



# Working with Mexico



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# Important Ties with Mexico



- **U.S.-Mexico ties touch more U.S. lives daily** than any other country via trade, border connections, tourism, family ties, and illicit flows.
- Some **37 million Mexican-Americans**: 11% of the U.S. population.
- The **1990-mile border** (3,201 km) creates overlapping security, economic, family and environmental interests.
- **2010-2016**: government-to-government **collaboration** unprecedented.
- July **2020**: new U.S., Mexico, and Canada **trade accord launched** (USMCA).
- **2021-22**: Rebuilding cooperation on migration, new efforts on cross-border crime, rebuilding trade, implementing USMCA, looking at enhanced competitiveness.

# Serious Challenges to Address

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Reduce U.S. drug demand and cross-border crime and violence

Manage Central American, Mexican, “other” migration

Security & Justice Cooperation:  
New Bicentennial Framework

Manage Negative Public Perceptions; Expand Stakeholder Dialogues

Boost trade, Resilient supply chains, Implement USMCA

Recover from pandemic; Build a 21st century border

Energy Policy Differences  
Environmental Challenges

Get Results from High Level Economic Dialogue and North American Leaders Summit

# Importance of U.S.-Mexico Trade

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Mexico is the U.S.'s:

- **2nd largest export market (2021)**
- **2nd largest supplier of imports (2021)**
- **2nd largest Ag export market: \$19 billion in 2018**
- 1st or 2nd export market for 28 U.S. States
- 1st export market for U.S. Southern Border States

**In 2021, Mexico was the U.S.' second largest trading partner (\$661 billion), behind Canada but ahead of China. 2022 trade above 2019 levels.**

**For Mexico, US accounts for 80% of Mexican exports and 39% of GDP**



# U.S.-Mexico Trade



**Exports**

\$289.5  
Billion



**Imports**

\$387.8 Billion



2019 Trade in goods and services:



\$677.3  
Billion

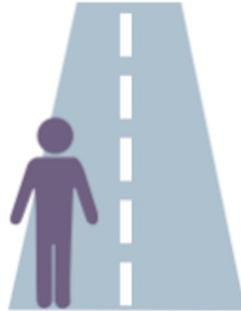
US and Mexico trade over  
1 million dollars per minute

# U.S.-Mexico Border Crossings

Pre-pandemic: each day over

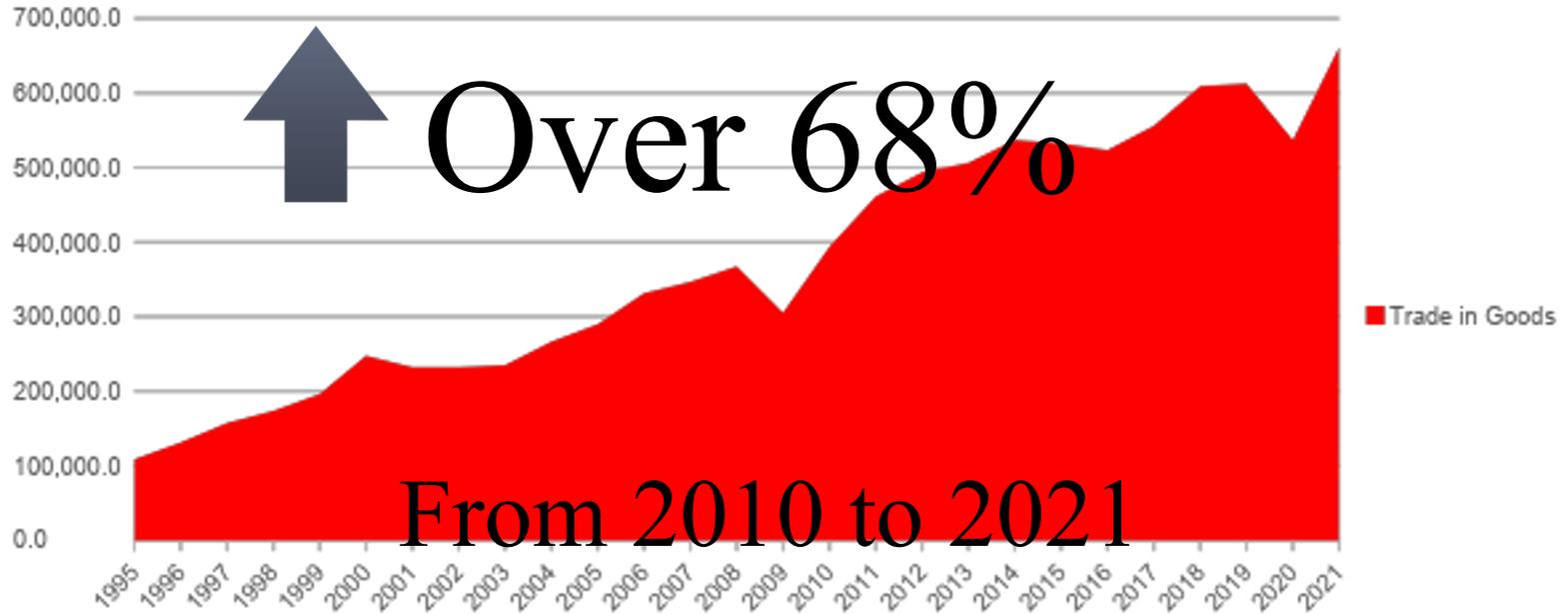
**1 million**

border crossings



# U.S. Trade with Mexico has multiplied by 6 since 1995

- The U.S. sells **more** to Mexico than to all the **BRICS** countries together

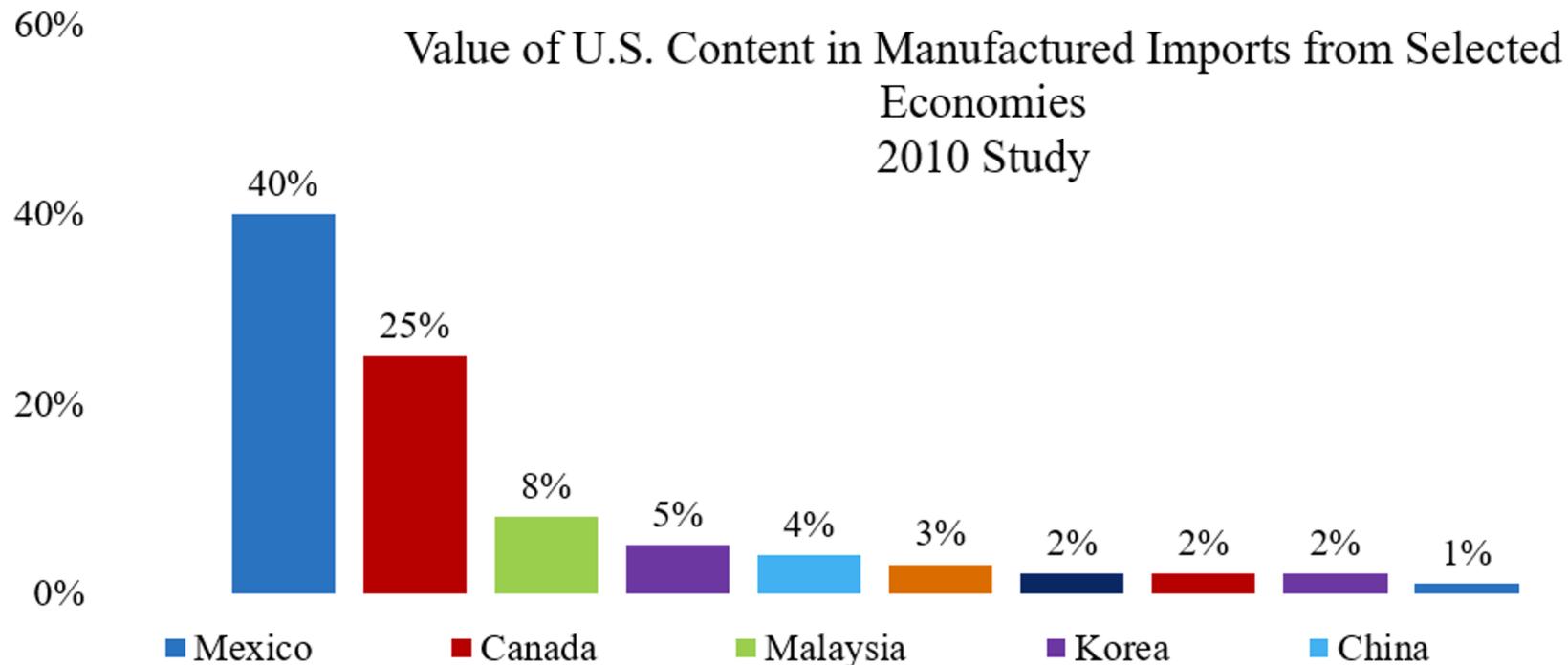


From 2010 to 2021

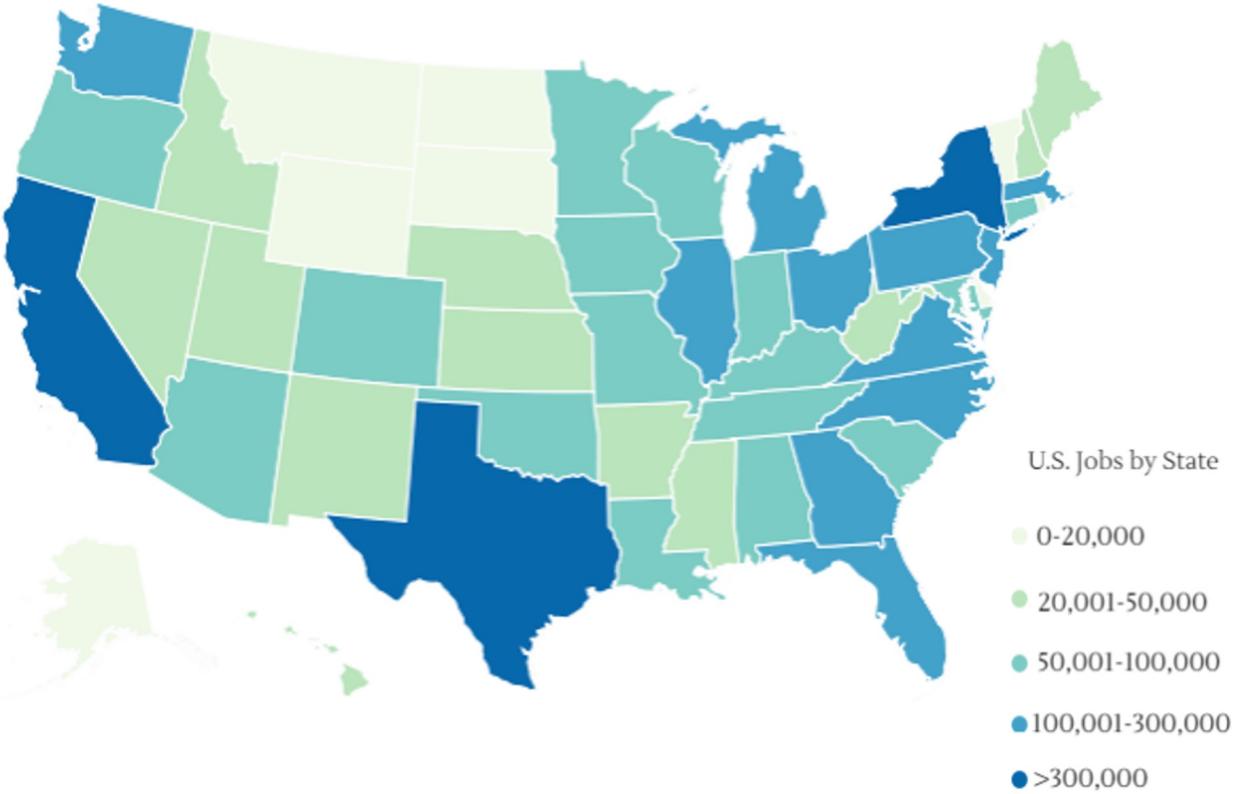
# 2021 year trade total: Canada tops Mexico in goods trade



