

## The United States Census Bureau Answers

**Directions:** Visit "The United States Census Bureau" page that compares trade between the United States and Mexico and the United States and Canada. The link to the page comparing Mexican / U.S. trade can be found at

<https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c2010.html#1993> The link to the page comparing Canadian / U.S. trade can be found at

<https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c1220.html#1994>

Access the files and examine the export data.

1. Compare and contrast the United States' exports to Mexico and Canada in 1993 (before NAFTA took effect), 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017 (when NAFTA began renegotiations).

**Exports to Mexico:**

1993 – \$41,580

1997 – \$71,388

2002 – \$97,470

2007 – \$135,918

2012 – \$215,875

2017 – \$243,314

**Exports to Canada:**

1993 – \$100,444

1997 – \$151,766

2002 – \$160,922

2007 – \$248,888

2012 – \$292,650

2017 – \$282,265

What trend has occurred with exports with the U.S. and Mexico and U.S. and Canada in these years?

*Generally, exports to both Mexico and Canada have increased since 1993. However, Mexico saw a decrease in 1995, 2001-2003, 2009, 2015 & 2016. Canada saw a decrease in 2002, 2009, 2015 and 2016.*

2. Compare and contrast the United States' imports from Mexico and Canada in 1993 (before NAFTA took effect), 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017 (when NAFTA began renegotiations).

**Imports from Mexico:**

1993 – \$39,917

1997 – \$85,937

2002 – \$134,616

2007 – \$210,714

2012 – \$277,593

2017 – \$314,267

**Imports from Canada:**

1993 – \$111,216

1997 – \$167,234

2002 – \$209,087

2007 – \$317,056

2012 – \$324,263

2017 – \$299,319

What trend has occurred with imports with the U.S. and Mexico and U.S. and Canada in these years?

*Generally, imports to both Mexico and Canada have increased since 1993. However, Mexico saw a decrease in 2016. Canada saw a decrease in 2001, 2002, 2009, 2015 and 2016.*

Finally, an examination of employment data over the last several decades gives some indication whether the United States' economic performance has been affected negatively by trade with Mexico and Canada. Data on employment at the national level can be found on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' website at <https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS14000000>

Once you are at the website, change the "OutPut Options" to: "From 1993" and "To 2017." Then hit "Go"

3. What was the unemployment rate in January 1994 when NAFTA went into effect?

*6.6%*

4. Compare unemployment rates from January 1994 until December 2000. What trend has happened to unemployment rates over that time span?

*The unemployment rate decreased from January 1994 to December 2000, from 6.6% to 3.9%*

5. While many factors impact unemployment rates (recessions, advances in technology, job creation, and catastrophic events) many politicians claim increased international trade and subsequent outsourcing will negatively impact unemployment rates. What relationship do the data show between unemployment and trade with Canada and Mexico since January 1994?

*Since January 1994, trade has generally increased between the United States and Mexico as well as between the United States and Canada. At the same time, unemployment has generally decreased. While other factors like the recession from March 2001 until November 2001, the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, as well as the Great Recession from December 2007 until June 2009 have impacted unemployment rates over the past 25 years, data does not support the claim that increased trade due to NAFTA has hurt unemployment.*