



**Congressional  
Research Service**

Informing the legislative debate since 1914

---

# The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

**(name redacted)**

Specialist in International Trade and Finance

**(name redacted)**

Specialist in International Trade and Finance

February 22, 2017

**Congressional Research Service**

7-....

[www.crs.gov](http://www.crs.gov)

R42965

## Summary

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) entered into force on January 1, 1994. The agreement was signed by President George H. W. Bush on December 17, 1992, and approved by Congress on November 20, 1993. The NAFTA Implementation Act was signed into law by President William J. Clinton on December 8, 1993 (P.L. 103-182). The overall economic impact of NAFTA is difficult to measure since trade and investment trends are influenced by numerous other economic variables, such as economic growth, inflation, and currency fluctuations. The agreement likely accelerated and also locked in trade liberalization that was already taking place in Mexico, but many of these changes may have taken place without an agreement. Nevertheless, NAFTA is significant, because it was the most comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) negotiated at the time and contained several groundbreaking provisions. A legacy of the agreement is that it has served as a template or model for the new generation of FTAs that the United States later negotiated, and it also served as a template for certain provisions in multilateral trade negotiations as part of the Uruguay Round.

The 115<sup>th</sup> Congress faces numerous issues related to NAFTA and international trade. President Donald J. Trump has proposed renegotiating NAFTA, or possibly withdrawing from it. Congress may wish to consider the ramifications of renegotiating or withdrawing from NAFTA and how it may affect the U.S. economy and foreign relations with Mexico and Canada. It may also wish to examine the congressional role in a possible renegotiation, as well as the negotiating positions of Canada and Mexico. Mexico has stated that, if NAFTA is reopened, it may seek to broaden negotiations to include security, counter-narcotics, and transmigration issues. Mexico has also indicated that it may choose to withdraw from the agreement if the negotiations are not favorable to the country. Congress may also wish to address issues related to the U.S. withdrawal from the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement among the United States, Canada, Mexico, and 9 other countries. Some observers contend that the withdrawal from TPP could damage U.S. competitiveness and economic leadership in the region, while others see the withdrawal as a way to prevent lower cost imports and potential job losses. Key provisions in TPP may also be addressed in “modernizing” or renegotiating NAFTA, a more than two decade-old FTA.

NAFTA was controversial when first proposed, mostly because it was the first FTA involving two wealthy, developed countries and a developing country. The political debate surrounding the agreement was divisive with proponents arguing that the agreement would help generate thousands of jobs and reduce income disparity in the region, while opponents warned that the agreement would cause huge job losses in the United States as companies moved production to Mexico to lower costs. In reality, NAFTA did not cause the huge job losses feared by the critics or the large economic gains predicted by supporters. The net overall effect of NAFTA on the U.S. economy appears to have been relatively modest, primarily because trade with Canada and Mexico accounts for a small percentage of U.S. GDP. However, there were worker and firm adjustment costs as the three countries adjusted to more open trade and investment.

The rising number of bilateral and regional trade agreements throughout the world and the rising presence of China in Latin America could have implications for U.S. trade policy with its NAFTA partners. Some proponents of open and rules-based trade contend that maintaining NAFTA or deepening economic relations with Canada and Mexico will help promote a common trade agenda with shared values and generate economic growth. Some opponents argue that the agreement has caused worker displacement.

# Contents

Introduction .....	1
Market Opening Prior to NAFTA.....	1
The U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement of 1989 .....	2
Mexico’s Pre-NAFTA Unilateral Trade Liberalization .....	3
Overview of NAFTA Provisions .....	5
Removal of Trade Barriers .....	5
Tariff Changes.....	5
Trade Barrier Removal by Industry .....	6
Services Trade Liberalization.....	7
Other Provisions.....	8
NAFTA Side Agreements on Labor and the Environment.....	9
Trade Trends and Economic Effects.....	10
U.S. Trade Trends with NAFTA Partners.....	11
Overall Trade .....	11
Trade Balance and Petroleum Oil Products .....	12
Trade by Product.....	13
Trade with Canada .....	14
Trade with Mexico.....	15
Effect on the U.S. Economy.....	15
U.S. Industries and Supply Chains .....	16
Auto Sector .....	17
Effect on Mexico.....	18
U.S.-Mexico Trade Market Shares.....	20
U.S. and Mexican Foreign Direct Investment.....	20
Income Disparity.....	21
Effect on Canada .....	22
U.S.-Canada Trade Market Shares.....	22
Foreign Direct Investment .....	24
Procedures for NAFTA Renegotiation or Withdrawal.....	24
Renegotiation .....	25
Withdrawal.....	26
Issues for Congress.....	27
Potential Topics for Possible NAFTA Renegotiation .....	27
Automotive Sector .....	27
Services.....	28
E-Commerce, Data Flows, and Data Localization.....	28
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) .....	28
State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).....	29
Investment.....	29
Dispute Settlement.....	29
Labor.....	29
Environment.....	30
Energy .....	30
Customs and Trade Facilitation .....	30
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) .....	31
Issues Specific to Mexico.....	31

Issues Specific to Canada..... 32  
North American Supply Chains ..... 32  
Trans-Pacific Partnership Withdrawal..... 32

## Figures

Figure 1. Average Applied Tariff Levels in Mexico and the United States (1993 and 1996)..... 6  
Figure 2. U.S. Merchandise Trade with NAFTA Partners: 1993-2016..... 12  
Figure 3. Trade with NAFTA Partners Excluding Petroleum Oil and Oil Products: 1993-  
2016..... 13  
Figure 4. Top Five U.S. Import and Export Items to and from NAFTA Partners..... 14  
Figure 5. Market Share as Percentage of Total Trade: Mexico and the United States ..... 20  
Figure 6. Market Share as Percentage of Total Trade: Canada and the United States..... 23

## Tables

Table 1. U.S. Trade in Motor Vehicles and Parts: 1993 and 2016..... 18  
  
Table A-1. U.S. Merchandise Trade with NAFTA Partners ..... 34  
Table A-2. U.S. Private Services Trade with NAFTA Partners ..... 35  
Table A-3. U.S. Trade with NAFTA Partners by Major Product Category: 2016 ..... 36  
Table A-4. U.S. Foreign Direct Investment Positions with Canada and Mexico ..... 37

## Appendixes

Appendix. U.S. Merchandise Trade with NAFTA Partners ..... 34

## Contacts

Author Contact Information ..... 38

## Introduction

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has been in effect since January 1, 1994. NAFTA was signed by President George H. W. Bush on December 17, 1992, and approved by Congress on November 20, 1993. The NAFTA Implementation Act was signed into law by President William J. Clinton on December 8, 1993 (P.L. 103-182). NAFTA continues to be of interest to Congress because of the importance of Canada and Mexico as trading partners, and because of the implications NAFTA has for U.S. trade policy under the Administration of President Donald J. Trump. During his election campaign, President Trump stated his desire to renegotiate NAFTA and that he would examine the ramifications of withdrawing from the agreement once he entered into office. He has also raised the possibility of imposing tariffs or a border tax on products from Mexico. This report provides an overview of North American market-opening provisions prior to NAFTA, provisions of the agreement, economic effects, and policy considerations.

The 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, in both its legislative and oversight capacities, faces numerous issues related to international trade. Some trade issues that Congress may address in regard to NAFTA, and a possible renegotiation of the agreement, include the economic effects of withdrawing from the agreement, the impact on relations with Canada and Mexico, the demands that Canada and Mexico may bring to the negotiations, and an evaluation of how to “modernize” or renegotiate NAFTA. Another issue relates to the consequences of the U.S. withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a proposed free trade agreement among the United States and 11 other countries, including Canada and Mexico. Some TPP participants support moving forward on a similar agreement without the participation of the United States, which may have implications for U.S. competitiveness in certain markets.<sup>1</sup> It also has implications for NAFTA renegotiation as it addressed several new issues not in NAFTA.

Some trade policy experts and economists give credit to NAFTA and other free trade agreements (FTAs) for expanding trade and economic linkages between countries, creating more efficient production processes, increasing the availability of lower-priced consumer goods, and improving living standards and working conditions. Others blame FTAs for disappointing employment trends, a decline in U.S. wages, and for not having done enough to improve labor standards and environmental conditions abroad.

NAFTA influenced other FTAs that the United States later negotiated and also influenced multilateral negotiations. NAFTA initiated a new generation of trade agreements in the Western Hemisphere and other parts of the world, influencing negotiations in areas such as market access, rules of origin, intellectual property rights, foreign investment, dispute resolution, worker rights, and environmental protection. The United States currently has 14 FTAs with 20 countries. As with NAFTA, these trade agreements have often been supported or criticized on similar arguments related to jobs.

## Market Opening Prior to NAFTA

The concept of economic integration in North America was not a new one at the time NAFTA negotiations started. In 1911, President William Howard Taft signed a reciprocal trade agreement with Canadian Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier. After a bitter election, Canadians rejected free

---

<sup>1</sup> See CRS Report R44489, *The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): Key Provisions and Issues for Congress*, coordinated by (name redacted) and (name redacted) .

trade and ousted Prime Minister Laurier, thereby ending the agreement. In 1965, the United States and Canada signed the U.S.-Canada Automotive Products Agreement that liberalized trade in cars, trucks, tires, and automotive parts between the two countries.<sup>2</sup> The Auto Pact was credited as a pioneer in creating an integrated North American automotive sector. In the case of Mexico, the government began implementing reform measures in the mid-1980s, prior to NAFTA, to liberalize its economy. By 1990, when NAFTA negotiations began, Mexico had already taken significant steps towards liberalizing its protectionist trade regime.

## **The U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement of 1989**

The United States and Canada signed a bilateral free trade agreement (CFTA) on October 3, 1987. The FTA was the first economically significant bilateral FTA signed by the United States.<sup>3</sup> Implementing legislation<sup>4</sup> was approved by both houses of Congress under “fast-track authority”—now known as trade promotion authority (TPA)—and signed by President Ronald Reagan on September 28, 1988. While the FTA generated significant policy debate in the United States, it was a watershed moment for Canada. Controversy surrounding the proposed FTA led to the so-called “free trade election” in 1988, in which sitting Progressive Conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who negotiated the agreement, defeated Liberal party leader John Turner, who vowed to reject it if elected. After the election, the FTA was passed by Parliament in December 1988, and it came into effect between the two nations on January 1, 1989. At the time, it probably was the most comprehensive bilateral FTA negotiated worldwide and contained several groundbreaking provisions. The agreement

- Eliminated all tariffs by 1998. Many were eliminated immediately, and the remaining tariffs were phased out in 5-10 years.
- Continued the 1965 U.S.-Canada Auto Pact, but tightened its rules of origin. Some Canadian auto sector practices not covered by the Auto Pact were ended by 1998.
- Provided national treatment for covered services providers and liberalized financial services trade. Facilitated cross-border travel for business professionals.
- Committed to provide prospective national treatment for investment originating in the other countries, although established derogations from national treatment, such as for national security or prudential reasons, were allowed to continue.
- Banned imposition of performance requirements, such as local content, import substitution, or local sourcing requirements.
- Expanded the size of federal government procurement markets available for competitive bidding from suppliers of the other country. It did not include sub-federal government procurement.
- Provided for a binding binational panel to resolve disputes arising from the agreement (a Canadian insistence).

---

<sup>2</sup> The Canada-United States Automotive Products Agreement removed tariffs on cars, trucks, buses, tires, and automotive parts between the two countries. NAFTA effectively superseded this agreement.

<sup>3</sup> Prior to the U.S.-Canada FTA, the only bilateral U.S. FTA was with Israel.

<sup>4</sup> United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-449).

- Prohibited most import and export restrictions on energy products, including minimum export prices. This was carried forth in NAFTA only with regard to Canada-U.S. energy trade.

Many of these provisions were incorporated into, or expanded in, NAFTA. However, the FTA did not include, or specifically exempted, some issues that would appear in NAFTA for the first time. These include

- **Intellectual property rights (IPR).** The FTA did not contain language on intellectual property rights. NAFTA was the first FTA to include meaningful disciplines on IPR.
- **Cultural exemption.** It exempted the broadcasting, film, and publishing sectors. This exemption continues in NAFTA, due to Canadian concerns.
- **Transportation services and investment** in the Canadian energy sector were excluded from the FTA. These exclusions were limited in NAFTA.
- **Trade remedies.** Neither the FTA nor NAFTA ended the use of trade remedy actions (anti-dumping, countervailing duty, or safeguards) against the other. This was a key Canadian goal of the FTA. NAFTA did create a separate dispute settlement mechanism to review national decisions on trade remedy decisions, but this mechanism has not been replicated in other FTAs.
- **Softwood lumber.** The FTA grandfathered in the then-present 1986 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) governing softwood lumber trade. However, it did not permanently settle the softwood lumber issue. Since then, the MOU has been replaced by other agreements, and, at times, by resort to trade remedy actions.
- **Agricultural supply management.** Canada was able to exempt its agriculture supply management system, although it committed to allow a small increase in imports of dairy, poultry, and eggs, which carried over into the NAFTA.

