

Trade Up, Truck Volumes Down? Changes In Cross-Border Truck Flows in New York and Vermont



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Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



- Border crossing traffic is important to businesses and government agencies:
 1. Shippers need to deliver goods.
 2. They indicate general health of the economy.
 3. Important to border agencies in planning for facilities and staffing.
 4. DOT's monitor wear and tear for maintenance requirements, and roadway/bridge design.

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



- Data on truck border crossings indicate two contradictory trends:
 1. Trade values have generally returned to pre-recession levels.
 2. The number of trucks crossing the borders have declined substantially.

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



Value of Truck Trade Through the Highgate Springs (I-89) Border

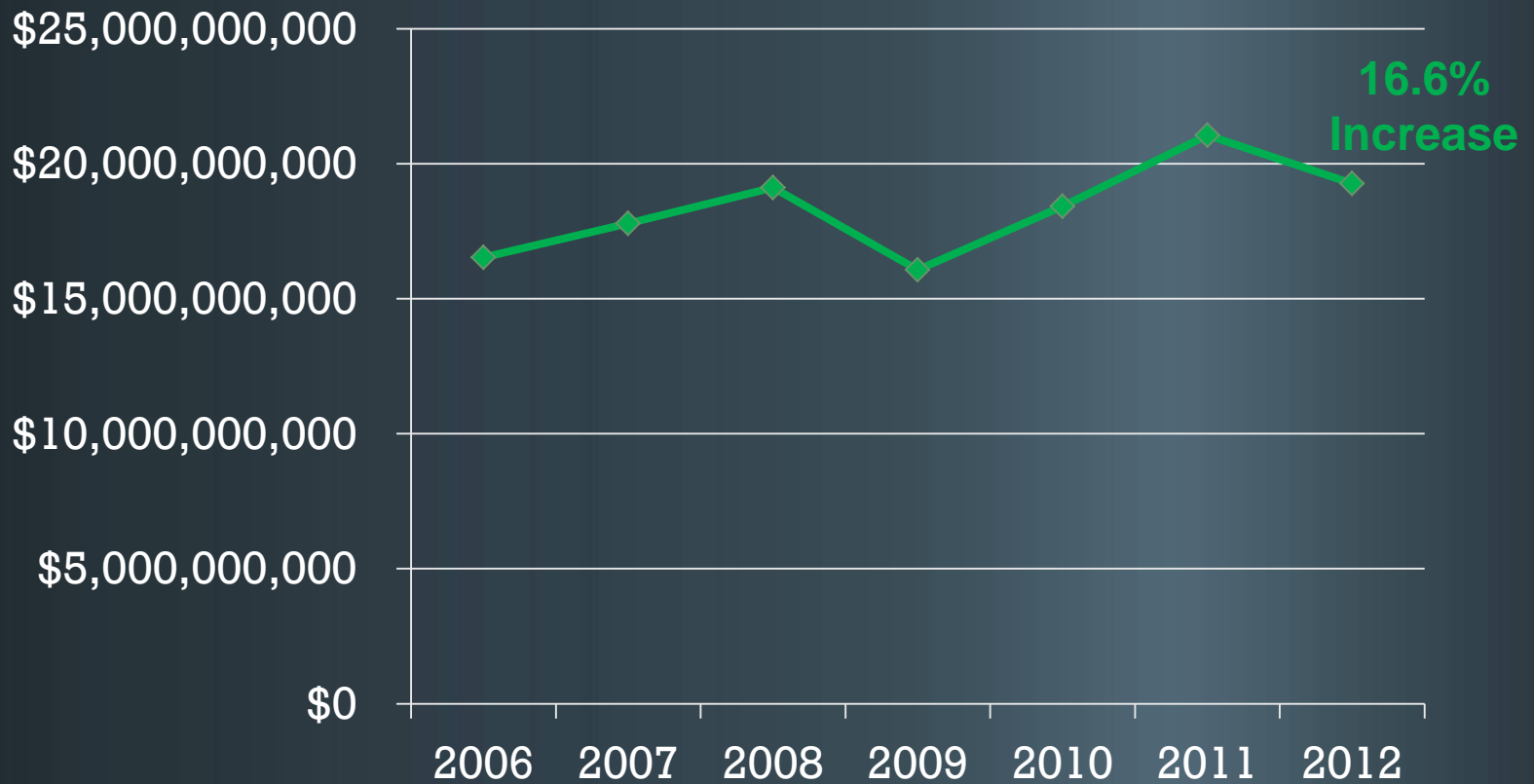


Source: U.S Bureau of Transportation Statistics "North America Transborder Freight Data"

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



Value of Truck Trade Through the Champlain (I-87) Border



Source: U.S Bureau of Transportation Statistics "North America Transborder Freight Data"

