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TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

INSIGHTS FROM THE LAREDO 2024 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK REPORT

NAVIGATING GROWTH AS THE NATION'S BUSIEST TRADE HUB

Daniel Covarrubias, Ph.D.

October 20, 2025

World Affairs Council

Laredo, Tx.

01 North American Trade

02 Nearshoring

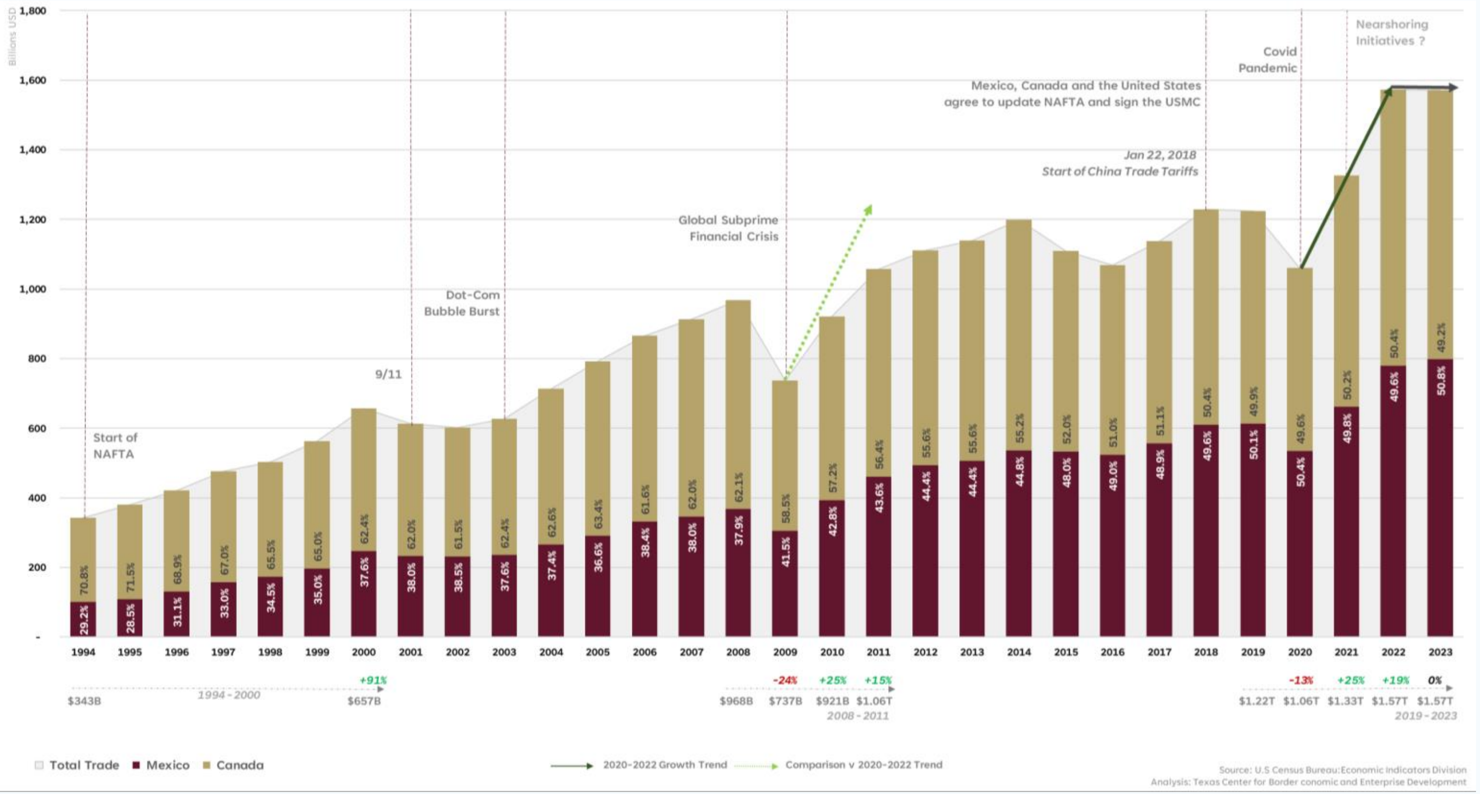
03 Insights 2024 Economic Outlook Report

01 North American Trade:
The USMCA and US Tariff Era

US TRADE

MEX / CAN

NAFTA / USMC TRADE



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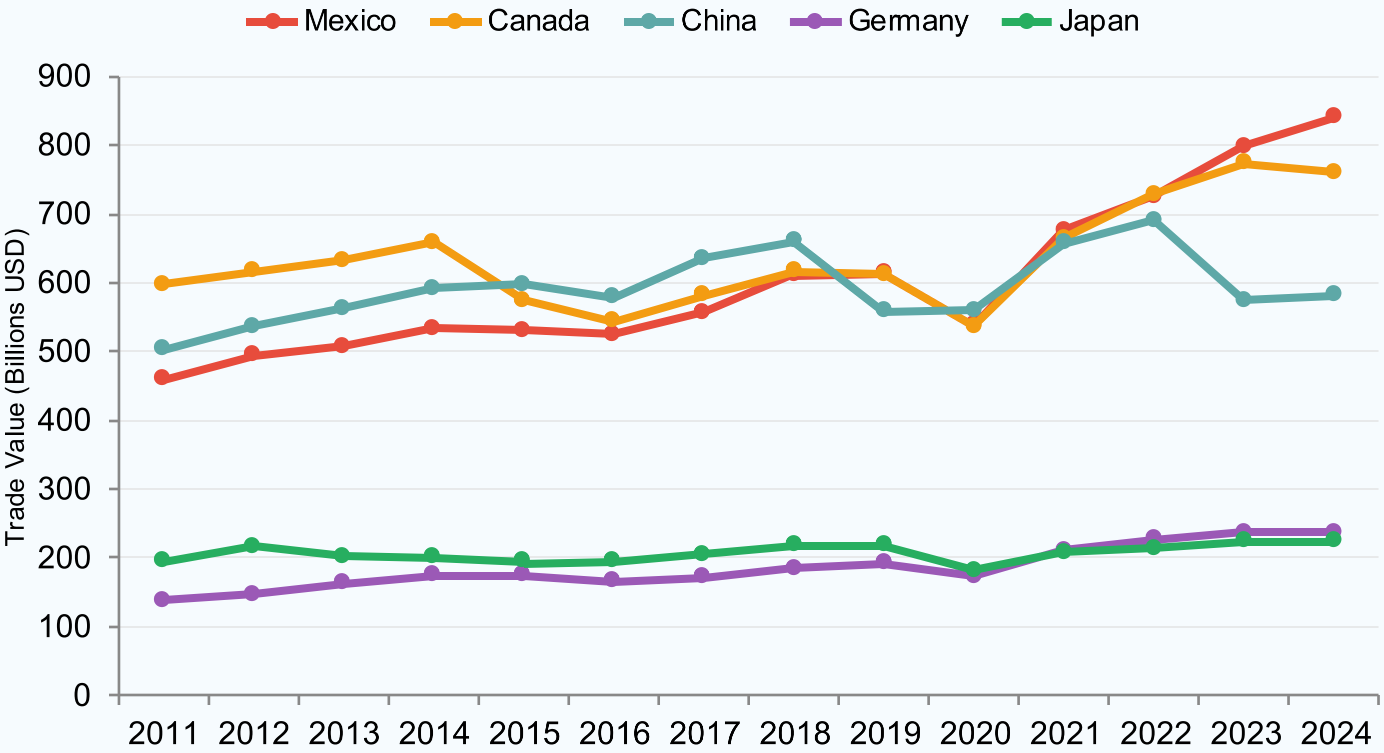
U.S.