# More U.S. Content in Imports from Mexico and Canada



# Mexico trade and investment supports over 5 million U.S. jobs

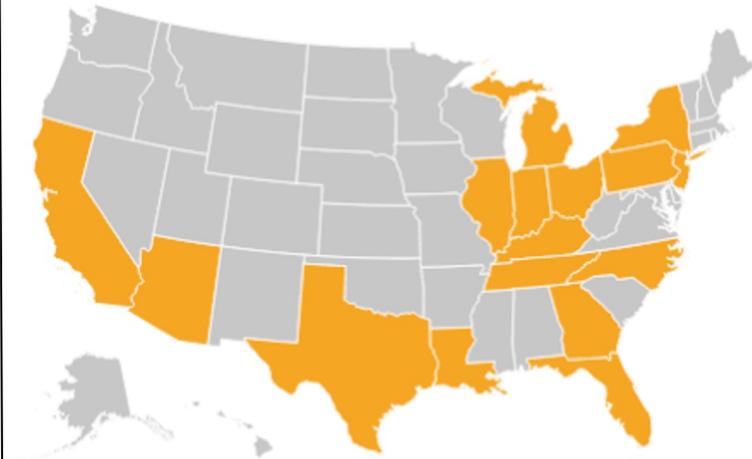


Some 5 million US jobs depend on trade and investment ties with Mexico (2017), compared to an estimated 700,000 jobs in 1993.

Source: Trade Partnership, 2019; Clinton Administration Statement on the NAFTA, 1993

# Rank Order: Top U.S. States' Trade with Mexico 2018

State	Volume \$USD (Billions)	State	Volume \$USD (Billions)
Texas	174	Indiana	9.3
California	71.6	Florida	8.6
Michigan	61	Pennsylvania	7.7
Illinois	21.2	Louisiana	6.8
Arizona	15.7	North Carolina	7.6
Ohio	14.5	Kentucky	7.4
Tennessee	11.7	New Jersey	7.3
Georgia	9.9	New York	6.4



# U.S.-Mexico Border States

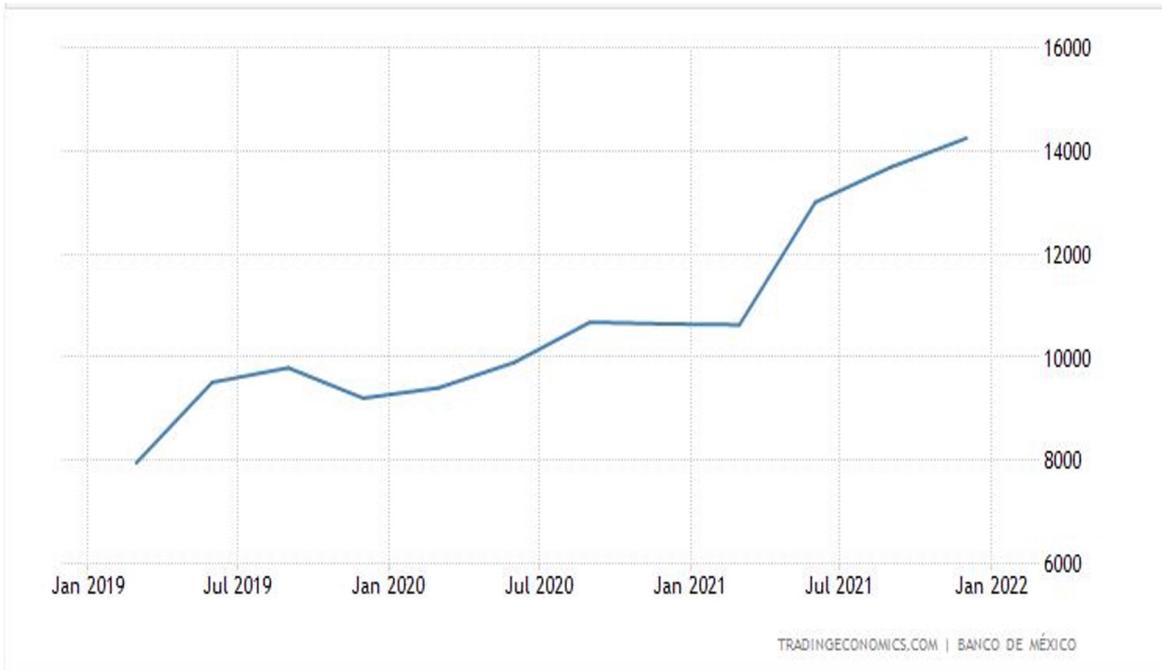
- In 2018, the U.S.-Mexico Border States' GDP reached **\$5.3 trillion**
- GDP from both sides of the border would constitute the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy in the world.**



## Largest economies in the world (2019)

	United States: \$21.43 trillion
	China: \$14.14 trillion
	Japan: \$5.15 trillion
	Germany: \$3.8 trillion

# Big Jump in Total Remittances to Mexico from US - Money sent back to family and friends in Mexico rose during pandemic.



- Mexico's Central Bank estimates that **95% of the remittances** to Mexico come from the **United States**.
- In **2021**, remittances set a record of **US \$51.6 billion**: a **27%** increase from 2020.
- In **January 2022**, remittances totaled \$3.93 billion, a 19.6% increase from January 2021. Increases have continued.

# Border Management: Licit and Illicit Flows

# Moving toward Co-Management of the Border



# U.S.-Mexico Visitors (Pre-Pandemic)

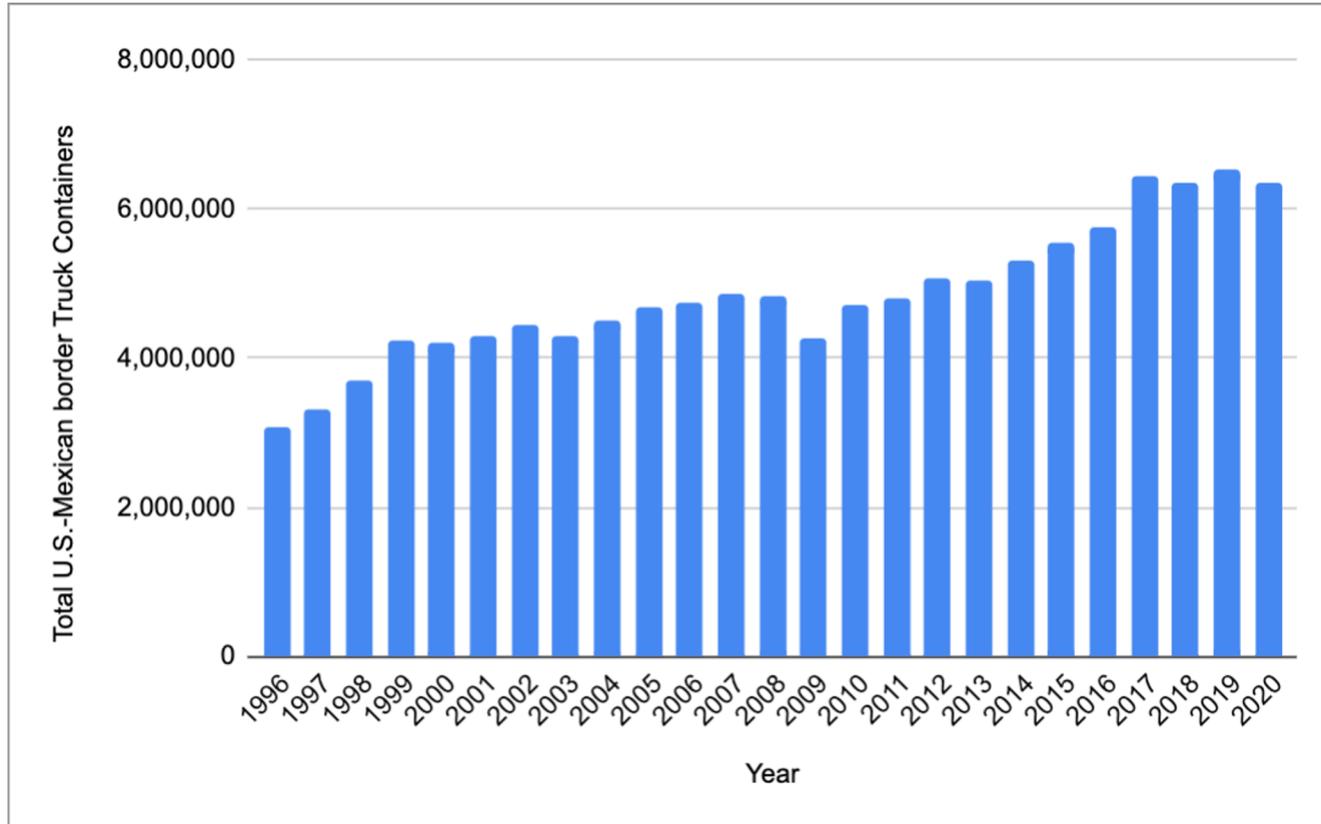
In 2019, overnight visitors from the U.S to Mexico totaled **39.9 million**: **40.0% of U.S. overseas tourism.**