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



Value of Trucks Trade Through the Northern Border

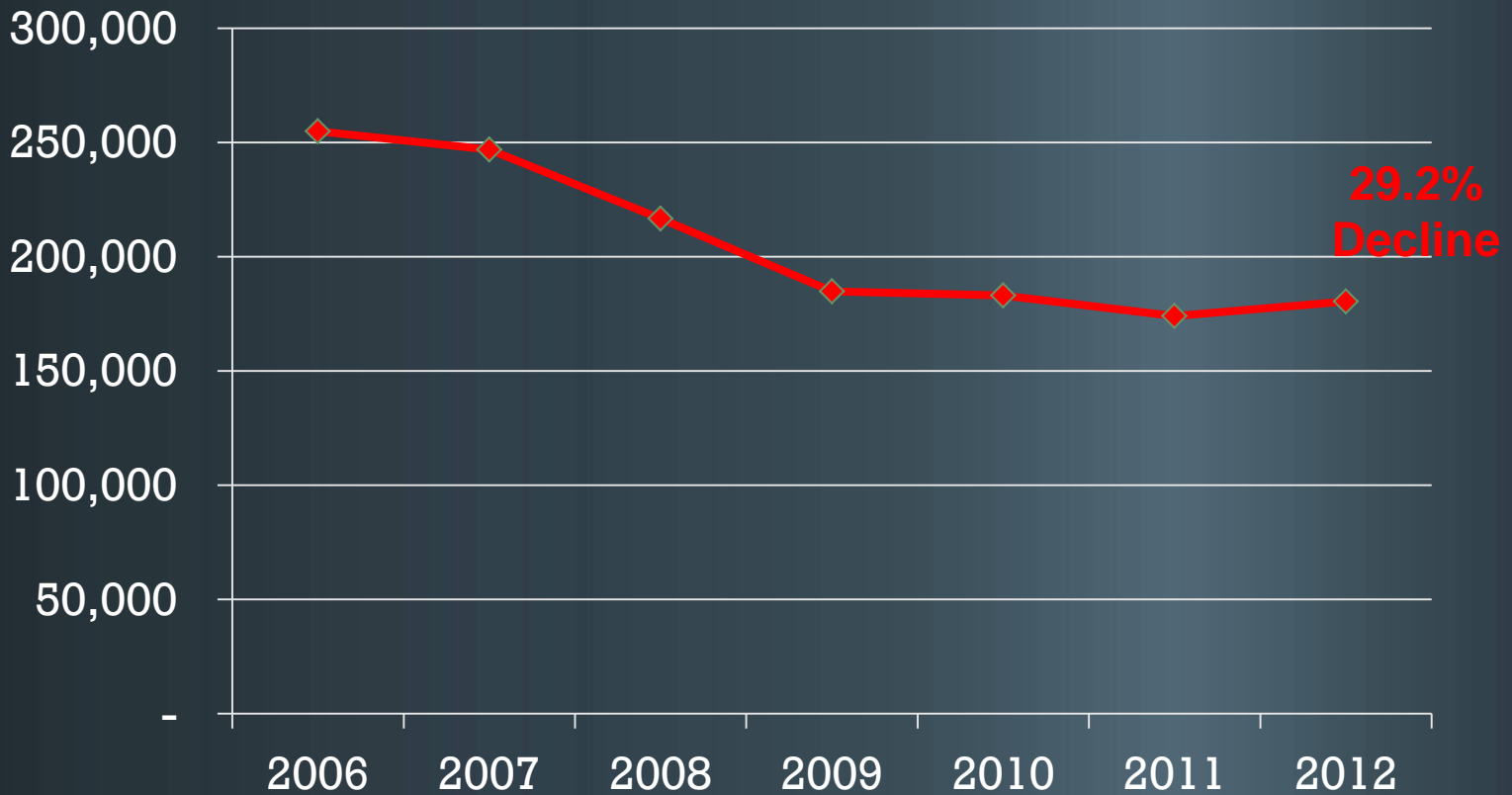


Source: U.S Bureau of Transportation Statistics "North America Transborder Freight Data"