## **Mexico's Pre-NAFTA Unilateral Trade Liberalization**

Well before NAFTA negotiations began, Mexico was liberalizing its protectionist trade and investment policies that had been in place for decades (see page 9 of this report). The restrictive trade regime began after Mexico's revolutionary period and remained until the early- to mid-1980s when the country was facing a debt crisis. It was at this time that the government took unilateral steps to open and modernize its economy by relaxing investment policies and liberalizing trade barriers. The trade liberalization measures that began in the mid-1980s shifted Mexico from one of the world's most protected economies into one of the most open. Mexico now has 12 FTAs involving 46 countries.<sup>5</sup>

Mexico's first steps in opening its closed economy focused on reforming its import substitution policies in the mid-1980s. Further reforms were made in 1986 when Mexico became a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). As a condition of becoming a GATT member, for example, Mexico agreed to lower its maximum tariff rates to 50%. Mexico went

---

<sup>5</sup> Mexican Government's Ministry of Economy, "International Trade/Countries with Treaties and Agreements Signed with Mexico," available at <http://www.gob.mx/se/acciones-y-programas/comercio-exterior-paises-con-tratados-y-acuerdos-firmados-con-mexico>. For more information, see CRS Report R40784, *Mexico's Free Trade Agreements*, by (name redacted)

further by reducing its highest tariff rate from 100% to 20%. Mexico's trade-weighted average tariff fell from 25% in 1985 to about 19% in 1989.<sup>6</sup>

Although Mexico had been lowering trade and investment restrictions since 1986, the number of remaining barriers for U.S. exports remained high at the time of the NAFTA negotiations. Mexico required import licenses on 230 products from the United States, affecting about 7% of the value of U.S. exports to Mexico. Prior to its entry into GATT, Mexico required import licenses on all imports. At the time of the NAFTA negotiations, about 60% of U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico required import licenses. Mexico also had numerous other nontariff barriers, such as "official import prices," an arbitrary customs valuation system that raised duty assessments.<sup>7</sup>

For Mexico, an FTA with the United States represented a way to lock in the reforms of its market opening measures from the mid-1980s to transform Mexico's formerly statist economy after the devastating debt crisis of the 1980s.<sup>8</sup> The combination of the severe economic impact of the debt crisis, low domestic savings, and an increasingly overvalued peso put pressure on the Mexican government to adopt market-opening economic reforms and boost imports of goods and capital to encourage more competition in the Mexican market. An FTA with the United States was a way of blocking domestic efforts to roll back Mexican reforms, especially in the politically sensitive agriculture sector. NAFTA helped deflect protectionist demands of industrial groups and special interest groups in Mexico.<sup>9</sup> One of the main goals of the Mexican government was to increase investment confidence in order to attract greater flows of foreign investment and spur economic growth. Since the entry into force of NAFTA, Mexico has used the agreement as a basic model for other FTAs Mexico has signed with other countries.<sup>10</sup>

For the United States, NAFTA represented an opportunity to expand the growing export market to the south, but it also represented a political opportunity for the United States and Mexico to work together in resolving some of the tensions in the bilateral relationship.<sup>11</sup> An FTA with Mexico would help U.S. businesses expand exports to a growing market of 100 million people. U.S. officials also recognized that imports from Mexico would likely include higher U.S. content than imports from Asian countries. In addition to the trade and investment opportunities that NAFTA represented, an agreement with Mexico would be a way to support the growth of political pluralism and a deepening of democratic processes in Mexico. NAFTA also presented an opportunity for the United States to spur the slow progress on the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> United States International Trade Commission (USITC), *The Likely Impact on the United States of a Free Trade Agreement with Mexico*, Publication 2353, February 1991.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 1-2.

<sup>8</sup> Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Jeffrey J. Schott, *NAFTA Revisited: Achievements and Challenges*, Institute for International Economics, October 2005.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Mexico has a total of 12 free trade agreements involving 46 countries. These include agreements with most countries in the Western Hemisphere including the United States, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay. In addition, Mexico has negotiated FTAs outside of the Western Hemisphere and entered into agreements with Israel, Japan, the European Union, and the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland).

<sup>11</sup> Hufbauer and Schott, *NAFTA Revisited: Achievements and Challenges*, pp. 2-3.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

## Overview of NAFTA Provisions

At the time that NAFTA was implemented, the U.S.-Canada FTA was already in effect and U.S. tariffs on most Mexican goods were low, while Mexico had the highest protective trade barriers. Under the agreement, the United States and Canada gained greater access to the Mexican market, which was the fastest growing major export market for U.S. goods and services at the time.<sup>13</sup> NAFTA also opened up the U.S. market to increased imports from Mexico and Canada, creating one of the largest single markets in the world. Some of the key NAFTA provisions included tariff and non-tariff trade liberalization, rules of origin, services trade, foreign investment, intellectual property rights protection, government procurement, and dispute resolution. Labor and environmental provisions were included in separate NAFTA side agreements.

## Removal of Trade Barriers

The market opening provisions of the agreement gradually eliminated all tariffs and most non-tariff barriers on goods produced and traded within North America over a period of 15 years after it entered into force. Some tariffs were eliminated immediately, while others were phased out in various schedules of 5 to 15 years. Most tariffs were phased out within 10 years. U.S. import-sensitive sectors, such as glassware, footwear, and ceramic tile, received longer phase-out schedules.<sup>14</sup> NAFTA provided the option of accelerating tariff reductions if the countries involved agreed.<sup>15</sup> The agreement included safeguard provisions in which the importing country could increase tariffs, or impose quotas in some cases, on imports during a transition period if domestic producers faced serious injury as a result of increased imports from another NAFTA country. It terminated all existing drawback programs by January 1, 2001.<sup>16</sup>

## Tariff Changes

Most of the market opening measures from NAFTA resulted in the removal of tariffs and quotas applied by Mexico on imports from the United States and Canada. Because Mexican tariffs were substantially higher than those of the United States, it was expected that the agreement would cause U.S. exports to expand more quickly than imports from Mexico. The average applied U.S. duty for all imports from Mexico was 2.07% in 1993.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, many Mexican products entered the United States duty-free under the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). In 1993, over 50% of U.S. imports from Mexico entered the United States duty-free. In contrast, the United States faced considerably higher tariffs, in addition to substantial non-tariff barriers, on exports to Mexico. In 1993, Mexico's average tariffs on all imports from the United States was 10% (Canada's was 0.37%).<sup>18</sup> In agriculture, Mexico's trade-weighted tariff on U.S. products

---

<sup>13</sup> United States International Trade Commission, *Potential Impact on the U.S. Economy and Selected Industries of the North American Free-Trade Agreement*, USITC Publication 2596, January 1993.

<sup>14</sup> Governments of Canada, the United Mexican States, and the United States of America, *Description of the Proposed North American Free Trade Agreement*, August 12, 1992.

<sup>15</sup> Congressional Quarterly Almanac 1993, pp. 171-175, 180-181.

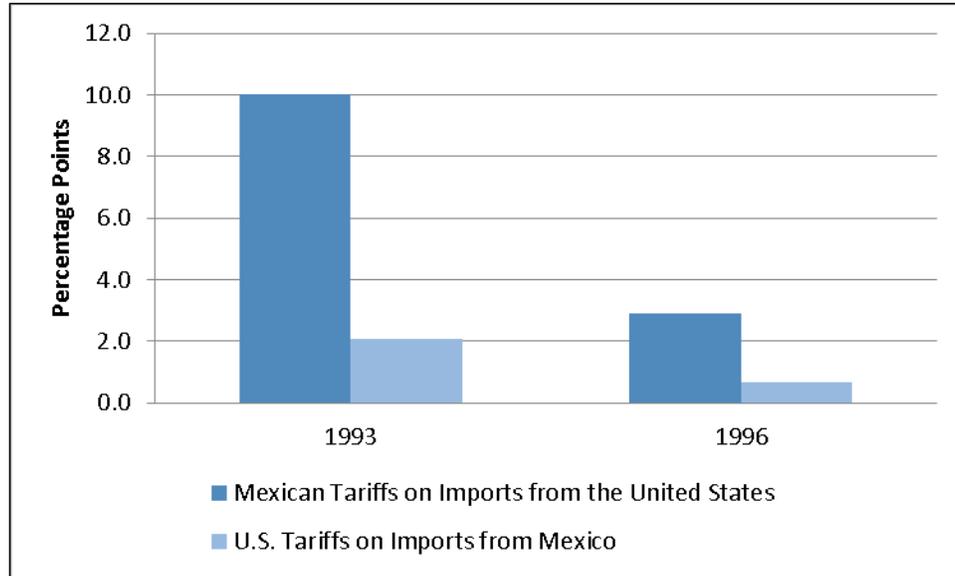
<sup>16</sup> A duty drawback is the refund or waiver in whole or in part of customs duties assessed or collected upon importation of an article or materials which are subsequently exported.

<sup>17</sup> Executive Office of the President, *Study on the Operation and Effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement*, July 1997, pp. 6-7.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

averaged about 11%. Also affecting U.S.-Mexico trade were both countries' sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) rules, Mexican import licensing requirements, and U.S. marketing orders.<sup>19</sup>

**Figure I. Average Applied Tariff Levels in Mexico and the United States (1993 and 1996)**



**Source:** Executive Office of the President, *Study on the Operation and Effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement*, July 1997, p. 7.

### Trade Barrier Removal by Industry

Some of the more significant changes took place in the textiles, apparel, automotive, and agricultural industries. Elimination of trade barriers in these key industries are summarized below.

- **Textiles and Apparel Industries.** NAFTA phased out all duties on textile and apparel goods within North America meeting specific NAFTA rules of origin<sup>20</sup> over a 10-year period. Prior to NAFTA, 65% of U.S. apparel imports from Mexico entered duty-free and quota-free, and the remaining 35% faced an average tariff rate of 17.9%. Mexico's average tariff on U.S. textile and apparel products was 16%, with duties as high as 20% on some products.<sup>21</sup>
- **Automotive Industry.** NAFTA phased out Mexico's restrictive auto decree. It phased out all U.S. tariffs on imports from Mexico and Mexican tariffs on U.S. and Canadian products as long as they met the rules of origin requirements of 62.5% North American content for autos, light trucks, engines and transmissions;

<sup>19</sup> Marketing orders were designed to set national guidelines for product quality, market promotion, and supply levels. The most significant Mexican products that were affected by U.S. marketing orders included tomatoes, onions, avocados, grapefruit, oranges, olives, and table grapes.

<sup>20</sup> NAFTA rules of origin for textiles and apparel define when imported textile or apparel goods qualify for preferential treatments. For most products, the rule of origin is "yarn forward", which means that goods must be produced from yarn made in a NAFTA country to benefit from preferential treatment.

<sup>21</sup> Business Roundtable, *NAFTA: A Decade of Growth*, Prepared by The Trade Partnership, Washington, DC, February 2004, p. 33.

and 60% for other vehicles and automotive parts. Some tariffs were eliminated immediately, while others were phased out in periods of 5 to 10 years. Prior to NAFTA, the United States assessed the following tariffs on imports from Mexico: 2.5% on automobiles, 25% on light-duty trucks, and a trade-weighted average of 3.1% for automotive parts. Mexican tariffs on U.S. and Canadian automotive products were as follows: 20% on automobiles and light trucks, and 10%-20% on auto parts.<sup>22</sup>

- **Agriculture.** NAFTA set out separate bilateral undertakings on cross-border trade in agriculture, one between Canada and Mexico, and the other between Mexico and the United States. As a general matter, U.S.-Canada FTA provisions continued to apply on trade with Canada.<sup>23</sup> Regarding U.S.-Mexico agriculture trade, NAFTA eliminated most non-tariff barriers in agricultural trade, either through their conversion to tariff-rate quotas (TRQs)<sup>24</sup> or ordinary tariffs. Tariffs were phased out over a period of 15 years with sensitive products such as sugar and corn receiving the longest phase-out periods. Approximately one-half of U.S.-Mexico agricultural trade became duty-free when the agreement went into effect. Prior to NAFTA, most tariffs, on average, in agricultural trade between the United States and Mexico were fairly low though some U.S. exports to Mexico faced tariffs as high as 12%. However, approximately one-fourth of U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico (by value) were subjected to restrictive import licensing requirements.<sup>25</sup>

## Services Trade Liberalization

NAFTA services provisions established a set of basic rules and obligations in services trade among partner countries. The agreement expanded on provisions in the U.S.-Canada FTA and in the then-negotiation in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to create internationally agreed disciplines on government regulation of trade in services.<sup>26</sup> The agreement granted services providers certain rights concerning nondiscriminatory treatment, cross-border sales and entry, investment, and access to information. However, there were certain exclusions and reservations by each country. These included maritime shipping (United States), film and publishing (Canada), and oil and gas drilling (Mexico).<sup>27</sup> Although NAFTA liberalized certain service sectors in Mexico, particularly financial services, which profoundly altered its banking sector, other sectors were barely affected.<sup>28</sup> In telecommunications services, NAFTA partners agreed to exclude provision of, but not the use of, basic telecommunications services. NAFTA granted a “bill of rights” for the providers and users of telecommunications services, including

---

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., p. 30.

<sup>23</sup> Governments of Canada, the United Mexican States, and the United States of America, *Description of the Proposed North American Free Trade Agreement*, August 12, 1992, p. 12.

<sup>24</sup> Tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) allowed NAFTA partners to export specified quantities of a product to other NAFTA countries at a relatively low tariff, but subjected all imports of the product above a pre-determined threshold to a higher tariff.

<sup>25</sup> Business Roundtable, *NAFTA: A Decade of Growth*, p. 35.

<sup>26</sup> The Governments of Canada, the United Mexican States, and the United States of America, *Description of the Proposed North American Free Trade Agreement*, August 12, 1992, pp. 23-24.

<sup>27</sup> United States General Accounting Office (GAO), “North American Free Trade Agreement: Assessment of Major Issues, Volume 2,” *Report to the Congress*, September 1993, pp. 35-36.

<sup>28</sup> Hufbauer and Schott, *NAFTA Revisited*, pp. 25-29.

access to public telecommunications services; connection to private lines that reflect economic costs and available on a flat-rate pricing basis; and the right to choose, purchase, or lease terminal equipment best suited to their needs.<sup>29</sup> However, NAFTA did not require parties to authorize a person of another NAFTA country to provide or operate telecommunications transport networks or services. NAFTA did not bar a party from maintaining a monopoly provider of public networks or services, such as Telmex, Mexico's dominant telecommunications company.<sup>30</sup>

## Other Provisions

In addition to market opening measures through the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers, NAFTA incorporated numerous other provisions to establish rules or achieve greater market access on foreign investment, intellectual property rights (IPR), dispute resolution, and government procurement.

- **Foreign Investment.** NAFTA removed significant investment barriers, ensured basic protections for NAFTA investors, and provided a mechanism for the settlement of disputes between investors and a NAFTA country. NAFTA provided for “non-discriminatory treatment” for foreign investment by NAFTA parties in certain sectors of other NAFTA countries. The agreement included country-specific liberalization commitments and exceptions to national treatment. Exemptions from NAFTA investment provisions included the energy sector in Mexico, in which the Mexican government reserved the right to prohibit foreign investment. It also included exceptions related to national security and to Canada's cultural industries.<sup>31</sup>
- **IPR.** NAFTA built upon the then-ongoing Uruguay Round negotiations that would create the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement in the World Trade Organization and on various existing international intellectual property treaties. The agreement set out specific enforceable commitments by NAFTA parties regarding the protection of copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secrets, among other provisions.
- **Dispute Settlement Procedures.** NAFTA's provisions for preventing and settling disputes were built upon provisions in the U.S.-Canada FTA. NAFTA created a system of arbitration for resolving disputes that included initial consultations, taking the issue to the NAFTA Trade Commission, or going through arbitral panel proceedings.<sup>32</sup> NAFTA included separate dispute settlement provisions for addressing disputes over antidumping and countervailing duty determinations.
- **Government Procurement.** NAFTA opened up a significant portion of federal government procurement in each country on a nondiscriminatory basis to suppliers from other NAFTA countries for goods and services. It contains some limitations for procurement by state-owned enterprises.<sup>33</sup>

---

<sup>29</sup> GAO, *Report to Congress*, September 1993, pp. 38-39.