TOTAL

TRADE

U.S. TOTAL TRADE VALUE

IMPORTS PLUS EXPORTS 2011-2023



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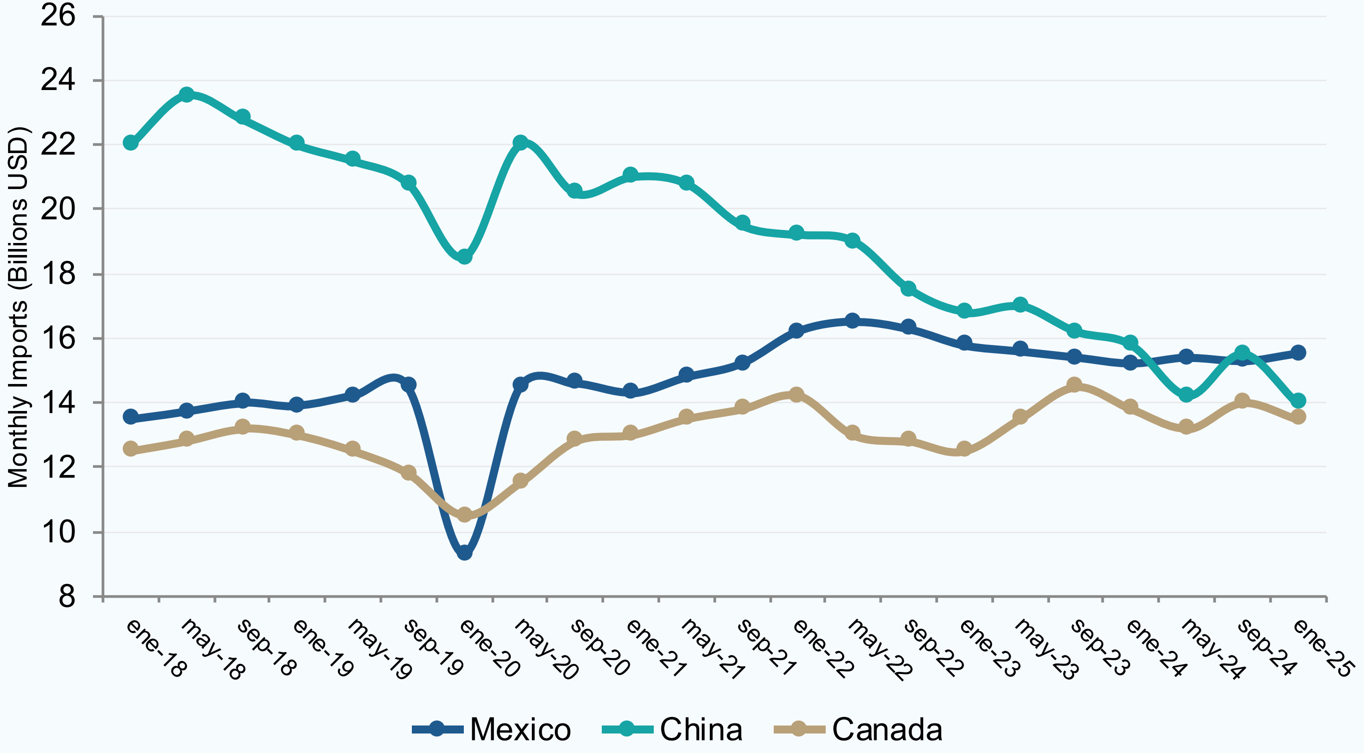
Source:. Statista. U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Division,

U.S.

IMPORTS

U.S. TOTAL IMPORTS VALUE

MEXICO, CANADA & CHINA 2018-2024



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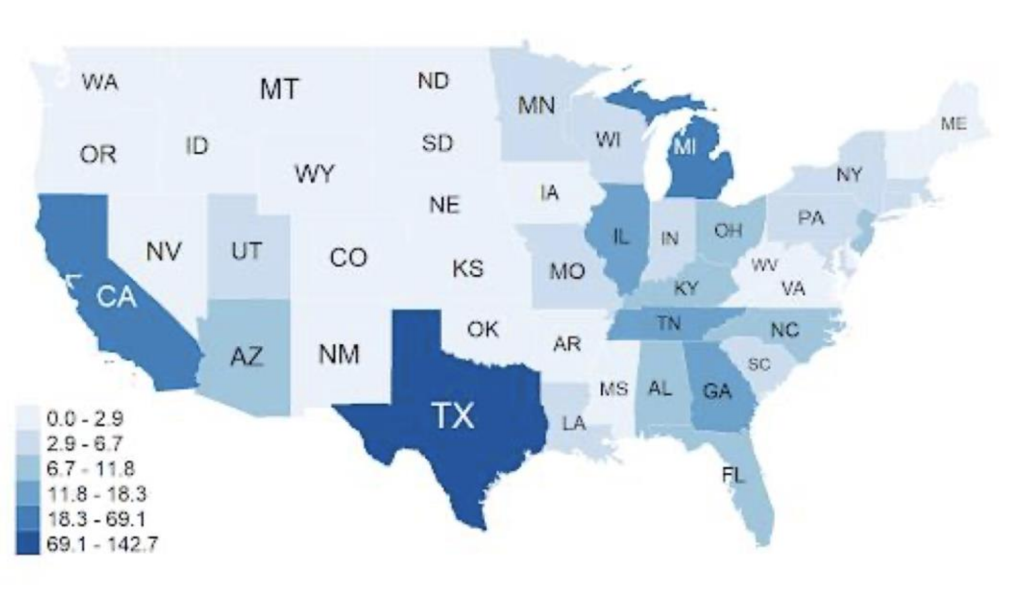
Source: BBVA Research. U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Division, U.S.

IMPORTS

U.S. IMPORTS FROM MEXICO BY STATE

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS



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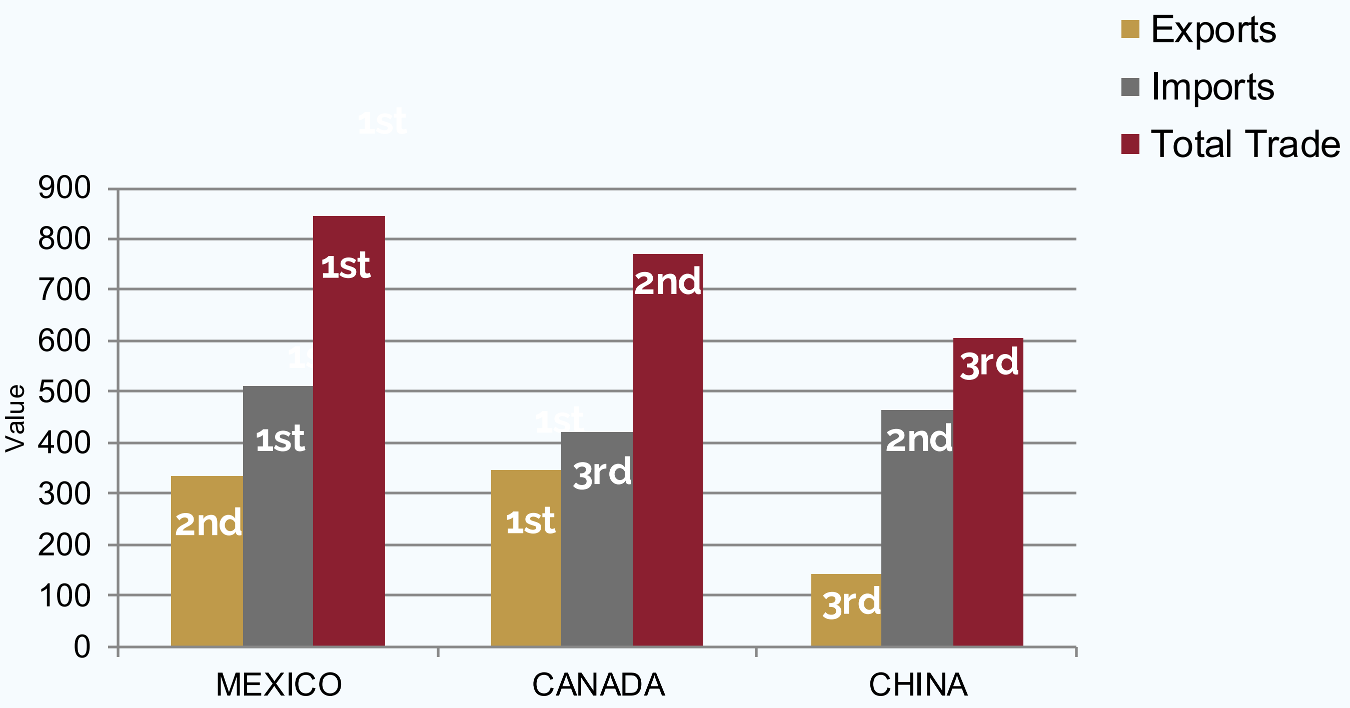
Source: BBVA Research. U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Division.

