

# US-Canadian Relations in an Age of Uncertainty



**Bohay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development**

**CSG Midwest | August 25, 2025**

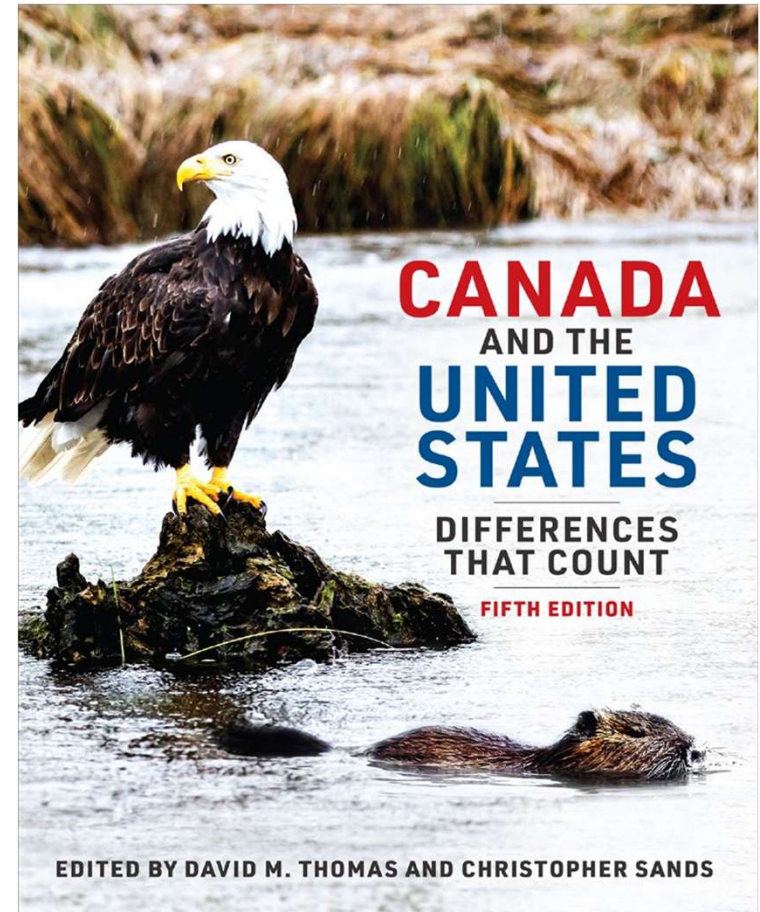
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**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
SCHOOL of ADVANCED  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Center for Canadian Studies

