



# What the US trades with Mexico

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**A crowd watched the inauguration of Donald Trump in Mexico City.**

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

GLOBE STAFF JANUARY 27, 2017

President Donald Trump's administration on Thursday [floated the idea of imposing a 20 percent tax on imports from Mexico](#) in order to pay for a border wall Trump wants to build.

A few hours later, Trump administration officials [backed away from the idea](#), after business groups and lawmakers criticized the idea, including because the cost could ultimately be passed on to US consumers.

Mexico is a vital trade partner with the United States.

In 2015, Mexico was the United States' third-largest goods trading partner, with \$531 billion in total, or two-way, goods trade, according to [federal government data](#). That trailed only Canada, at \$575 billion and China, at \$598 billion.



# What the US trades with Mexico

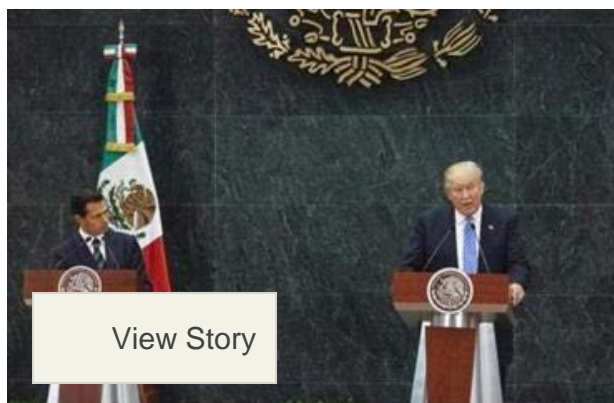


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(It is true, as Trump has pointed out, that the US buys more goods from Mexico than the US sells to Mexico, creating a \$58 billion [trade deficit](#) in 2015. But economists generally say that a deficit is [not necessarily a bad thing](#); whether a trade partnership is [good or bad](#) is [more complex](#) than deficits and surpluses.)



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The two presidents spoke for an hour as the diplomatic rift between their two countries widens over Trump's border wall plans.

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In terms of their monetary value, the top types of goods swapped between the US and Mexico in 2015 included: vehicles, electrical and other types of machinery, mineral fuels, optical and medical instruments, and plastics.

Mexico is also a [key agricultural trade partner](#) for the US, even though those products don't rank as high in terms of dollar value as some other types of items the two countries trade.

Mexico in 2015 sent \$21 billion worth of agricultural products to the US, making it the United States' second-largest supplier of agricultural imports. At the same time, the US sent \$18 billion worth of agricultural products to Mexico, making it the United States' third-largest agricultural export market.

Top agricultural imports included fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, wine and beer, snack foods, and processed fruit and vegetables.

Top agricultural exports included: corn, soybeans, dairy products, pork products, and beef products.

Below is a more detailed list of the types of items the US imports from Mexico, according to [data from the International Trade Administration](#).

To see a more detailed list of the types of items the US exports to Mexico, [click here](#).



## What the US trades with Mexico



## Imports from Mexico

Figures are for 2015.

Vehicles; except railway or tramway; and parts etc

**\$74,689,649,358**

Electric machinery etc; sound equip; tv equip; pts

**\$63,156,233,968**

Nuclear reactors; boilers; machinery etc.; parts

**\$49,026,215,314**

Mineral fuel; oil etc.; bitumin subst; mineral wax

**\$13,621,020,228**

Optic; photo etc; medic or surgical instrments etc

**\$12,232,486,141**

Furniture; bedding etc; lamps nesoi etc; prefab bd

**\$10,653,025,542**

Special classification provisions; nesoi

**\$6,674,156,121**

Edible vegetables & certain roots & tubers

**\$5,312,750,681**

Edible fruit & nuts; citrus fruit or melon peel

**\$5,158,594,760**

Nat etc pearls; prec etc stones; pr met etc; coin

**\$5,084,010,954**

Plastics and articles thereof

**\$4,711,990,987**

Beverages; spirits and vinegar

**\$4,187,888,472**

Articles of iron or steel

**\$4,187,754,376**

Apparel articles and accessories; not knit etc.

