

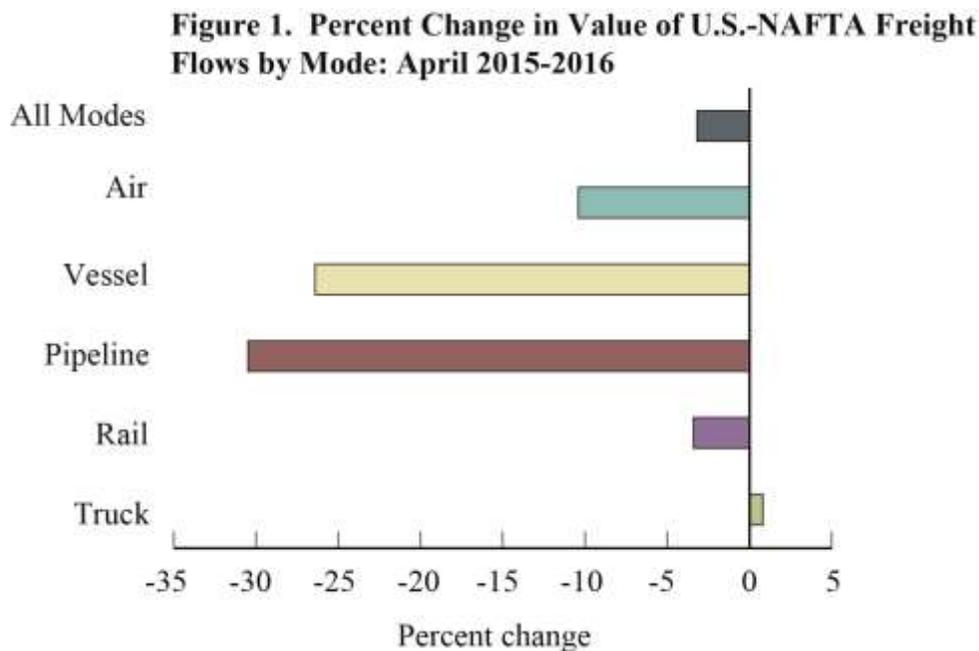


U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
<http://www.dot.gov/briefingroom>

BTS Data

BTS 35-16
Thursday, June 23, 2016
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April 2016 North American Freight Numbers



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 April 2016 compared to April 2015 but declines in all other freight modes led to a 3.2 percent decrease to \$90.4 billion in the total current dollar value of cross-border freight. April was the 16th consecutive month that the 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

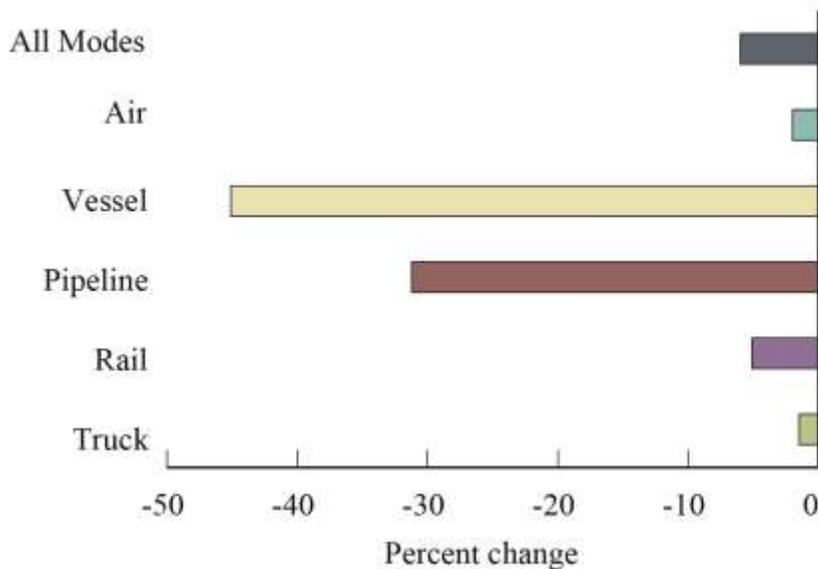
The value of commodities moving by truck increased 0.8 percent as the value of incoming freight from Mexico (up 6.5 percent) and Canada (up 3.0 percent) exceeded the 3.6 percent decrease in shipments from the U.S. The value of freight carried on other modes declined: rail 3.4 percent; air 10.4 percent; vessel 26.4 percent; and pipeline 30.5 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 66.8 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 \$31.4 billion of the \$47.6 billion of imports (65.9 percent) and \$29.0 billion of the \$42.8 billion of exports (67.8 percent) (Table 2).