2019 Overnight visitors from Mexico to the U.S. = **18.4 million.**

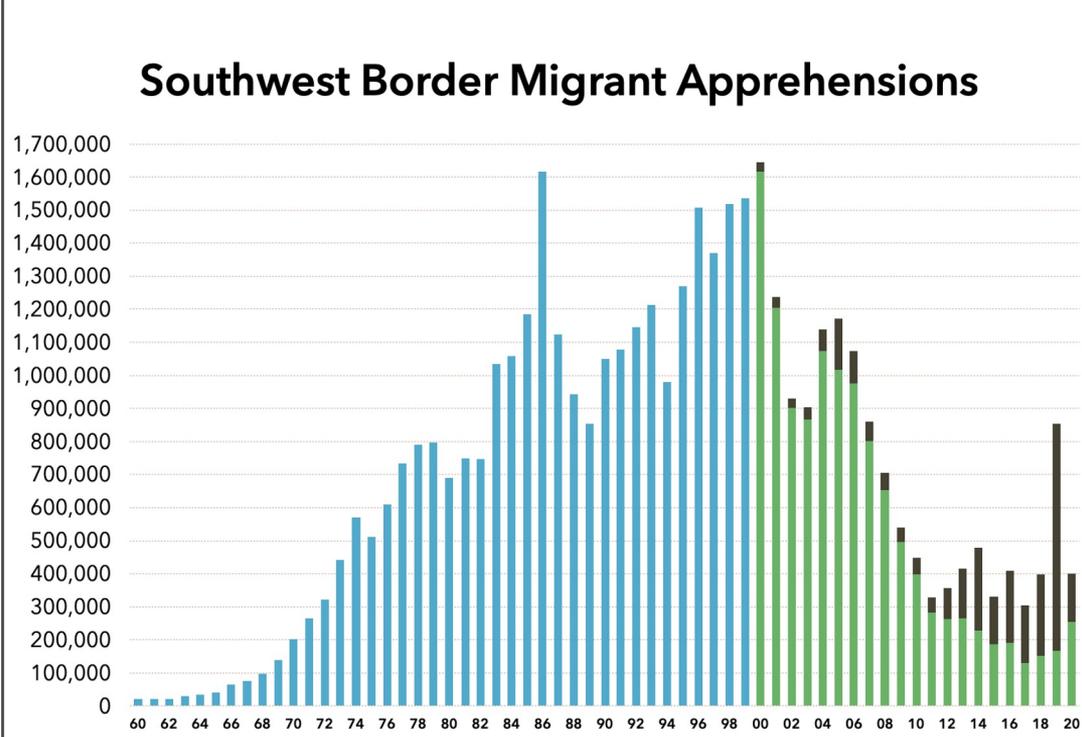
Together, these **55 million visitors** spent over **\$41 billion.** 2022 back up.



# Trucks Crossing the U.S.-Mexico Border



# Southwest Border Migrant Apprehensions



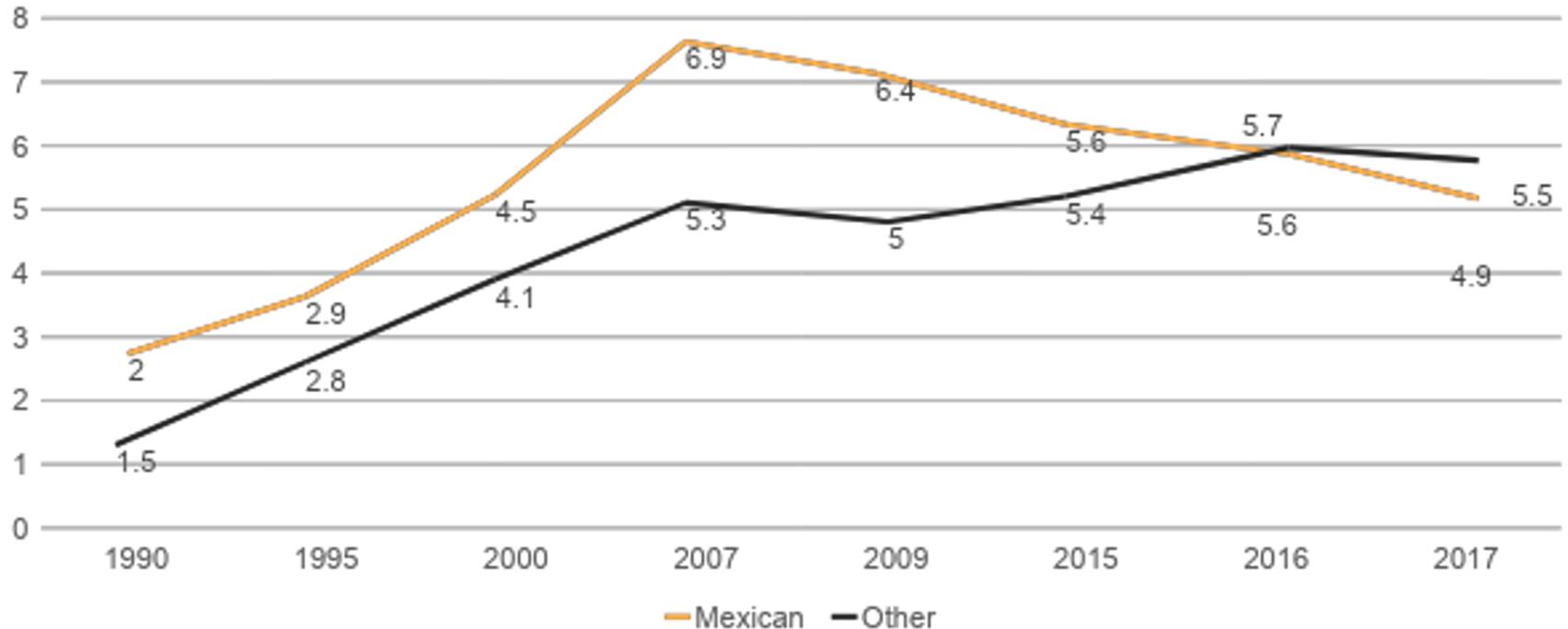
# Mexican Migrant Flows Net-Zero Until COVID

- **Undocumented Mexican immigrants in the U.S. began to decline around 2007.**
- **Net migration from Mexico** to the U.S. significantly dropped over the last 25 years.
- **FY2011**, Mexican nationals made up 86% of all SWB apprehensions, but by **FY2013** Mexicans accounted for less than half of total apprehensions.
- **Mexicans apprehended started to rise again in FY 2020 when Mexicans accounted for 63%** of the apprehensions at the southwest border.
- Mostly **single adults**; most returned immediately, but **many tried again.**
- Why? **Pandemic recession** and **fleeing criminal violence in Mexico.**



Source: U.S. CBP 2019, Congressional Research Service 2019.

# Unauthorized Immigrants in the U.S. - near 11 million



Border Approaches - 2012-2016 “Shared responsibilities”  
2017-2020 U.S. focus on reducing numbers, building walls  
2021-2022 Rebuilding cooperation amid a migrant surge

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## Obama

- Enforcement and making the border more open to **legitimate travel and commerce; align customs efforts.**
- **New mechanisms to coordinate, to counter illicit trade and travel: drugs, guns, money and people, to reduce cross-border violence.**
- New programs to **share information on potential border crossers from S. Mex. border.**
- **Manage immigrant surge from Central America 2014-15 and provide aid to CA.**

## Trump

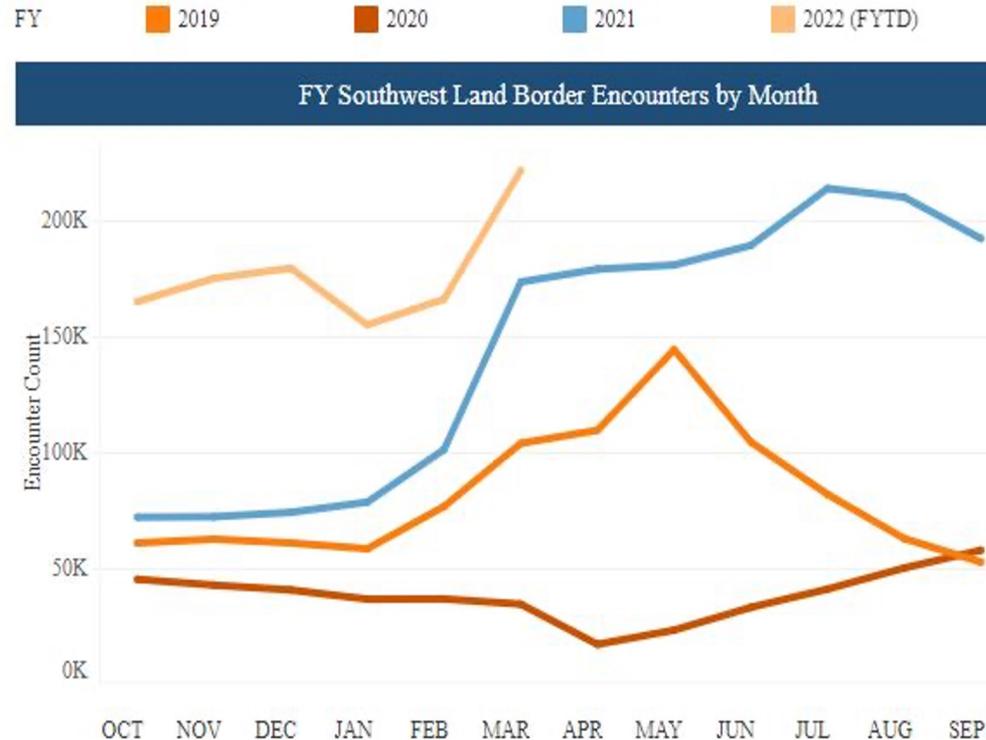
- **Wall; Sharply Increased Enforcement 2017-20; Threatened Tariffs; Wait in Mexico.**

## Biden

- **2021 Try to manage sustained surge of migrants from Central America, Mexico & elsewhere.**
- **Start to address Root Causes in cooperation with Mexico; seek regional cooperation.**
- **Re-start efforts to build a 21st Century Border, with better processes and infrastructure.**

# Slight Decline in U.S.-Mexico border apprehensions

## Apprehensions at the SW Border FY 2020 – January 2022

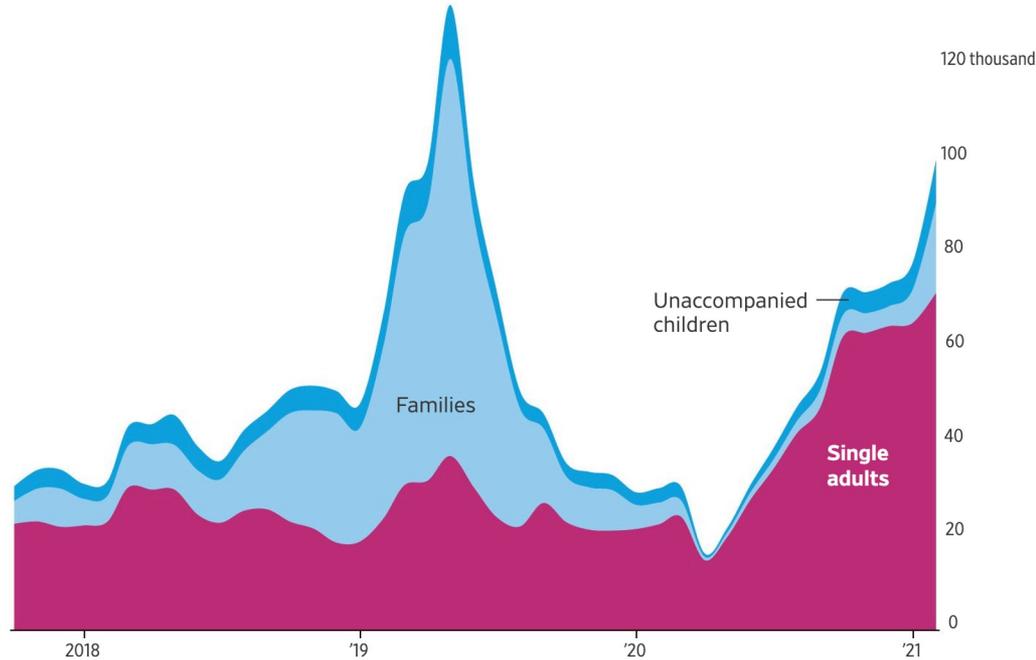


- FY 2020, 400,651 apprehensions (COVID 19)
- **FY 2021, 1,660,000 apprehensions.**
- **FY 2022, still growing: Oct-Jan 672,838.**
- Fewer families, more adults, more Mexicans, more from elsewhere.
- Many rapid returns (60% of those under Title 42 citing Covid concerns)
- More repeat apprehensions (28%)