U.S. TOTAL TRADE

TOTAL U.S. TRADE
YEAR-TO-DATE 2025 (AUGUST)



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Source: U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Division,

USMCA in Numbers

The economy built over 30 years

30%
Global GDP

501
Millions of Consumers

$1.6 T
Total Trade

$3.1 M
Per minute exchange

North America's Global Advantage

Comparative economic strength of the main trading blocs

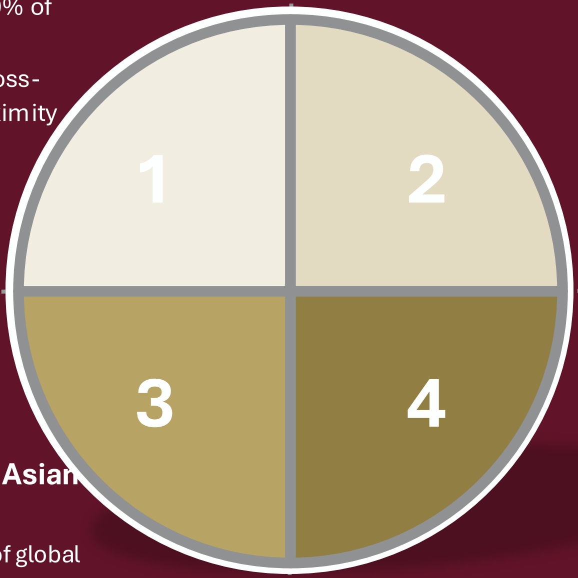
POPULATION SIZE

USMCA

- 501 million consumers, representing 30% of global GDP.
- Highly integrated supply chains with cross-border strategic specialization and proximity advantages.

EUROPEAN UNION

- 450 million consumers, representing 13.4% of global GDP.
- A highly regulated single market with uniform standards and a common currency for most members.



SUPPLY CHAIN EFFICIENCY

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations

693 million consumers, representing 7.2% of global GDP.

Fast-growing, manufacturing-focused economies with emerging integration policies.

RCEP - Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (incl. China)

15 countries, 2.3 billion consumers with substantial economic potential. ~30% of global GDP

A large market with fragmented supply chains and varying levels of economic development.

GDP CONTRIBUTION

The USMCA era marks a new chapter in North America trade relations.

•Mexico has surpassed Canada as the top U.S. trading partner, with imports from Mexico outpacing those from China for the first time in 2023.

•U.S. imports from Mexico and Canada have shown steady growth, while imports from China have declined. However, imports from China increased in July.

•Texas, California, and Michigan lead the nation in imports from Mexico, highlighting the strong regional ties in cross-border trade.

•Implementing the USMCA and U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods has contributed to the shifts in trade patterns, favoring closer economic integration between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

02

Laredo Trade Outlook:
Port Laredo’s Rise to the Top

Laredo Trade Outlook

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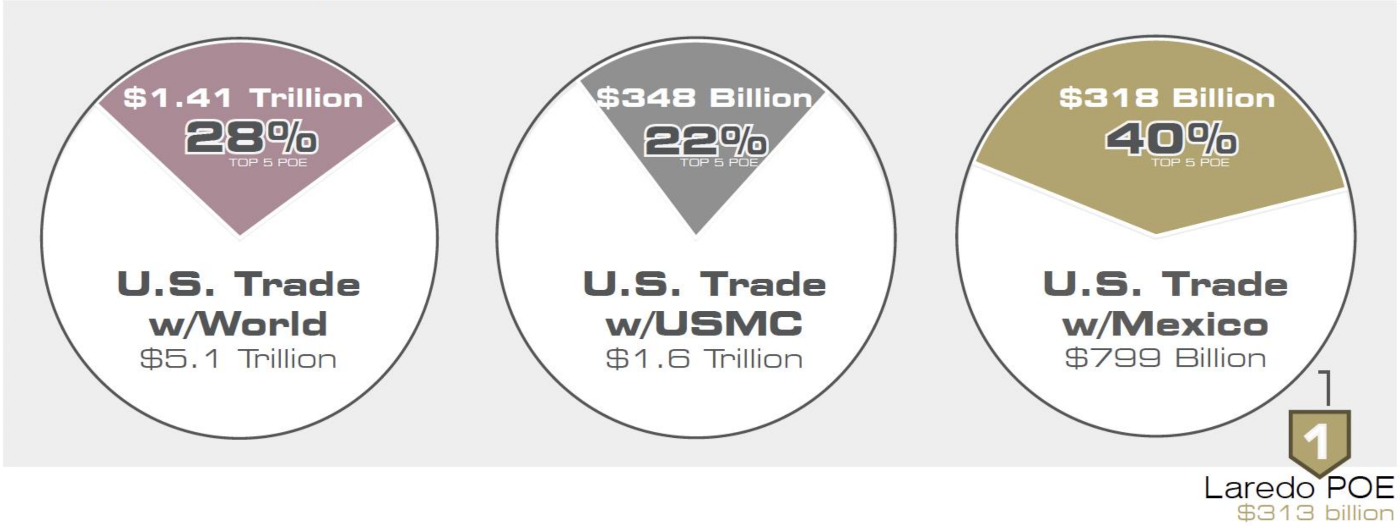
Share of Total U.S. Trade

2023 Top 5 Ports of Entry (POE)



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Source: U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Division, U.S Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Laredo Trade Outlook

Top 5 U.S. Ports of Entry

2023 Total Import/Export Trade Value

1. $321 billion — Laredo, TX
2. $311 billion — Chicago, IL
3. $293 billion — Los Angeles, CA
4. $248 billion — JFK Int'l Airport
5. $239 billion — Newark, NJ

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Division, U.S Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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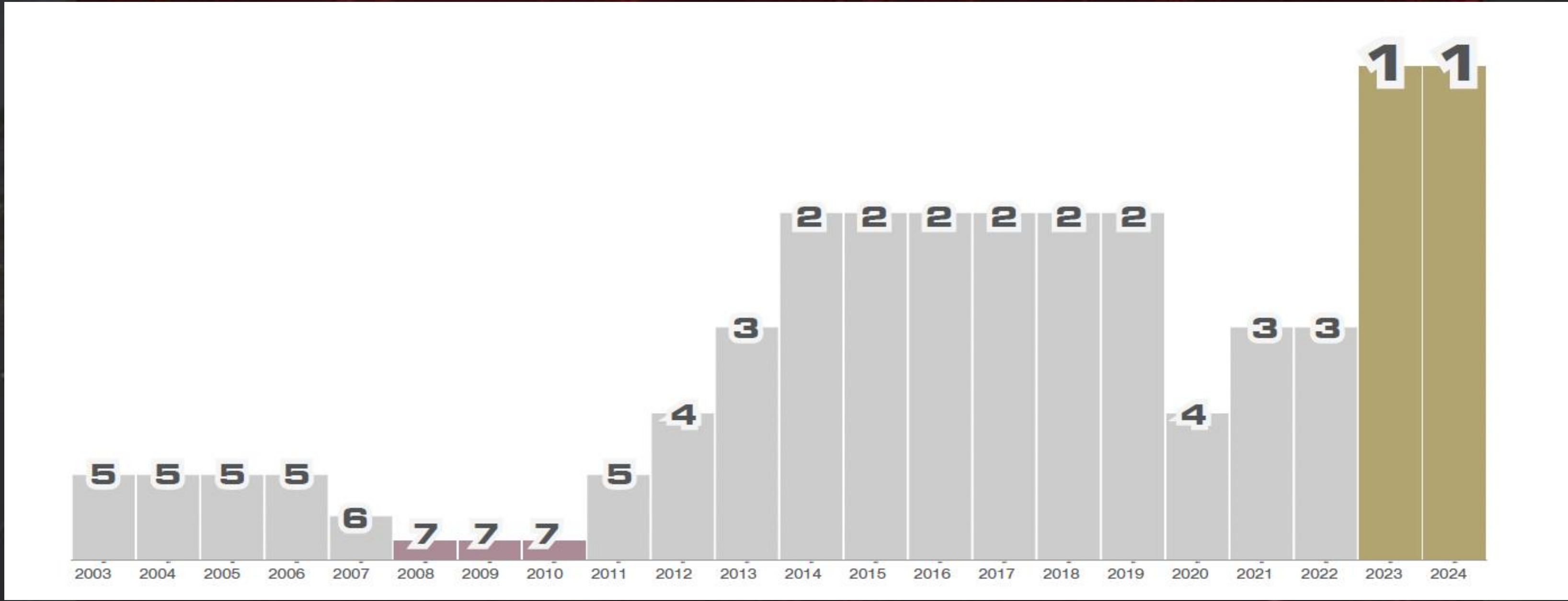
Port of Laredo Yearly Ranking vs Other U.S. POE

