



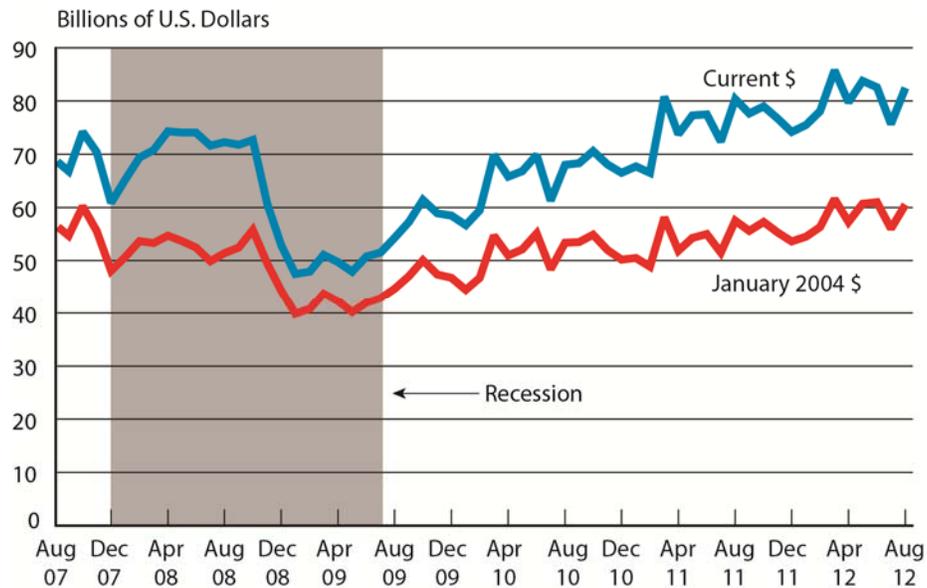
U.S. Department of Transportation
 Office of Public Affairs
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
 Washington, DC 20590
<http://www.dot.gov/briefingroom>

BTS Data

BTS 49-12
 Friday, November 2, 2012
 Contact: Dave Smallen
 Tel: 202-366-5568

August 2012 Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico Rose 2.6 Percent From August 2011

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



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

Trade using surface transportation between the United States and its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners, Canada and Mexico, was 2.6 percent higher in August 2012 than in August 2011, totaling \$82.5 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 August 2012 total was \$60.5 billion in 2004 dollars, up 5.2 percent from August 2011.

-more-

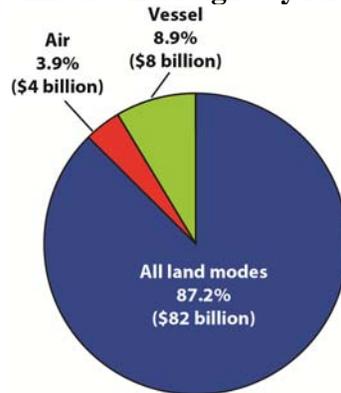
NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS ADD ONE

BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, reported that the August 2012 value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico rose 52.0 percent from August 2009, shortly after the end of the last 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 August increased by 76.5 percent compared to August 2002, a period of 10 years. Imports in August were up 63.2 percent since August 2002, while exports were up 94.2 percent (*Figure 2* and *Table 3*). See [Transborder Press Releases](#) for historical data.

Surface transportation includes freight movements by truck, rail, pipeline, mail, [other](#) modes of transport, and goods moving into Foreign Trade Zones. In August, 87.2 percent of U.S. trade by value with Canada and Mexico moved via land, 8.9 percent moved by vessel, and 3.9 percent moved by air (*Figure 3*).