# Migrants Detained at the Mexican Border- FY 2021

Migrants detained at the Mexican border

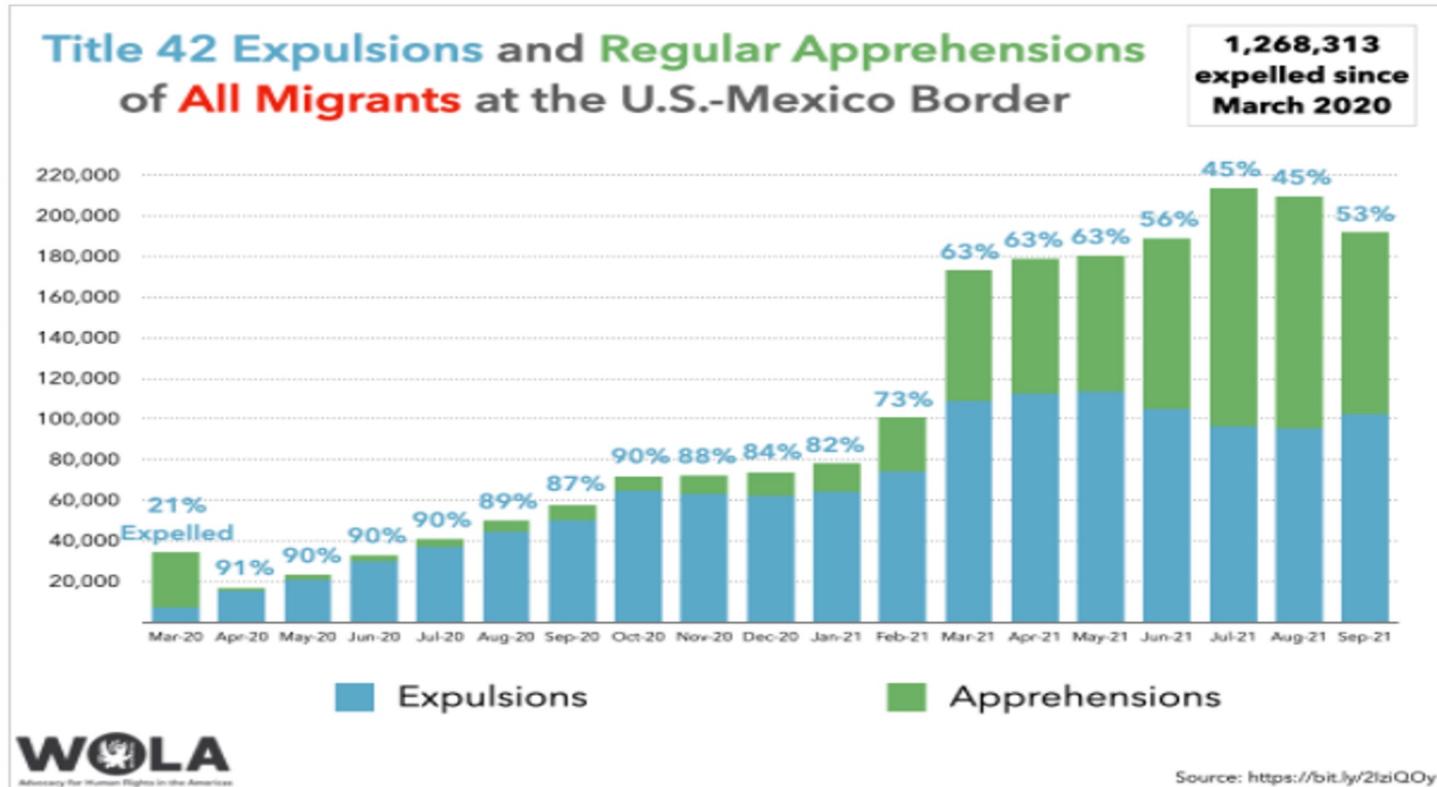
Single adults account for 82% of the apprehensions so far this fiscal year, according



Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

during the same period in 2020. During the same period in 2019, more than 136,000 families were arrested at the border.

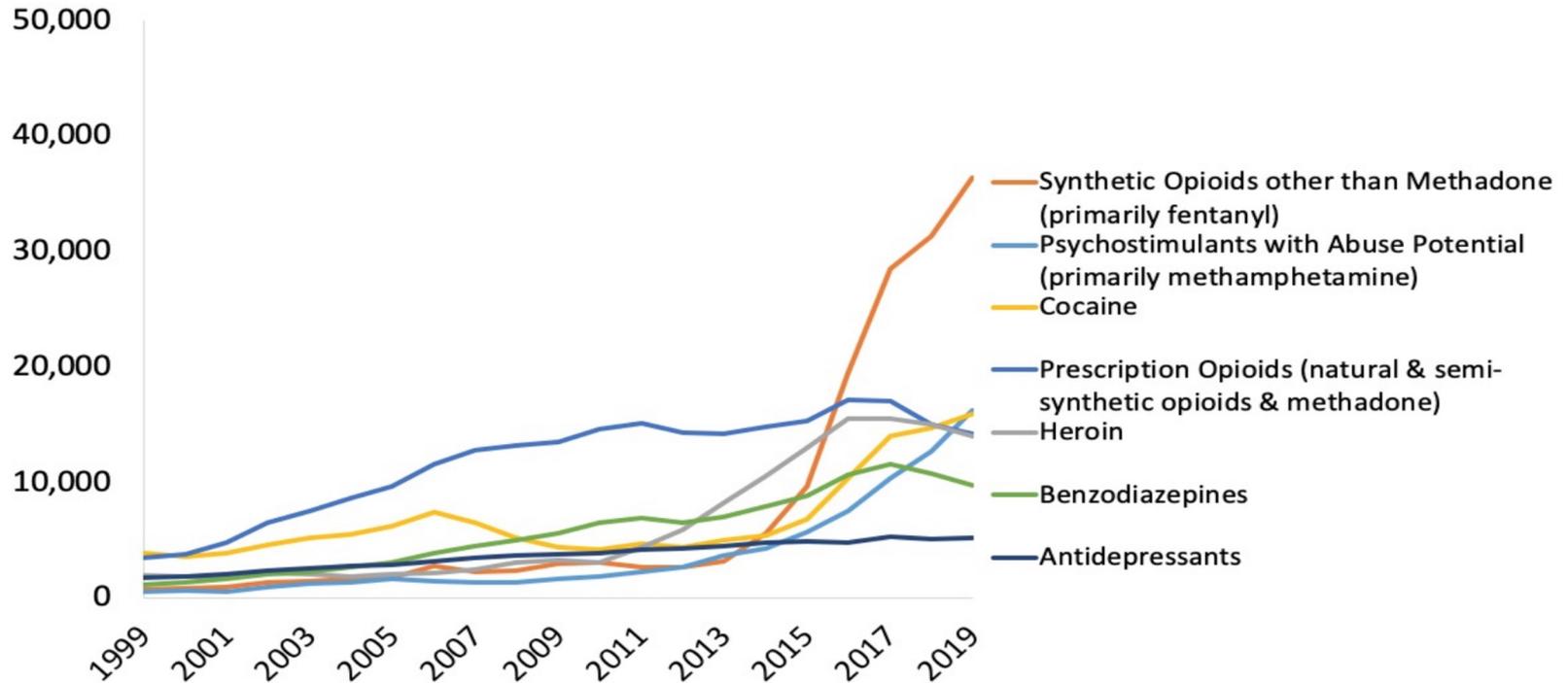
# Border pandemic expulsions to end soon?



Bilateral Cooperation  
Against Crime: Pending  
Review

# Driver: US Overdose Deaths Jump to over 100,000 in 2021

National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths, Number Among All Ages, 1999-2019

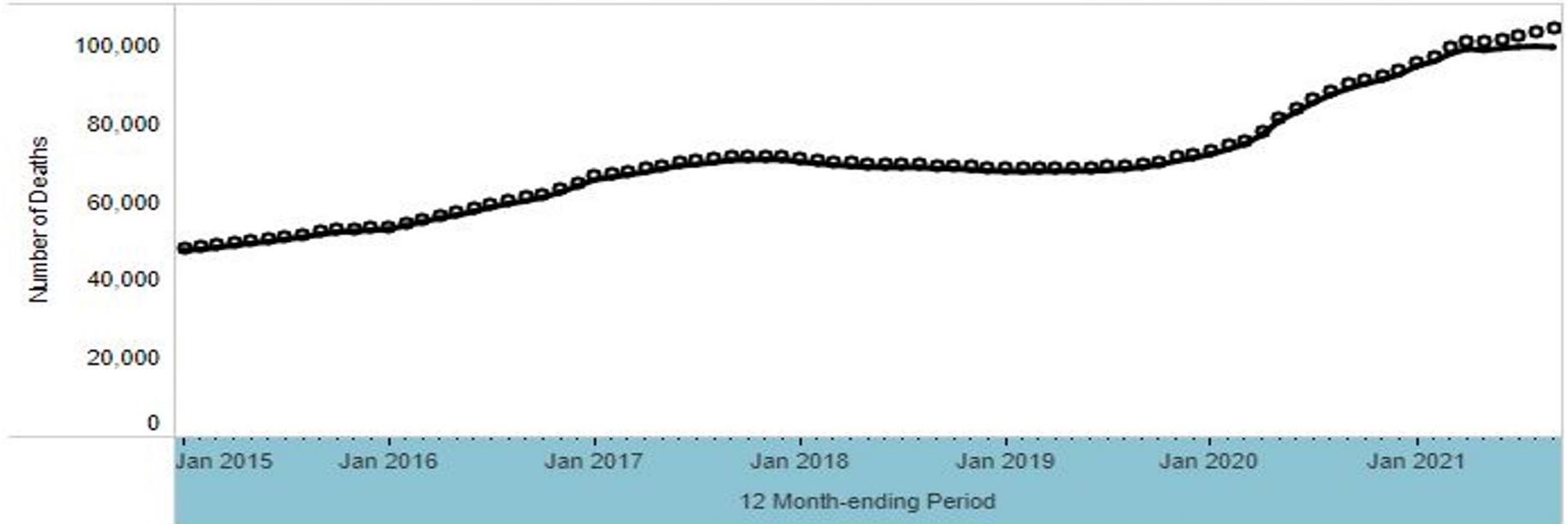


Source: CDC Wonder Database; CDC Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths, 2019