Figure 1



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Division

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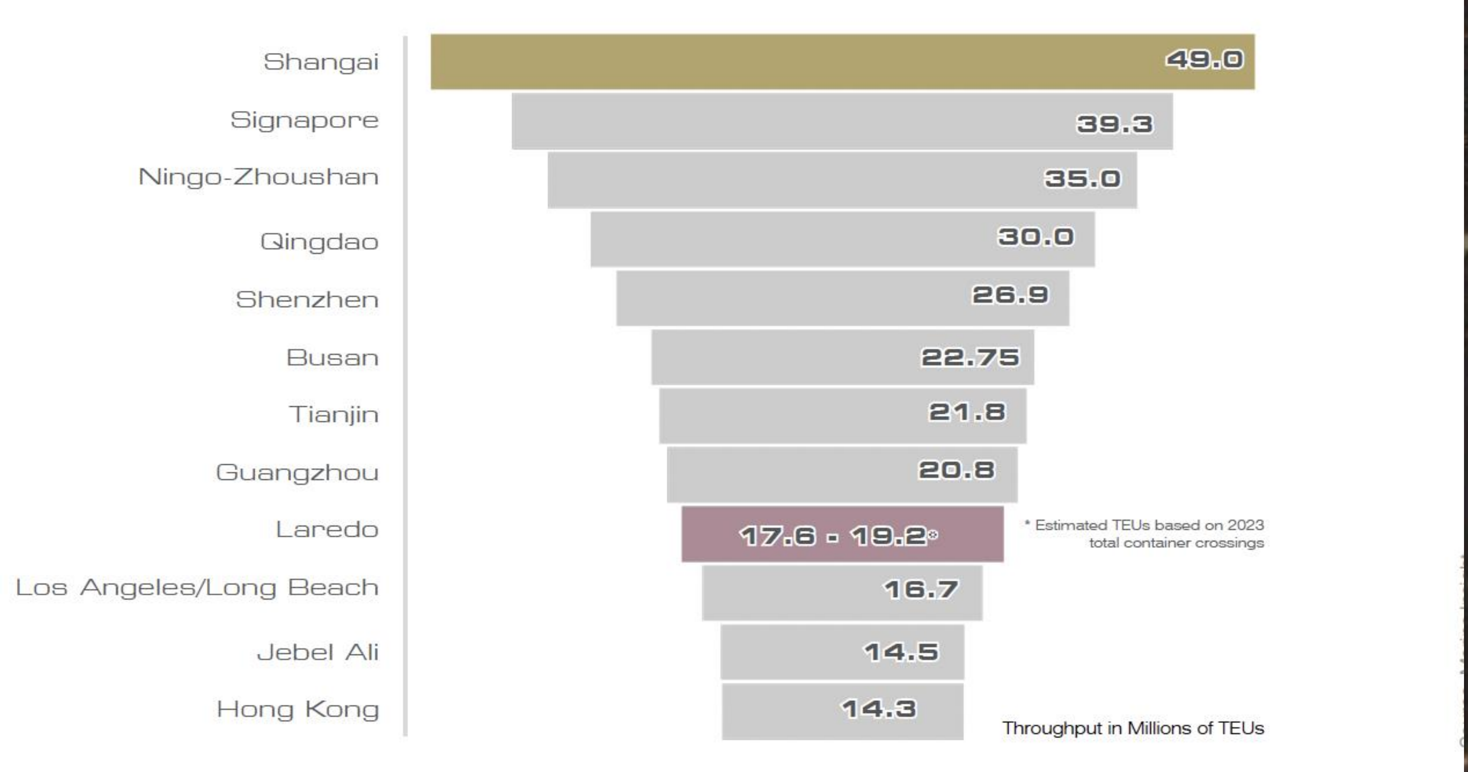
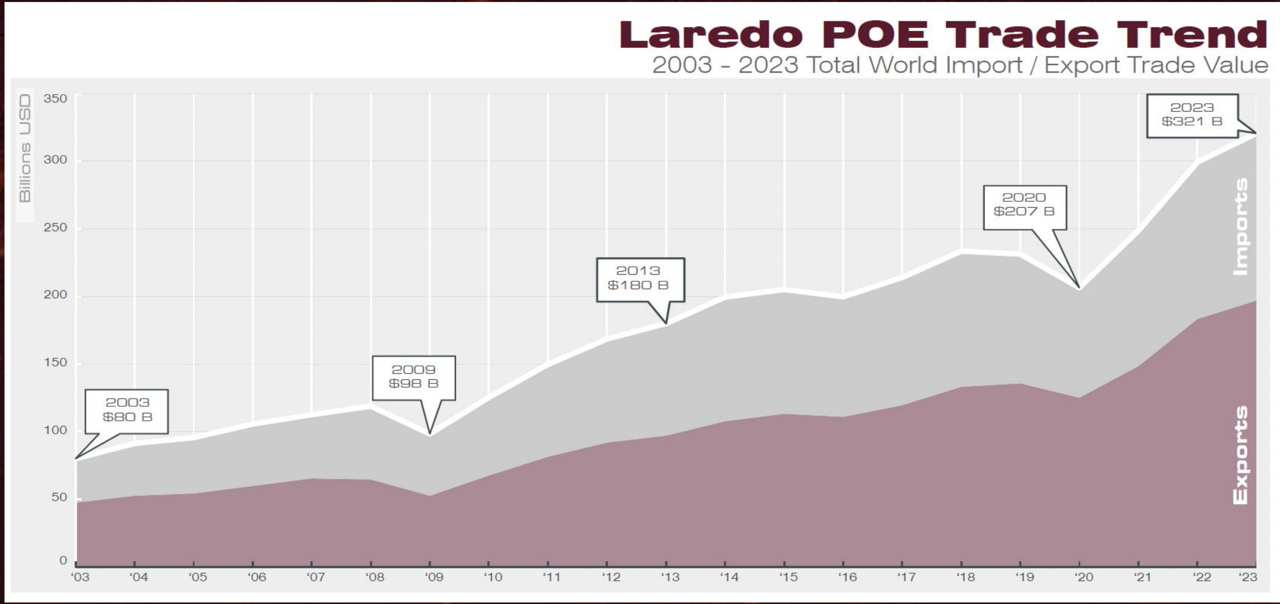
2023 Port of Laredo Placement Within the Largest Ports in the World Based on Throughput

Figure 2



Source: Marine Insight - https://www.marineinsight.com/ports/top-10-busiest-ports-in-the-world/ U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Bridge System, Port of Long Beach, Port of Los Angeles,

Laredo Trade Outlook



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Division, U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Building Development Services

Laredo Trade Outlook

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Commodity Transportation

2023 **Container** Crossings into U.S. through Border POE

Truck Container Crossings

3.1 Million
Truck Containers Crossing into the U.S.

$261 Billion
Total Import/Export Traded Value

Rail Container Crossings

531,566
Rail Containers Crossing into the U.S.