## Thinking about US Connections to Canada

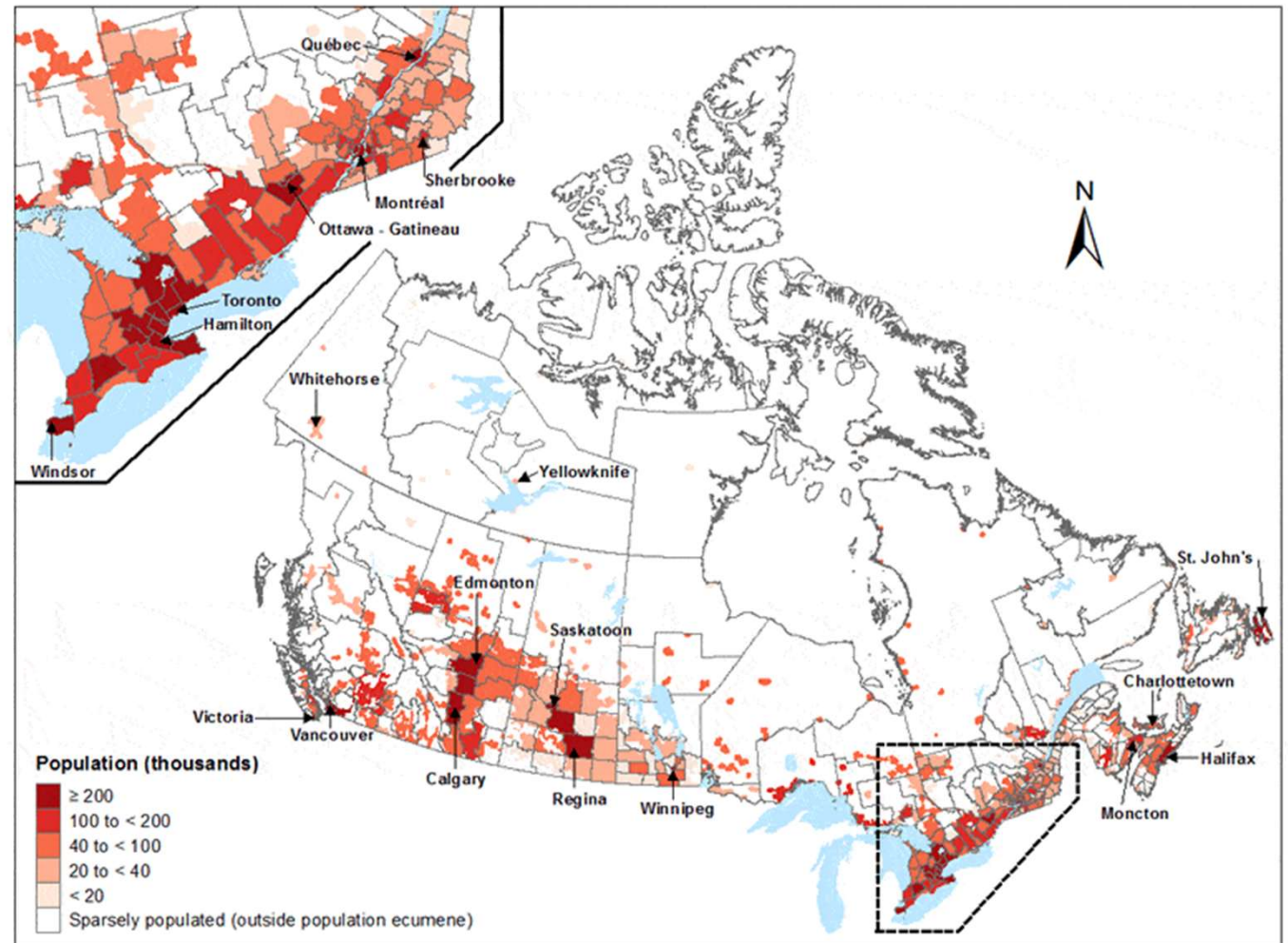
- Neighbors: The Border
- Partners: Trade
- Allies: 9/11 Impacts
- Friends: COVID Cooperation



# The Border

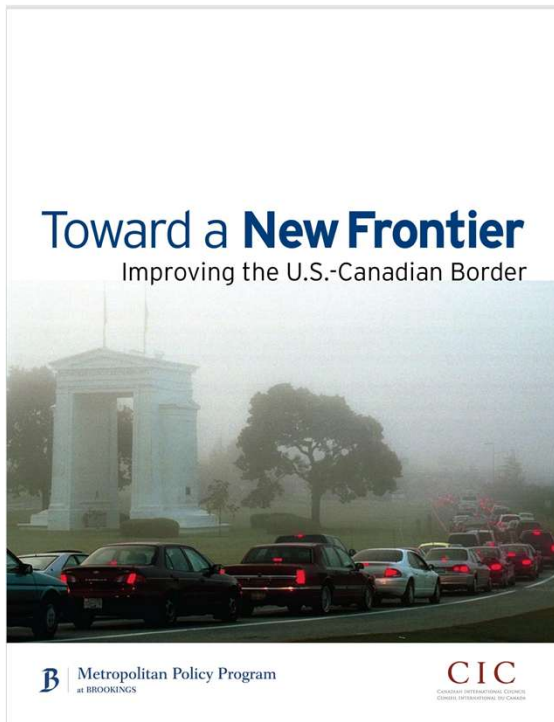
90 percent of Canadians within 100 miles of the United States

North to South rather than East to West



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division

# Border Basics



5525 miles



119 land border crossings



5 handle 70% of trucks and cars: Detroit, Buffalo, Port Huron, Blaine, Champlain

# Post 1945 to 2001

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Wartime production, postwar  
rationalization of capacity

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Defense Production Sharing Agreement  
(1956)

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Automotive Production Sharing Agreement  
(1965)

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Canada – United States Free Trade  
Agreement (1989)

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North American Free Trade Agreement  
(1994) and “temporary shift” of personnel