# Driver: US Drug Overdose Deaths surged 28% in 2020-21

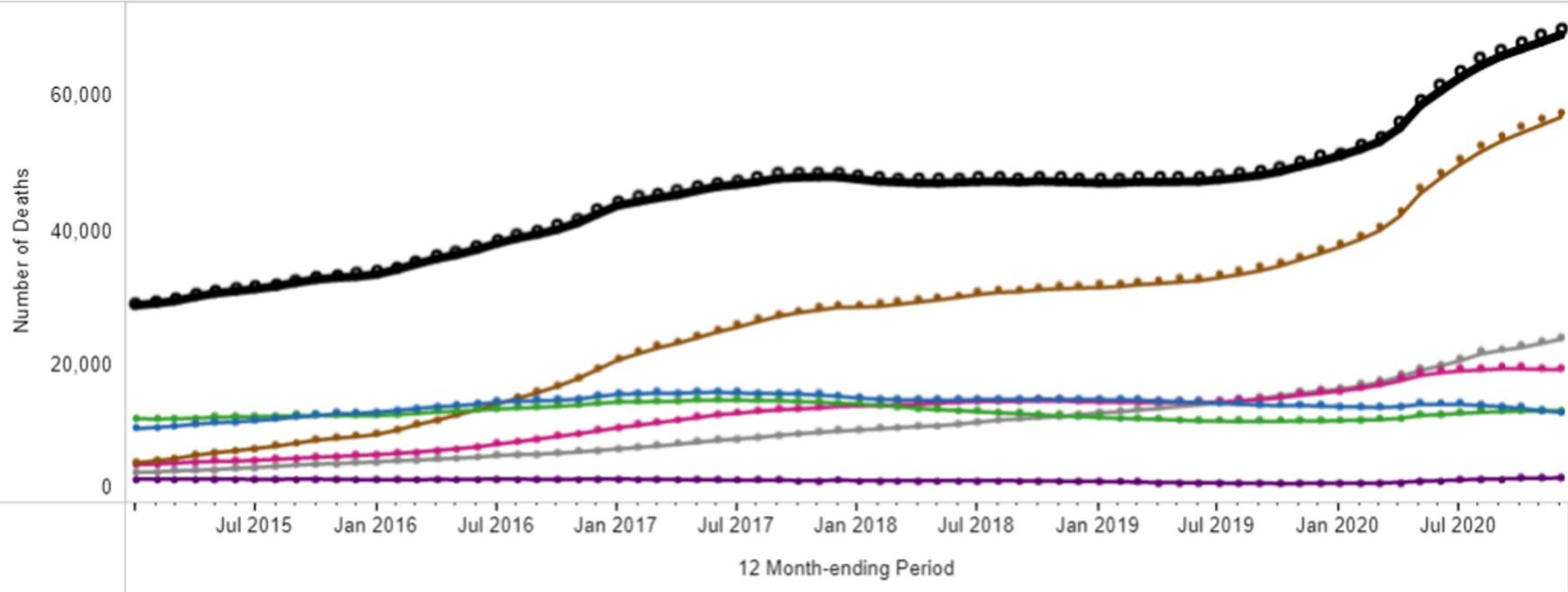
National Drug Overdose Death Number 2015-2021

Figure 1a. 12 Month-ending Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths: United States



Source: CDC Wonder Database; CDC Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths, 2019

# 12 Month Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Class: Synthetic Opioids Up and Rising



**Legend for Drug or Drug Class**

- Opioids (T40.0-T40.4,T40.6)
- Heroin (T40.1)
- Natural & semi-synthetic opioids (T40.2)

- Methadone (T40.3)
- Synthetic opioids, excl. methadone (T40.4)
- Cocaine (T40.5)
- Psychostimulants with abuse potential (T43.6)

---- Reported Value  
 ○ Predicted Value

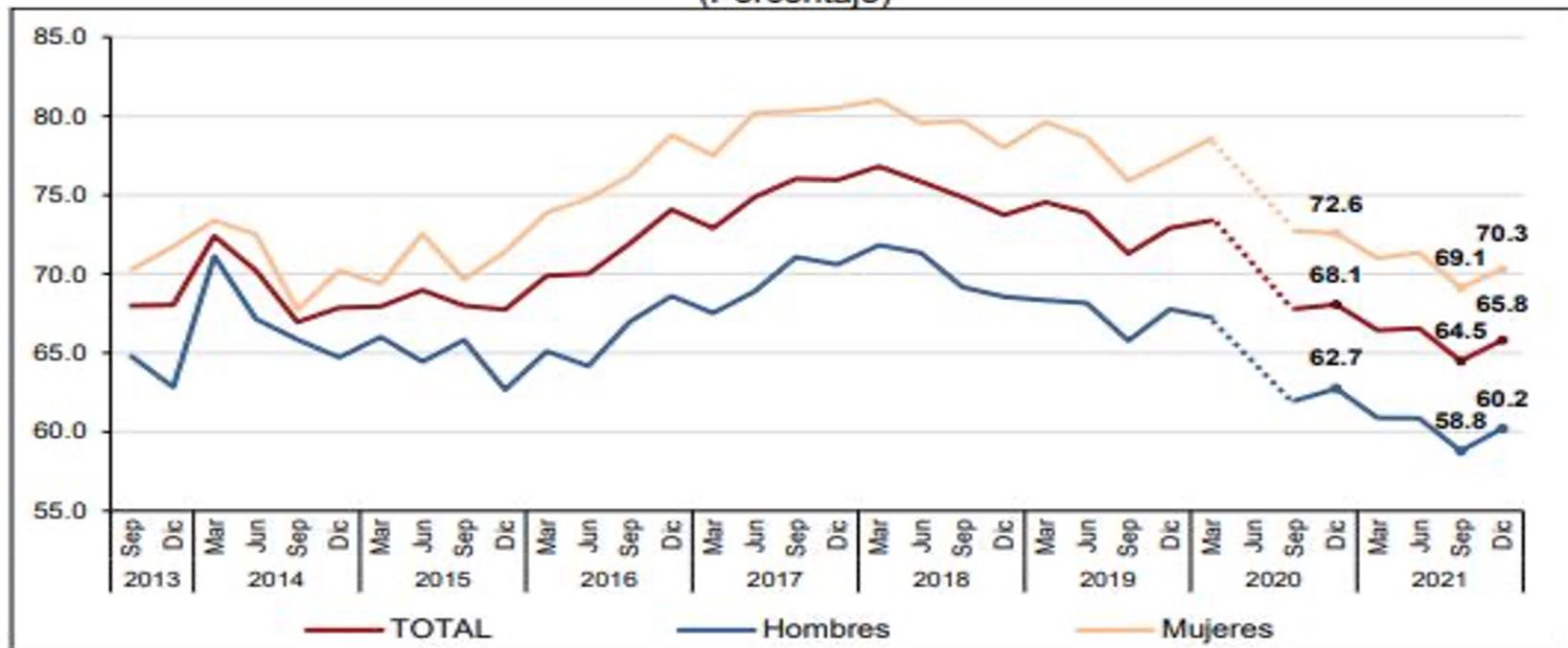
Source: CDC Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths, 2020; Insight Crime - Jul 2021

# Driver: Perceptions of Insecurity in Mexico

## According to INEGI: 65.8% feel insecure

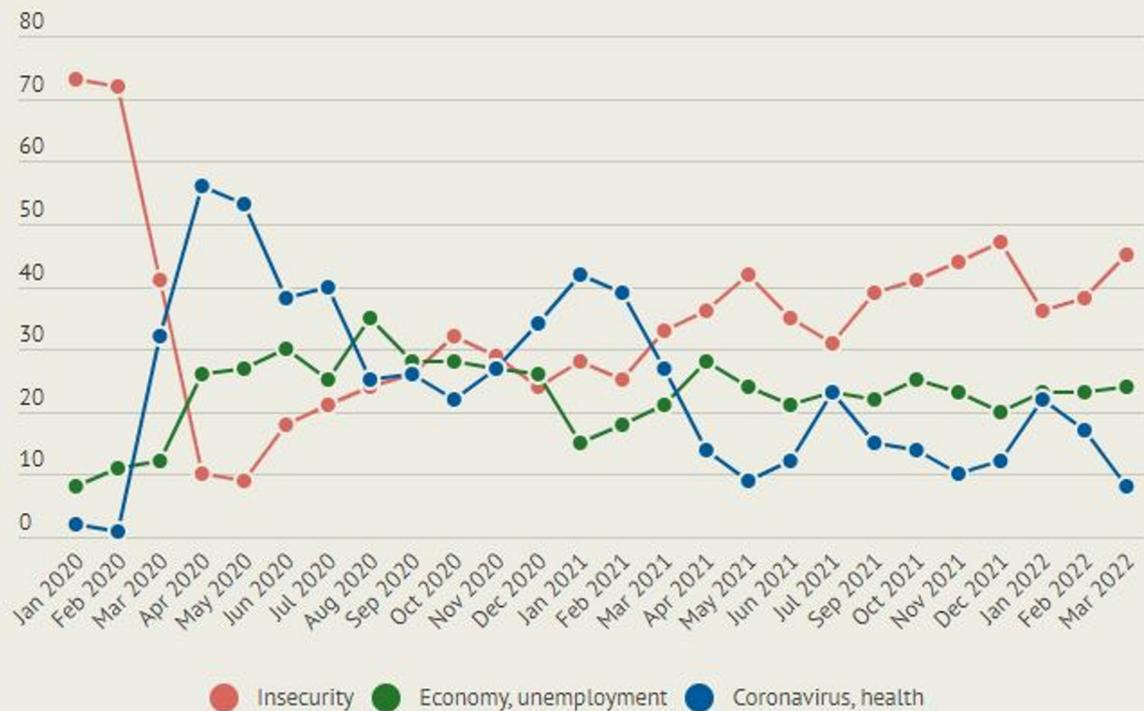
### PERCEPCIÓN SOCIAL SOBRE INSEGURIDAD PÚBLICA A NIVEL NACIONAL SEGÚN SEXO

(Porcentaje)