$50 Billion
Total Import/Export Traded Value

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Division, U.S Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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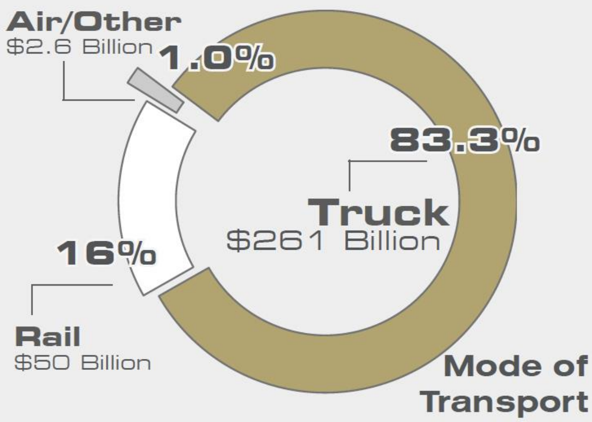
Laredo Trade Outlook

Total World Import / Export Trade

2023 Laredo POE



Top Exports

1. Machinery, Boilers $22.2 Billion
2. Vehicles and Parts $18.6 Billion
3. Electric Machinery $15.1 Billion
4. Plastics $10.8 Billion
5. Mineral Fuel, Oil $4.5 Billion

Top Imports

1. Vehicles and Parts $62.2 Billion
2. Machinery, Boilers $40.1 Billion
3. Electric Machinery $33.1 Billion
4. Furniture, Bedding $6.3 Billion
5. Iron or Steel Articles $4.6 Billion

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Division, U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Building Development Services

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Laredo Trade Outlook

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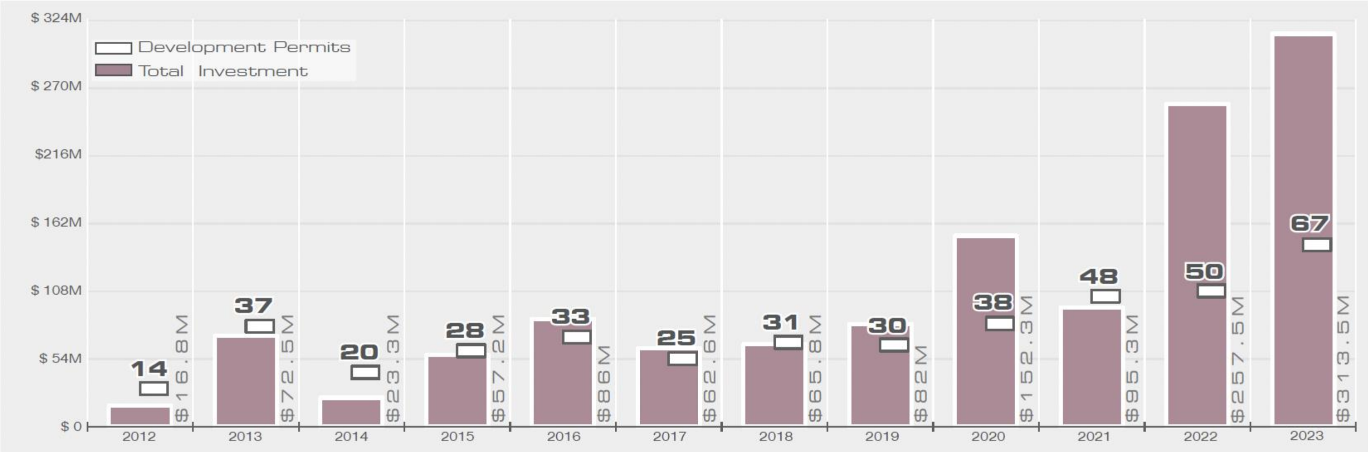
Logistics Facilities

Laredo POE Warehouse & Industrial Park Development



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Division, U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Building Development Services

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Port Laredo's Geographical Advantage and State of the Art Facilities

Figure 3

Source: Marine Insight - https://www.marineinsight.com/ports/top-10-busiest-ports-in-the-world/
U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Bridge System,
Port of Long Beach, Port of Los Angeles,

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Port Laredo's Geographical Advantage and State of the Art Facilities

Figure 3

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Source: Marine Insight - https://www.marineinsight.com/ports/top-10-busiest-ports-in-the-world/
U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Bridge System,
Port of Long Beach, Port of Los Angeles,

Port Laredo's rise to the top showcases its efficiency, strategic location, and infrastructure.

- Port Laredo emerged as the top U.S. port of entry in 2023, surpassing Chicago O'Hare Airport and the Port of Los Angeles.

- The port's truck throughput ranks 9th globally, surpassing major seaports like Guangzhou and Los Angeles/Long Beach.

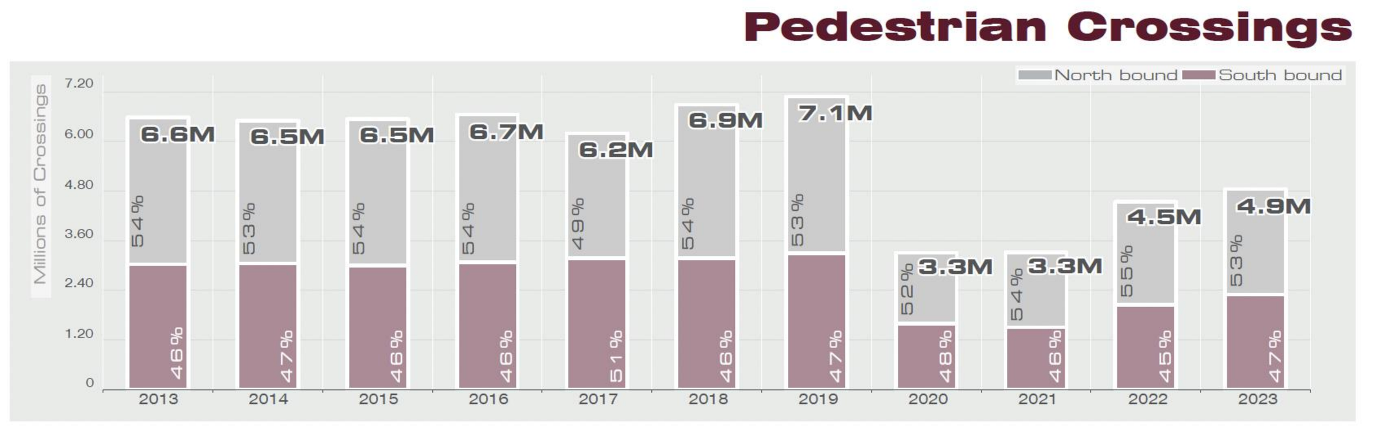
- In 2023, Port Laredo facilitated $321 billion in total trade value, experiencing significant growth in key sectors like vehicles and electric machinery.

- Substantial investments in warehouse and industrial park development underscore Laredo's expanding capacity to accommodate future trade growth.