**\$2,402,786,059**

Special import provisions; nesoi

**\$2,307,441,616**

Rubber and articles thereof

**\$2,217,739,250**

Miscellaneous articles of base metal

**\$1,794,117,381**

Iron and steel

**\$1,453,569,246**

Sugars and sugar confectionary

**\$1,413,148,101**

Apparel articles and accessories; knit or crochet

■ **\$1,285,635,710**

Glass and glassware

■ **\$1,267,328,307**

Aircraft; spacecraft; and parts thereof

■ **\$1,143,396,058**

Ceramic products

■ **\$1,096,843,641**

Copper and articles thereof

■ **\$1,096,132,791**

Meat and edible meat offal

■ **\$1,070,992,502**

Prep vegetables; fruit; nuts or other plant parts

■ **\$1,059,496,595**

Prep cereal; flour; starch or milk; bakers wares

■ **\$1,003,715,794**

Toys; games & sport equipment; parts & accessories

■ **\$1,001,151,130**

Paper & paperboard & articles (inc papr pulp artl)

■ **\$994,973,411**

Essential oils etc; perfumery; cosmetic etc preps

■ **\$977,786,931**

Live animals

■ **\$888,677,342**

Textile art nesoi; needlecraft sets; worn text art

■ **\$876,732,794**

Aluminum and articles thereof

■ **\$828,671,686**

Miscellaneous manufactured articles

■ **\$718,825,203**

Inorg chem; prec & rare earth met & radioact compd

■ **\$635,948,514**

Organic chemicals

■ **\$595,433,563**

Art of stone; plaster; cement; asbestos; mica etc.

■ **\$574,428,378**

Fish; crustaceans & aquatic invertebrates

■ **\$537,359,413**

Tools; cutlery etc. of base metal & parts thereof

■ **\$513,085,994**

Cocoa and cocoa preparations

■

**\$501,604,754**

Footwear; gaiters etc. and parts thereof

**\$494,156,337**

Miscellaneous edible preparations

**\$479,793,936**

Miscellaneous chemical products

**\$476,658,731**

Soap etc; waxes; polish etc; candles; dental preps

**\$396,124,634**

Pharmaceutical products

**\$359,590,535**

Printed books; newspapers etc; manuscripts etc

**\$325,565,501**

Salt; sulfur; earth & stone; lime & cement plaster

**\$322,950,624**

Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal

**\$310,521,676**

Coffee; tea; mate & spices

**\$306,914,210**

Impregnated etc text fabrics; tex art for industry

**\$280,643,967**

Railway or tramway stock etc; traffic signal equip

**\$241,779,756**

Ships; boats and floating structures

**\$238,805,834**

Zinc and articles thereof

**\$227,394,603**

Leather art; saddlery etc; handbags etc; gut art

**\$209,505,632**

Tanning & dye ext etc; dye; paint; putty etc; inks

**\$203,178,827**

Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes

**\$173,295,994**

Lead and articles thereof

**\$156,696,928**

Manmade filaments; including yarns & woven fabrics

**\$150,269,499**

Wadding; felt etc; sp yarn; twine; ropes etc.

**\$127,664,528**

Animal or vegetable fats; oils etc. & waxes

**\$125,412,430**

Raw hides and skins (no furskins) and leather

**\$125,195,665**

Dairy prods; birds eggs; honey; ed animal pr nesoi

**\$111,267,786**

Works of art; collectors' pieces and antiques

**\$104,892,158**

Edible preparations of meat; fish; crustaceans etc

**\$96,702,455**

Products of animal origin; nesoi

**\$92,826,995**

Musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof

**\$82,131,030**

Oil seeds etc.; misc grain; seed; fruit; plant etc

**\$80,204,571**

Headgear and parts thereof

**\$78,827,505**

Explosives; pyrotechnics; matches; pyro alloys etc

**\$75,371,331**

Manmade staple fibers; incl yarns & woven fabrics

**\$74,783,221**

Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof

**\$65,644,624**

Lac; gums; resins & other vegetable sap & extract

**\$65,222,656**

Ores; slag and ash

**\$64,864,118**

Milling products; malt; starch; inulin; wht gluten

**\$64,558,492**

Clocks and watches and parts thereof

**\$63,399,494**

Cotton; including yarn and woven fabric thereof

**\$52,841,330**

Nickel and articles thereof

**\$51,800,662**

Albuminoidal subst; modified starch; glue; enzymes

**\$50,144,140**

Live trees; plants; bulbs etc.; cut flowers etc.

