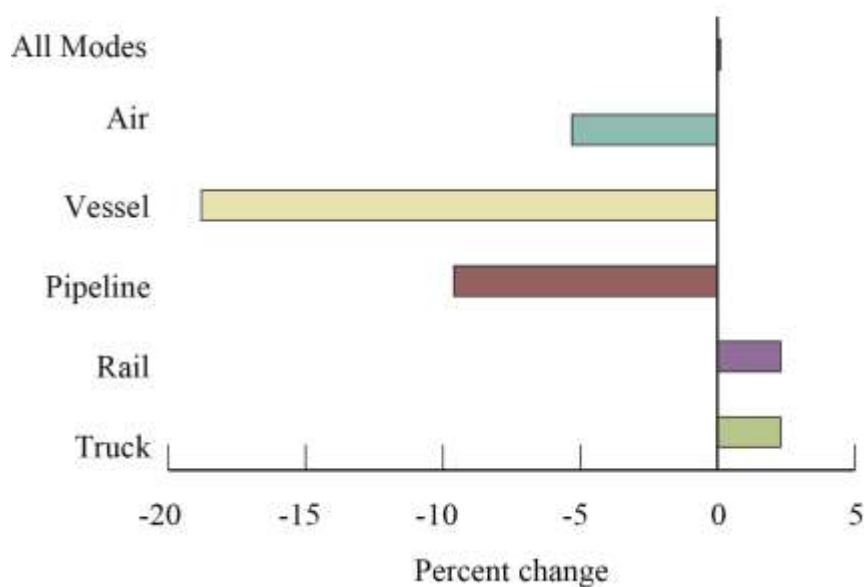
From May 2015 to May 2016, the value of U.S.-Canada freight flows fell 6.0 percent to \$46.0 billion as all modes of transportation except truck carried a lower value of U.S.-Canada freight than a year earlier.

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 pipeline and vessel, which were down 22.3 percent and 47.3 percent respectively year-over-year (Figure 2, Table 3).

Trucks carried 61.1 percent of the value of the freight to and from Canada. Rail carried 16.6 percent followed by pipeline, 7.0 percent; air, 4.6 percent; and vessel, 3.4 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 84.8 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: May 2015-2016



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

From May 2015 to May 2016, the value of U.S.-Mexico freight rose 0.1 percent to \$43.9 billion as all modes of transportation except truck and rail carried a lower value of U.S.-Mexico freight than a year earlier. Freight carried by truck and rail both increased 2.3 percent. Air freight value declined 5.3 percent. Pipeline and vessel freight value dropped by 9.6 percent and 18.8 percent respectively, both due mainly to lower crude oil prices (Figure 3, Table 4).

Trucks carried 71.2 percent of the value of freight to and from Mexico. Rail carried 15.0 percent followed by vessel, 7.6 percent; air, 2.8 percent; and pipeline, 0.7 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 86.9 percent of the value of total U.S.-Mexico freight flows (Table 4).

Commodities

In May 2016, the top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada by all modes was vehicles and parts, of which \$5.1 billion, or 55.2 percent, moved by truck and \$3.9 billion, or 42.4 percent, moved by rail (Figure 4). The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Mexico by all modes in May 2016 was electrical machinery, of which \$7.6 billion, or 91.6 percent, moved by truck (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 might 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 June TransBorder numbers for Aug. 25.

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	90,462	-5.3	-5.8
April	100,141	93,327	90,380	-6.8	-3.2
May	103,942	92,707	89,840	-10.8	-3.1
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	485,444	457,086	437,149	-5.8	-4.4
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		May 2015	May 2016	Percent Change May 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	48,311	47,875	-0.9
	Exports	44,396	41,965	-5.5
	Total	92,707	89,840	-3.1
All Surface Modes	Imports	41,890	42,583	1.7
	Exports	35,839	34,491	-3.8
	Total	77,729	77,074	-0.8
Truck	Imports	28,845	31,245	8.3
	Exports	29,731	28,091	-5.5
	Total	58,576	59,336	1.3
Rail	Imports	9,404	8,792	-6.5
	Exports	5,269	5,426	3.0
	Total	14,673	14,218	-3.1
Pipeline	Imports	3,641	2,546	-30.1
	Exports	839	975	16.2
	Total	4,480	3,520	-21.4
Vessel	Imports	3,613	2,517	-30.3
	Exports	3,426	2,363	-31.0
	Total	7,039	4,881	-30.7
Air	Imports	1,383	1,409	1.9
	Exports	2,077	1,920	-7.6
	Total	3,460	3,329	-3.8

