

Transactions Microdata:

CFS, EXP, IMP, LFTTD

Restricted-Use Transaction Microdata

Commodity Flow Survey (CFS)

Description: The Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) is the primary source of national and state-level data on domestic freight shipments by American establishments in mining, manufacturing, wholesale, auxiliaries, and selected retail industries. It is a shipper-based survey and is conducted every five years as part of the Economic Census. It provides a modal picture of national freight flows, and represents the only publicly available source of commodity flow data for the highway mode.

Survey Unit: Establishment

Frequency: Various

Time Periods: 1993, 1997, 2002, 2007

Number of Observations: 2,470,000 in 2002

Sponsor: [Department of Transportation](#) (DOT)

Additional Information

- [BTS Commodity Flow Survey](#)
- [Commodity Flow Survey](#)

Foreign Trade Data – Exports (EXP)

Description: This database contains transactions level data on the exports of the universe of firms operating in the U.S. that engage in merchandise export to a foreign destination. Information is compiled from copies of the Shipper's Export Declaration (SED) forms except for transactions with Canada. The United States substitutes Canadian import statistics for U.S. exports to Canada in accordance with a 1987 Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Census Bureau, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Canadian Customs, and Statistics Canada. Exports measure the total physical movement of merchandise out of the United States to foreign countries whether such merchandise is exported from within the U.S. Customs territory or from a U.S. Customs bonded warehouse or a U.S. Foreign Trade Zone.

Survey Unit: Transaction

Frequency: Monthly

Time Periods: 1992-2011

Number of Observations: 32,600,000 in 2010

Sponsor: [Census Bureau](#)

Additional Information

- [Foreign Trade - Exports \(Census\)](#)
- [Shipper's Export Declaration Form](#)

Foreign Trade Data – Imports (IMP)

Description: This database covers the universe of firms operating in the U.S. that engage in merchandise import from a foreign destination. Information is compiled from automated data submitted through the U.S. Customs' Automated Commercial System. Data are also compiled from import entry summary forms, warehouse withdrawal forms and Foreign Trade Zone documents as required by law to be filed with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Data on imports of electricity and natural gas from Canada are obtained from Canadian sources.

Survey Unit: Transaction

Frequency: Monthly

Time Periods: 1992-2011

Number of Observations: 55,100,000 in 2010

Sponsor: [Census Bureau](#)

Additional Information

- [Foreign Trade - Imports \(Census\)](#)
- [Importer Form and Instructions](#)

Longitudinal Foreign Trade Transactions Database (LFTTD)

Description: LFTTD links individual trade transactions to firms in the United States. This dataset has two components: (i) transaction-level export data (Foreign Trade Data - Export) linked to information on firms operating in the United States; (ii) transaction-level import data (Foreign Trade Data - Import) linked to information on firms operating in the United States. The firm identifiers on the LFTTD can be used to link trade transactions by firms to many other Census data products (LBD, Economic Censuses, surveys, etc.)

Survey Unit: Transaction

Frequency: Monthly

Time Periods: 1992-2011

Number of Observations: 27,750,000 (2009, exports), 43,410,000 (2009, imports)

Sponsor: [Census Bureau](#)

Additional Information

- [LFTTD \(Census\)](#)
- [LFTTD Overview](#)