# Post 1945 to 2001

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Permanent Joint Board on Defense (1940)  
Military Coordination Committee (1946)

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North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1949)  
aka NATO

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North American Air/Aerospace Defense  
command (1957) aka NORAD

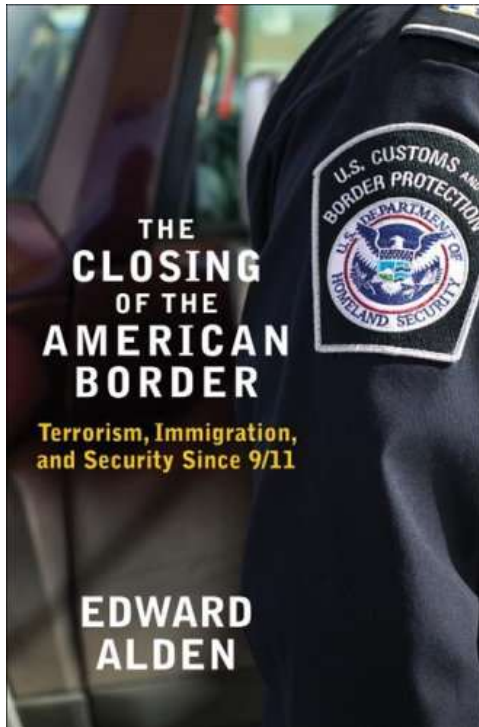
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Wales Summit 2% of GDP Goal

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Vilnius (2023), Washington (2024), Carney  
pledge (2025)

# 9/11 Impact



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On September 11, 2001, short-term closure of land, sea, and air borders

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US proposes a perimeter with Canada, Canada says no

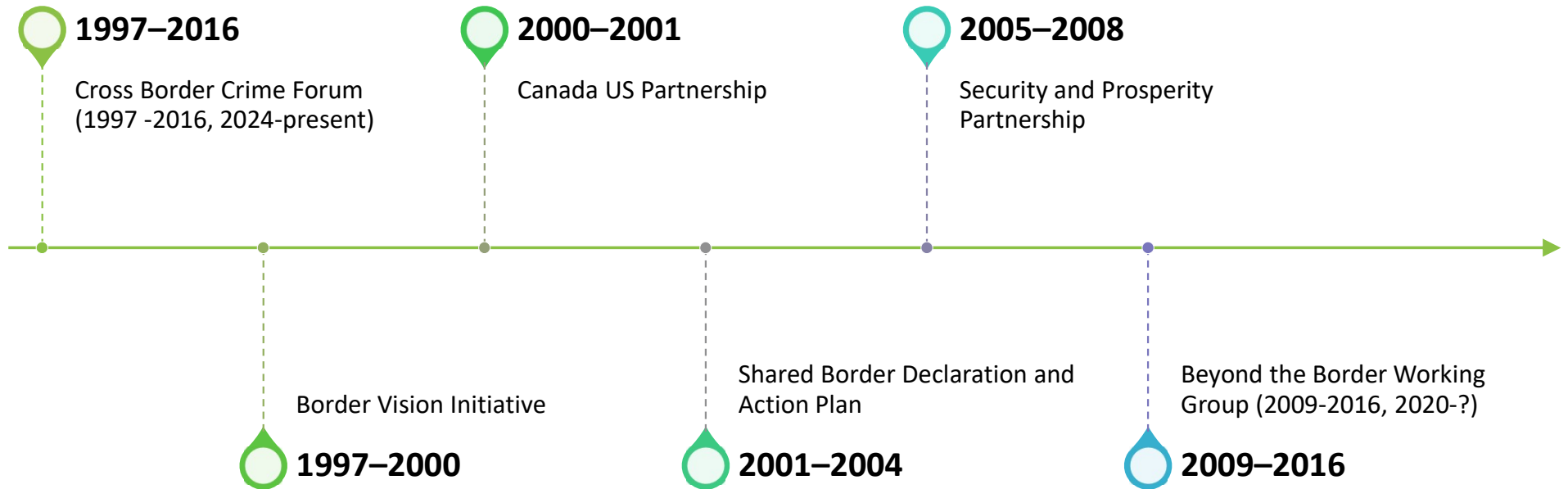
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Concentric circles, technology versus instinct