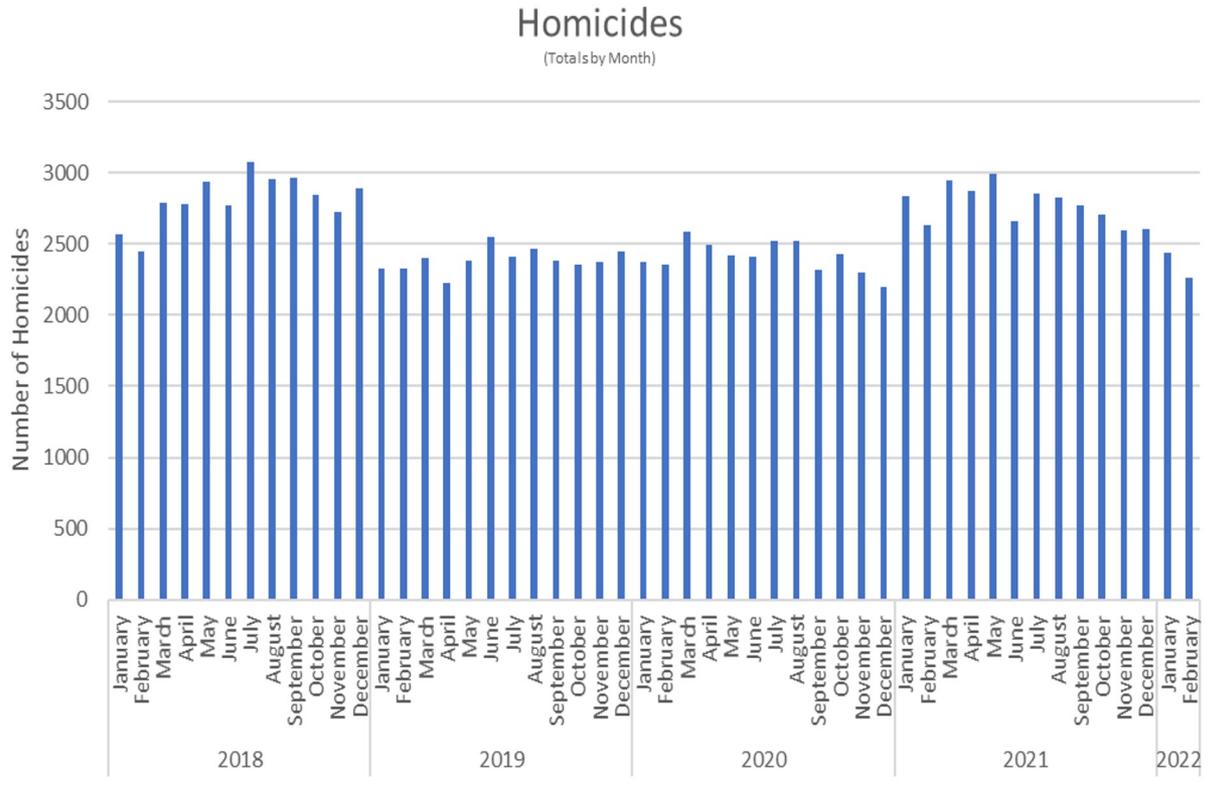
# 3/22 poll: Percentages of Mexicans that see specific issues as the country's principal issues

Insecurity is seen as the top issue, per the [March 2022 poll](#).



- 45% of Mexicans see security as the most important national issue
- Coronavirus and health concerns are at their lowest point since March 2020, at 8%
- Economic and unemployment concerns have held steady between 20%-30%

# Homicides and Violence in Mexico: Crisis Levels



**34,648** homicides in **2019**, a record;  
average **90 homicides a day**.

**2020** slightly down: **34, 515**

**2021** 3% reduction: **33, 308**, but a  
number of other crimes rose.

**Cartels fighting for territory and routes;**  
types of crime expanded and affected more  
states; over 50% homicides in six states.

**\$19-30 billion** to criminal groups from  
**U.S. illegal drug sales**

**Violence cost an estimated 22.5% GDP**  
in 2020.

# Mérida Initiative: AMLO wanted something new

## U.S.-Mexico Merida Program Goals Established 2007

1. Disrupting the operational capacity of **organized crime**.
2. Institutionalizing reforms to sustain the **rule of law** and respect for **human rights** in Mexico.
3. Creating a “**21st Century Border**”.
4. Building strong and resilient **communities**.

**\$3.2 billion** appropriated **since 2008**.

**\$1.6 billion** already spent on training and equipment via over 100 programs to bolster Mexican capacity.

Mexico has spent over **10** times more, but heroin, fentanyl and meth trafficking still massive and violence still high.

Congress provided **\$155 million** in FY 2019, **\$150 million** in FY 2020 and **\$159 million** in FY 2021.

# Law Enforcement & Security Cooperation: 2008-21

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Mérida Initiative Programs &  
Agency-to-Agency Cooperation

Defense Dialogues & Cooperation

Security Coordination Group (est. 2014)

High-Level Security Group (est. 2019)

Cabinet-Level Security Dialogue  
(announced June 2021)

# 2017-2022 Growing Challenges on Illicit Drugs

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- **2017 agreement to comprehensive strategy** on supply and demand for illicit drugs. **Attack entire criminal business network** from means of production, cross-border distribution networks to profit flows and weapons procurement. **Tools:** physical barriers, technology, patrolling, eradication, enhanced cooperation, anti-addiction programs. **Never Implemented.**
- In **2018, AMLO ordered a review**, but did **not agreed to update strategy until October 2021**
- **U.S. concern grew.** December 2019 U.S. citizen **families massacred**; **US threat** to designate cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations sparked progress, but **opioids and meth continue** massive flow northward, drug organizations flourish, US drug overdose deaths surge.
- **Former Defense Secretary's arrest in late 2020 sparked a Mexican law** sharply restricting anti-crime cooperation in Mexico.
- **VP Harris June visit** urged progress. **October High Level Security Dialogue launches** new framework. **Agreed objectives for new Bicentennial Framework in January 2022.**

# New Start: High level Security Dialogue (HLSD)

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- US and Mexican cabinet members agreed to replace Merida with a new **“Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health and Safe Communities”** in October.
- Hammer out a **detailed action agenda by the end of 2021** and then a **3-year action plan**.
  - Investing in public health as related to the impacts of **drug use, supporting safe communities, and reducing homicides and high-impact crimes**.
  - **Reducing transborder crime** by securing modes of travel and commerce, reducing **arms trafficking, targeting illicit supply chains, human trafficking & smuggling**.
  - Pursuing criminal networks by **disrupting illicit financiers** and **strengthening security and justice sectors**.
- **26 joint objectives announced January 31. Much work still to do to produce an action plan that reduces violence and illicit flows.**
- Requires **rebuilding trust** and **bringing criminals to justice**.

# Persistent Challenges



- “Chronic irritants” to bilateral security cooperation continue.
  1. Corruption persists, harms confidence.
  2. Weak enforcement & justice systems.
  3. Human rights violations.
  4. Weapons trafficking southward.
  5. Illicit money flows to Mexico.

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# Trade: NAFTA to USMCA

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# North American Trade

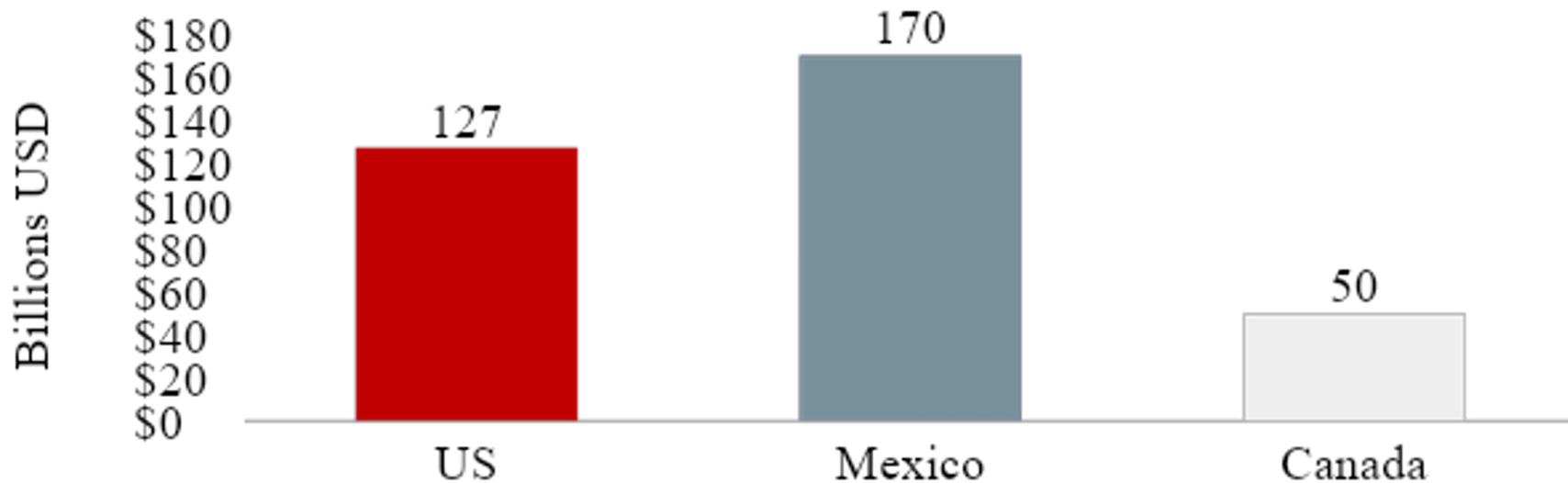
- Canada, Mexico and the U.S. trade **\$1.3 trillion a year.**
- **\$3.6 billion a day**, reflecting **shared production networks.**
- More than US trade with all the **European Union** and **over 2 times** more than with **China.**
- **Over 12 million U.S. jobs** are supported by trade and investment with both neighbors.
- **50 percent** of North American trade is **intermediate goods.**



# North American Trade in Goods and Services



# NAFTA Countries were richer each year due to “extra” trade growth (2014 estimate)



The pure economic payoff for the U.S. estimated at \$400 per person

# Net U.S. Jobs Related to Trade with Mexico & Canada Top 10 states

Trade with Mexico: 4.9 million		
No.	State	Net Number of U.S. Jobs
1	California	+ 572.2
2	Texas	+ 399.5
3	New York	+ 325.5
4	Illinois	+ 198.0
5	Pennsylvania	+ 195.7
6	Ohio	+ 170.9
7	Georgia	+ 158.2
8	North Carolina	+ 150.6
9	New Jersey	+ 141.2
10	Virginia	+ 135.3

Trade with Canada: 7.2 million		
No.	State	Net Number of U.S. Jobs
1	California	+ 898.5
2	Texas	+ 549.4
3	New York	+ 475.9
4	Florida	+ 446.3
5	Illinois	+ 293.7
6	Pennsylvania	+ 282.3
7	Ohio	+ 257.5
8	Georgia	+ 229.2
9	North Carolina	+ 225.8
10	Michigan	+ 209.7

# NAFTA to USMCA (T-MEC, CUSMA)



- The **USMCA (United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement)**, or T-MEC in Mexico, replacing the 1993 **NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)**.
- New agreement signed on **November 30, 2018**.
- A revised agreement reached on **December 10, 2019**.
- U.S. Senate approved and President Trump signed USMCA in January 2020.
- USMCA entered into force **July 1, 2020**. **Implementation underway**.