**\$50,002,821**

Fertilizers

**\$48,139,665**

Base metals nesoi; cermets; articles thereof

**\$45,591,224**

Vegetable plaiting materials & products nesoi

**\$43,620,057**

Photographic or cinematographic goods

**\$41,207,009**

Spec wov fabrics; tufted fab; lace; tapestries etc

**\$40,637,353**

Cereals

**\$33,341,929**

Wool & animal hair; including yarn & woven fabric

**\$26,557,472**

Carpets and other textile floor coverings

**\$24,922,208**

Knitted or crocheted fabrics

**\$22,460,962**

Food industry residues & waste; prep animal feed

**\$21,257,433**

Mfr of straw; esparto etc.; basketware & wickerwrk

**\$16,191,315**

Tin and articles thereof

**\$13,939,042**

Wood pulp etc; recovd (waste & scrap) ppr & pprbd

**\$8,637,551**

Umbrellas; walking sticks; riding crops etc; parts

**\$3,813,010**

Prep feathers; down etc; artif flowers; h hair art

**\$3,566,371**

Cork and articles of cork

**\$1,620,176**

Veg text fib nesoi; veg fib & paper yns & wov fab

**\$1,152,389**

Furskins and artificial fur; manufactures thereof

**\$834,800**

Silk; including yarns and woven fabric thereof

**\$6,797**

## Exports to Mexico



Figures are for 2015.

Nuclear reactors; boilers; machinery etc.; parts	\$42,069,510,577
Electric machinery etc; sound equip; tv equip; pts	\$41,111,591,393
Vehicles; except railway or tramway; and parts etc	\$22,405,971,645
Mineral fuel; oil etc.; bitumin subst; mineral wax	\$18,036,955,964
Plastics and articles thereof	\$16,509,039,938
Special classification provisions; nesoi	\$7,133,955,763
Optic; photo etc; medic or surgical instrmnts etc	\$6,737,786,732
Articles of iron or steel	\$5,233,472,880
Organic chemicals	\$4,847,431,504
Aircraft; spacecraft; and parts thereof	\$4,281,033,104
Iron and steel	\$4,133,358,215
Paper & paperboard & articles (inc papr pulp artl)	\$3,938,191,730
Aluminum and articles thereof	\$3,860,112,157
Rubber and articles thereof	\$3,469,037,291
Cereals	\$3,418,381,758
Meat and edible meat offal	\$3,062,982,392
Miscellaneous chemical products	\$2,873,230,806
Ores; slag and ash	\$2,660,051,597
Furniture; bedding etc; lamps nesoi etc; prefab bd	\$2,451,524,821
Copper and articles thereof	\$2,210,722,743

Oil seeds etc.; misc grain; seed; fruit; plant etc

**\$1,935,971,632**

Railway or tramway stock etc; traffic signal equip

**\$1,598,599,116**

Pharmaceutical products

**\$1,582,158,465**

Miscellaneous articles of base metal

**\$1,423,605,240**

Inorg chem; prec & rare earth met & radioact compd

**\$1,386,735,496**

Food industry residues & waste; prep animal feed

**\$1,371,190,303**

Tanning & dye ext etc; dye; paint; putty etc; inks

**\$1,339,459,978**

Dairy prods; birds eggs; honey; ed animal pr nesoi

**\$1,307,507,559**

Impregnated etc text fabrics; tex art for industry

**\$1,166,105,514**

Miscellaneous edible preparations

**\$1,064,641,920**

Tools; cutlery etc. of base metal & parts thereof

**\$912,065,253**

Edible fruit & nuts; citrus fruit or melon peel

**\$842,007,538**

Cotton; including yarn and woven fabric thereof

**\$814,647,515**

Essential oils etc; perfumery; cosmetic etc preps

**\$813,331,926**

Nat etc pearls; prec etc stones; pr met etc; coin

**\$771,639,754**

Glass and glassware

**\$769,686,248**

Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal

**\$760,515,490**

Toys; games & sport equipment; parts & accessories

**\$757,073,834**

Wood pulp etc; recovd (waste & scrap) ppr & pprbd

**\$725,458,607**

Sugars and sugar confectionary

**\$691,372,043**

Wadding; felt etc; sp yarn; twine; ropes etc.