<sup>30</sup> *Description of the Proposed North American Free Trade Agreement*, August 12, 1992, p. 29.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 30-32.

<sup>32</sup> If the parties are unable to resolve the issue through consultations, they may take the dispute to the NAFTA Trade Commission, which is comprised of Ministers or cabinet-level officers designated by each country. A party may also request the establishment of an arbitral panel, which may make recommendations for the resolution of the dispute.

<sup>33</sup> GAO, *Report to Congress*, September 1993, pp. 69-71.

### Mexico's Protectionist Trade/Investment Policies

#### Prior to NAFTA

For decades prior to NAFTA, Mexico relied on protectionist trade and investment policies that were intended to help foster domestic growth and to protect itself from a perceived risk of foreign domination, but that failed to achieve the intended outcomes.

**State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).** Strong state presence prior to NAFTA. During the late 1950s and 1960s, the number of state-owned enterprises almost doubled. By 1982, the number of SOEs had grown to more than 1,000. Starting in 1983, economic reforms and divestiture of the state-owned sector significantly decreased the number of SOEs (down to 210 by 2003).

**Import Licenses.** In the early 1980s, import licenses were required on most, if not all, imports. In the mid-1980s, the government began to phase these out. By the time NAFTA negotiations started, import licenses were required on only 230 products of the nearly 12,000 items in the Mexican tariff schedule.

**Agricultural Products.** Prior to NAFTA, 60% of U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico required import licenses or faced other nontariff barriers. There was also a lack of transparency of procedures through which exporters to Mexico could apply for the proper license, certificate, or test.

**Foreign Investment Restrictions.** Mexico's restrictive Law to Promote Mexican Investment and Regulate Foreign Investment restricted U.S. investment in Mexico. In 1991, about a third of Mexican economic activity was not open to majority foreign ownership.

**Auto Industry Import Substitution Policy (Auto Decrees).** Mexico had a restrictive import substitution policy that began in the 1960s through a series of Mexican Auto Decrees in which the government sought to supply the entire Mexican market through domestically-produced automotive goods. The decrees established high import tariffs and had high restrictions on auto production by foreign companies.

**Restrictions in Agricultural Production.** In the period after the 1910 revolution and until the 1980s, Mexico had a land distribution system in which land was redistributed from wealthy land owners and managed by the government. This *ejido* system, formed under Mexico's Agrarian Law, changed in the 1980s when the government began to implement agricultural and trade policy reform measures. Changes included the privatization of the *ejido* system in order to stimulate competition. Mexico's unilateral reform measures included eliminating state enterprises related to agriculture and removing staple price supports and subsidies. Mexico also had a government agency known as CONASUPO which intervened in the agriculture sector. The agency bought staples from farmers at guaranteed prices and processed the products or sold them at low prices to processors and consumers. Many of Mexico's domestic reforms in agriculture coincided with NAFTA negotiations, beginning in 1991, and continued beyond the implementation of NAFTA in 1994. The unilateral reforms in the agricultural sector make it difficult to separate those effects from the effects of NAFTA. By 1999, CONASUPO had been abolished.

**Sources:** United States International Trade Commission (USITC), *The Likely Impact on the United States of a Free Trade Agreement with Mexico*, Publication 2353, February 1991. Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Jeffrey J. Schott, Institute for International Economics, *NAFTA Revisited*, October 2005. Alberto Chong and Florencio López-de-Silanes, *Privatization in Mexico*, Inter-American Development Bank, Working Paper #513, August 2004.

## NAFTA Side Agreements on Labor and the Environment

The NAFTA text did not include labor or environmental provisions, which was a major concern to many in Congress at the time of the agreement's consideration. Some policymakers called for additional provisions to address numerous concerns about labor and environmental issues, specifically in Mexico. Other policymakers argued that the economic growth generated by the FTA would increase Mexico's resources available for environmental and worker rights protection. However, congressional concerns from policymakers, as well as criticisms from labor and environmental groups, remained strong.

Shortly after he began his presidency, President Clinton addressed labor and environmental issues by joining his counterparts in Canada and Mexico in negotiating formal side agreements. The NAFTA implementing legislation included provisions on the side agreements, authorizing U.S. participation in NAFTA labor and environmental commissions and appropriations for these activities. The North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC) and the North

American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) entered into force on January 1, 1994, the same day as NAFTA.<sup>34</sup> NAFTA implementing legislation also included two adjustment assistance programs, designed to ease trade-related labor and firm adjustment pressures: the NAFTA Transitional Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA) Program and the U.S. Community Adjustment and Investment Program (USCAIP).

The labor and environmental side agreements included language to promote cooperation on labor and environmental matters as well as provisions to address a party's failure to enforce its own labor and environmental laws. Perhaps most notable were the side agreements' dispute settlement processes that, as a last resort, may impose monetary assessments and sanctions to address a party's failure to enforce its laws.<sup>35</sup> NAFTA marked the first time that labor and environmental provisions were associated with an FTA. For many, it represented an opportunity for cooperating on environmental and labor matters across borders and for establishing a new type of relationship among NAFTA partners.<sup>36</sup>

In addition to the two trilateral side agreements, the United States and Mexico entered into a bilateral side agreement to NAFTA on border environmental cooperation.<sup>37</sup> In this agreement, the two governments committed to cooperate on developing environmental infrastructure projects along the U.S.-Mexico border to address problems regarding the degradation of the environment due to increased economic activity. The agreement established two organizations to work on these issues: the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), located in Juárez, Mexico, and the North American Development Bank (NADBank), located in San Antonio, Texas. The sister organizations work closely together and with other partners at the federal, state and local level in the United States and Mexico to develop, certify, and facilitate financing for water and wastewater treatment, municipal solid waste disposal, and related projects on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border region. These projects have provided border residents with more access to drinking water, sewer and wastewater treatment. In December 2014, the Board of NADBank and BECC approved a merger of the two organizations, which has not been completed as of the date of this report.<sup>38</sup>

## Trade Trends and Economic Effects

Most economists contend that trade liberalization promotes overall economic growth and efficiency among trading partners, although there are short-term adjustment costs. NAFTA was unusual in global terms because it was the first time that an FTA linked two wealthy, developed countries with a low-income developing country. For this reason, the agreement received considerable attention by U.S. policymakers, manufacturers, service providers, agriculture producers, labor unions, non-government organizations, and academics. Proponents argued that the agreement would help generate thousands of jobs and reduce income disparity between

---

<sup>34</sup> The USCAIP, administered by the North American Development Bank, provides financial assistance to communities with significant job losses due to changes in trade patterns with Mexico or Canada as a result of NAFTA.

<sup>35</sup> For more information, see CRS Report RS22823, *Overview of Labor Enforcement Issues in Free Trade Agreements*, by (name redacted), and CRS Report 97-291, *NAFTA: Related Environmental Issues and Initiatives*, by (name redacted)

<sup>36</sup> Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, *NAFTA at 10: Progress, Potential, and Precedents*, pp. 20-30.

<sup>37</sup> *The Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning the Establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank*, November 1993.

<sup>38</sup> CRS In Focus IF10480, *The North American Development Bank*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

Mexico and its northern neighbors. Opponents warned that the agreement would create huge job losses in the United States as companies moved production to Mexico to lower costs.<sup>39</sup>

Estimating the economic impact of trade agreements is a daunting task due to a lack of data and important theoretical and practical matters associated with generating results from economic models. In addition, such estimates provide an incomplete accounting of the total economic effects of trade agreements.<sup>40</sup> Numerous studies suggest that NAFTA achieved many of the intended trade and economic benefits.<sup>41</sup> Other studies suggest that NAFTA has come at some cost to U.S. workers.<sup>42</sup> This has been in keeping with what most economists maintain, that trade liberalization promotes overall economic growth among trading partners, but that there are both winners and losers from adjustments.

Not all changes in trade and investment patterns within North America since 1994 can be attributed to NAFTA because trade has also been affected by a number of factors. The sharp devaluation of the peso at the end of the 1990s and the associated recession in Mexico had considerable effects on trade, as did the rapid growth of the U.S. economy during most of the 1990s and, in later years, the economic slowdown caused by the 2008 financial crisis. Trade-related job gains and losses since NAFTA may have accelerated trends that were ongoing prior to NAFTA and may not be totally attributable to the trade agreement.

## U.S. Trade Trends with NAFTA Partners

### Overall Trade

U.S. trade with its NAFTA partners has more than tripled since the agreement took effect. It has increased more rapidly than trade with the rest of the world. Since 1993, trade with Mexico grew faster than trade with Canada or with non-NAFTA countries. In 2011, trilateral trade among NAFTA partners reached the \$1 trillion threshold. In 2016, Canada was the leading market for U.S. exports, while Mexico ranked second. The two countries accounted for 34% of total U.S. exports in 2016. In imports, Canada and Mexico ranked second and third, respectively, as suppliers of U.S. imports in 2016. The two countries accounted for 26% of U.S. imports.<sup>43</sup>

Most of the trade-related effects of NAFTA may be attributed to changes in trade and investment patterns with Mexico because economic integration between Canada and the United States had already been taking place. As mentioned previously, while NAFTA may have accelerated U.S.-Mexico trade since 1993, other factors, such as economic growth patterns, also affected trade. As trade tends to increase during cycles of economic growth, it tends to decrease as growth declines.

---

<sup>39</sup> See Ross Perot with Pat Choate, *Save Your Job, Save Our Country: Why NAFTA Must be Stopped-Now!*, New York, 1993.

<sup>40</sup> For more information, see CRS Report R44546, *The Economic Effects of Trade: Overview and Policy Challenges*, by (name redacted) .

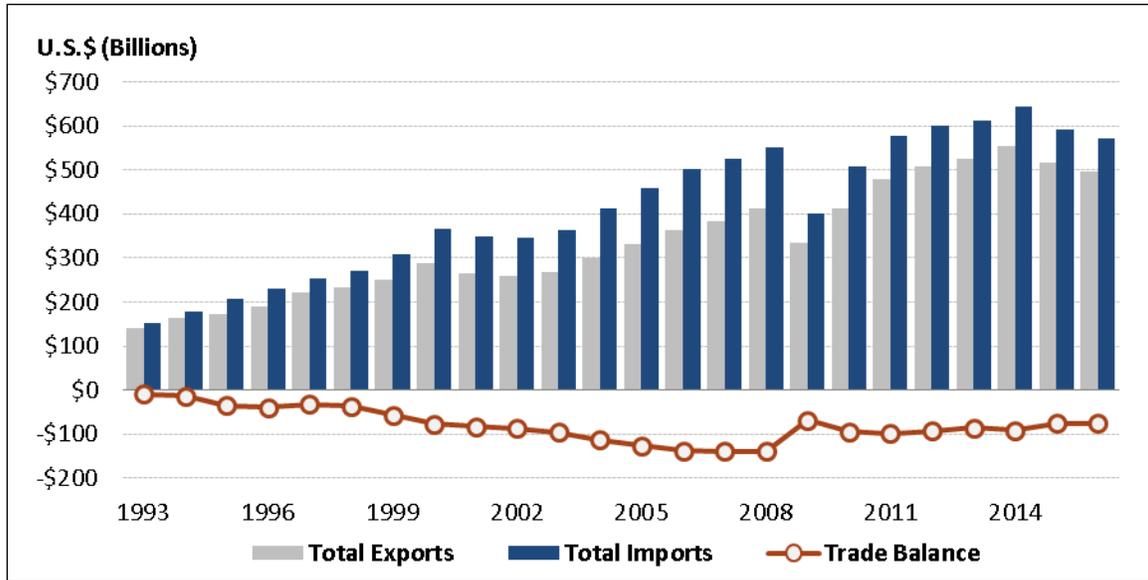
<sup>41</sup> See for example, Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Jeffrey J. Schott, *NAFTA Revisited: Achievements and Challenges*, Institute for International Economics, October 2005; Center for Strategic and International Studies, *NAFTA's Impact on North America: The First Decade*, Edited by Sidney Weintraub, 2004; and U.S. Chamber of Commerce, *Opening Markets, Creating Jobs: Estimated U.S. Employment Effects of Trade with FTA Partners*, 2010.

<sup>42</sup> See for example, Robert E. Scott, *Heading South: U.S.-Mexico Trade and Job Displacement under NAFTA*, Economic Policy Institute, May 3, 2011; and The Frederick S. Pardee Center, *The Future of North American Trade Policy: Lessons from NAFTA*, Boston University, November 2009.

<sup>43</sup> Trade statistics in this paragraph are based on Department of Commerce trade data.

The economic downturns in 2001 and 2009, for example, likely played a role in the decline in both U.S. exports to and imports from Canada and Mexico, as shown in **Figure 2**.

**Figure 2. U.S. Merchandise Trade with NAFTA Partners: 1993-2016**  
(billions of nominal dollars)



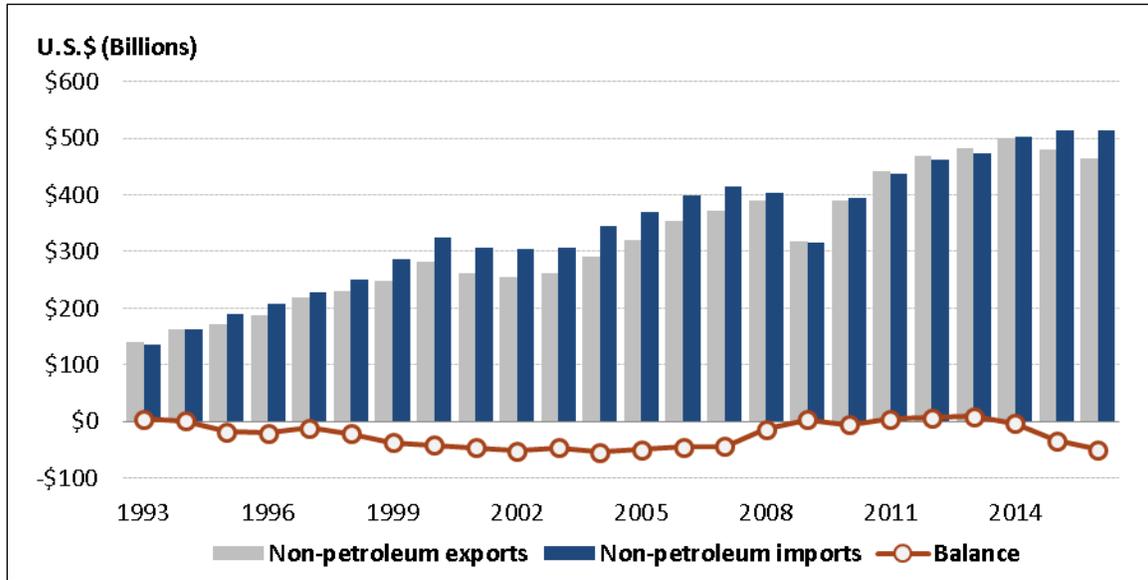
**Source:** Compiled by CRS using trade data from the U.S. International Trade Commission’s Interactive Tariff and Trade Data Web, at <http://dataweb.usitc.gov>.