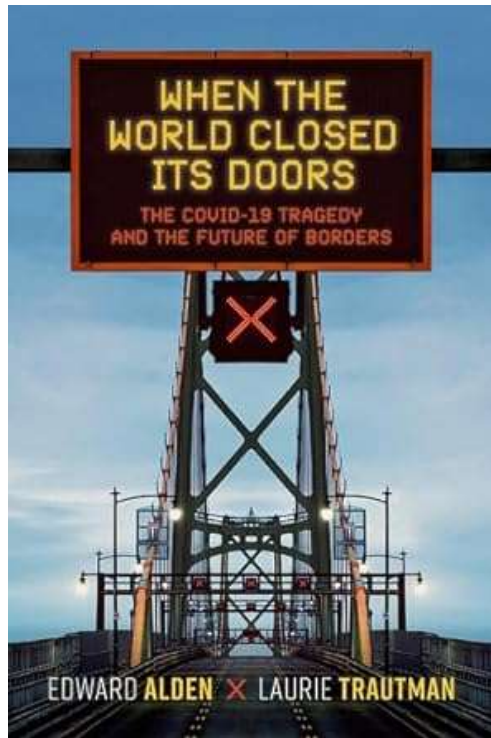
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“Security Trumps Trade”

# Searching for Solutions



# COVID Impact



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“Joint” Border Restrictions

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North American Plant and Animal  
Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI) Plan

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Misaligned requirements

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Revised plan

# USMCA

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NAFTA Renegotiation

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Rules of Origin now product specific,  
include special content requirements

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Dispute panels limited, domestic trade  
courts preferred

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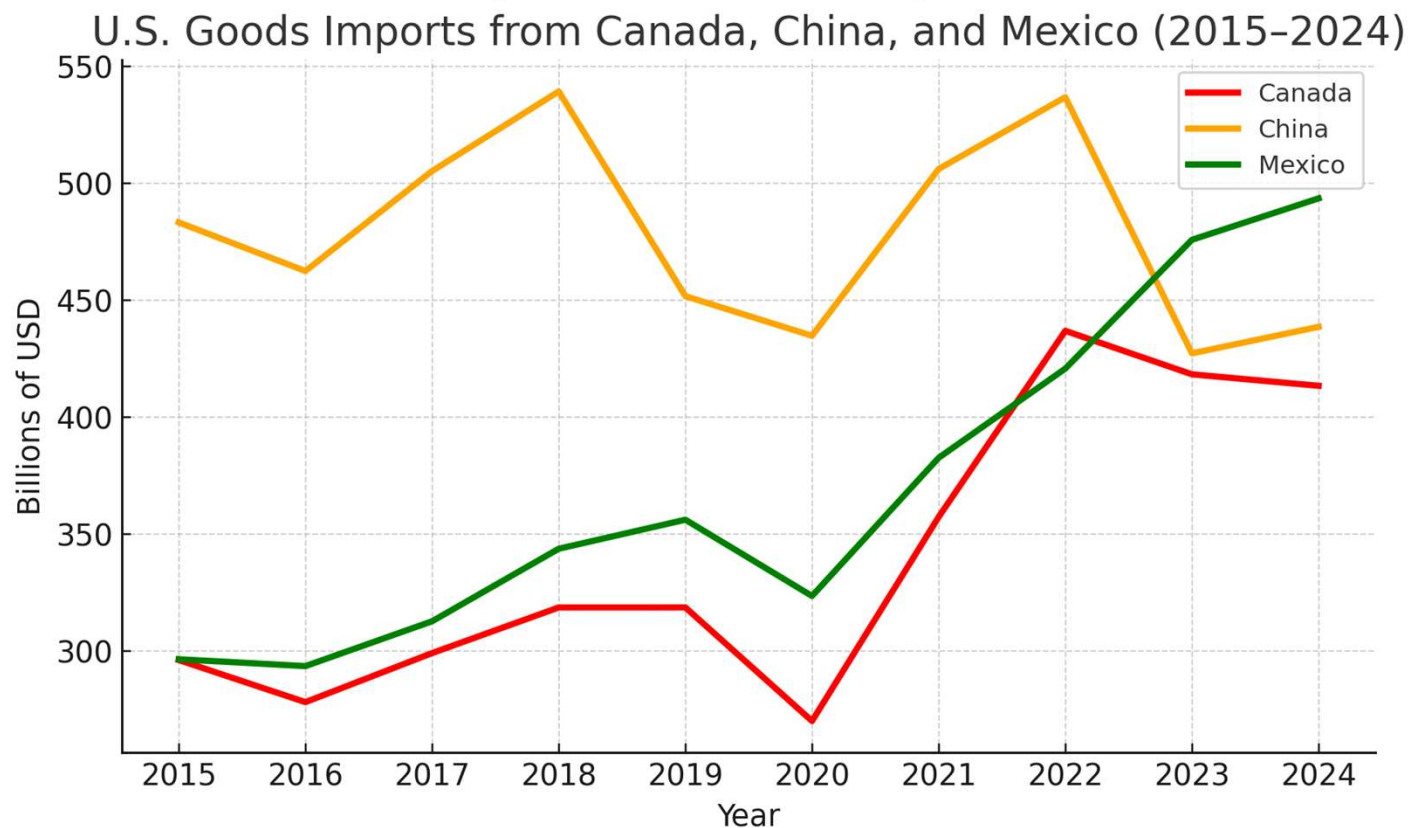
Digital Trade Provisions new, Guardrails  
for Governance new