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



Number of Trucks Crossing the Highgate Springs (I-89) Border

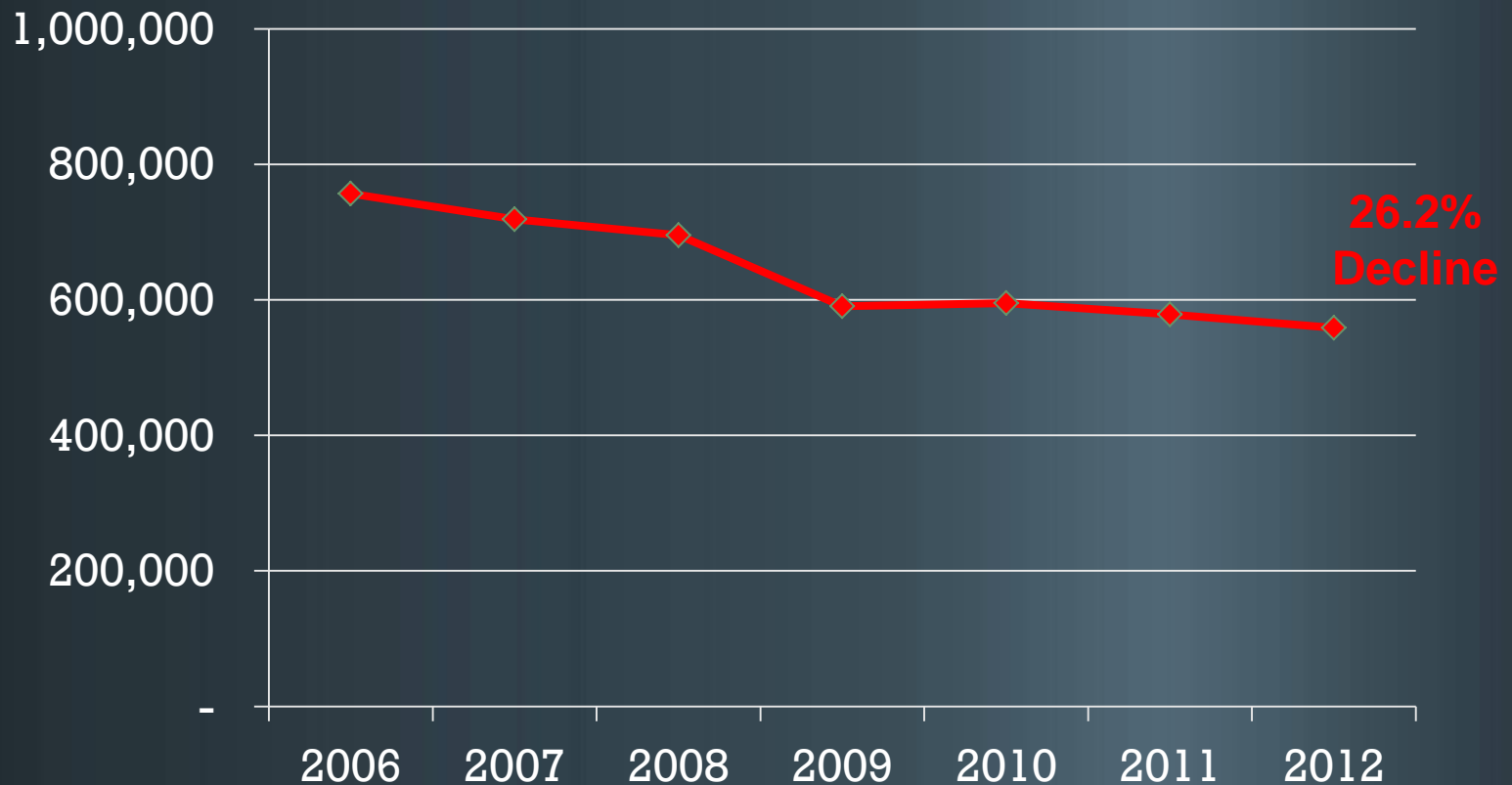


Source: U.S Bureau of Transportation Statistics "Border Crossing/Entry Data"; Statistics Canada "CANSIM Table"

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



Number of Trucks Crossing the Champlain (I-87) Border



Source: U.S Bureau of Transportation Statistics "Border Crossing/Entry Data"; Statistics Canada "CANSIM Table"

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



Number of Trucks Crossing along the Northern Border



Source: U.S Bureau of Transportation Statistics "Border Crossing/Entry Data"; Statistics Canada "CANSIM Table"