### Trade Balance and Petroleum Oil Products

Trade in crude oil and petroleum products is a central component of U.S. trade with both Canada and Mexico. If these products are excluded from the trade balance, the deficit with NAFTA partners has been lower than the overall deficit in some years. In some years, the balance in non-energy merchandise has been positive. For example, the balance in non-petroleum products went from a surplus of \$8.7 billion in 2013 to a deficit of \$49.8 billion in 2016 as shown in **Figure 3**. Petroleum products have accounted for 10-17% of total trade with NAFTA partners over the past 10 years.

**Figure 3. Trade with NAFTA Partners Excluding Petroleum Oil and Oil Products: 1993-2016**

(billions of nominal dollars)



**Source:** Compiled by CRS using trade data from the U.S. International Trade Commission’s (USITC’s) Interactive Tariff and Trade Data Web, at <http://dataweb.usitc.gov>.

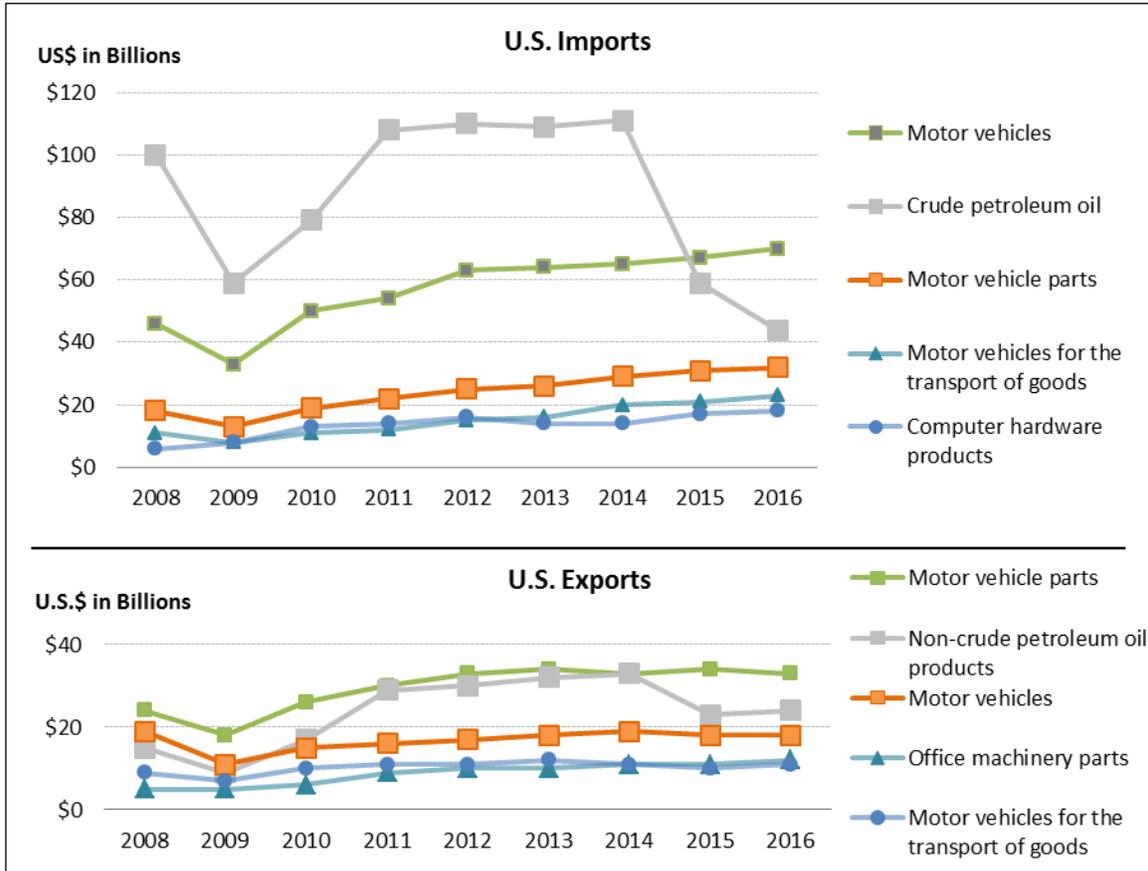
**Notes:** The United States uses different classifications of trade for trade statistics. Trade data in this chart excludes energy trade in three categories: Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) code 2709, petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals, crude; HTS code 2710, petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals (other than crude) and products therefrom, NESOI, containing 70% (by weight) or more of these oils; and HTS code 2711, petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons. See <http://dataweb.usitc.gov>.

### Trade by Product

In 2016, U.S. imports in motor vehicles ranked first among the five leading import items from NAFTA partners, as shown in **Figure 4**.<sup>44</sup> The next leading import items were crude petroleum oil, motor vehicle parts, motor vehicles for the transport of goods, and computer hardware. In 2016, the top five U.S. export items to NAFTA partners were motor vehicle parts, non-crude petroleum oil products (mainly gasoline), motor vehicles, office machinery parts, and motor vehicles for the transport of goods, as shown in **Figure 4**.

<sup>44</sup> This statistic is derived from the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS), using HTS number 2709 for petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals, crude. The HTS comprises a hierarchical structure for describing all goods in trade for duty, quota, and statistical purposes. This structure is based upon the international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), administered by the World Customs Organization in Brussels.

**Figure 4. Top Five U.S. Import and Export Items to and from NAFTA Partners**  
(billions of nominal dollars)



**Source:** Compiled by CRS using trade data from the USITC at <http://dataweb.usitc.gov>.

**Notes:** This figure does not include low-value export shipments. Statistics are derived from the harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) of the United States at the 4-digit level. The HTS comprises a hierarchical structure for describing all goods in trade for duty, quota, and statistical purposes. This structure is based on the international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), administered by the World Customs Organization in Brussels.

### Trade with Canada

U.S. trade with Canada more than doubled in the first decade of the FTA/NAFTA (1989-1999) from \$166.5 billion to \$362.2 billion. U.S. exports to Canada increased from \$100.2 billion in 1993 to \$312.1 billion in 2014, and then decreased to \$266.8 billion in 2016. U.S. imports from Canada increased from \$110.9 billion in 1993 to \$349.3 billion in 2014, and then decreased to \$278.1 billion in 2016 (see **Table A-1**). After falling off during the recession of 2001, total trade with Canada reached a new high of \$600.6 billion in 2008, only to fall victim to the financial crisis in 2009 when it fell to \$430.9 billion. The United States has run a trade deficit with Canada since the FTA/NAFTA era, increasing from \$9.9 billion in 1989 to \$78.3 billion in 2008, before falling back during the 2009 recession. In 2016, the trade deficit with Canada decreased further to \$11.2 billion. While the trade deficit with Canada has been attributed to the FTA/NAFTA,

increases have been uneven and may also be attributed to other economic factors, such as energy prices.<sup>45</sup>

In services, the United States had a surplus of \$27.4 billion in 2015 in trade with Canada. U.S. private services exports to Canada increased from \$17.0 billion in 1993 to \$56.4 billion in 2015. U.S. private services imports from Canada increased from \$9.1 billion in 1993 to \$29.0 billion in 2015, as shown in **Table A-2**.<sup>46</sup>

## Trade with Mexico

The United States is, by far, Mexico's leading partner in merchandise trade. U.S. exports to Mexico increased rapidly since NAFTA, increasing from \$41.6 billion in 1993 to \$231.0 billion in 2016, an increase of 455% (see **Table A-1**). U.S. imports from Mexico increased from \$39.9 billion in 1993 to \$294.2 billion in 2016, an increase of 637%. The trade balance with Mexico went from a surplus of \$1.7 billion in 1993 to a deficit of \$74.8 billion in 2007. Since then, the trade deficit with Mexico has fallen to \$63.2 billion in 2016.<sup>47</sup>

In services, the United States had a surplus of \$9.6 billion in 2016 in trade with Mexico. U.S. private services exports to Mexico increased from \$10.4 billion in 1993 to \$31.5 billion in 2015. U.S. private services imports from Mexico increased from \$7.4 billion in 1993 to \$21.9 billion in 2015, as shown in **Table A-2**.<sup>48</sup>

## Effect on the U.S. Economy

The overall net effect of NAFTA on the U.S. economy has been relatively small, primarily because total trade with both Mexico and Canada was equal to less than 5% of U.S. GDP at the time NAFTA went into effect. Because many, if not most, of the economic effects came as a result of U.S.-Mexico trade liberalization, it is also important to take into account that two-way trade with Mexico was equal to an even smaller percentage of GDP (1.4%) in 1994. Thus, any changes in trade patterns would not be expected to be significant in relation to the overall U.S. economy. A major challenge in assessing NAFTA is separating the effects that came as a result of the agreement from other factors. U.S. trade with Mexico and Canada was already growing prior to NAFTA and it likely would have continued to do so without an agreement. A 2003 report by the Congressional Budget Office observed that it was difficult to precisely measure the effects of NAFTA. It estimated that NAFTA likely increased annual U.S. GDP, but by a very small amount—"probably no more than a few billion dollars, or a few hundredths of a percent."<sup>49</sup> In some sectors, trade-related effects could have been more significant, especially in those industries that were more exposed to the removal of tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, such as the textile, apparel, automotive, and agriculture industries.

---

<sup>45</sup> Trade statistics in this paragraph are derived from data from the U.S. International Trade Commission's Interactive Tariff and Trade Data Web, at <http://dataweb.usitc.gov>.

<sup>46</sup> Services trade statistics in this paragraph are derived from the Bureau of Economic Analysis online database at <http://www.bea.gov>.

<sup>47</sup> Merchandise trade statistics in this paragraph are derived from data from the U.S. International Trade Commission's Interactive Tariff and Trade Data Web, at <http://dataweb.usitc.gov>.

<sup>48</sup> Services trade statistics in this paragraph are derived from the Bureau of Economic Analysis online database at <http://www.bea.gov>.

<sup>49</sup> Congressional Budget Office of the United States, "The Effects of NAFTA on U.S.-Mexican Trade and GDP," *A CBO Paper*, May 2003, p. xiv.

Studies by the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) on the effects of NAFTA pointed out the difficulty in isolating the agreement's effects from other factors. Although the effects of NAFTA are not easily measured, the USITC provided some estimates over the years. A 2003 study estimated that U.S. GDP could experience an increase between 0.1% and 0.5% upon full implementation of the agreement.<sup>50</sup> A more recent USITC report written in June 2016 on the economic impact of trade agreements implemented under Trade Promotion Authority provides a summary of the findings from literature on NAFTA after 2002.<sup>51</sup> The report states that, in general, the findings show that NAFTA led “to a substantial increase in trade volumes for all three countries; a small increase in U.S. welfare; and little to no change in U.S. aggregate employment.”<sup>52</sup> The 2016 USITC report also states that some studies find that trade with Mexico depressed U.S. wages in some industries and states, while wages in other industries increased. According to ITC, other studies show that, in general, NAFTA had “essentially no effect on real wages in the United States of either skilled or unskilled workers.”<sup>53</sup>

## U.S. Industries and Supply Chains

Many economists and other observers have credited NAFTA with helping U.S. manufacturing industries, especially the U.S. auto industry, become more globally competitive through greater North American economic integration and the development of supply chains.<sup>54</sup> Much of the increase in U.S.-Mexico trade, for example, can be attributed to specialization as manufacturing and assembly plants have reoriented to take advantage of economies of scale. As a result, supply chains have been increasingly crossing national boundaries as manufacturing work is performed wherever it is most efficient.<sup>55</sup> A reduction in tariffs in a given sector not only affects prices in that sector but also in industries that purchase intermediate inputs from that sector. The importance of these direct and indirect effects is often overlooked, according to one study. The study suggests that these linkages offer important trade and welfare gains from free trade agreements and that ignoring these input-output linkages could underestimate potential trade gains.<sup>56</sup>

Much of the trade between the United States and its NAFTA partners occurs in the context of production sharing as manufacturers in each country work together to create goods. The expansion of trade has resulted in the creation of vertical supply relationships, especially along the U.S.-Mexico border. The flow of intermediate inputs produced in the United States and exported to Mexico and the return flow of finished products greatly increased the importance of the U.S.-Mexico border region as a production site.<sup>57</sup> U.S. manufacturing industries, including automotive, electronics, appliances, and machinery, all rely on the assistance of Mexican

---

<sup>50</sup> USITC, “The Impact of Trade Agreements: Effect of the Tokyo Round, U.S.-Israel FTA, U.S.-Canada FTA, NAFTA, and the Uruguay Round on the U.S. Economy,” Publication 3621, August 2003.

<sup>51</sup> United States International Trade Commission, *Economic Impact of Trade Agreements Implemented Under Trade Authorities Procedures*, Publication Number: 4614, June 2016, <https://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/pub4614.pdf#page=131&nameddest=1>.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid, p. 255.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid, p. 259.

<sup>54</sup> Hufbauer and Schott, *NAFTA Revisited*, pp. 20-21.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., p. 21.

<sup>56</sup> Lorenzo Caliendo and Fernando Parro, *Estimates of the Trade and Welfare Effects of NAFTA*, National Bureau of Economic Research, November 2012, pp. 1-5.

<sup>57</sup> Gordon H. Hanson, *North American Economic Integration and Industry Location*, National Bureau of Economic Research, June 1998.

manufacturers. One report estimates that 40% of the content of U.S. imports from Mexico and 25% of the content of U.S. imports from Canada are of U.S. origin. In comparison, U.S. imports from China are said to have only 4% U.S. content. Taken together, goods from Mexico and Canada represent about 75% of all the U.S. domestic content that returns to the United States as imports.<sup>58</sup>

## Auto Sector

NAFTA removed Mexico's protectionist auto decrees and was instrumental in the integration of the auto industry in all three countries. The auto sector experienced some of the most significant changes in trade following the agreement. NAFTA provisions consisted of a phased elimination of tariffs and the gradual removal of many non-tariff barriers to trade. It provided for uniform country of origin provisions, enhanced protection of intellectual property rights, adopted less restrictive government procurement practices, and eliminated performance requirements on investors from other NAFTA countries. U.S. auto manufacturers, such as Ford Motor Company, often rely on parts from the United States, Canada, and Mexico in the final assembly of a motor vehicle. Northern American auto parts producers may use inputs and components produced by another NAFTA partner to assemble parts, which are then shipped to another NAFTA country where they are assembled into a vehicle that is sold in any of the three countries.<sup>59</sup> According to some estimates, autos manufactured in North America that are sold in the United States have a domestic content of between 47% and 85%.<sup>60</sup>

### Mexico's Restrictive Auto Decrees Prior to NAFTA

Beginning in the 1960s, Mexico had a restrictive import substitution policy through a series of Mexican Auto Decrees in which the government sought to supply the entire Mexican market through domestically produced automotive goods. The decrees:

- established import tariffs as high as 25% on automotive goods;
- had high restrictions on foreign auto production;
- prohibited imports of finished vehicles;
- imposed high domestic-content requirements on foreign manufacturers producing; and
- issued export requirements in which a certain amount of exports was required for every dollar of imports.