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Review and Renew

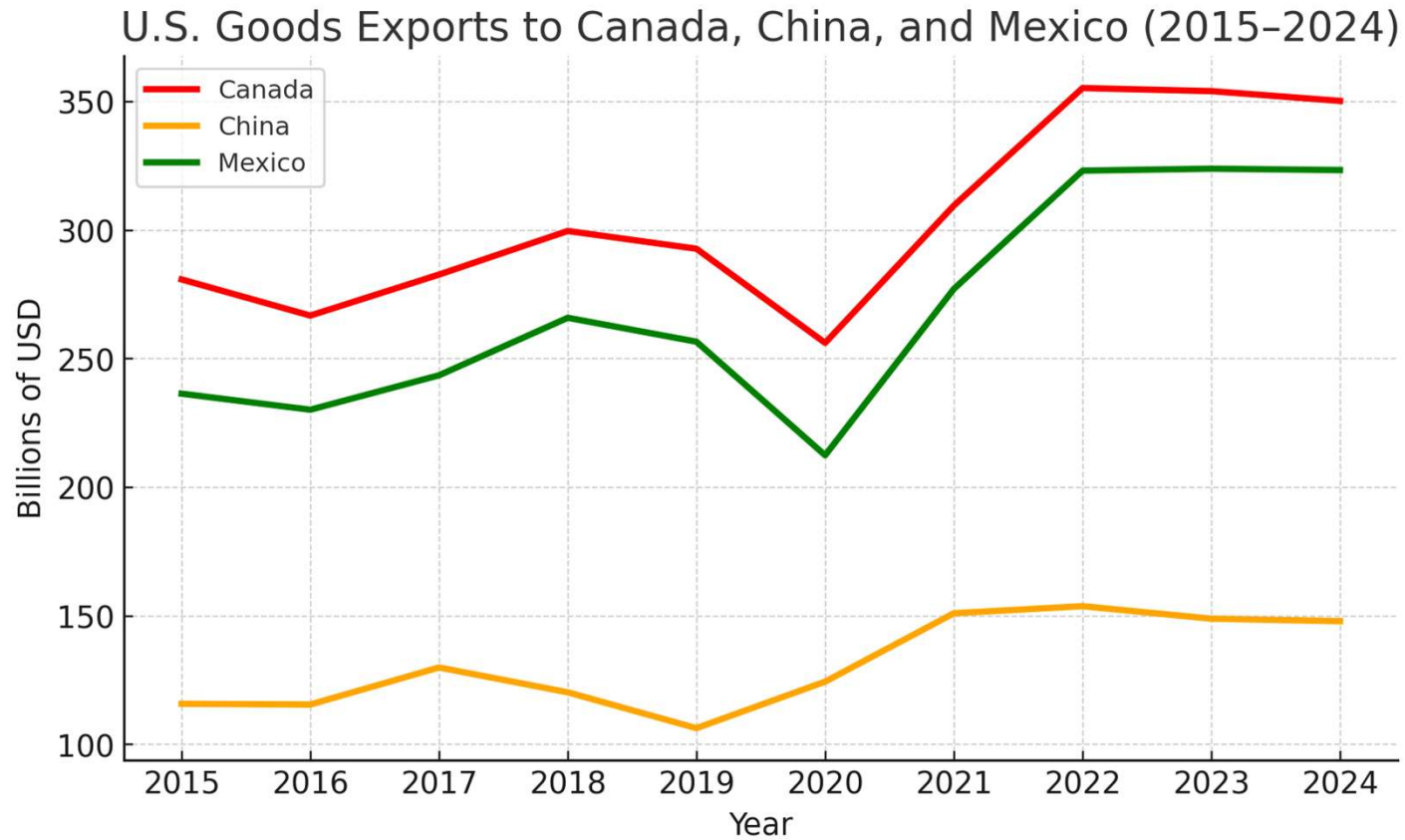
# U.S. Goods Imports from Canada, China, and Mexico (2015–2024)