03 Laredo International Bridges Outlook:

Enhancing Infrastructure for Thriving Trade

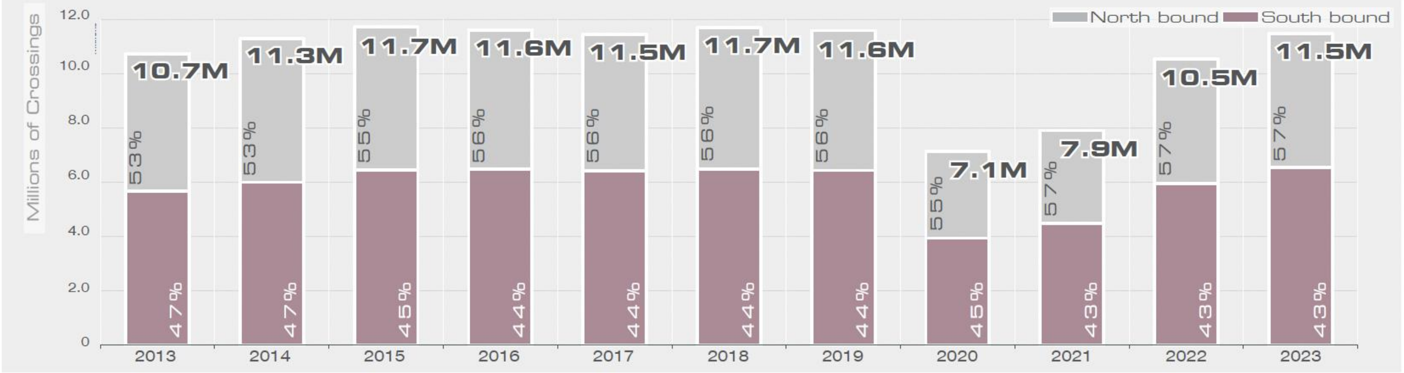
Laredo International Bridge Outlook



Source: U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Bridge System

Laredo International Bridge Outlook

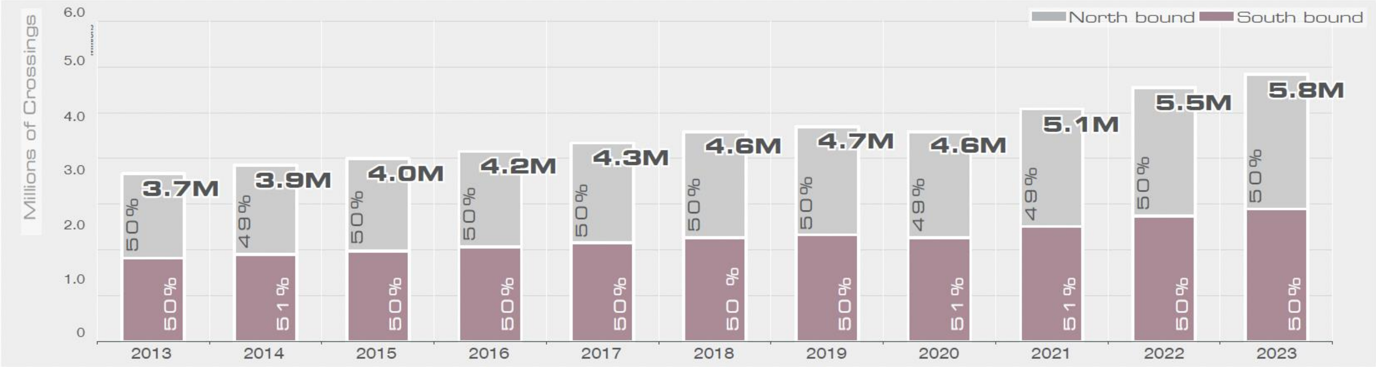
Passenger Vehicle Crossings



Source: U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Bridge System

Laredo International Bridge Outlook

Commercial Truck Crossings



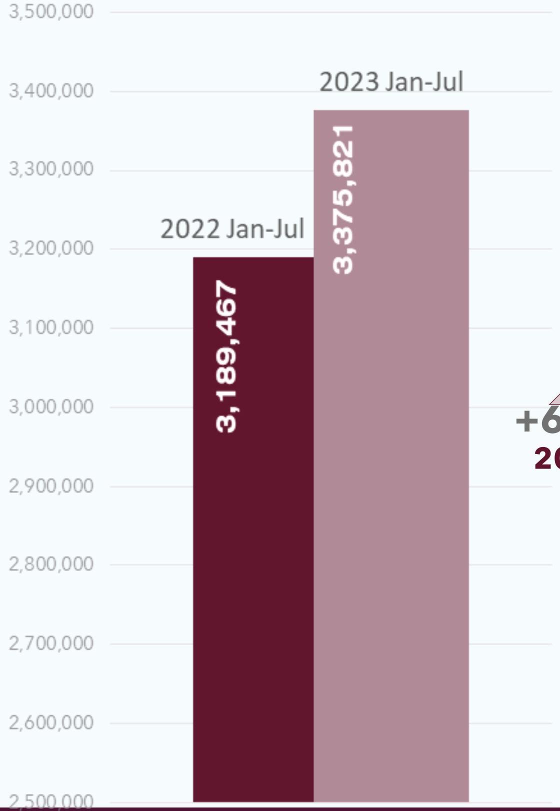
Source: U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Bridge System

LAREDO

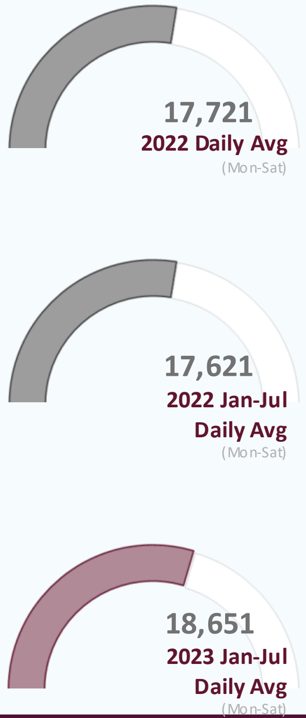
2022 -2023

NORTH-SOUTH BOUND

TRUCK CROSSINGS



+6%
2022 v 2023 YTD



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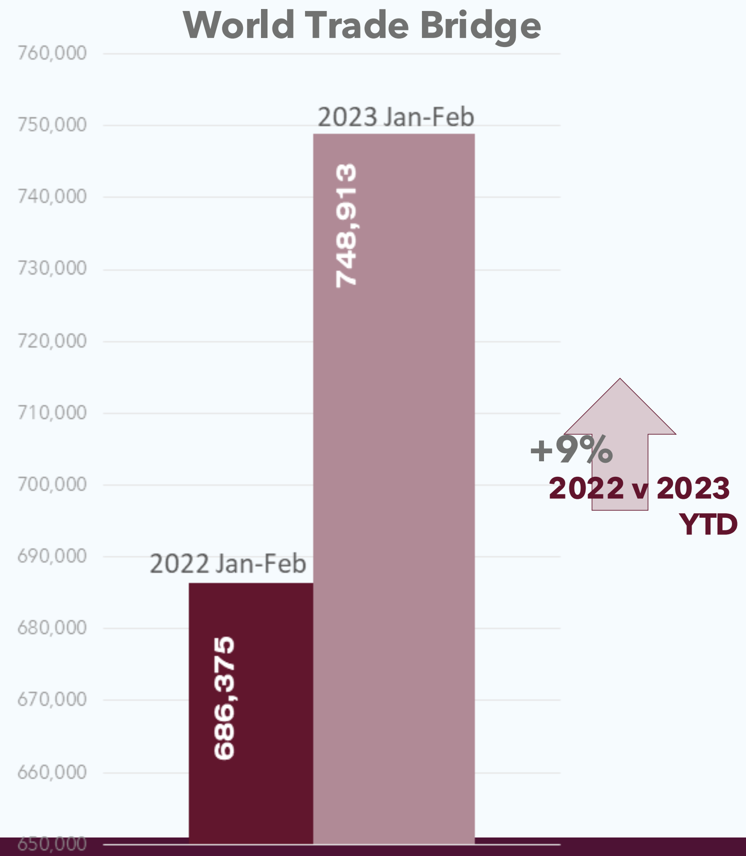
Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Bridge Department

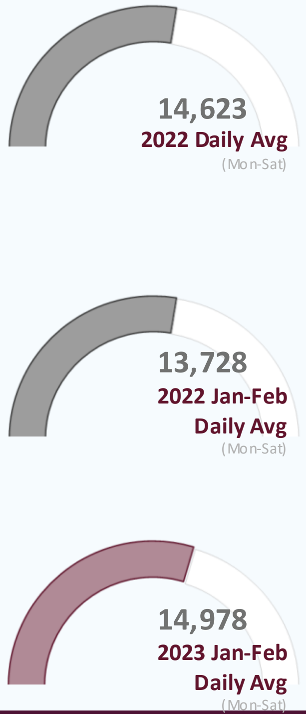
LAREDO

2022-2023

NORTH-SOUTH BOUND

TRUCK CROSSINGS





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Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Bridge Department, ICCE Nuevo Laredo