After joining the GATT, the government of Mexico issued the final decree in 1989, liberalizing rules on the industry, but not entirely eliminating them. At the time of NAFTA negotiations, auto manufacturers were still required to have a certain percentage of domestic content in their products and meet export requirements, both of which were considered huge impediments to the industry. In addition, Mexico had tariffs of 20% or more on imports of automobiles and auto parts. These trade restrictions were eliminated under NAFTA.

**Note:** For more information, see Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Jeffrey J. Schott, Institute for International Economics, *North American Free Trade, Issues and Recommendations*, 1992, pp. 209-234.

After NAFTA's entry into force, U.S. trade in vehicles and auto parts increased rapidly. Mexico became a more significant trading partner in the motor vehicle market as U.S. auto exports to Mexico increased 262% while imports increased 765% between 1993 and 2016 as shown in **Table 1**. Mexico's share in U.S. total trade in motor vehicles increased during this time period,

<sup>58</sup> Robert Koopman, William Powers, and Zhi Wang, et al., *Give Credit Where Credit is Due: Tracing Value Added in Global Production Chains*, National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 16426, Cambridge, MA, September 2010, p. 8.

<sup>59</sup> Business Roundtable, *NAFTA: A Decade of Growth*, p. 8.

<sup>60</sup> Matthew Philips and Cristina Lindblad, "Trump Threatens to Undo NAFTA's Auto Alley," *Bloomberg*, January 26, 2016.

while the share from Canada and other countries decreased. Mexico was the leading supplier of automotive goods for the United States in 2016, accounting for 30% (\$96.0 billion) of total U.S. motor vehicle and auto parts imports. Canada ranked second, accounting for 19% (\$60.7 billion) of total U.S. imports in motor vehicles and auto parts in 2016.<sup>61</sup>

**Table I. U.S. Trade in Motor Vehicles and Parts: 1993 and 2016**  
(billions of dollars)

	1993			2016			% Change 1993-2016	
	Exports	Imports	Total	Exports	Imports	Total	Exports	Imports
<b>Mexico</b>								
Vehicles	0.2	3.7	3.9	4.6	49.7	54.3	2222%	1242%
Parts	7.3	7.4	14.7	22.5	46.3	68.9	209%	526%
Total	7.5	11.1	18.6	27.2	96.0	123.2	262%	765%
<b>Canada</b>								
Vehicles	8.2	26.7	34.9	26.1	46.7	72.7	218%	75%
Parts	18.2	10.3	28.5	26.4	14.0	40.5	45%	36%
Total	26.4	37.0	63.4	52.5	60.7	113.2	99%	64%
<b>World</b>								
Vehicles	18.9	63.0	81.9	68.4	199.5	267.9	262%	217%
Parts	33.4	38.3	71.7	64.08	115.4	179.5	92%	201%
Total	52.3	101.3	153.6	132.5	314.9	447.4	153%	211%

**Source:** Compiled by CRS using trade data from the USITC at <http://dataweb.usitc.gov>. For 2016, “vehicles” consists of items under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) number 3361 and “parts” consists of items under NAIC number 3363. The NAICS is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy.

## Effect on Mexico

A number of studies have found that NAFTA has brought economic and social benefits to the Mexican economy as a whole, but that the benefits have not been evenly distributed throughout the country.<sup>62</sup> The agreement also had a positive impact on Mexican productivity. A 2011 World Bank study found that the increase in trade integration after NAFTA had a positive effect on

<sup>61</sup> Merchandise trade statistics in this paragraph are derived from data from the U.S. International Trade Commission’s Interactive Tariff and Trade Data Web, at <http://dataweb.usitc.gov>.

<sup>62</sup> See for example, Robert A. Blecker and Gerardo Esquivel, *NAFTA, Trade, and Development*, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (San Diego), El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and El Colegio de Mexico, WP 10-03, 2010; and Daniel Lederman, William F. Maloney, and Luis Servén, *Lessons from NAFTA for Latin America and the Caribbean*, The World Bank, 2005.

stimulating the productivity of Mexican plants.<sup>63</sup> Most post-NAFTA studies on economic effects have found that the net overall effects on the Mexican economy tended to be positive but modest. While there have been periods of positive and negative economic growth in Mexico after the agreement was implemented, it is difficult to measure precisely how much of these economic changes was attributed to NAFTA. A World Bank study assessing some of the economic impacts from NAFTA on Mexico concluded that NAFTA helped Mexico get closer to the levels of development in the United States and Canada. The study states that NAFTA helped Mexican manufacturers adapt to U.S. technological innovations more quickly; likely had positive impacts on the number and quality of jobs; reduced macroeconomic volatility, or wide variations in the GDP growth rate, in Mexico; increased the levels of synchronicity in business cycles in Mexico, the United States, and Canada; and reinforced the high sensitivity of Mexican economic sectors to economic developments in the United States.<sup>64</sup>

Other studies suggest that NAFTA has been disappointing in that it failed to significantly improve the Mexican economy or lower income disparities between Mexico and its northern neighbors.<sup>65</sup> Some argue that the success of NAFTA in Mexico was probably limited by the fact that NAFTA was not supplemented by complementary policies that could have promoted a deeper regional integration effort. These policies could have included improvements in education, industrial policies, and/or investment in infrastructure.<sup>66</sup>

One of the more controversial aspects of NAFTA is related to the agricultural sector in Mexico and the perception that NAFTA has caused a higher amount of Mexican worker displacement in this sector than in other economic sectors. Many critics of NAFTA say that the agreement led to a large number of job losses in Mexican agriculture, especially in the corn sector. One study estimates these losses to have been over 1 million lost jobs in corn production between 1991 and 2000.<sup>67</sup> However, while some of the changes in the agricultural sector are a direct result of NAFTA as Mexico began to import more lower-priced products from the United States, many of the changes can be attributed to Mexico's unilateral agricultural reform measures in the 1980s and early 1990s. Most domestic reform measures consisted of privatization efforts and resulted in increased competition. Measures included eliminating state enterprises related to agriculture and removing staple price supports and subsidies.<sup>68</sup> These reforms coincided with NAFTA negotiations and continued beyond the implementation of NAFTA in 1994. The unilateral reforms in the agricultural sector make it difficult to separate those effects from the effects of NAFTA.

---

<sup>63</sup> Rafael E. de Hoyos and Leonardo Iacovone, *Economic Performance under NAFTA*, The World Bank Development Research Group, May 2011, pp. 25-27.

<sup>64</sup> Daniel Lederman, William F. Maloney, and Luis Servén, *Lessons from NAFTA for Latin America and the Caribbean*, The World Bank, 2005.

<sup>65</sup> Robert A. Blecker and Gerardo Esquivel, *NAFTA, Trade, and Development*, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, and El Colegio de México, USMEX WP 10-03, 2010.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 22.

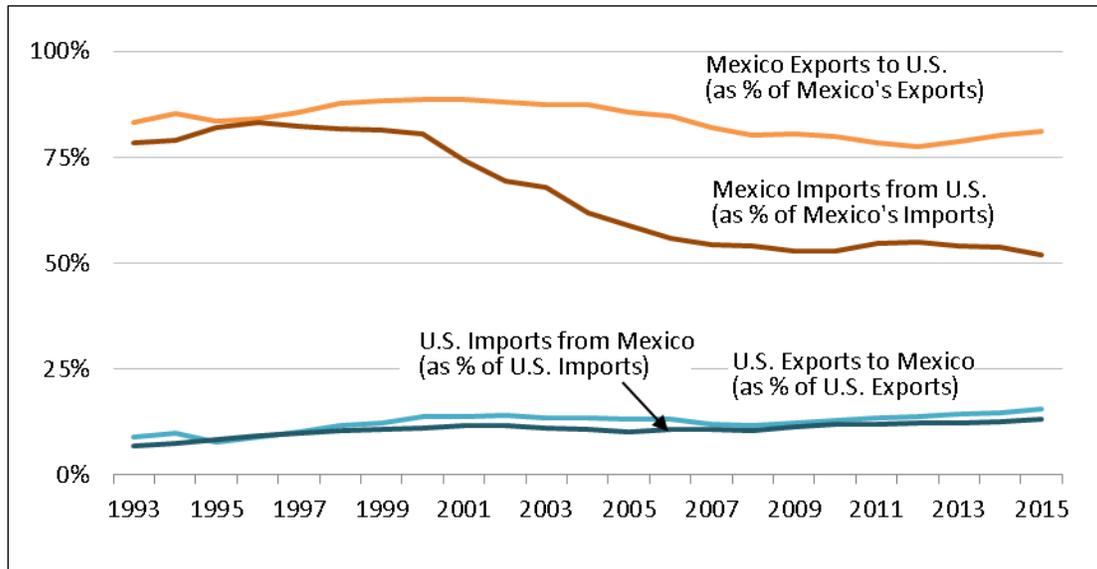
<sup>67</sup> Robert E. Scott, Carlos Salas, Bruce Campbell and Jeff Faux, *Revisiting NAFTA: Still Not Working for North America's Workers*, Economic Policy Institute, Briefing Paper #173, p. 43.

<sup>68</sup> Mexico's unilateral agricultural reform measures removed government subsidies and price controls in the agricultural sector that resulted in rising prices for tortillas. Tortillas are the basic staple for the Mexican diet and a necessity of the poor. For this reason, higher prices had a greater effect on the poor than on middle- and higher-income Mexicans. Mexico also reformed its Agrarian Law. Lands that had been distributed to *ejidos* or community rural groups following the 1910 revolution gained the right to privatize. This led to more efficient production processes, especially in Northern states.

## U.S.-Mexico Trade Market Shares

Mexico relies heavily on the United States as an export market; this reliance has diminished very slightly over the years. The percentage of Mexico’s total exports going to the United States decreased from 83% in 1993 to 81% in 2015 (see **Figure 5**). In addition, its share of the U.S. market has lost ground since 2003 when China surpassed Mexico as the second-leading supplier of U.S. imports. The United States is losing market share of Mexico’s import market. Between 1993 and 2015, the U.S. share of Mexico’s imports decreased from 78% to 54%. China is Mexico’s second-leading source of imports.

**Figure 5. Market Share as Percentage of Total Trade: Mexico and the United States (1993-2015)**



**Source:** Economist Intelligence Unit, from IMF International Financial Statistics. Data for 2016 was not yet available.

**Note:** Represents exports to and imports from other country as percentage of country’s total trade.

## U.S. and Mexican Foreign Direct Investment

Foreign direct investment (FDI) has been an integral part of the economic relationship between the United States and Mexico for many years, especially after NAFTA. Two-way investment increased rapidly after the agreement went into effect. The United States is the largest source of FDI in Mexico. The stock of U.S. FDI in Mexico increased from \$15.2 billion in 1993 to \$104.4 billion in 2012 (587%), and then decreased to \$92.8 billion in 2015 (see **Table A-4**). The flows of FDI have been affected by other factors over the years, with higher growth during the period of economic expansion during the late 1990s, and slower growth in recent years, possibly due to the economic downturn caused by the 2008 global financial crisis and/or the increased violence in Mexico. Mexican FDI in the United States, while substantially lower than U.S. investment in Mexico, has also increased rapidly, from \$1.2 billion in 1993 to \$16.6 billion in 2015 (1283% increase) (See **Table A-4**).<sup>69</sup>

<sup>69</sup> Foreign direct investment data in this section is derived from data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis online database at <http://www.bea.gov>.

While Mexico's unilateral trade and investment liberalization measures in the 1980s and early 1990s contributed to the increase of U.S. FDI in Mexico, NAFTA provisions on foreign investment may have helped to lock in Mexico's reforms and increase investor confidence. NAFTA helped give U.S. and Canadian investors nondiscriminatory treatment of their investments as well as investor protection in Mexico. Nearly half of total FDI investment in Mexico is in the manufacturing industry.

## Income Disparity

One of the main arguments in favor of NAFTA at the time it was being proposed by policymakers was that the agreement would improve economic conditions in Mexico and narrow the income disparity between Mexico and the United States and Canada. Studies that have addressed the issue of economic convergence<sup>70</sup> have noted that economic convergence in North America has failed to materialize. One study states that NAFTA failed to fulfill the promise of closing the Mexico-U.S. development gap and that this was partially due to the lack of deeper forms of regional integration or cooperation between Mexico and the United States.<sup>71</sup> The study contends that domestic policies in both countries, along with underlying geographic and demographic realities, contribute to the continuing disparities in income. The authors argue that neither Mexico nor the United States adopted complementary policies after NAFTA that could have promoted a more successful regional integration effort. These policies could include education, industrial policies, and more investment in border and transportation infrastructure. The authors also note that other developments, such as increased security along the U.S.-Mexico border after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, have made it much more difficult for the movement of goods and services across the border and for improving regional integration. They argue that the two countries could cooperate on policies that foster convergence and economic development in Mexico instead of increasing security and "building walls."<sup>72</sup>

A World Bank study states that NAFTA brought economic and social benefits to the Mexican economy, but that it is not enough to help narrow the disparities in economic conditions between Mexico and the United States.<sup>73</sup> It contends that Mexico needs to invest more in education, innovation, and infrastructure, and in the quality of national institutions. The study also states that income convergence between a Latin American country and the United States is limited by the wide differences in the quality of domestic institutions, in the innovation dynamics of domestic firms, and in the skills of the labor force. While NAFTA had a positive effect on wages and employment in some Mexican states, the wage differential within the country increased as a result of trade liberalization.<sup>74</sup> Another study also notes that the ability of Mexico to improve economic conditions depends on its capacity to improve its national institutions, adding that Mexican

---

<sup>70</sup> Economic convergence can be broadly defined as a narrowing of the disparities in the economic levels and the manufacturing performances of particular countries or their regions. The goal of the theory of economic convergence is to research and analyze the factors influencing the rates of economic growth and real per capita income in countries.