Figure 2: North American Freight by Mode, August 2012



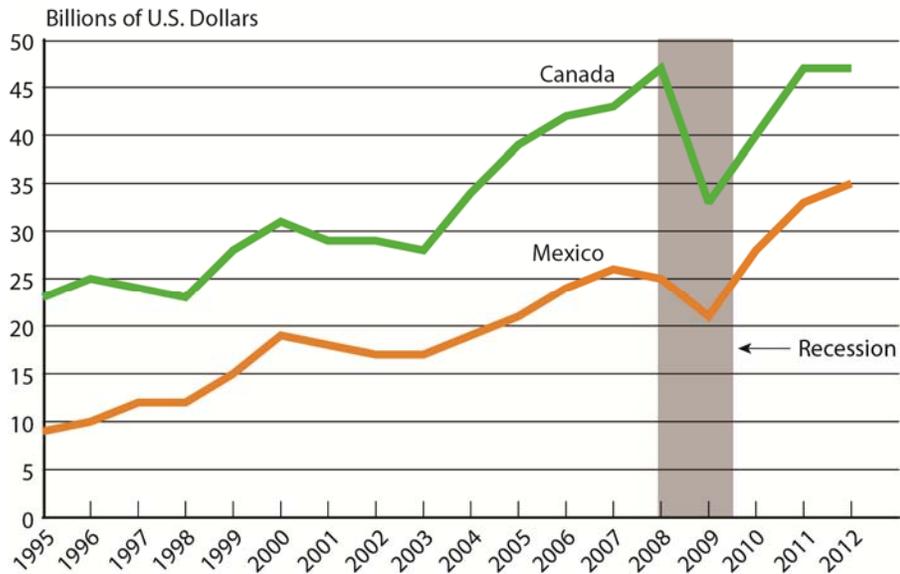
SOURCE: BTS TransBorder Freight Data, <http://www.bts.gov/transborder/>

The value of U.S. surface transportation trade with Canada and Mexico increased 9.0 percent in August 2012 from July 2012 (*Table 2*). Month-to-month changes can be affected by seasonal variations, the number of days in each month, and other factors.

- more -

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS ADD TWO

Figure 3: U.S. Surface Trade with Canada and Mexico, Month of August 1995-2012
Unadjusted for Inflation and Exchange Rate Fluctuations



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

U.S.-Mexico August 2012 trade reached \$35.5 billion, a 7.8 percent increase from August 2011, while U.S.-Canada trade was \$47.0 billion, a 1.0 percent decrease due to a decrease in imports from Canada (*Figure 3*). For trade statistics by mode, see Table 4 for Canada and Table 6 for Mexico. For the 12-month period ending in August 2012, U.S. trade by surface transportation with Mexico has increased, while U.S. trade with Canada decreased.

In August, Michigan led all states in surface trade with Canada, at \$6.8 billion, a 5.8 percent increase from August 2011 (*Table 5*). Of the top 10 states by value in trade with Canada, California had the largest percentage increase over August 2011, at 21.0 percent, primarily due to a 71.4 percent increase in trade in vehicles

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

Texas continued to lead all states in surface trade with Mexico at \$13.1 billion, a 10.2 percent increase from August 2011. Of the top 10 states by value in trade with Mexico, North Carolina had the biggest percentage increase, 24.1 percent, closely followed by Michigan at 23.3 percent (*Table 7*). North Carolina had a 96.3 percent increase in electrical machinery trade, while Michigan had a 29.4 percent increase in trade in vehicles. The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Mexico by surface modes of transportation in August was electrical machinery with \$7.6 billion in trade (*Table 9*).

- more -

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS ADD THREE

Technical Note: The BLS indexes used in the 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 September TransBorder numbers for Nov. 27.

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	82,601	11.0	6.6
July	61,260	72,363	75,694	18.1	4.6
August	67,964	80,406	82,480	18.3	2.6
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	517,851	596,465	643,825	15.2	7.9
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.

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS
ADD FOUR

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

Mode		August 2011	July 2012	August 2012	Percent Change	Percent Change
					July 2012 - August 2012	August 2011 - 2012
All Surface Modes	Imports	42,685	40,126	43,673	8.8	2.3
	Exports	37,722	35,568	38,808	9.1	2.9
	Total	80,406	75,694	82,480	9.0	2.6
Truck	Imports	26,684	25,103	27,464	9.4	2.9
	Exports	29,328	27,292	29,905	9.6	2.0
Rail	Imports	7,951	8,181	9,245	13.0	16.3
	Exports	4,853	4,811	5,401	12.3	11.3
Pipeline	Imports	6,492	5,446	5,384	-1.1	-17.1
	Exports	861	750	632	-15.7	-26.6

