



NAFTA Facts

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NAFTA Benefits

How has NAFTA benefited the United States?

Trade and Investment Flows Have Substantially Increased

- From 1993 to 2006, trade among the NAFTA nations climbed 198 percent, from \$297 billion to \$883 billion.
- U.S. merchandise exports to our NAFTA partners grew more rapidly – at 157 percent – than our exports to the rest of the world, at 108 percent.
- As of 2006, each day the NAFTA countries conducted nearly \$2.4 billion in trilateral trade.
- Canada and Mexico are our first and second largest export markets; last year, U.S. exports to our NAFTA partners alone accounted for 35 percent of total U.S. exports.
- For agriculture, Canada and Mexico alone account for 50 percent of the increase in U.S. agricultural exports to the world since 1993.
- NAFTA has been good for Mexican agriculture. Trade growth has been remarkably balanced, with U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico increasing by \$7.3 billion and U.S. agricultural imports from Mexico increasing by \$6.7 billion during the last 13 years.

Result: U.S. Economic Growth during the 14 years of NAFTA Has Been Strong

- Jobs. U.S. employment rose from 112.2 million in December 1993 to 137.2 million in December 2006, an increase of 25 million jobs, or 22 percent. The average unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in the period 1994-2006, compared to 7.1 percent during the period 1981-1993.
- Manufacturing. U.S. manufacturing output rose by 63 percent between 1993 and 2006, exceeding the 37 percent increase achieved between 1980 and 1993.
- Compensation. Growth in real compensation for manufacturing workers improved dramatically. Average real compensation grew at an average annual rate of 1.6 percent from 1993 to 2006, compared to just 0.9 percent annually between 1980 and 1993.
- Investment. Productive investment, central to rising living standards, has increased. Even excluding housing, U.S. non-residential fixed, or business, investment has risen by 107 percent since 1993, compared to a 45 percent increase between 1980 and 1993.