<sup>71</sup> Robert A. Blecker and Gerardo Esquivel, *NAFTA, Trade, and Development*, Working Paper 10-03, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (San Diego), the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center (Washington DC), El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Tijuana), and El Colegio de México (Mexico City), 2010, p. 2.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 19-23.

<sup>73</sup> Lederman, Maloney, and Servén, *Lessons from NAFTA for Latin America and the Caribbean*, The World Bank, 2005.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*

institutions did not improve significantly more than those of other Latin American countries since NAFTA went into effect.<sup>75</sup>

## Effect on Canada

As noted earlier, the U.S.-Canada FTA came into effect on January 1, 1989. Thus, trade liberalization between the two countries was well underway—or already completed—by the time of the implementation of NAFTA. This section summarizes the effect of trade liberalization from both agreements on Canada.

From the Canadian perspective, the important consequence of the FTA may have been what did not happen, that is, that many of the fears of opening up trade with the United States did not come to pass. Canada did not become an economic appendage or “51<sup>st</sup> state,” as many had feared. It did not lose control over its water or energy resources; its manufacturing sector was not gutted from the agreement. Rather, as one Canadian commentator remarked, “free trade helped Canada to grow up, to turn its face out to the world, to embrace its future as a trading nation, [and] to get over its chronic sense of inferiority.”<sup>76</sup> However, some hopes for the FTA, for example, that it would be a catalyst for greater productivity in Canadian industry, also have not come to pass.

## U.S.-Canada Trade Market Shares

Canada is the second largest trading partner of the United States with \$578.6 billion crossing the border in both directions in 2016, resulting in a trade deficit of \$12.1 billion. The United States is the number one purchaser of Canadian goods and supplier of imports to Canada. Canada’s share of its exports going to the United States steadily increased during the 1980s, from 60.6% in 1980 to 70.7% in 1989, the first year of the FTA. Canada’s percentage of total exports to the United States continued to increase, reaching 87.7% in 2002. The relative importance of the value of U.S. and Canadian trade with each other, however, has been falling in recent years. Since 2002, this percentage has fallen back to 76.4% in 2016. The U.S. share of Canada’s total imports, which reached a peak of 70.0% in 1983, has steadily declined to a recent 52.1% in 2015 (**Figure 6**). Canada likes to point out that it is the leading export destination for 35 U.S. states.<sup>77</sup>

Traditionally, Canada was the largest purchaser of U.S. exports and supplier of U.S. imports; however, shares of both peaked before the FTA. Canada purchased 23.5% of U.S. exports in 1987 and equaled that figure in 2005, but it has since fallen to 18.3% in 2016. Canada traditionally was the largest supplier of U.S. imports, peaking at 20.6% in 1984, reaching a NAFTA high of 20.1% in 1996, but declining thereafter to 12.6% in 2016. China displaced Canada as the largest supplier of U.S. imports in 2007, and Mexico edged out Canada for second spot in 2015. Canada remains the largest trading partner of the United States when trade in services is taken into account.

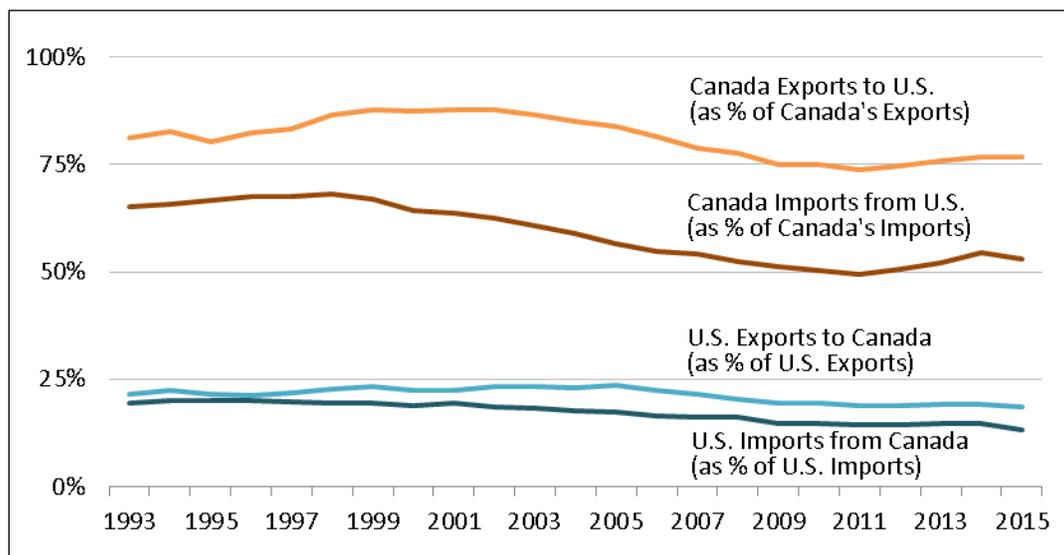
---

<sup>75</sup> William Easterly, Norbert Fiess, and Daniel Lederman, “NAFTA and Convergence in North America: High Expectations, Big Events, Little Time,” *Economía*, Fall 2003.

<sup>76</sup> John Ibbitson, “After 25 Years, Free-Trade Deal with U.S. Has Helped Canada Grow Up,” *The Globe and Mail*, September 29, 2012.

<sup>77</sup> “Canada: A trading nation,” Canadian embassy website [http://canam.gc.ca/relations/commercial\\_relations\\_commerciales.aspx?lang=eng](http://canam.gc.ca/relations/commercial_relations_commerciales.aspx?lang=eng).

**Figure 6. Market Share as Percentage of Total Trade: Canada and the United States (1993-2015)**



**Source:** Economic Intelligence Unit, from IMF International Financial Statistics.

**Note:** Represents exports to and imports from other country as percentage of country's total trade.

The composition of trade has also changed. Canada initially entered a manufacturing recession after the FTA entered into force as branch plants of U.S. companies set up behind the Canadian tariff wall were abandoned. However, more internationally competitive manufacturing sectors thrived as long as the Canadian dollar (nicknamed the loonie for the soaring loon pictured on its reverse) was relatively cheap. From a low point of a Canadian dollar worth US\$0.65 in 2002, the loonie reached parity in 2007, and has hovered around the parity point until 2013 before sliding to a recent US\$ 0.75 at the end of 2016. The appreciation was attributed to the boom in Canada's natural resources—oil and gas displaced motor vehicles as Canada's largest export to the United States in 2005. The value of Canadian dollar is dependent on its commodity exports, and the depreciation resulted from the end of the boom that accompanied China's slowdown.

The "great recession" resulting from the 2008 financial crisis took a toll on Canadian manufacturing, which was exacerbated by the strong loonie in the 2010-2013 period. However, the recovery of the North American economy and the fall of the loonie after 2013 has not significantly improved the fortunes of some sectors of Canadian manufacturing. The Canadian auto sector is a case in point. Despite contributing C\$12 billion to the bailout of General Motors and Chrysler, no new auto assembly plant in Canada has opened since 2009, model lines have been shifted to Mexico or the United States,<sup>78</sup> and by 2014, Canada's share of North American vehicle output fell to 14%. According to the Royal Bank of Canada, "Planned capacity expansion in Mexico, including several new plants in the next few years, as well as stronger investment in the United States, could result in further erosion of Canadian producers' market share ... the same is true for Canadian parts manufacturers, who have lost a significant share of the US import market."<sup>79</sup>

<sup>78</sup> Chris Chase, "A brief history of auto manufacturing in Canada," <http://www.autotrader.ca/newsfeatures/20160901/a-brief-history-of-auto-manufacturing-in-canada/#EWFjdFpEwMcMBGjq.97>.

<sup>79</sup> Royal Bank of Canada, "A look at the recovery of the Canadian auto sector since the 2008-2009 recession," May 2014, [http://www.rbc.com/economics/economic-reports/pdf/other-reports/Auto\\_May\\_2014.pdf](http://www.rbc.com/economics/economic-reports/pdf/other-reports/Auto_May_2014.pdf).

For some advocates in Canada, free trade was meant to alleviate the long-term labor productivity gap between the United States and Canada. Open competition was seen as forcing Canadian industry to be more productive. Since NAFTA, this gap could be accounted for by the low value of the Canadian dollar. As adding capital equipment (often purchased from the United States) was relatively more expensive than hiring extra workers, the latter was often employed. The appreciation of the Canadian dollar made additional capitalization more attractive, but labor productivity recently remained only at 72% of U.S. levels.<sup>80</sup> The relatively low productivity levels of Canadian industry, as well as its relatively low investments in research and development (R&D), and relatively lower expenditures on information technology, are seen as threatening to Canadian long-term competitiveness. This remains a concern to Canadian policymakers despite Canada leading the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) ranking in population with post-secondary education.<sup>81</sup>

### Foreign Direct Investment

Two-way investment has also increased markedly since NAFTA, both in terms of stock and flow of investment. The United States is the largest single investor in Canada with a stock of FDI into Canada reaching \$352.9 billion in 2015, up from a stock of \$69.9 billion in 1993 (see **Table A-4**). U.S. investment represents 49.4% of the total stock of FDI in Canada from global investors. U.S. FDI flows into Canada averaged \$3.28 billion in the five years prior to the FTA, and actually fell to an average of \$1.7 billion in the first six years of the FTA, mainly attributed to divestments of U.S.-owned branch plants in Canada. However, U.S. flows into Canada have increased markedly to an average of \$20.1 billion during the 10 years from 2005-2015.<sup>82</sup> The stock of U.S. FDI is now equivalent to 22% of the value of Canadian GDP, in contrast to 1% at the beginning of the FTA.

While Canada is not the largest investor in the United States, the United States was the largest destination for Canadian FDI in 2015 with a stock of \$269.0 billion, an increase from \$26.6 billion in 1988.<sup>83</sup> Approximately 42.2% of Canadian FDI was invested in the United States in 2014. Canadian FDI flows into the United States annually averaged \$2.3 billion in five years prior to the FTA, and an annual average of \$1.8 billion during the FTA years, but more recently increased to an annual average of \$9.9 billion in the 10 years to 2015. These trends highlight the changing view of FDI among Canadians, from one that could be considered fearful or hostile to FDI as vehicles of foreign control over the Canadian economy, to one that is more welcoming of new jobs and techniques that result from FDI.

## Procedures for NAFTA Renegotiation or Withdrawal

As noted above, President Trump has advocated the renegotiation of NAFTA, or, perhaps, even withdrawing from the agreement itself. The following is a discussion of the procedural aspects of reopening NAFTA and the respective roles of the President and Congress.

---

<sup>80</sup> Kevin Lynch, "Canada's Challenge—From Good to Great," *Inside Policy*, October 2012.

<sup>81</sup> Glen Hodgson, "Canada U.S. Competitiveness, Addressing the Canadian Economic Contradiction," Woodrow Wilson Center, Canada Institute, June 2007; Lynch, *ibid.*

<sup>82</sup> Investment statistics are from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Statistics Canada.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*

## Renegotiation

NAFTA provides that

1. The Parties may agree on any modification of or addition to this Agreement.
2. When so agreed, and approved in accordance with the applicable legal procedures of each party, a modification or addition shall constitute an integral part of the agreement.<sup>84</sup>

Under Article II of the Constitution, the President has the authority to negotiate with foreign countries. If President Trump decides to renegotiate NAFTA, implementation of the renegotiated agreement in domestic law would likely take one of two forms, depending on the subject of the negotiations: Presidential proclamation<sup>85</sup> or, if renegotiation is expected to result in changes to U.S. law, the President likely would seek expedited treatment of the implementing legislation under the Bipartisan Comprehensive Trade Promotion and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA).<sup>86</sup>

Some modifications to NAFTA may be proclaimed by the President pursuant to existing statutory authority. These include tariff modifications, basic and specific rules of origin, and certain customs provisions. In these cases, they can take effect 15 days after proclamation. However, certain proclamations are subject to consultation and layover requirements, including “such additional duties as the President determines to be necessary or appropriate to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions with respect to Canada or Mexico provided for by the Agreement.”<sup>87</sup>

The consultation and layover provisions are applicable to proclamations concerning

- tariff modification, including acceleration of tariff staging;
- modification of rules of origin specific to carpets and sweaters (Annex 300-B);
- modifications to specific rules of origin (Annex 401);
- automotive tracing requirement (Annexes 403.1, 403.2);
- regional value-content provisions for certain autos (Annex 403.3); and
- modification of rules of origin definitions.

NAFTA’s implementing legislation did not provide for expedited procedures for legislative changes resulting from amendments to the agreement. The Senate report language on the implementing bill suggested that “[i]t is expected that normal legislative procedures would apply to any such legislation.”<sup>88</sup>

---

<sup>84</sup> North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Article 2202, <https://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/Home/Legal-Texts/North-American-Free-Trade-Agreement>.

<sup>85</sup> CRS Legal Sidebar, *Renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement: What Actions do not Require Congressional Approval*, by Brandon Murrill <http://www.crs.gov/LegalSidebar/details/1724?source=search>

<sup>86</sup> P.L. 114-26

<sup>87</sup> P.L. 103-182, Section 201 (b). Under the consultation and layover requirement, the President must obtain advice from private sector advisory committees and the International Trade Commission (ITC); submit a report to the Committees on Ways and Means and Finance on the proposed actions; and consult with the Committees and allows at least 60 days following the report to elapse prior to imposing the duty.

<sup>88</sup> Senate Finance Committee, Report 103-189, *North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act*, November 18, 1993, p. 9.

Renegotiation of other provisions of NAFTA that would require changes to U.S. law likely would require implementing legislation. Such legislation could be considered under TPA.<sup>89</sup> TPA is the time-limited authority that Congress uses to set trade negotiating objectives, to establish notification and consultation requirements, and to have implementing bills for certain reciprocal trade agreements considered under expedited procedures, provided certain requirements are met. TPA currently is in effect until July 1, 2021, provided that Congress does not pass an extension disapproval resolution in the sixty days prior to July 1, 2018. Under TPA, the President can initiate negotiations whenever

one or more existing duties or any other import restriction of any foreign country or the United States or any other barrier to, or other distortion of, international trade unduly burdens or restricts the foreign trade of the United States or adversely affects the United States economy ...<sup>90</sup>

In order to use the expedited procedures of TPA, the President must notify and consult with Congress before initiating negotiations, give Congress a 90-day notice of intent to begin negotiations, notify and consult with Congress during the course of the negotiations, and must adhere to several reporting requirements following the conclusion of any negotiations resulting in an agreement. The President must conduct the negotiations based on the negotiating objectives set forth by Congress in TPA legislation. If the President adheres to these and other requirements, then implementing legislation from the resulting agreement can be considered under expedited procedures, including guaranteed consideration, no amendments, and an up-or-down vote.