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic

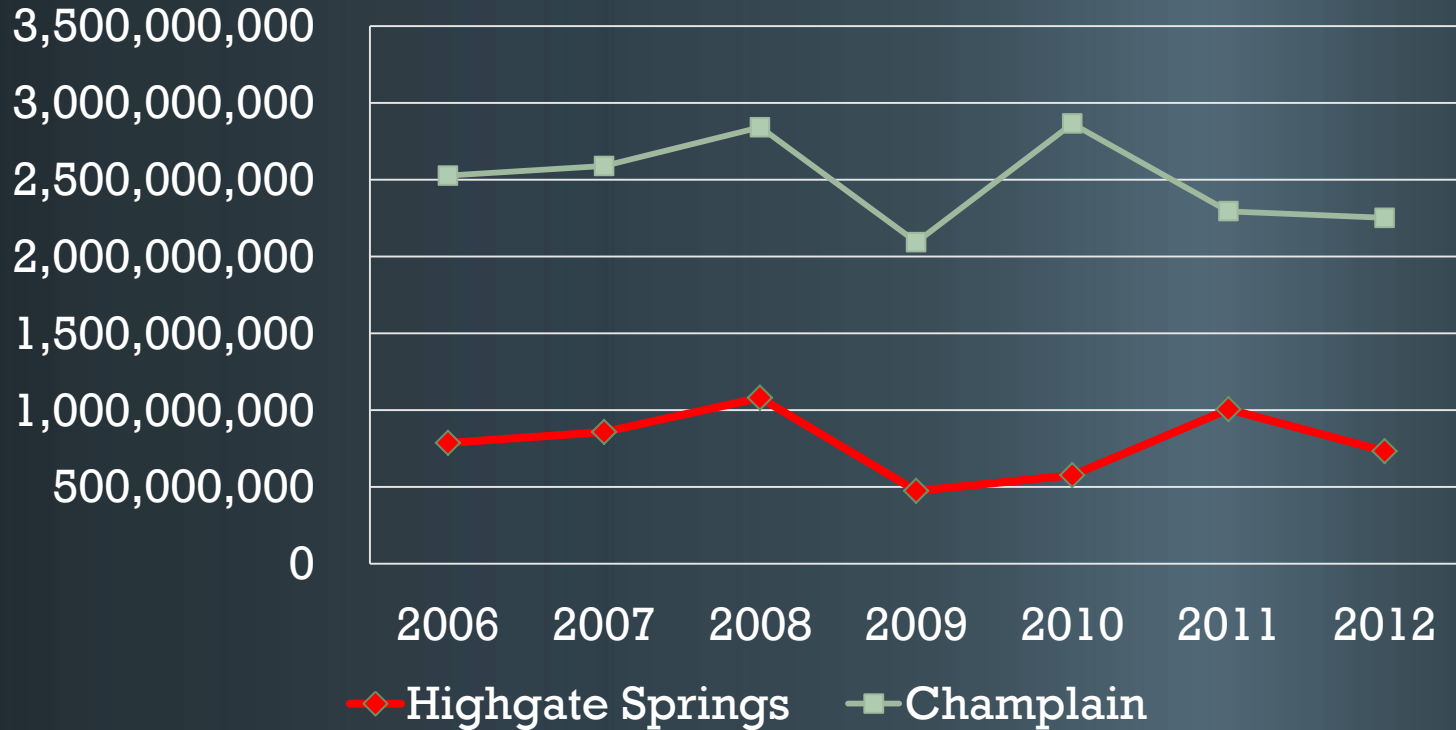


- Why is this unusual?
 1. Other freight shipping modes have not undergone such declines in goods movement.