• Source: U.S. Ce



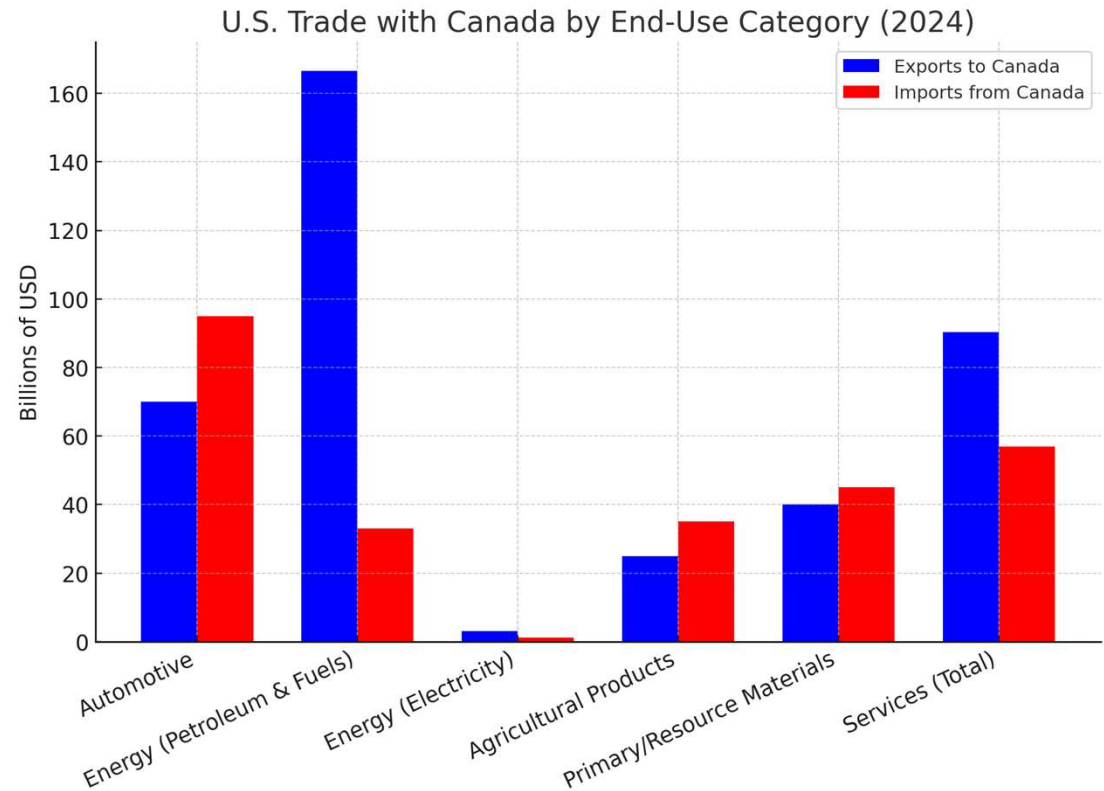
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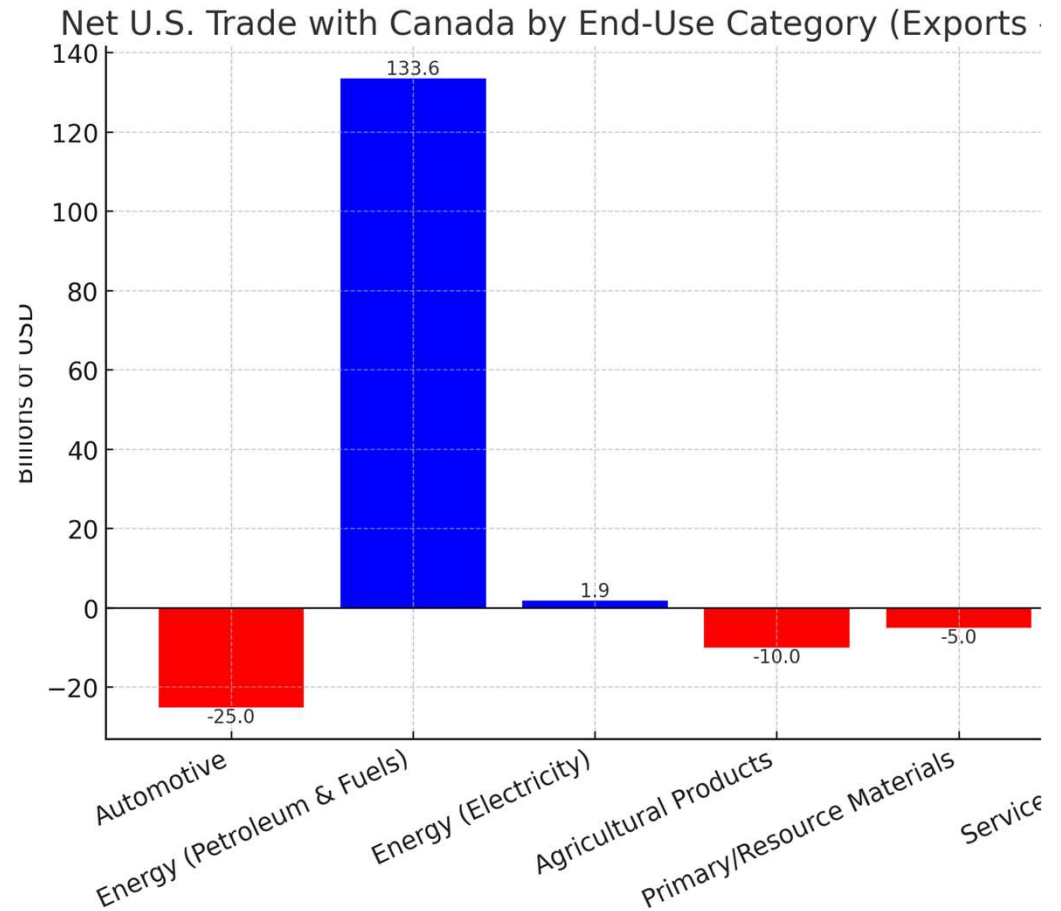
## U.S. Trade with Canada by End-Use Category (2024)