## Withdrawal

NAFTA provides that a country can withdraw from the agreement “six months after it has provided written notice of withdrawal to the other parties.” It also provides that the agreement shall remain in force for the other parties.<sup>91</sup>

As a practical matter, it appears that the President has the ability to terminate U.S. international commitments under international agreements, including trade agreements, in accordance with the agreements’ terms and the rules for withdrawal from treaties in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. In addition, it seems unlikely that a domestic court would find a case challenging such action to be suitable for judicial review.<sup>92</sup> It appears that the President, then, can withdraw from the agreement as a matter of international law six months after providing written notice to the other parties pursuant to NAFTA Article 2205 above. The issue of subsequent tariff rates is informed by Sec. 125 of the Trade Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-618), incorporated by reference in the NAFTA Implementation Act. Under this provision, the existing NAFTA rates would be continued for one year. However, during this time, the President can proclaim the tariff rates existing prior to NAFTA. This likely would be the most-favored-nation (MFN) rate for Mexico, but for Canada it could also be the applicable rates from the preceding U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). Within two months of the withdrawal date, the President shall recommend the rates to be established with Canada and Mexico. Presumably, this would be the MFN that is accorded to all

---

<sup>89</sup> For more information about TPA, see CRS In Focus IF10038, *Trade Promotion Authority (TPA)*, by (name redacted), and CRS Report R43491, *Trade Promotion Authority (TPA): Frequently Asked Questions*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted).

<sup>90</sup> P.L. 114-26, Sec. 103(b).

<sup>91</sup> NAFTA, Article 2205.

<sup>92</sup> See CRS Report R44630, *U.S. Withdrawal from Free Trade Agreements: Frequently Asked Legal Questions*, by (name redacted).

members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is unclear whether the President's proclamation of prior tariff rates would remain in effect for more than a year after withdrawal. Despite the President's ability to withdraw from the agreement, the repeal of statutory provisions implementing NAFTA would likely require congressional assent.<sup>93</sup>

An interesting question is the basis on which U.S.-Canada trade would be conducted following a withdrawal from NAFTA. Sec. 107 of the NAFTA implementing legislation "suspended" CFTA during the time that the two countries remain parties to NAFTA. It amended CFTA implementing legislation to supersede certain of its provisions while continuing other provisions. The CFTA potentially could "snap-back" into force after a withdrawal from NAFTA, but it may require the issuance of a presidential proclamation to return it into force.

## **Issues for Congress**

A key issue for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress is the direction of U.S. trade policy under the Trump Administration. Congress may wish to consider ways in which NAFTA could be modernized and renegotiated, the congressional role in a possible renegotiation, the negotiating positions of Mexico and Canada, and the ramifications of a possible withdrawal from NAFTA. Congress could also consider new "21<sup>st</sup> Century" issues addressed in recent U.S. FTAs, such as the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement and TPP, and whether these could be potential topics of discussion in regard to NAFTA. If the United States were to completely withdraw from NAFTA, it could result in significant disruptions to extensive North American production chains and cause job losses in all three countries. On the other hand, depending on how the President and Congress choose to move forward, there could be opportunities to review the successes of NAFTA and where it has not met expectations.

Many economists and business representatives generally look to maintain the trade relationship with Canada and Mexico under NAFTA to improve overall relations and economic integration within the region. However, labor groups and some consumer-advocacy groups argue that the agreement has resulted in outsourcing and lower wages that have had a negative effect on the U.S. economy. Some proponents and critics of NAFTA agree that the three countries may wish to look at what the agreement has failed to do as they look to the future of North American trade and economic relations. Policies could include updating or "modernizing" provisions to include commitments in more recent U.S. FTAs.

## **Potential Topics for Possible NAFTA Renegotiation**

NAFTA parties have not specifically stated how NAFTA should be renegotiated, or what changes they may seek if the agreement is amended. The agreement is more than 20 years old and renegotiation may provide opportunities to address issues not currently covered in NAFTA. The following selective topics could be some areas of discussion.

### **Automotive Sector**

The United States, Canada, and Mexico may seek to negotiate new rules of origin to address modern developments in auto and auto parts manufacturing or to encourage more production in the North American auto manufacturing industry by raising the rules of origin requirement.

---

<sup>93</sup> It is unclear whether Section 109(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act would effectively terminate certain provisions of the act in the event that the United States withdrew from the agreement.

NAFTA phased out Mexico's restrictive auto decree and opened the Mexican auto sector to foreign investment from the United States. It liberalized North American auto trade and was instrumental in the integration of the North American auto industry. NAFTA phased out all U.S. tariffs on automotive imports from Mexico and Mexican tariffs on U.S. and Canadian products as long as they met the rules of origin requirements of 62.5% content for autos, light trucks, engines and transmissions; and 60% for all other vehicles and automotive parts.

## Services

The United States has a highly competitive services sector and has made services trade liberalization a priority in its negotiations of FTAs, including NAFTA.<sup>94</sup> NAFTA covers core obligations in services trade in a separate chapter, but because of the complexity of the issues, it also covers services trade provisions in several other related chapters, including financial services and telecommunications services. NAFTA parties may consider new services commitments, such as those in TPP, including commitments to remove barriers to electronic payment card services, electronic signatures, mobile telecommunications, international roaming rates, and additional market access in areas such as audiovisual services and allowing firms to transmit data across borders.<sup>95</sup>

## E-Commerce, Data Flows, and Data Localization

The role of the Internet in international commerce has expanded dramatically since NAFTA's implementation over 20 years ago. While technological advancements have fundamentally changed how firms trade and do business across international borders, some companies argue that new barriers have also emerged, which existing trade rules fail to address. NAFTA parties could consider discussions on issues related to cross-border transfer of information by electronic means or forced localization of data centers. Such provisions could provide North American firms more flexibility in where they process and store data relevant to their business. Some of these issues were addressed in TPP.

## Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

NAFTA was the first FTA to contain an IPR chapter.<sup>96</sup> The WTO Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) Agreement that came into effect a year later was modeled after the NAFTA IPR chapter. The chapter also predated widespread use of the Internet. Since NAFTA, IPR provisions in U.S. FTAs have evolved in several ways and NAFTA parties may consider expanded provisions. For example, the TPP included IPR provisions on copyright in the digital environment, additional patent protections for pharmaceuticals, criminal penalties for trade secret theft, provisions for customs agents to have *ex officio* authority to seize counterfeit and pirated goods, and requirements for countries to provide criminal penalties for copyright and trademark infringement in the digital environment.

---

<sup>94</sup> For more information, see CRS Report R43291, *U.S. Trade in Services: Trends and Policy Issues*, by (name redacted), and CRS Report R44354, *Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) Negotiations: Overview and Issues for Congress*, by (name redacted)

<sup>95</sup> For more details, see CRS Report R44489, *The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): Key Provisions and Issues for Congress*, coordinated by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

<sup>96</sup> See CRS In Focus IF10033, *Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and International Trade*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted)

## State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)

NAFTA includes provisions on state-owned enterprises, but they are limited in scope. A possible area of renegotiation could include discussions on SOEs to address issues such as those negotiated in TPP.<sup>97</sup> These could include addressing potential commercial disadvantages to private sector firms from state-supported competitors receiving preferential treatment.

## Investment

All three countries may have an interest in revising the NAFTA investment chapter to reflect more recent agreements. U.S. FTAs, including NAFTA, and bilateral investment treaties (BITs) maintain core investor protections reflecting U.S. law, such as obligations for governments to provide investors with non-discriminatory treatment, a minimum standard of treatment, and protections against uncompensated expropriation, among other provisions.<sup>98</sup> Since NAFTA, investment chapters in FTAs and the U.S. model BIT have undergone changes in order to clarify certain provisions and generally to affirm a government's right to regulate to pursue environmental, health, or safety outcomes. Investment chapters, especially the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provision, have drawn increased scrutiny in recent U.S. FTAs. NAFTA was the first FTA to contain ISDS, which allows investors to bring arbitration against a host government to binding arbitration to resolve disputes over alleged violations of a host government's investment obligations.

## Dispute Settlement

Alone among current U.S. FTAs, NAFTA contains a binational dispute settlement mechanism (Chapter 19) to review anti-dumping (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) decisions of a domestic administrative body. This mechanism was created as a compromise with Canada in the CFTA, which had sought to eliminate AD/CVD between the two countries. Mexico also supported including the provision during the negotiation of NAFTA. However, some U.S. industry groups that have been adversely affected by Chapter 19 decisions have sought elimination of the NAFTA binational review panel provisions.

NAFTA also created a state-to-state mechanism (Chapter 20) to resolve disputes arising from the agreement. This dispute settlement mechanism has rarely been used, in part because the provisions of NAFTA substantially overlap with those of the WTO, which came into force a year after NAFTA. WTO dispute settlement has been used extensively—over 500 cases brought—due to perceived advantages including an appellate mechanism and a growing body of precedent. However, if NAFTA is revised with provisions not in WTO agreements, NAFTA panels may be used more and their ability to function properly may be examined in any renegotiation.

## Labor

NAFTA marked the first time that worker rights provisions were associated with an FTA. The United States may seek to strengthen NAFTA provisions related to the protection of worker rights. The TPP, and more recent U.S. trade agreements, such as the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, include stronger provisions in which parties must adopt, enforce, and not

<sup>97</sup> For more information, see CRS Report R44489, *The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): Key Provisions and Issues for Congress*, coordinated by (name redacted) and (name redacted) .

<sup>98</sup> For more information on U.S. investment agreements, see CRS In Focus IF10052, *U.S. International Investment Agreements (IIAs)*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted) .

derogate from laws incorporating internationally recognized principles for the protection of worker rights, in a manner affecting trade and investment.<sup>99</sup> NAFTA only includes provisions for parties to enforce their own labor laws. After TPP negotiations were concluded, Mexico was reportedly developing labor reforms independent of the TPP to address concerns raised by organized labor.<sup>100</sup> According to the USTR, Mexico had agreed to develop “parallel reforms” to make its labor laws consistent with TPP labor provisions in protecting collective bargaining and reforming its system for administering labor justice.<sup>101</sup>

## Environment

NAFTA was the first U.S. FTA that included provisions related to the environment. The United States could seek to hold NAFTA parties to more enforceable environmental provisions such as those in more recent FTAs that require parties to adopt, enforce and not derogate from their environmental laws to attract trade and investment, implement specified MEAs they have joined, among other provisions.<sup>102</sup> NAFTA parties could also seek to increase cooperation to address trans-national threats and police environmental crimes such as endangered species trade and illegal fishing; and support inclusive and transparent policymaking in the future through rules requiring publication of laws and regulations, and through promoting broad public participation in policymaking.

## Energy

NAFTA’s provisions on investment include exemptions in the energy sector in Mexico in which the Mexican government reserved the right to prohibit foreign investment. The United States may seek greater access to Mexico’s oil sector or to enhance bilateral cooperation on energy production and security. In regard to Canada, CFTA and NAFTA energy chapters contain a so-called “proportionality” provision. This provision provides that a domestic restriction on Canadian energy exports cannot reduce the proportion of exports delivered to the United States. The chapter also prohibits pricing discrimination between domestic consumption and exports to the United States. Some Canadians maintain that this provision restricts the ability of Canada to make energy policy decisions and may seek to change this provision.

## Customs and Trade Facilitation

Given the magnitude and frequency of U.S. trade with NAFTA partners, changes in the customs procedures on either side of the border could have a significant impact on companies engaged in bilateral trade.<sup>103</sup> Discussions could address customs automation procedures, the creation of a single-access window at one entry point for importers and exporters, automated risk analysis and targeting, expeditious responses to requests for information on quotas or country of origin markings, special customs procedures for express shipments, or publicly available customs laws.

---

<sup>99</sup> For more information, see CRS In Focus IF10046, *Worker Rights Provisions in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted), and CRS In Focus IF10452, *TPP: Labor Provisions*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted).

<sup>100</sup> “U.S., Mexico Continue Discussing Labor Reforms after TPP Conclusion,” *World Trade Online*, October 8, 2015.

<sup>101</sup> For more information, see <https://medium.com/the-trans-pacific-partnership/labour-66e8e6f4e8d5#.qbrdwn6pn>.

<sup>102</sup> For more information, see CRS In Focus IF10166, *Environmental Provisions in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted).

<sup>103</sup> The World Trade Organization’s (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), if fully ratified, could also affect trade facilitation among NAFTA parties. Ninety-eight out of a necessary 109 countries have ratified the agreement.

## Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS)

Sanitary and phytosanitary standards refer to commitments relating to scientifically-based human health and animal/plant safety in the trade of agriculture products. NAFTA parties could consider commitments agreed to under the proposed TPP that went beyond both NAFTA and World Trade Organization commitments, such as science-based and transparent regulatory activities, including the use of risk analysis to improve the scientific basis of SPS regulation, notifications to importers or exporters of shipments detained for SPS issues, or consultative mechanisms to seek quick resolution of such detentions.

## Issues Specific to Mexico

Mexico has stated that it would consider modernizing NAFTA, but it is not clear how this would take place. Mexican government officials have alluded that Mexico may seek to broaden NAFTA negotiations to include bilateral or trilateral cooperation on various issues, especially security and immigration.<sup>104</sup> In January 2017, tensions developed between the two countries due to concerns about U.S. policies toward Mexico and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto canceled an upcoming meeting with President Trump.<sup>105</sup> President Trump has stated that he would seek to impose tariffs on imports from Mexico. Mexico responded that it would retaliate “immediately” if the United States increases tariffs on Mexican products. President Enrique Peña Nieto has commented that Mexico is willing to discuss NAFTA but only under the premise that all parties have mutual respect for the national sovereignty of each nation.<sup>106</sup> His Administration has also declared that Mexico may consider withdrawing from NAFTA if negotiations are not favorable to the country, although the priority for the Mexican government would be to improve the agreement rather than withdraw from it.<sup>107</sup>

It is possible that a renegotiation of NAFTA may address trucking provisions. The implementation of NAFTA trucking provisions was a major trade issue between the United States and Mexico for many years because the United States delayed its trucking commitments under the agreement. NAFTA provided Mexican commercial trucks full access to four U.S.-border states in 1995 and full access throughout the United States in 2000. Citing safety concerns, the United States delayed the implementation of these provisions for many years. The two countries cooperated to resolve the issue over the years and engaged in numerous talks regarding safety and operational issues. By 2015, the trucking issue had been resolved.<sup>108</sup> The International Brotherhood of Teamsters subsequently filed a lawsuit over the implementation of the trucking provisions and may seek to revise NAFTA’s trucking provisions under a potential renegotiation.