 2. Passenger traffic has also returned to pre-recession levels.

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



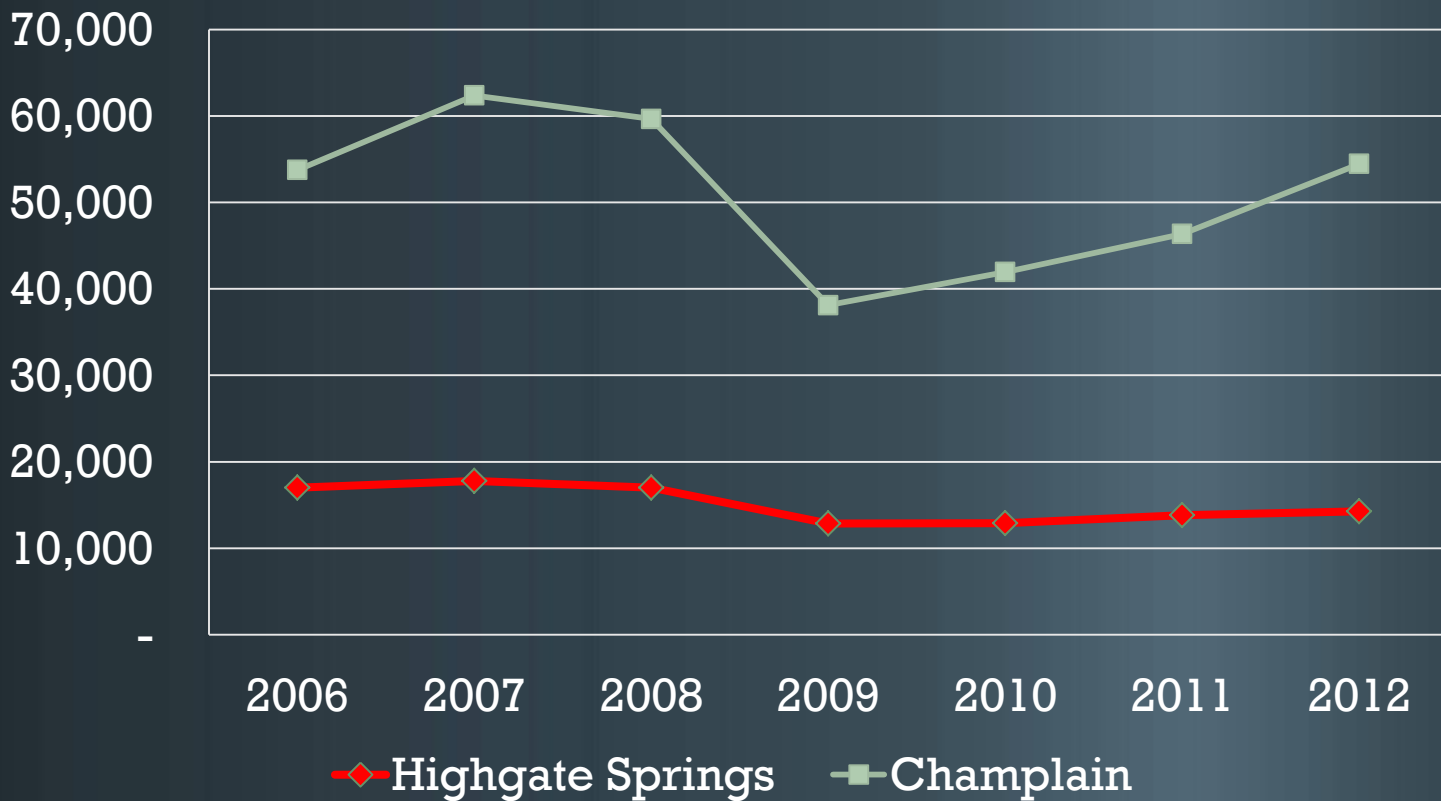
Total Value of Rail Shipments at the Highgate Springs (I-89) and Champlain (I-87) Crossings



Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



Loaded Rail Containers into the U.S from Highgate and Champlain (I-87) Border



Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



Vehicle Passengers Crossing the Highgate Springs (I-89) Border



Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



Vehicle Passengers Crossing the Champlain (I-87) Border



Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



- So what's going on?
 1. Discussions with truckers on both sides of the border.
 2. Their thoughts on the issue, not a scientific analysis of causes.

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic

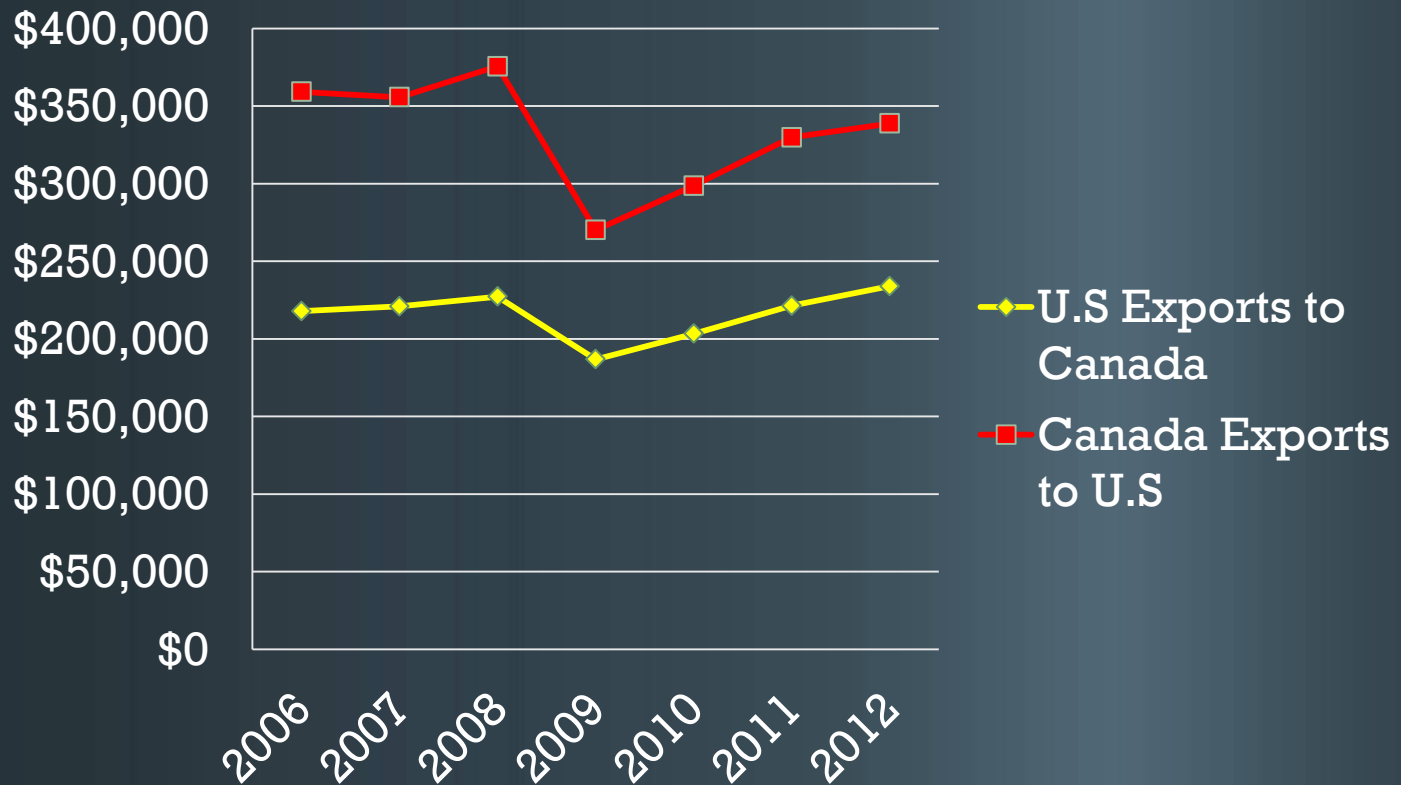


- Potential causes of lower truck volumes
 1. Trade dynamics; growth of Canadian and U.S export markets beyond North America.
 2. Optimization of shipping loads; heavier loads, less trucks needed.

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



Canada-U.S Import and Export Data (in \$ millions C Dollars)