■ **\$671,810,137**

Animal or vegetable fats; oils etc. & waxes

■ **\$665,096,166**

Soap etc; waxes; polish etc; candles; dental preps

■ **\$662,169,678**

Apparel articles and accessories; knit or crochet

■ **\$618,712,157**

Manmade filaments; including yarns & woven fabrics

■ **\$526,942,446**

Beverages; spirits and vinegar

■ **\$503,697,873**

Albuminoidal subst; modified starch; glue; enzymes

■ **\$500,254,381**

Textile art nesoi; needlecraft sets; worn text art

■ **\$469,043,672**

Knitted or crocheted fabrics

■ **\$432,421,219**

Prep vegetables; fruit; nuts or other plant parts

■ **\$425,179,346**

Raw hides and skins (no furskins) and leather

■ **\$417,040,969**

Manmade staple fibers; incl yarns & woven fabrics

■ **\$412,730,337**

Printed books; newspapers etc; manuscripts etc

■ **\$411,709,663**

Apparel articles and accessories; not knit etc.

■ **\$408,100,067**

Prep cereal; flour; starch or milk; bakers wares

■ **\$387,837,590**

Milling products; malt; starch; inulin; wht gluten

■ **\$370,411,657**

Art of stone; plaster; cement; asbestos; mica etc.

■ **\$350,721,989**

Miscellaneous manufactured articles

■ **\$345,364,749**

Fertilizers

■ **\$297,848,998**

Edible preparations of meat; fish; crustaceans etc

■ **\$296,785,293**

Ceramic products

■ **\$282,194,176**

Salt; sulfur; earth & stone; lime & cement plaster

**\$277,465,363**

Base metals nesoi; cermets; articles thereof

**\$273,773,208**

Photographic or cinematographic goods

**\$271,665,727**

Cocoa and cocoa preparations

**\$266,603,725**

Edible vegetables & certain roots & tubers

**\$262,820,758**

Ships; boats and floating structures

**\$242,252,106**

Leather art; saddlery etc; handbags etc; gut art

**\$231,319,750**

Products of animal origin; nesoi

**\$230,677,283**

Spec wov fabrics; tufted fab; lace; tapestries etc

**\$201,792,358**

Explosives; pyrotechnics; matches; pyro alloys etc

**\$200,934,944**

Nickel and articles thereof

**\$167,164,863**

Carpets and other textile floor coverings

**\$135,433,195**

Footwear; gaiters etc. and parts thereof

**\$134,199,405**

Live animals

**\$130,716,305**

Zinc and articles thereof

**\$119,670,776**

Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes

**\$93,200,875**

Live trees; plants; bulbs etc.; cut flowers etc.

**\$64,208,805**

Works of art; collectors' pieces and antiques

**\$62,565,690**

Clocks and watches and parts thereof

**\$58,264,215**

Tin and articles thereof

**\$54,932,861**

Lac; gums; resins & other vegetable sap & extract

■ **\$52,170,667**

Coffee; tea; mate & spices

■ **\$45,622,166**

Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof

■ **\$44,280,174**

Lead and articles thereof

■ **\$41,346,901**

Headgear and parts thereof

■ **\$34,553,600**

Wool & animal hair; including yarn & woven fabric

■ **\$29,210,545**

Musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof

■ **\$23,903,713**

Fish; crustaceans & aquatic invertebrates

■ **\$21,872,371**

Prep feathers; down etc; artif flowers; h hair art

■ **\$13,187,986**

Umbrellas; walking sticks; riding crops etc; parts

■ **\$8,662,828**

Veg text fib nesoi; veg fib & paper yns & wov fab

■ **\$6,182,373**

Cork and articles of cork

■ **\$4,453,681**

Furskins and artificial fur; manufactures thereof

■ **\$2,485,700**

Mfr of straw; esparto etc.; basketware & wickerwrk

■ **\$1,267,701**

Silk; including yarns and woven fabric thereof

■ **\$1,052,463**

Vegetable plaiting materials & products nesoi

■ **\$1,033,392**

**SOURCE: International Trade Administration**

*Wire service material was included in this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [matthew.rocheleau@globe.com](mailto:matthew.rocheleau@globe.com). Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)*

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