---

<sup>104</sup> Elizabeth Malkin, “Mexico Takes First Step Before Talks With U.S. on NAFTA,” *The New York Times*, February 1, 2017.

<sup>105</sup> For more information, see CRS Insight IN10641, *Mexican-U.S. Relations: Increased Tensions*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted).

<sup>106</sup> *El Economista*, “NAFTA Negotiations, Respect for National Sovereignty,” February 1, 2017.

<sup>107</sup> *El Economista*, “Mexico will Withdraw from NAFTA if it does not Benefit from a Renegotiation,” January 24, 2017.

<sup>108</sup> For more information, see CRS Report RL32934, *U.S.-Mexico Economic Relations: Trends, Issues, and Implications*, by (name redacted).

## Issues Specific to Canada

The United States and Canada have not specifically stated publicly what they may seek from each other in a potential NAFTA renegotiation. Some discussions may include dairy, softwood lumber or Buy American provisions. Canada administers a restrictive supply management system for dairy, poultry, and eggs, a program that was specifically excluded from NAFTA and WTO commitments. U.S. dairy producers may seek greater market access into Canada. Possible negotiations could also address trade in softwood lumber. Canadian provinces own the majority of the timberlands and administratively set the price of timber through a stumpage fee, a per unit volume fee charged for the right to harvest trees. U.S. industry asserts that the stumpage fees charged by the Canadian provinces are subsidized to promote employment or regional development, rather than based on market forces. Canada denies these practices, and maintains that Canada has a comparative advantage in timber production. Another issue relates to Buy American policies in the United States. Canada has been dissatisfied with application of these policies in U.S. government procurement. While Canadian firms are able to bid on a wide range of U.S. federal procurements through commitments made by under NAFTA and the WTO Government Procurement Agreement, it has been excluded from “pass-through” procurements—state-tendered contracts using federal funds. Canada maintains that many industries are North American in scope and rely parts and components sourced from both countries.

## North American Supply Chains

Congress may wish to consider the effect of imposing tariffs on certain goods if NAFTA is renegotiated. As stated previously in this report, NAFTA was instrumental in the development of supply chains throughout North America, especially in the auto industry. Many North American automotive assembly lines and parts makers work together as one integrated production region from cities such as Toronto in Canada through Detroit and into numerous regions of Mexico. Labor intensive parts can be manufactured in Mexico, where production costs are lower, while more complex parts are made in the United States. According to some estimates, the entire North American auto industry employs more than 1.5 million people and contributes significantly to the U.S. economy.<sup>109</sup> Tariffs or trade barriers have the potential of disrupting these production chains. Proponents contend that it would bring back a share of global production to the United States. Opponents argue that it could cause thousands of lost jobs in all three countries and benefit countries such as Germany and Japan as they would move their factories from Mexico back to their countries.<sup>110</sup>

## Trans-Pacific Partnership Withdrawal

The United States, Canada, and Mexico participated in the negotiations for the proposed TPP among 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. On January 23, 2017, President Trump directed the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to withdraw the United States as a signatory to the TPP. The acting USTR gave notification to that effect on January 30. The agreement had not entered into force at the time because it requires ratification by member countries accounting for 85% of the region’s GDP. TPP cannot enter into effect without U.S. participation. Implementing

---

<sup>109</sup> Matthew Philips and Christina Lindblad, “Trump Threaten to Undo NAFTA’s Auto Alley,” *Bloomberg*, January 26, 2017.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*

legislation, the vehicle for U.S. ratification, was not submitted by the President for consideration by Congress, in part due to the contentious debate over the agreement.<sup>111</sup>

Congress may wish to address the implications of President Trump's decision to withdraw from TPP and its consequences. Some TPP partners have announced their intention to move forward on a similar agreement without the United States, which may have implications for U.S. competitiveness in certain markets. Canada and Mexico have numerous FTAs with other countries and may continue to seek to diversify trade through FTAs. Mexico's Economy Minister stated that Mexico is willing to negotiate a new agreement with the Asia-Pacific region that may be similar to TPP and include China in the discussions.<sup>112</sup> The government of Chile also announced that it would continue to pursue trade deals with the Asia-Pacific region and has invited ministers from other TPP countries, as well as China and South Korea, to a summit in Chile in March to discuss how to proceed.<sup>113</sup>

---

<sup>111</sup> CRS Insight IN10646, *The United States Withdraws from the TPP*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted) .

<sup>112</sup> Gabriel Stargardter, "Mexico Sees Trade Deals in TPP Leftovers, Flags China Opportunity," *Reuters*, November 22, 2016.

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*

## Appendix. U.S. Merchandise Trade with NAFTA Partners

**Table A-1. U.S. Merchandise Trade with NAFTA Partners**  
(billions of nominal dollars)

Year	Canada			Mexico			Total NAFTA		
	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
1993	100.4	111.2	-10.8	41.6	39.9	1.7	142.0	151.1	-9.1
1994	114.4	128.4	-14.0	50.8	49.5	1.3	165.3	177.9	-12.6
1995	127.2	144.4	-17.1	46.3	62.1	-15.8	173.5	206.5	-33.0
1996	134.2	155.9	-21.7	56.8	74.3	-17.5	191.0	230.2	-39.2
1997	151.8	167.2	-15.5	71.4	85.9	-14.5	223.2	253.2	-30.0
1998	156.6	173.3	-16.7	78.8	94.6	-15.9	235.4	267.9	-32.5
1999	166.6	198.7	-32.1	86.9	109.7	-22.8	253.5	308.4	-54.9
2000	178.9	230.8	-51.9	111.3	135.9	-24.6	290.3	366.8	-76.5
2001	163.4	216.3	-52.8	101.3	131.3	-30.0	264.7	347.6	-82.9
2002	160.9	209.1	-48.2	97.5	134.6	-37.1	258.4	343.7	-85.3
2003	169.9	221.6	-51.7	97.4	138.1	-40.6	267.3	359.7	-92.3
2004	189.9	256.4	-66.5	110.7	155.9	-45.2	300.6	412.3	-111.7
2005	211.9	290.4	-78.5	120.2	170.1	-49.9	332.1	460.5	-128.3
2006	230.7	302.4	-71.8	133.7	198.3	-64.5	364.4	500.7	-136.3
2007	248.9	317.1	-68.2	135.9	210.7	-74.8	384.8	527.8	-143.0
2008	261.1	339.5	-78.3	151.2	215.9	-64.7	412.4	555.4	-143.1
2009	204.7	226.2	-21.6	128.9	176.7	-47.8	333.6	402.9	-69.4
2010	249.3	277.6	-28.4	163.7	230.0	-66.3	412.9	507.6	-94.7
2011	281.3	315.3	-34.0	198.3	262.9	-64.6	479.6	578.2	-98.6
2012	292.7	324.3	-31.6	215.9	277.6	-61.7	508.5	601.9	-93.3
2013	300.8	332.5	-31.7	226.0	280.6	-54.6	526.7	613.1	-86.4
2014	312.8	349.3	-36.5	240.3	295.7	-55.4	553.1	645.0	-91.9
2015	280.6	296.2	-15.5	235.7	296.4	-60.7	516.4	592.6	-76.2
2016	266.8	278.1	-11.2	231.0	294.2	-63.2	497.8	572.2	-74.4

**Source:** Compiled by CRS using trade data from the U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/country.xlsx> (data accessed Feb. 8, 2017.)

**Notes:** The data for U.S. exports to Canada are derived from import data compiled by Canada. The use of Canada's import data to produce U.S. export data requires several alignments in order to compare the two series. The aggregate U. S. export figure is slightly larger. U.S. Census Bureau, "U.S./Canada Data Exchange and Substitution," <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/reference/guides/tradestatsinfo.html#canada>.

**Table A-2. U.S. Private Services Trade with NAFTA Partners**  
(billions of nominal dollars)

Year	Canada			Mexico			Total NAFTA		
	Exports	Imports	Services Trade Balance	Exports	Imports	Services Trade Balance	Exports	Imports	Services Trade Balance
1993	17.0	9.1	7.9	10.4	7.4	3.0	27.4	16.5	10.9
1994	17.2	9.9	7.3	11.3	7.9	3.4	28.5	17.8	10.7
1995	17.9	11.0	6.9	8.7	7.9	0.8	26.6	18.9	7.7
1996	19.5	12.4	7.1	9.4	8.9	0.5	28.9	21.3	7.6
1997	20.5	13.7	6.8	10.8	9.9	0.9	31.3	23.6	7.7
1998	19.4	15.0	4.4	11.7	9.8	1.9	31.1	24.8	6.3
1999	22.9	16.6	6.3	14.2	9.7	4.5	37.1	26.3	10.8
2000	24.8	18.2	6.6	15.8	11.2	4.6	40.6	29.4	11.2
2001	24.7	17.8	6.9	16.7	10.9	5.8	41.4	28.7	12.7
2002	25.2	18.4	6.8	17.9	12.3	5.6	43.1	30.7	12.4
2003	27.6	20.0	7.6	18.5	12.5	6.0	46.1	32.5	13.6
2004	29.5	21.2	8.3	19.5	13.9	5.6	49.0	35.1	13.9
2005	32.8	22.6	10.2	22.5	14.4	8.1	55.3	37.0	18.3
2006	37.9	23.9	14.0	23.8	14.9	8.9	61.7	38.8	22.9
2007	42.7	25.7	17.0	25.0	15.3	9.7	67.7	41.0	26.7
2008	45.4	26.0	19.4	26.2	15.9	10.3	71.6	41.9	29.7
2009	43.5	23.7	19.8	22.9	14.0	8.9	66.4	37.7	28.7
2010	53.1	27.4	25.7	24.6	14.0	10.6	77.7	41.4	36.3
2011	58.3	30.5	27.8	26.4	14.7	11.7	84.7	45.2	39.5
2012	61.9	31.1	30.8	28.2	15.4	12.8	90.1	46.5	43.6
2013	62.9	30.8	32.1	29.9	17.3	12.6	92.8	48.1	44.7
2014	62.0	30.3	31.7	30.2	19.9	10.3	92.2	50.2	42.0
2015	56.4	29.0	27.4	31.5	21.9	9.6	87.9	50.9	37.0

**Source:** Compiled by CRS using most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis online database at <http://www.bea.gov>.

**Table A-3. U.S. Trade with NAFTA Partners by Major Product Category: 2016**  
(billions of nominal dollars)

NAFTA Partner	U.S. Exports		U.S. Imports	
	Leading Items (NAIC 4-digit level)	Value	Leading Items (NAIC 4-digit level)	Value
Canada	Motor Vehicles	25.9	Motor Vehicles	46.3
	Motor Vehicle Parts	21.0	Oil & Gas	43.2
	Petroleum & Coal Products	8.9	Motor Vehicle Parts	13.8
	Computer Equipment	7.8	Nonferrous (exc Alum) & Processing	9.4
	Other General Purpose Machinery	7.8	Aerospace Products & Parts	8.7
	All Other	194.6	All Other	156.8
	All Commodities	266.0	All Commodities	278.1
Mexico	Motor Vehicle Parts	19.8	Motor Vehicles	49.3
	Petroleum & Coal Products	16.7	Motor Vehicle Parts	46.0
	Computer Equipment	16.5	Computer Equipment	18.2
	Semiconductors & Other Electronic Components	12.0	Communications Equipment	14.5
	Electrical Equipment & Components, Nesoi	8.4	Audio & Video Equipment	12.5
	All Other	157.5	All Other	153.6
	Total exports to Mexico	231.0	Total Imports from Mexico	294.2

**Source:** Compiled by CRS using trade data from the U.S. Census Bureau: Economic Indicators Division USA Trade Online.

**Notes:** The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy. In addition, the data for U.S. exports to Canada are derived from import data compiled by Canada. The use of Canada's import data to produce U.S. export data requires several alignments in order to compare the two series. The aggregate U. S. export figure is slightly larger." U.S. Census Bureau, "U.S./Canada Data Exchange and Substitution," <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/reference/guides/tradestatsinfo.html#canada>.

**Table A-4. U.S. Foreign Direct Investment Positions with Canada and Mexico**  
(1993-2015 historical cost basis [millions of dollars])

Year	Canadian FDI in the U.S.	U.S. FDI in Canada	Mexican FDI in the U.S.	U.S. FDI in Mexico
1993	40,373	69,922	1,244	15,221
1994	41,219	74,221	2,069	16,968
1995	45,618	83,498	1,850	16,873
1996	54,836	89,592	1,641	19,351
1997	65,175	96,626	3,100	24,050
1998	72,696	98,200	2,055	26,657
1999	90,559	119,590	1,999	37,151
2000	114,309	132,472	7,462	39,352
2001	92,420	152,601	6,645	52,544
2002	92,529	166,473	7,829	56,303
2003	95,707	187,953	9,022	56,851
2004	125,276	214,931	7,592	63,384
2005	165,667	231,836	3,595	73,687
2006	165,281	205,134	5,310	82,965
2007	201,924	250,642	8,478	91,046
2008	168,746	246,483	8,420	87,443
2009	188,943	274,807	11,111	84,047
2010	192,463	295,206	10,970	85,751
2011	205,225	330,041	12,500	85,599
2012	214,314	366,709	12,751	104,388
2013	222,989	370,259	15,869	86,433
2014	257,142	358,452	16,567	89,650
2015	268,972	352,928	16,597	92,812

**Source:** Compiled by CRS using most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis online database at <http://www.bea.gov>.

## **Author Contact Information**

(name redacted)  
Specialist in International Trade and Finance  
f[redacted]@crs.loc.gov , 7-....

(name redacted)  
Specialist in International Trade and Finance  
f[redacted]@crs.loc.gov , 7-....

## **Acknowledgments**

(name redacted), Research Librarian, and (name redacted), Visual Information Specialist, contributed to this report.

# EveryCRSReport.com

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is a federal legislative branch agency, housed inside the Library of Congress, charged with providing the United States Congress non-partisan advice on issues that may come before Congress.

EveryCRSReport.com republishes CRS reports that are available to all Congressional staff. The reports are not classified, and Members of Congress routinely make individual reports available to the public.

Prior to our republication, we redacted names, phone numbers and email addresses of analysts who produced the reports. We also added this page to the report. We have not intentionally made any other changes to any report published on EveryCRSReport.com.

CRS reports, as a work of the United States government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.

Information in a CRS report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to members of Congress in connection with CRS' institutional role.

EveryCRSReport.com is not a government website and is not affiliated with CRS. We do not claim copyright on any CRS report we have republished.