Flammable liquids, especially gasoline, are the predominant hazardous material transported in the United States. In terms of ton-miles, flammable liquids account for about 67 percent of total ton-miles of hazardous materials shipments. The next largest class of hazardous materials in terms of ton-miles is gases at about 11 percent.

International trade is growing rapidly and is placing demands on the domestic transportation network and on all modes. Trucks are the most common mode used to move imports and exports between international gateways and inland locations.

Foreign trade has had a major impact on all U.S. borders and coasts. Since 1950, the value of merchandise trade has increased sixteen-fold in inflation-adjusted terms.