Rail remained the second largest mode by value, moving 15.6 percent of all U.S.-NAFTA freight, followed by vessel, 5.0 percent; air, 3.8 percent; and pipeline, 3.7 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 86.0 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: April 2015-2016



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

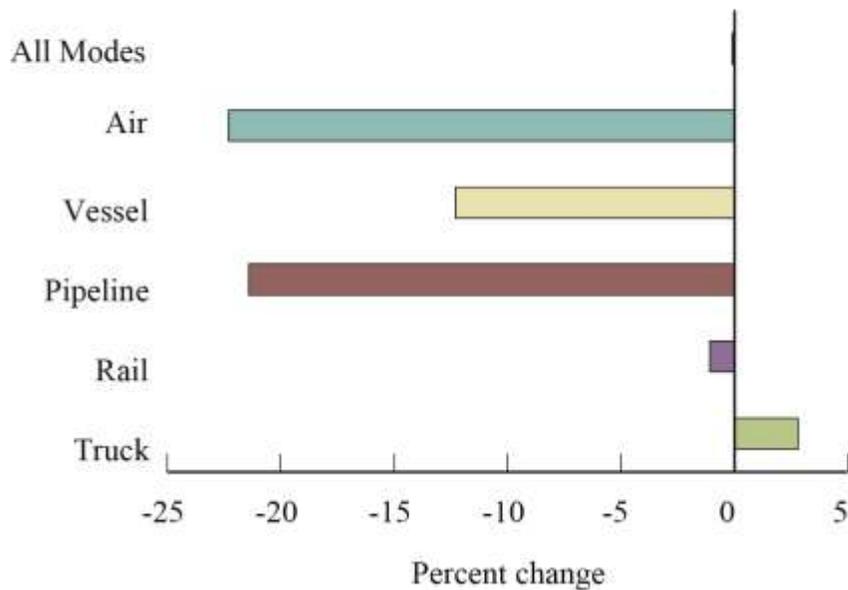
From April 2015 to April 2016, the value of U.S.-Canada freight flows fell 6.0 percent to \$45.9 billion as all modes of transportation carried a lower value of U.S.-Canada freight than a year earlier.

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 pipeline and vessel, which were down 31.2 percent and 45.1 percent respectively year-over-year (Figure 2, Table 3).

Trucks carried 60.8 percent of the value of the freight to and from Canada. Rail carried 17.0 percent followed by pipeline, 6.7 percent; air, 4.7 percent; and vessel, 3.1 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 84.5 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: April 2015-2016



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

From April 2015 to April 2016, the value of U.S.-Mexico freight fell 0.1 percent to \$44.5 billion as all modes of transportation except truck carried a lower value of U.S.-Mexico freight than a year earlier. Freight carried by truck increased 2.8 percent, primarily because of an increase in shipments of machinery, computers, and parts. Rail freight value declined 1.1 percent. Vessel freight value declined 12.3 percent and pipeline freight value dropped by 21.4 percent, both due mainly to lower crude oil prices. Air freight value decreased by 22.3 percent (Figure 3, Table 4).

Trucks carried 73.0 percent of the value of freight to and from Mexico. Rail carried 14.1 percent followed by vessel, 6.8 percent; air, 2.7 percent; and pipeline, 0.6 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 April 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 54.6 percent, moved by truck and \$4.0 billion, or 42.9 percent, moved by rail (Figure 4). The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Mexico by all modes in April 2016 was computers and parts, of which \$7.5 billion, or 85.8 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 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 May TransBorder numbers for July 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	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		-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	381,502	364,379	347,309	-4.5	-4.7
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		April 2015	April 2016	Percent Change April 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	49,061	47,611	-3.0
	Exports	44,266	42,769	-3.4
	Total	93,327	90,380	-3.2
All Surface Modes	Imports	43,123	42,466	-1.5
	Exports	36,122	35,295	-2.3
	Total	79,245	77,761	-1.9
Truck	Imports	29,828	31,357	5.1
	Exports	30,060	28,991	-3.6
	Total	59,888	60,348	0.8
Rail	Imports	9,410	8,637	-8.2
	Exports	5,178	5,462	5.5
	Total	14,588	14,099	-3.4
Pipeline	Imports	3,885	2,471	-36.4
	Exports	884	842	-4.7
	Total	4,769	3,313	-30.5
Vessel	Imports	3,199	2,341	-26.8
	Exports	2,900	2,147	-26.0
	Total	6,099	4,488	-26.4
Air	Imports	1,411	1,464	3.7
	Exports	2,376	1,929	-18.8
	Total	3,787	3,393	-10.4

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)