LAREDO

2022-2023

NORTH-SOUTH BOUND

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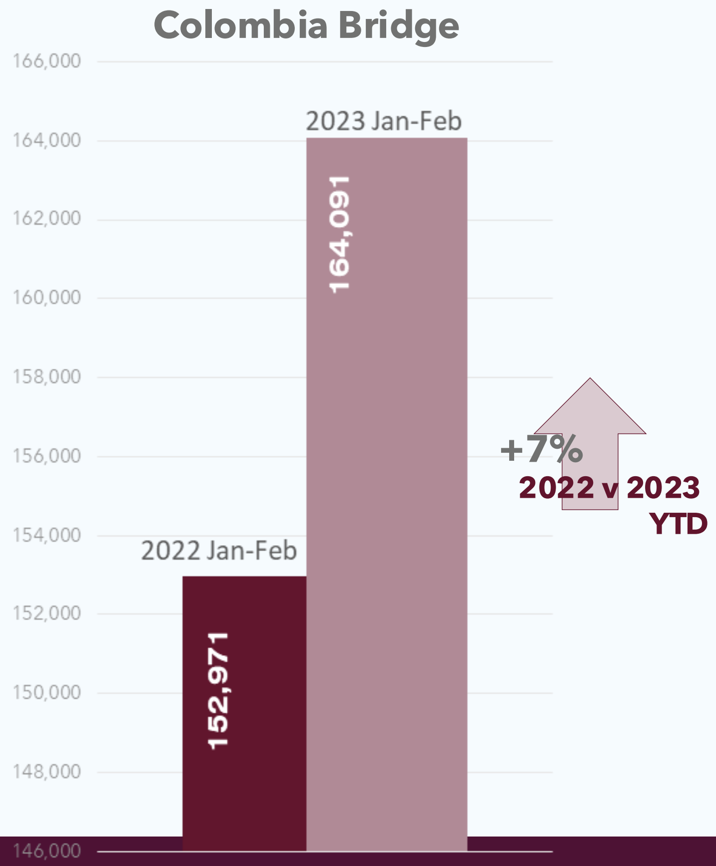
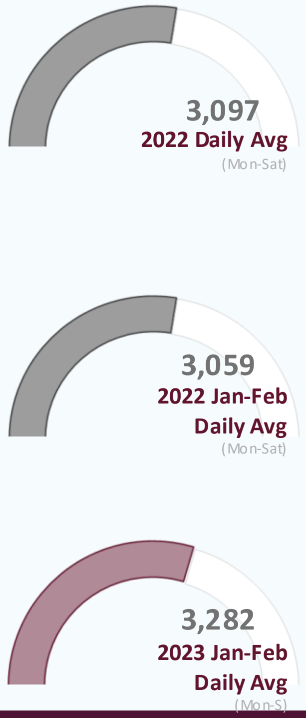
TRUCK CROSSINGS





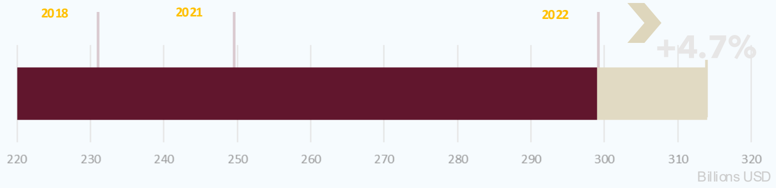
Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Bridge Department, ICCE Nuevo Lare

LAREDO TRUCK CROSSINGS

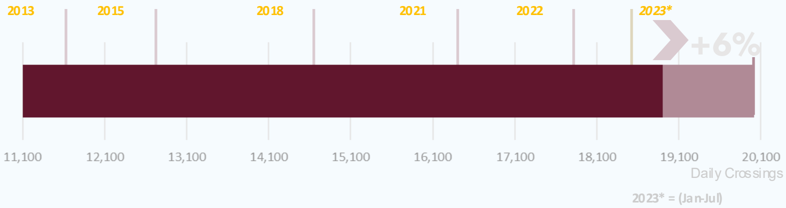
NEARSHORING IMPACT

+$35B
Expected US-Mexico Trade Increase

+$14B
Expected through Laredo POE



950-1,120
Estimated Additional Daily Truck Crossings



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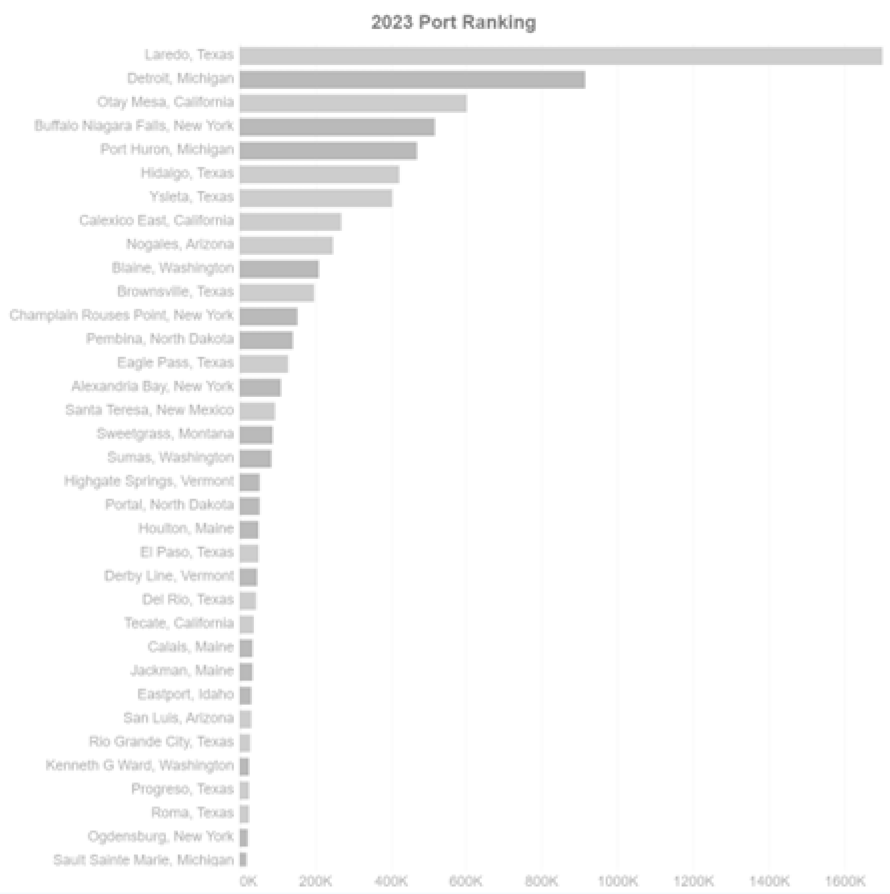
Source: IADB

IN-BOUND (USA)
2023

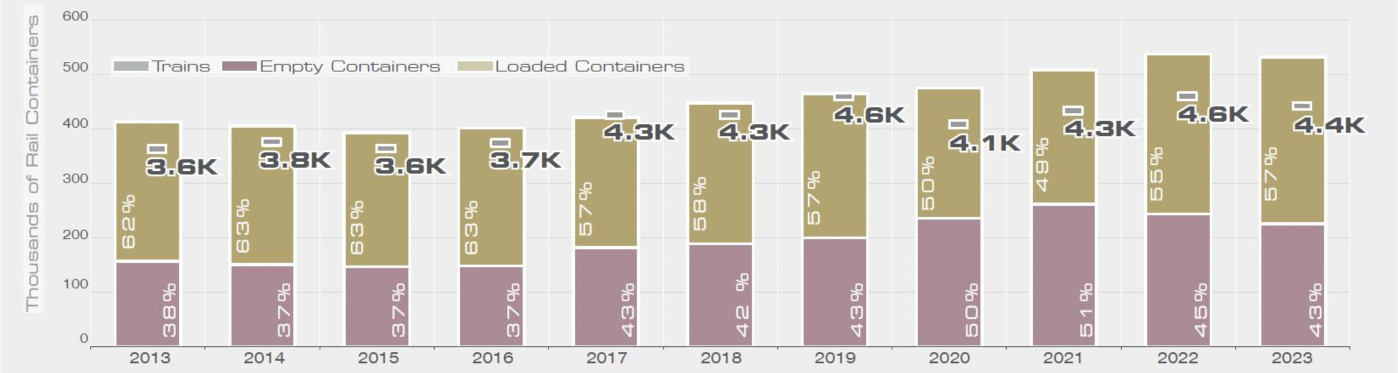
TRUCK CROSSINGS



Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Laredo International Bridge Outlook

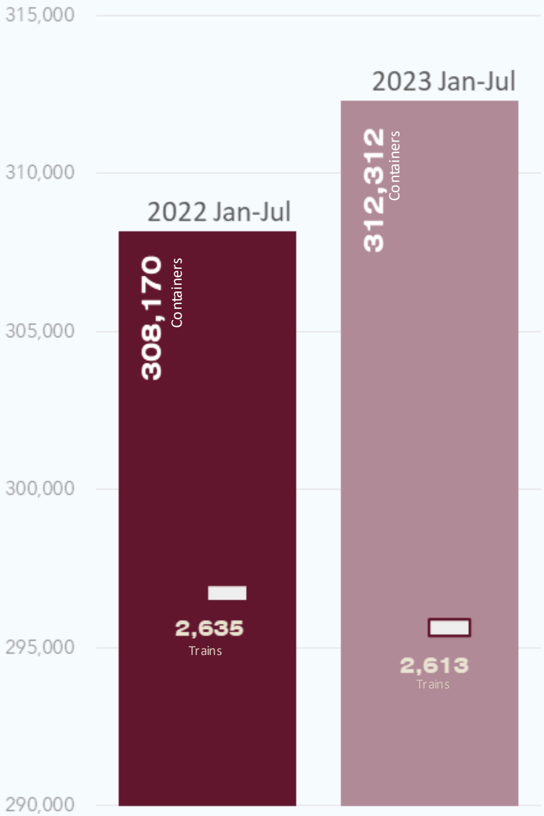
Northbound Rail Crossings



Source: U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, City of Laredo Bridge System