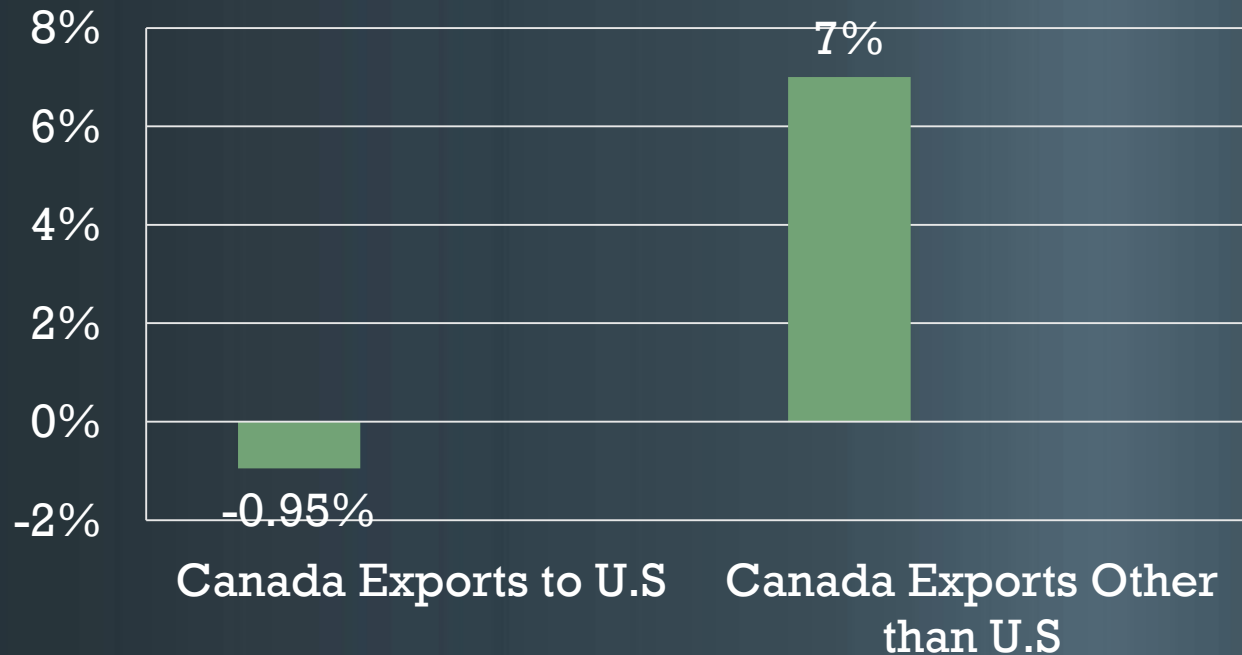


Source: Industry Canada "Trade Data Online"

Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



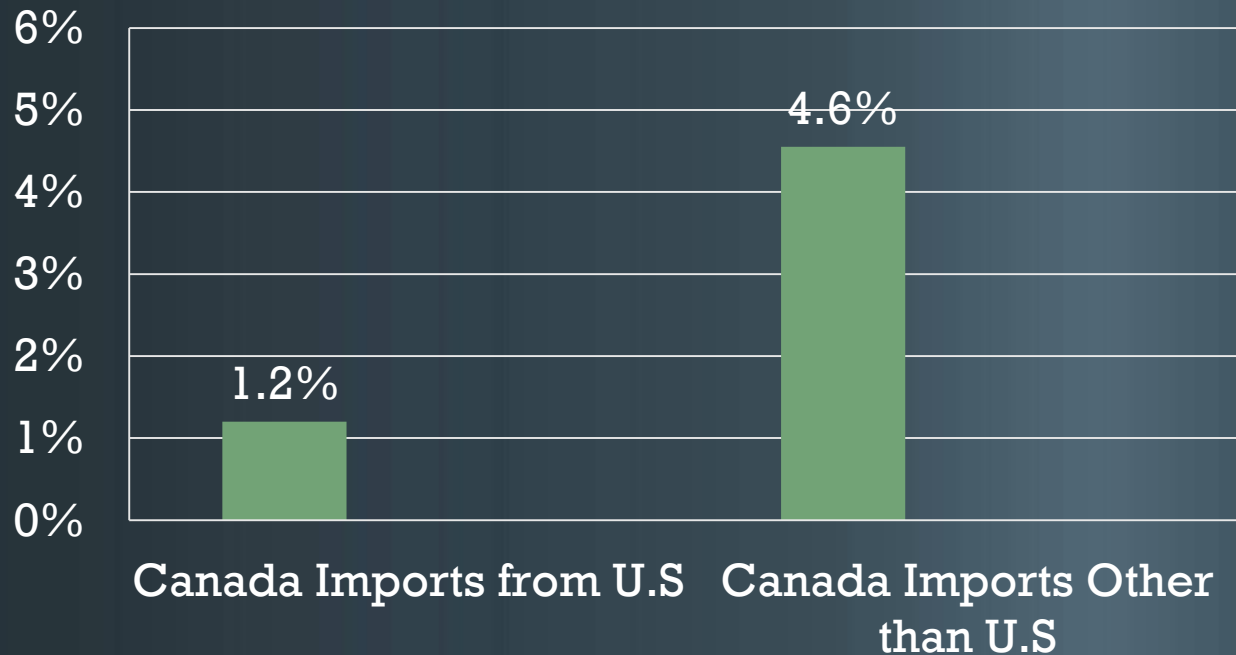
Growth in Canadian Exports (Annualized) 2006-2012



Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



Growth in Canadian Imports (Annualized) 2006-2012



Changes in Cross-Border Truck Traffic



- Optimization of shipping loads
 1. Heavier loads, less need for trucks.
 - Recession and higher fuel prices have resulted in manufacturers/resource extractors being more aggressive in pursuing cost-efficient shipping options.
 - Increase in “Less Than Truckload” and more reliance on major shipper contracted “Truckload” shipments.
 2. Regional roadway weight limits streamlining – higher limits with fewer permit requirements.

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