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

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

Compared to August in...	Percent Change		
	Imports	Exports	Total Surface Trade
2011	2.3	2.9	2.6
2010	19.8	23.2	21.4
2009	51.3	52.8	52.0
2008	7.0	23.5	14.2
2007	11.0	30.2	19.3
2006	15.7	35.6	24.3
2005	26.6	51.1	37.0
2004	39.8	73.8	53.9
2003	68.2	103.5	83.2
2002	63.2	94.2	76.5

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

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS
ADD FIVE

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

Mode		August 2011	July 2012	August 2012	Percent Change July 2012 - August 2012	Percent Change August 2011 - 2012
All Surface Modes	Imports	24,839	22,155	24,298	9.7	-2.2
	Exports	22,648	20,792	22,695	9.2	0.2
	Total	47,488	42,946	46,993	9.4	-1.0
Truck	Imports	11,895	10,625	11,753	10.6	-1.2
	Exports	17,406	15,558	17,311	11.3	-0.5
Rail	Imports	5,281	4,967	5,971	20.2	13.1
	Exports	2,608	2,728	3,061	12.2	17.3
Pipeline	Imports	6,465	5,430	5,366	-1.2	-17.0
	Exports	572	510	282	-44.8	-50.7

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

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

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

State	August 2011		August 2012		Percent Change August 2011-2012
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	
Michigan	6,390	1	6,763	1	5.8
Illinois	5,156	2	4,391	2	-14.8
California	2,529	6	3,060	3	21.0
Ohio	2,970	3	2,894	4	-2.6
Texas	2,700	4	2,609	5	-3.4
New York	2,626	5	2,394	6	-8.8
Pennsylvania	1,893	7	1,973	7	4.2
Washington	1,824	8	1,609	8	-11.8
Indiana	1,584	10	1,607	9	1.5
Minnesota	1,653	9	1,563	10	-5.5

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.

- more -

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS
ADD SIX

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

Mode		August 2011	July 2012	August 2012	Percent Change July 2012 - August 2012	Percent Change August 2011 - 2012
All Surface Modes	Imports	17,845	17,971	19,375	7.8	8.6
	Exports	15,073	14,777	16,113	9.0	6.9
	Total	32,919	32,748	35,487	8.4	7.8
Truck	Imports	14,790	14,478	15,711	8.5	6.2
	Exports	11,923	11,734	12,593	7.3	5.6
Rail	Imports	2,670	3,215	3,274	1.8	22.6
	Exports	2,244	2,083	2,340	12.4	4.3
Pipeline	Imports	27	16	18	14.8	-33.1
	Exports	289	240	351	46.4	21.2

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 August 2012 Surface Trade Value
(millions of dollars)

State	August 2011		August 2012		Percent Change August 2011-2012
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	
Texas	11,873	1	13,079	1	10.2
California	4,892	2	4,746	2	-3.0
Michigan	3,470	3	4,278	3	23.3
Illinois	1,135	4	1,226	4	8.0
Arizona	819	6	948	5	15.8
Ohio	841	5	941	6	12.0
Tennessee	709	7	798	7	12.5
Indiana	611	8	684	8	11.9
North Carolina	532	9	660	9	24.1
Pennsylvania	464	10	458	10	-1.2

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

NOTE: Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

- more -

NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE TRADE NUMBERS
ADD SEVEN

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

Commodities	Exports	Imports	Total
Vehicles Other than Rail Cars	4,360	5,217	9,576
Oil and Gas	840	6,857	7,697
Computer-Related Machinery and Parts	3,900	1,508	5,409
Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	1,874	510	2,384
Plastics	1,136	854	1,990

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

NOTE: Numbers August 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, August 2012
(millions of dollars)

Commodities	Exports	Imports	Total
Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts	2,818	4,759	7,576
Computer-Related Machinery and Parts	3,049	3,771	6,820
Vehicles Other than Rail Cars	1,848	4,432	6,280
Plastics	1,221	316	1,537
Measuring and Testing Instruments	398	886	1,285

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

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

--End--