# Main elements of the USMCA (T-MEC)



- **Rules of Origin, wages and steel for Vehicles to be phased in 2020-2023**
  - 75% of the value of a vehicle to be produced in the region (up from 62.5%); 70% of steel and aluminum.
  - 40%-45% of auto content produced by workers earning over \$16 per hour.
- **Dispute Settlement**
  - Maintains NAFTA's dispute-settlement provision over unfair trade practice allegations (Chapter 19) and state to state differences of treaty interpretation (Ch. 20), but limits investor dispute (ISDR) options to key sectors of U.S.-Mexico investment; eliminates coverage for U.S.-Canada issues. **New "rapid" dispute settlement for labor enforcement.** Eliminated ability of a government to block a dispute settlement panel.
- **Successfully Updated Treatment of IPR, Internet-related issues, Labor, Environment...**
  - Achieved or exceeded most of modernization goals sought, including stronger labor rights provisions, IPR protections, includes ecommerce & data issues, anti-corruption, competitiveness, SMEs, among others.
- **Sunset Clause:** 16-year lifetime for the agreement; review every six years; possible 16-year renewal.
- **Agriculture:** Addresses Canada's dairy restrictions; new commitments biotech & food safety.



# Implementing USMCA



Governments **agreed on procedures to monitor compliance, set up the dispute settlement systems, new committees to work through problems and build cooperation, and much more.**

**COVID 19:** Supply chains & border crossings disrupted; **need to build resilient supply chains & smarter, modern borders to support trade.**

## **USMCA Concerns:**

- **Mexico:** Labor democracy (US cases successful). Undermining **Energy Investments with support for State Owned Energy**. Complaints not honoring agriculture **biotech** commitments.
- **United States:** Mexico and Canada concerned about **Buy America & rules of origin** for cars.
- **Canada:** US complaint on **dairy** commitments; Canada complaint about **softwood lumber**.

**Biggest gain: reduced uncertainty** for businesses and farmers. Seek good implementation and enforcement, plus work on **competitiveness**; SMEs; digital trade, workforce, inclusion.



# New: High Level Economic Dialogue (HLED)

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1. **Revived the HLED set up in 2013** to advance strategic economic and commercial priorities.
2. In **September**, cabinet ministers launch. **Complementary to USMCA**, focused on **cooperative efforts to boost competitiveness** and well-being.
3. **Pillars:**
  - A. **“Building back together”**: encourage resilient and reliable supply chains; renew border **modernization** to better manage and promote efficient trade flows.
  - B. **“Promoting sustainable economic and social development in Southern Mexico and Central America”**: identify mix of programs and tools to get results.
  - C. **“Securing tools for future prosperity”**: promote collaboration on **cross border information and technology systems, including cybersecurity policy**.
  - D. **“Investing in our people”**: Look at ways to encourage **workforce development** including among disadvantaged populations.

# North American Leaders Summit (NALS)

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In **November 2021**, the North American Leaders Summit:

1. **Pandemic Recovery:** update North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI); steps to strengthen vaccine and public health supply chains.
2. **Supply Chains and Economic Recovery:** Create a Trilateral Supply Chain Mechanism; strengthen SME participation, stop **forced labor** imports; hold a trilateral **cyber** meeting.
3. **Environment & Climate:** forge strategy on **reducing** methane & black carbon **emissions**; more **renewable energy** deployment; support **climate** smart agriculture, forestry, water use.
4. **Justice, Diversity, and Migration:** Trilateral action on racial equity and inclusion, violence against indigenous women and girls, and on global equity fund for the LGBTQI+ community.
5. **Migration and Development:** Develop a **regional compact on migration**, promote **pathways for labor mobility** through seasonal work visas and job creation aid. Dialogue on root causes of migration and create a **migrant smuggling and human trafficking task force**.

# Elections & AMLO's Policies/Performance

# Presidential Results: Launches the “4<sup>th</sup> Transformation”



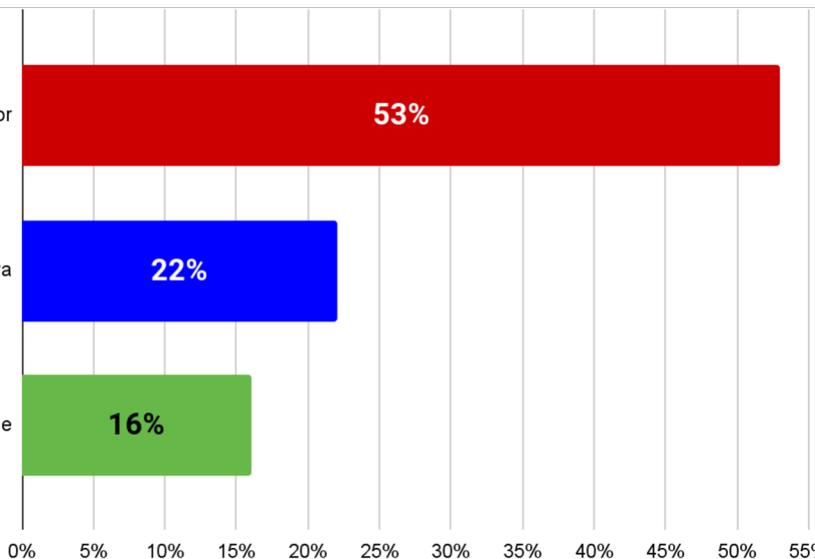
Lopez Obrador



Anaya



Meade



July 2018 voter turnout: 63.5%

**AMLO won 53% of vote.**  
(PAN 22%; PRI 16%)

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's party, Morena, **won big majorities in Congress.**

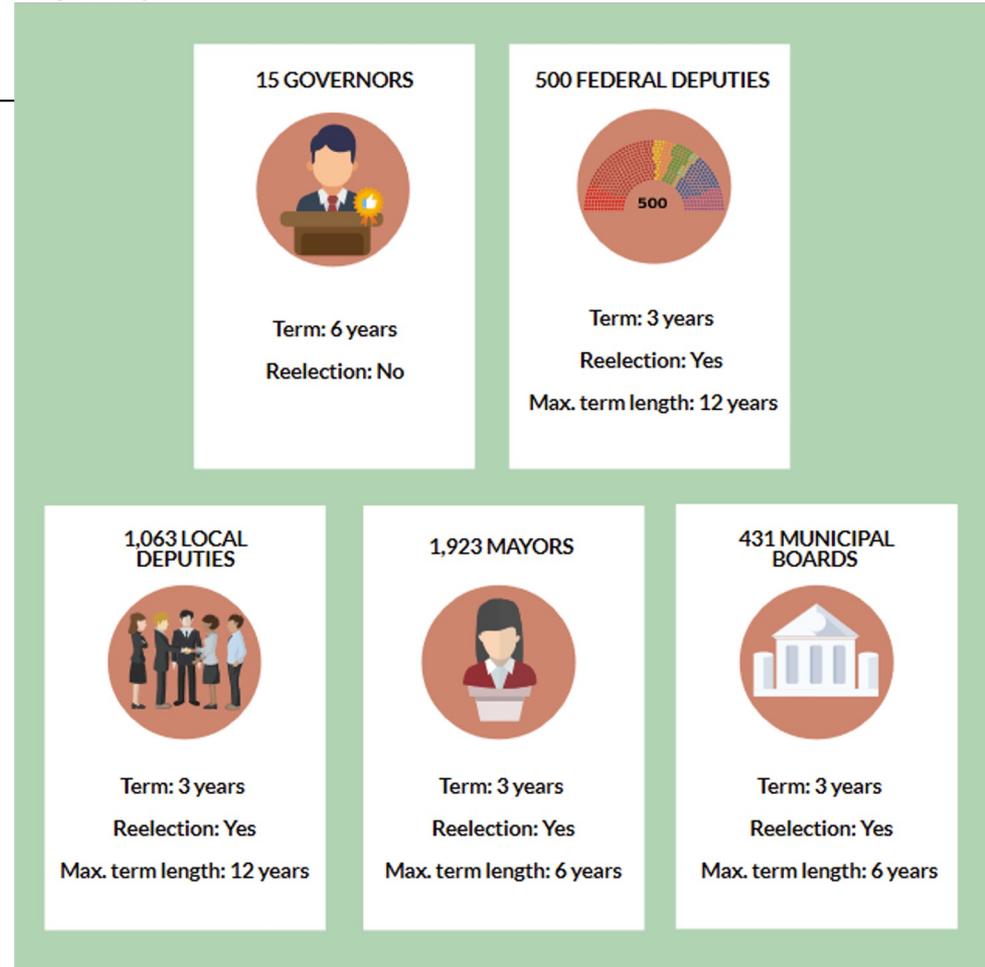
**AMLO** took office December 1.  
**Most powerful President in decades:** few counterweights.

# June 2021 and 2020 Elections

**2021 AMLO's coalition retained a majority but did not win  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Federal Deputies to change the constitution.**

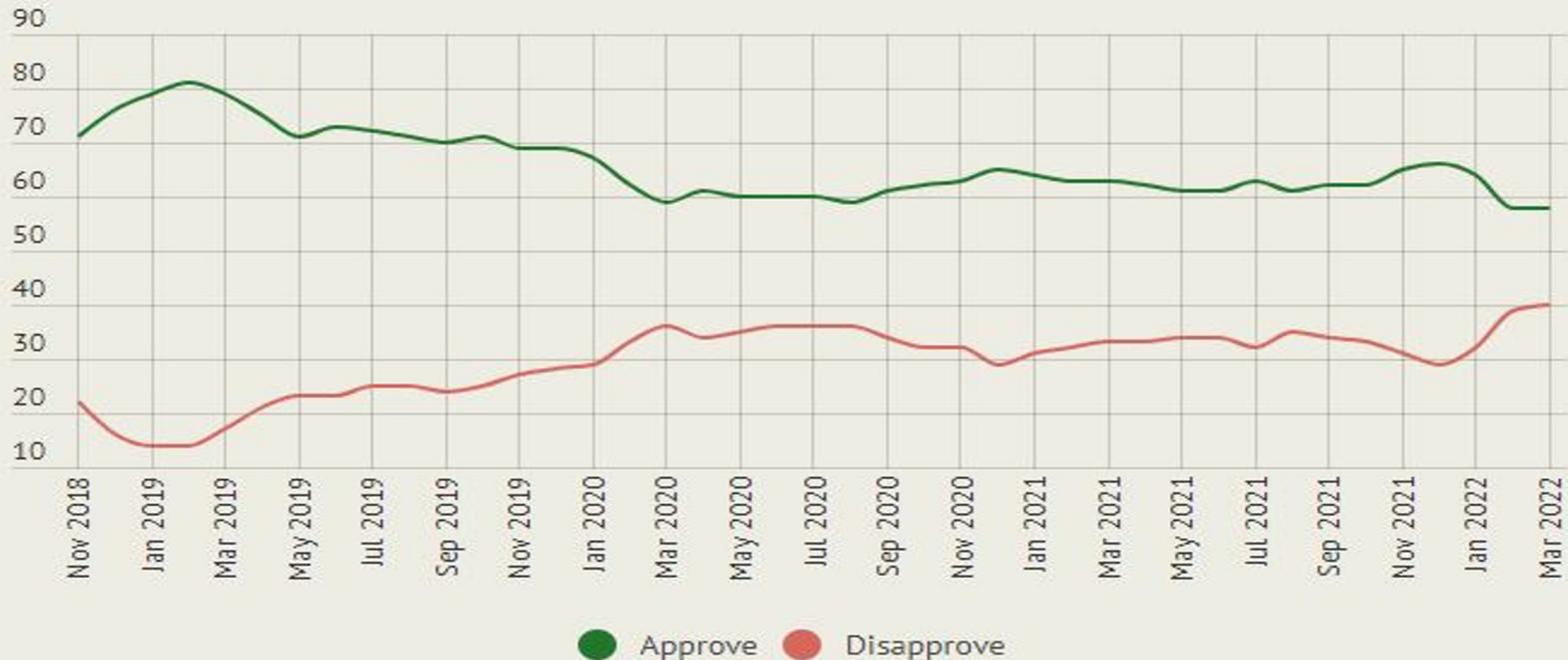
**Morena won big in the states, but only 35-36% of the vote.**

