

BTS Border Data Programs: Improvements to Meet User Needs

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**North American Freight
Transportation Data Workshop**

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BTS Border Data Programs

- **Border Crossing/Entry Data**
 - Extracted from *Customs Operations Management Reporting* data
 - Counts of incoming vehicles, containers, and people
- **TransBorder Freight Data**
 - Subset of Census foreign trade statistics
 - Value, weight, & mode of freight flows

Border Crossing/Entry Data

- Monthly data on-line from January 1995 – July 2006 (*December 2006* coming soon)
- Data on number of:
 - Trucks
 - Truck Containers
 - Trains
 - Rail Containers
 - Personal Vehicles
 - Buses
 - Passengers
 - Pedestrians

Border Crossing/Entry Data: Improvements

- Now available in an online searchable database: www.bts.gov/itt
- Users can search and download time-series data by:
 - State
 - Port
 - Mode
 - Year
 - Month

TransBorder Freight Data: Background

- TransBorder data, available since April 1993, contains *freight flow* statistics by *commodity type* and *mode* of transportation
- Covers U.S. trade with Canada and Mexico, including *state*, *port*, and *commodity* detail by *all modes* of transportation

TransBorder Freight Data: Background

- A **unique** data series that allows complete trend analysis of U.S.-NAFTA freight movements
- Provides data for uses such as; trade corridor studies, transportation infrastructure planning, marketing and logistics plans, and emergency preparedness

TransBorder Data: At First

Coverage:

- Initially available for land modes only: truck, rail, pipelines, and other surface
- Limits on the combination of data; (port with commodity not available)
- Only value data for exports by land modes

TransBorder Data: At First

Access:

- Restrictive searchable database
- Limited selective download capability
- Large number of static tables
- No dynamic cross-tabulation capability
- Difficult to find and use metadata

TransBorder: Need for Change

Since 2002:

- There have been two data user workshops regarding the future direction of the BTS border data program
- Additional stakeholder input also obtained at annual and mid-year TRB meetings
- Users have suggested several improvements in both coverage and access

TransBorder: Need for Change

In the past 5 years, BTS:

- Made a major effort to meet the expressed stakeholder needs
- Negotiated changes in coverage with the Census Bureau
- Secured resources to re-design the web interface
- Leveraged improved IT architecture to develop more robust data query capabilities

TransBorder Data: Improved Coverage

- Added comparable air and vessel data to provide a more complete picture
- Combined port and commodity data now available for the first time
- Weight data for exports to Mexico by land mode possibly coming soon...

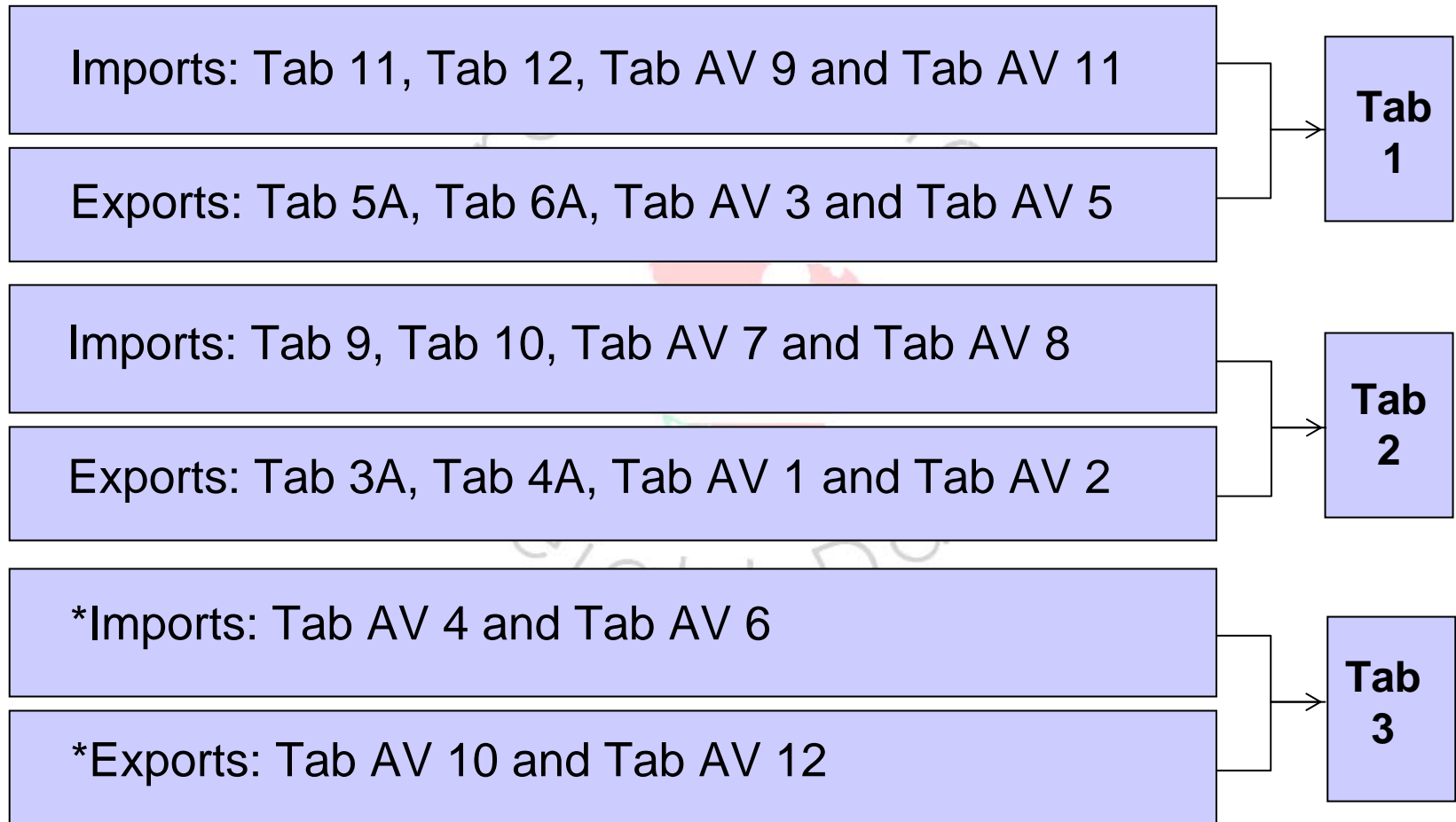


Transborder Data: New Table Structure

Beginning in January 2007:

- Data tables restructured to simplify and improve usability of the data
- Land modes, air, and vessel tables are now combined and all modes of transportation are included in a single data field “*DISAGMOT*”
- Import and Export tables are combined and direction is identified by the data field “*TRDTYPE*”
- Canada and Mexico tables are also combined and identified by a new data field “*COUNTRY*”

TransBorder Data: From Twenty Tables to Three



Transborder Data: Three New Combined Tables

- **Table 1: State and Port detail**—allows analysis of exports and imports for each **state/province** as an origin and destination and the specific Customs **ports of entry/exit** (except Mexican state of origin)
- **Table 2: State and Commodity detail**—allows analysis of exports and imports for each **state/province** as an origin and destination with **commodity detail** at the 2 digit level (Commodity codes based on Harmonized System)
- **Table 3: Port and Commodity detail**—allows analysis of exports and imports for **commodities** transported through specific Customs **ports of entry/exit**



The New TransBorder Interface



Improved Access:

- New interface enables data analysis by port, geography, and commodity for all modes in *multi-variable cross-tabulations*
- Integrates a *dynamic search capability* with a *user-friendly* and *logical* interface
- Quick and easy download of monthly and annual raw data

The New TransBorder Interface

Goals for Database Modernization:

- Include air, vessel, and surface mode data in the same searchable database
- Enable power users to develop advanced queries to suit their needs
 - Cross-tabulations reduce the need for multiple searches
- High level/simple search capability (*Fast Facts*)
 - Allow users to get ranked results
 - Eliminate thousands of static tables
- Provide comprehensive metadata

The New TransBorder Interface



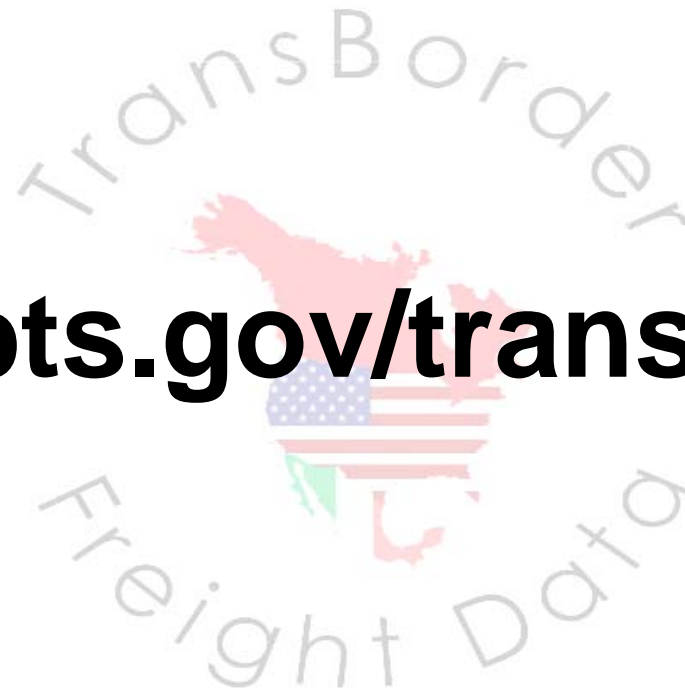
You can make multiple selections in the boxes by clicking on selections while holding down the Shift key (contiguous) or the Ctrl key (discontinuous).

New! Commodity trading data via ports at country level are available for 2007, click [HERE](#) to query.

<p>US State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggregate all US States All US States Detail Alabama (AL) Alaska (AK) Arkansas (AR) Arizona (AZ) California (CA) Colorado (CO) 	<p>Trading Partner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAFTA (Canada and Mexico) Canada Mexico All Canada Provinces Detail All Mexico States Detail Alberta (CAN) British Columbia (CAN) Manitoba (CAN) 	<p>Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Years Detail 2007 (Jan-Feb) 2006 2005 2004 2003 2002 2001 	<p>Month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Summary All 12 Months Detail January February March April May June
<p>Customs Port</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggregate all Ports Ports by Name Land Ports Air ports Sea Ports Ports by Code Northern Border Ports Southern Border Ports Ports by State Order Alaska (AK) Alabama (AL) Arkansas (AR) Arizona (AZ) 	<p>Measure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value (in US Dollars) Weight (in Pounds) Weight (in Kilograms) Weight (in US Short Tons) Weight (in Metric Tons) <p>Trade Type</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Make Measure Selection First~ 	<p>Mode</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Make Year Selection First~ 	<p>Data Display</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actual In Thousands In Millions In Billions <p>Output Option</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table w/o % Change Table w/ % Change Flat Table w/o % Change <p>Other Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suppress Zero and NA Show Commodity Desc
<p>Port Name, Code and Type</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Make Port Group Selection First~ 		<p>Commodity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Make Port Group Selection First~ 	

Demo

www.bts.gov/transborder



Questions and Discussion