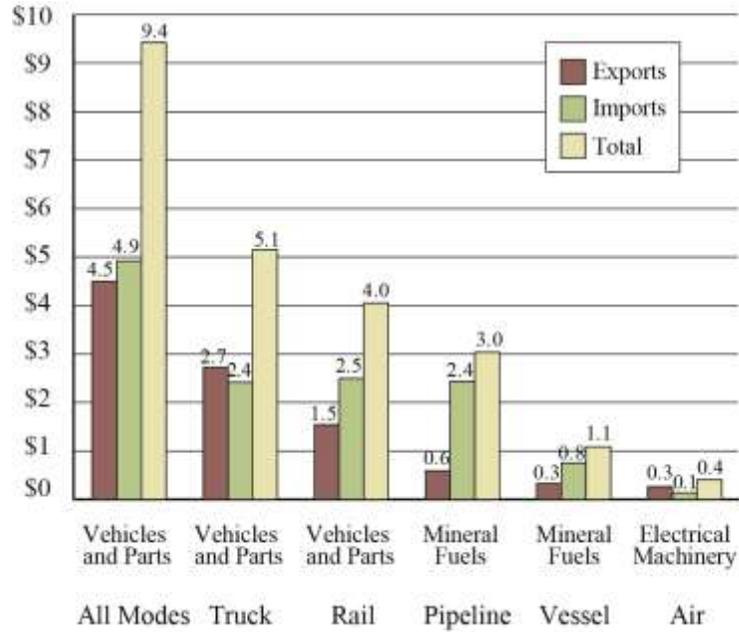
Mode		April 2015	April 2016	Percent Change April 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	24,606	22,513	-8.5
	Exports	24,211	23,384	-3.4
	Total	48,817	45,897	-6.0
All Surface Modes	Imports	21,473	19,866	-7.5
	Exports	19,524	18,903	-3.2
	Total	40,997	38,770	-5.4
Truck	Imports	12,059	12,426	3.0
	Exports	16,260	15,469	-4.9
	Total	28,318	27,895	-1.5
Rail	Imports	5,547	4,989	-10.0
	Exports	2,689	2,827	5.2
	Total	8,236	7,817	-5.1
Pipeline	Imports	3,868	2,451	-36.6
	Exports	576	607	5.5
	Total	4,444	3,058	-31.2
Vessel	Imports	1,427	994	-30.4
	Exports	1,196	447	-62.6
	Total	2,623	1,441	-45.1
Air	Imports	872	890	2.0
	Exports	1,348	1,287	-4.6
	Total	2,220	2,177	-2.0

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, April 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)

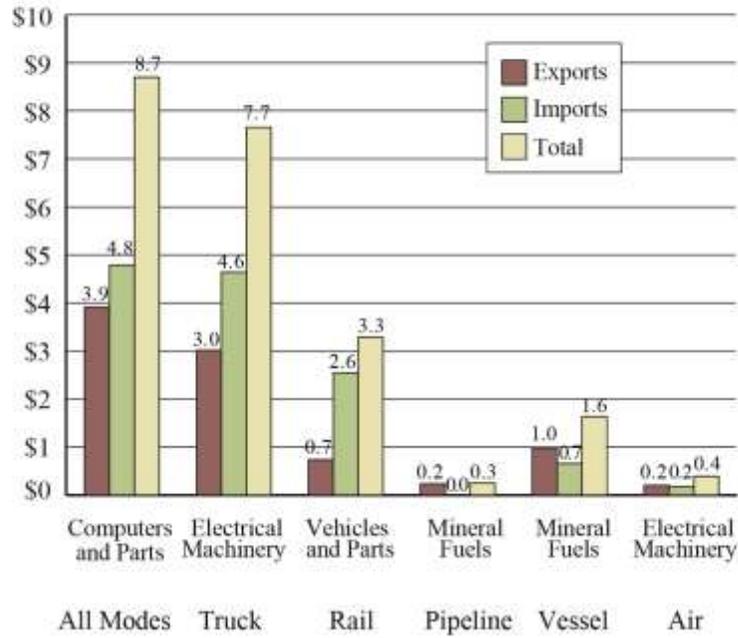
Mode		April 2015	April 2016	Percent Change April 2015-2016
All Modes	Imports	24,454	25,098	2.6
	Exports	20,055	19,385	-3.3
	Total	44,509	44,483	-0.1
All Surface Modes	Imports	21,649	22,599	4.4
	Exports	16,598	16,392	-1.2
	Total	38,248	38,992	1.9
Truck	Imports	17,769	18,931	6.5
	Exports	13,801	13,523	-2.0
	Total	31,570	32,454	2.8
Rail	Imports	3,864	3,648	-5.6
	Exports	2,489	2,634	5.8
	Total	6,353	6,283	-1.1
Pipeline	Imports	16	20	23.1
	Exports	309	235	-23.8
	Total	325	255	-21.4
Vessel	Imports	1,772	1,347	-24.0
	Exports	1,704	1,700	-0.2
	Total	3,476	3,047	-12.3
Air	Imports	539	574	6.5
	Exports	1,027	643	-37.5
	Total	1,566	1,217	-22.3

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, April 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.