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

Table 3. Value of Monthly U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

Mode		May 2015	May 2016	Percent Change May 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	24,120	23,032	-4.5
	Exports	24,764	22,925	-7.4
	Total	48,884	45,957	-6.0
All Surface Modes	Imports	20,761	20,279	-2.3
	Exports	19,653	18,674	-5.0
	Total	40,414	38,953	-3.6
Truck	Imports	11,676	13,009	11.4
	Exports	16,332	15,069	-7.7
	Total	28,009	28,078	0.2
Rail	Imports	5,473	4,739	-13.4
	Exports	2,770	2,903	4.8
	Total	8,243	7,642	-7.3
Pipeline	Imports	3,612	2,531	-29.9
	Exports	550	702	27.7
	Total	4,162	3,233	-22.3
Vessel	Imports	1,503	1,054	-29.9
	Exports	1,423	489	-65.6
	Total	2,926	1,543	-47.3
Air	Imports	864	886	2.6
	Exports	1,298	1,213	-6.5
	Total	2,161	2,099	-2.9

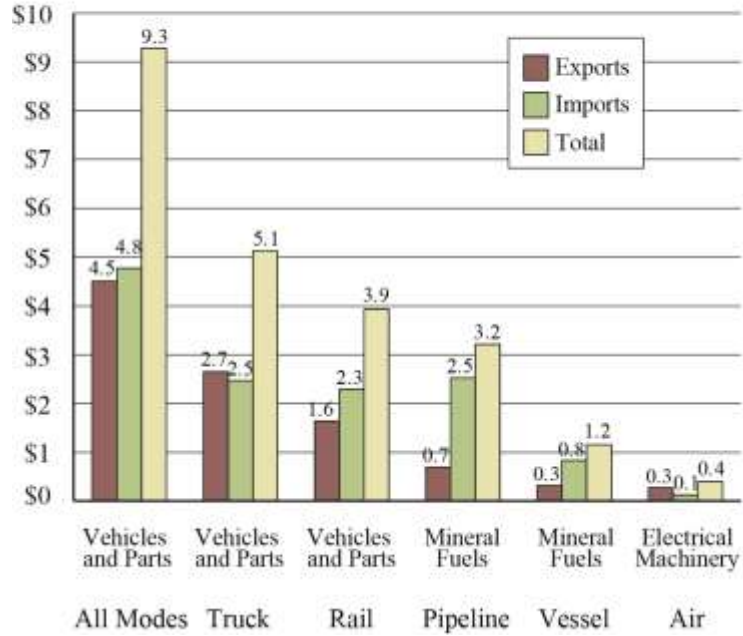
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

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**Figure 4. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Canada for Each Mode of Transportation, May 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)

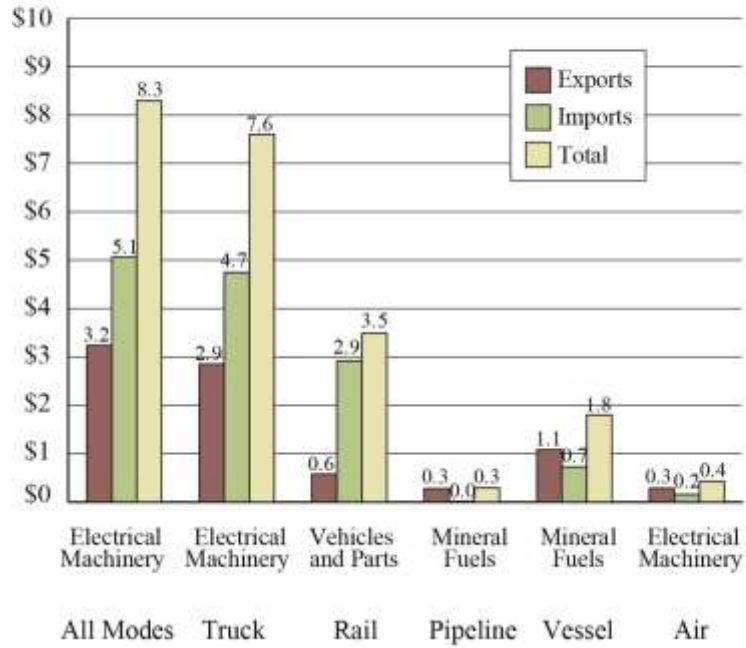
Mode		May 2015	May 2016	Percent Change May 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	24,191	24,842	2.7
	Exports	19,632	19,041	-3.0
	Total	43,823	43,883	0.1
All Surface Modes	Imports	21,129	22,304	5.6
	Exports	16,187	15,817	-2.3
	Total	37,316	38,121	2.2
Truck	Imports	17,168	18,236	6.2
	Exports	13,399	13,022	-2.8
	Total	30,568	31,258	2.3
Rail	Imports	3,931	4,053	3.1
	Exports	2,499	2,522	0.9
	Total	6,430	6,576	2.3
Pipeline	Imports	29	14	-50.8
	Exports	289	273	-5.5
	Total	318	287	-9.6
Vessel	Imports	2,110	1,464	-30.6
	Exports	2,003	1,874	-6.4
	Total	4,113	3,338	-18.8
Air	Imports	520	523	0.6
	Exports	779	707	-9.3
	Total	1,299	1,230	-5.3

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

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**Figure 5. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Mexico for Each Mode of Transportation, May 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.