- Sources: U.S. Census Bureau FT-900 (goods, end-use categories); USTR & BEA (services); CER (energy trade).



## Net U.S. Trade with Canada by End-Use Category (Exports – Imports, 2024)

- Sources: U.S. Census Bureau FT-900 (goods, end-use categories); USTR & BEA (services); CER (energy trade).



# Enter the Trade Wars

- 35% reciprocal tariffs effective from August 1, 2025.
- 25% tariffs on automobiles, light trucks, and parts.
- 10% tariffs on energy products and potash.
- 50% Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum products.



Source: Getty Images / CNN

# On the Front Lines

- Elbows Up – Election and After
- Boycott by shoppers
- Retreat of the Snowbirds
- Discretionary travel down
- Trade and investment impacts of exchange rate shifts, uncertainty

*NEW YORK*

**You Have No Idea  
How Furious the Canadians Are**



And without them, what friends do we have left?  
*By SIMON VAN ZUYLEN-WOOD*

# We Pay for What We Care For

**Continental Defense**



**Gordie Howe International Bridge**



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## How to Weigh In

- Trade Promotion Authority?
- USMCA Free Trade Commission
- Three Options:
  - Review and Renew As-Is
  - Review and Withdraw
  - Review and Don't Renew
- Follow-through on implementation



# What's the Big Deal?