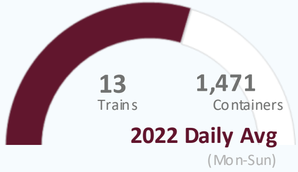
IN-BOUND (TX) 2022 - 2023 LAREDO POE

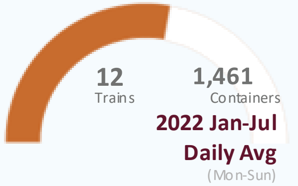
RAIL CROSSINGS

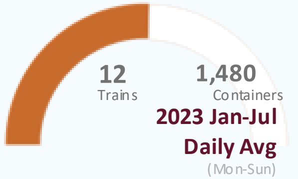


Containers
+1.3%
2022 v 2023 YTD

Trains
-0.8%
2022 v 2023 YTD







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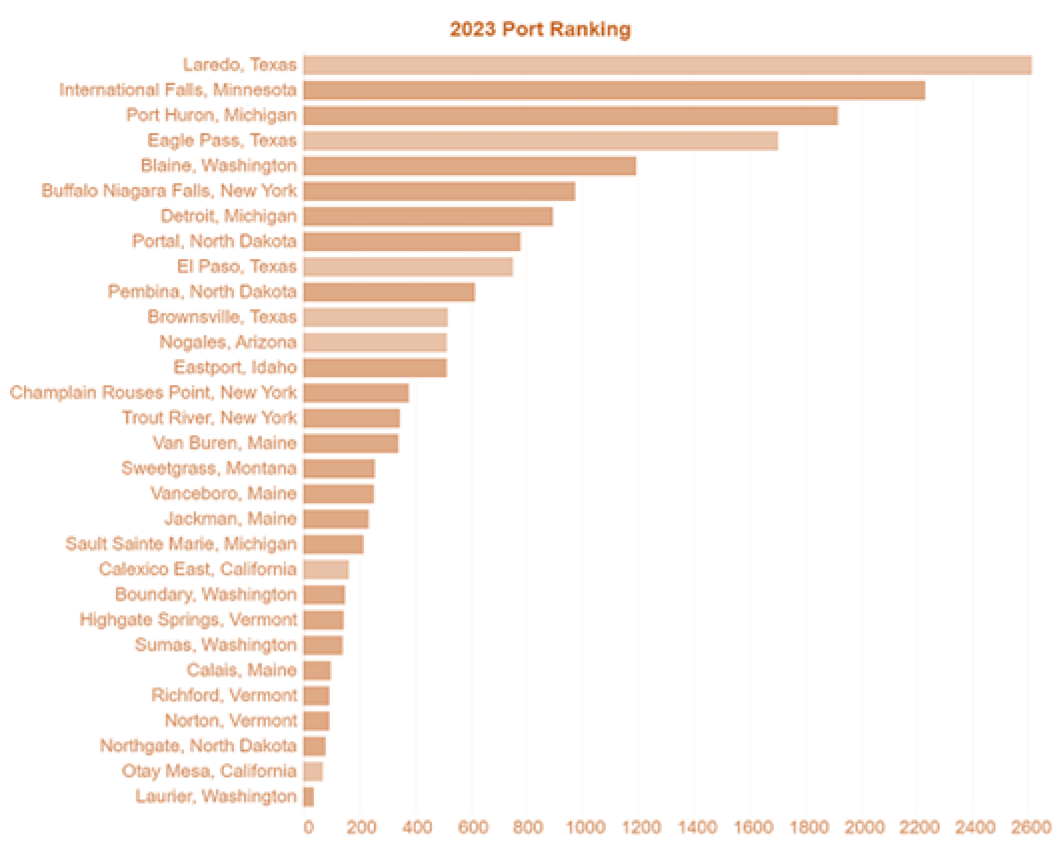
IN-BOUND (USA) 2023

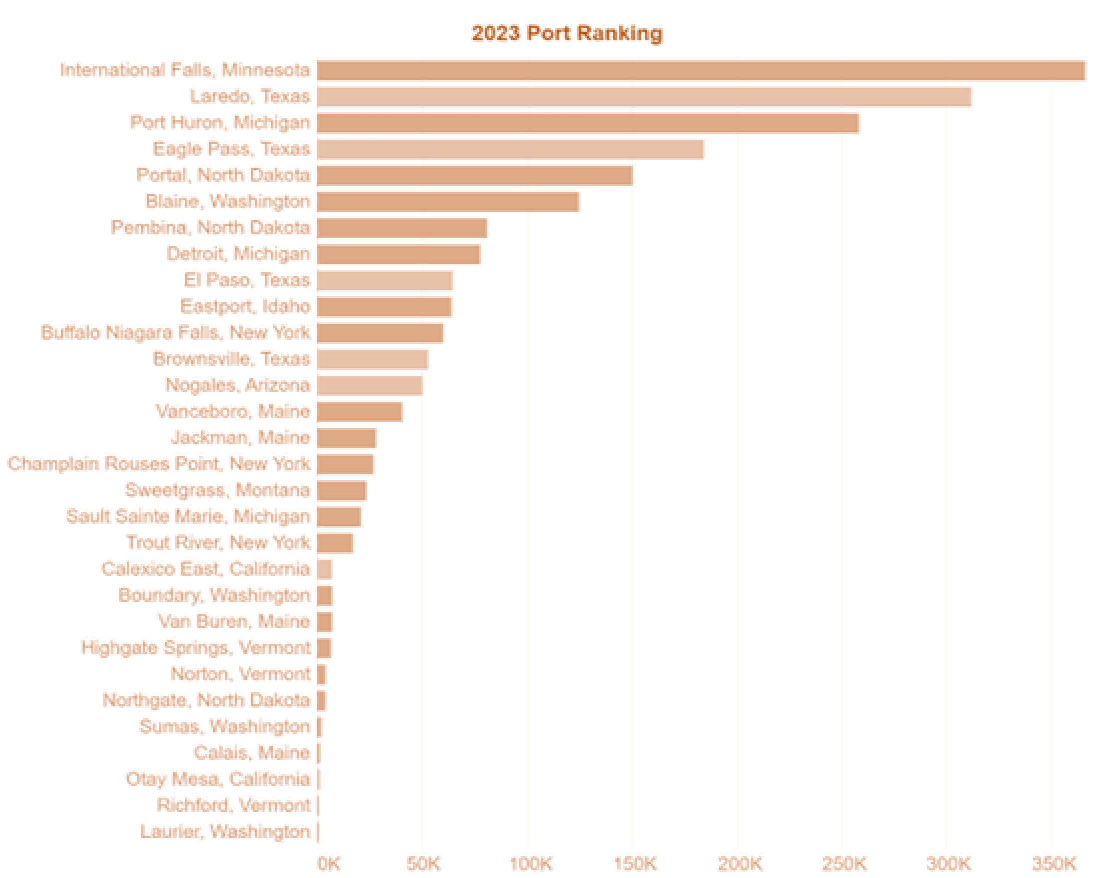
RAIL CROSSINGS: TRAINS



Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

IN-BOUND (USA) 2023

RAIL CROSSINGS: CONTAINERS



Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

As trade volumes continue to surge, investments in bridge infrastructure and technology upgrades are crucial to maintaining Laredo's competitive advantage.

•Laredo's international bridges witnessed substantial growth in cross-border traffic, with a 6% increase in north and south-bound truck crossings from 2022 to 2023.

•The World Trade Bridge experienced a remarkable 10% growth in truck crossings, handling an average of nearly 15,000 trucks per day in 2023.

•Colombia Bridge also saw a 7% increase in truck crossings, with a daily average of of over 3,000 trucks in 2023.

•Laredo's rail infrastructure plays a vital role in facilitating trade, with a 1.3% increase in rail crossings from 2022 to 2023 despite a slight decrease in loaded containers.

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