**June 2022 AMLO's coalition won 4 of 6 governorships.**

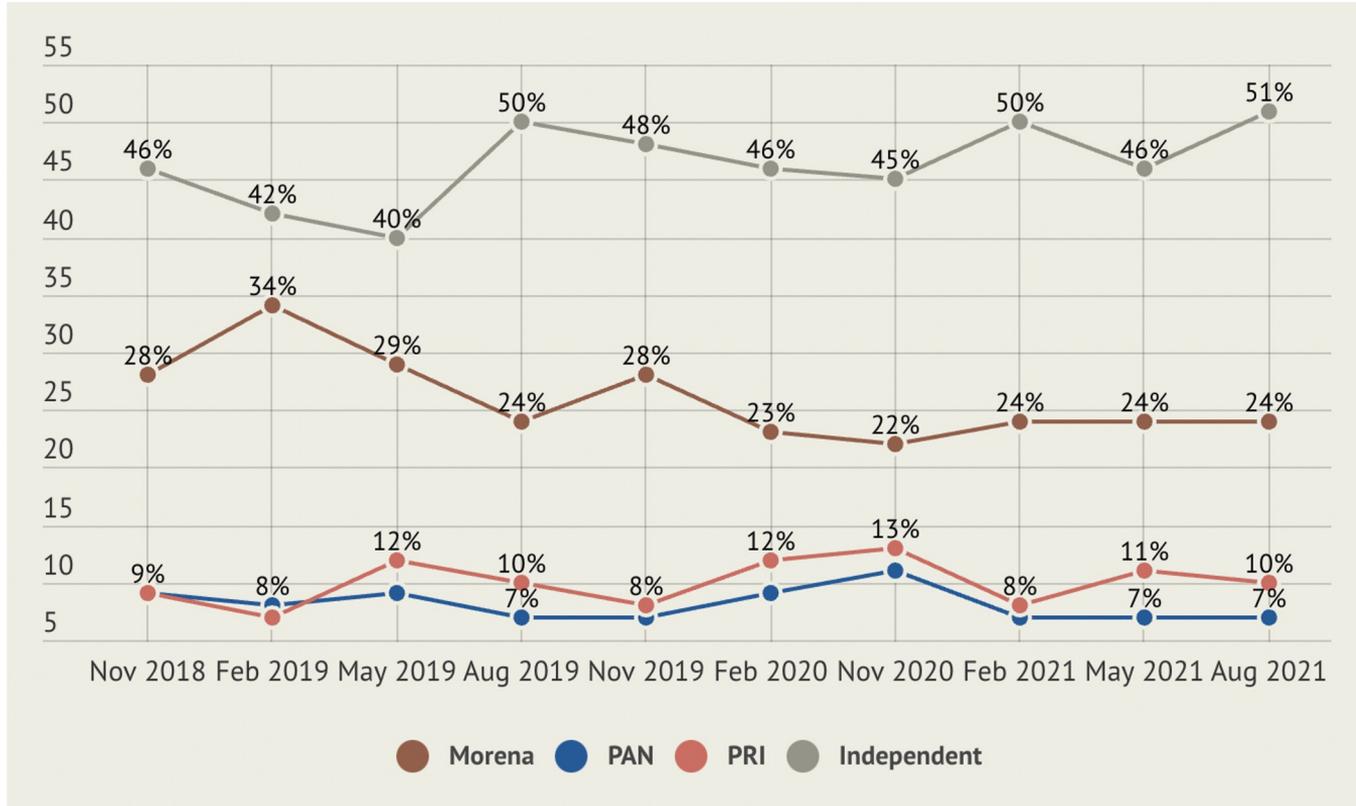


# AMLO APPROVAL Nov 2018-March 2022 (POLL OF POLLS)

This firm's "poll of polls" tracks AMLO's approval by aggregating results from major Mexican pollsters over time. [Review methodology.](#)



# Popularity of Political Parties

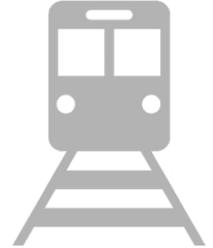


# AMLO Proposals for the Fourth Transformation



## Economic Policy: **Reducing Inequality**

- Focus on **developing Mexico's internal market**; encourage investment.
- Build Infrastructure (e.g. railway, airport, oil refinery).
- Redirect spending to the poor but won't raise taxes or increase debt.
- Lower taxes along U.S. border.
- **Aim to achieve 4% average GDP growth over his six-year term**;
- Develop south of country.



## Energy: **Strengthen Energy Independence and Public Sector role**

- Strengthen national oil company, PEMEX, & electricity authority, CFE.
- Limit gasoline price increases; decrease prices in several years.
- Build new refineries.
- **Reverse** previous energy reform allowing **private sector role**.



# AMLO's Early Actions



## Reduce Poverty:

- Increased **minimum wage**.
- Launched **youth jobs** programs.
- Subsidize inputs for **small farmers; programs benefit indigenous**.
- Provide universal health coverage; starting with **elderly and poor**.



## Attack Corruption and Government Inefficiency:

- Better supervision of public spending; increase penalties for corruption.
- **Cut officials' salaries, perks. Reduce staff and existing programs.**
- Name independent "Fiscal General"; active Financial Crime Unit, pursue corruption investigations.
- **Use direct means to consult "the people."**

## Maintain Trade with US as source for economic growth, jobs and funds for reform

- Secure trade with US via **USMCA**, attract new investment.

## Education for less fortunate:

- Eliminated key parts of Education Reform that alienated teachers' unions.
- Launch new youth scholarships, create new universities.



# Security Proposals and Goals



## Security Proposals:

- End to the war on **drugs** - **“hugs not bullets.”**
- Consider reforms of currently illegal drug production and use.
- Weaken crime’s social base with social, education and jobs programs.
- Provide alternatives to drug cultivation and fuel theft.
- **Generate peace through non-violent methods**, transitional justice and amnesty.
- Establish a Council on Peace Construction; Emphasize human rights.
- Strengthen the judicial system: close wage gaps for employees.
- Expand **National Guard** Officers across 226 regions.
- Aim to **reduce crime rate by 15%**.
- Aim to **reduce homicides and car theft by 50%**.
- Aim to **reduce the public perception of insecurity from 80% to 39.4%**.
- Try to boost World Justice Project’s Rule of Law score from 0.45 to 0.60 by 2024.



# AMLO after three plus years: **Mixed Results**

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- **Popularity**: consistently over 55%.
- **USMCA**: Big help for Mexico's recovery but energy policies worry investors, may violate USMCA.
- **Coronavirus**: deaths very high but under reported, dramatic economic disruptions, many jobs lost; poverty up.
- **Economy**: economic contraction of some 8.2% in 2020; rebounded 5.9% in 2021. OECD estimates 3.3% in 2022. Investors perceive negative environment, e.g., energy reforms and weakening independent regulators.
- **Poverty**: Over 22 percent of population now live on less than \$2 a day, 6% more than 2019. Poverty up to 51%. As of March 2022 only 6 of 32 states have lower levels of labor poverty than before the pandemic.
- **Crime**: homicide, crime and violence levels remain high. US Meth and Fentanyl seizures at border very high.
- **Corruption**: Mexico dropped 3 places in a regional ranking, National Audit Authority has identified serious irregularities, no major convictions; criticism of AMLO family and colleagues.
- **Institutions; Press Freedom**: Criticized for undermining independent regulators and institutions; attacked electoral authorities and the press. Financial Intelligence Unit and FRG attacked opposition figures. Criticized for boosting the military's role in the economy. Increasing criticism for journalists killed by criminal groups.
- **Infrastructure Projects**: Still Controversial Dos Bocas refinery, the Tren Maya under construction, airport criticized.
- **Migrant Numbers**: Still a challenge from Central America, elsewhere and many Mexicans crossing to US.

# Economy, Energy and Environment

# COVID-19, Recession, Recovery, Energy Policies



- **5.9% GDP rebound in 2021.** Mexico barely dodged a recession at the end of 2021. Inflation above 7%. **Estimated 2022 growth 3.3%.**
- Mexican economy **driven by exports to US, record remittances,** but faces **drops in investment,** concerns with government policies, esp. **energy sector.**
- Report from WHO: **could have avoided up to 190,000 deaths.** Approximately 626,000 Covid related deaths in Mexico in 2020 and 2021.
- Mexico's **credit ratings remain in question;** worries on growth, inflation, efforts to expand roles of state-owned PEMEX (oil) and CFE (electricity).
- **IMF recommends reforms:** more public investment, changes to energy sector policies.

# Migration

# U.S. Migration Challenge



## General:

- **1986, 1990, 1996 migration reforms** did not alter the **supply and demand or push and pull factors**.
- **Migrant flows were high from late 1970s** and undocumented migrant numbers grew to **around 2007**.
- **US businesses wanted migrant workers** (not punished); migrants from Mexico and elsewhere sought work.
- **US reforms** by limited **temporary work programs** and **stepped up enforcement; more migrants stayed**.
- **US politics became polarized on migration. Bush (2007) and Obama (2013) era reforms floundered.**

## Obama:

- **Obama tried increased enforcement and to act to help immigrant children with DACA** by Executive Order in 2012. Obama called “deporter in chief;” unable to make asylum, immigration system run more efficiently; e.g. back log in asylum cases, 2014 surge of kids and moms from Central America to border driven by crime and economics.
- **Dealt with 2014 surge by more border enforcement, Mexican enforcement and aid to Central America.**

## Trump:

- **Trump’s increasingly harsh measures reduced numbers but created great human hardships; did not deal with driving forces.** Spent on questionable border wall; sent many to wait for asylum in Mexico; weakened US system.
- **Pandemic** reduced cross border flows and added health concerns as rationale to send people back.

## Biden:

- **Biden faced unprecedented migrant flows** during his first months in office and is **attacked from left and right.**

# Migration: Mexico Needed Player



## Biden Policy

- **Seeks \$4 billion aid to address root causes and governance/corruption** in Northern Triangle (Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala).
- **Seeks closer cooperation with Mexico**, including developing southern Mexico.
- **Seeks broader regional cooperation** to manage and share burdens of caring for those in need; help integrate and resettle elsewhere; **Declaration** signed at **Summit of the Americas** with some programs.
- **Addressing driving forces** in each source country **with better governance, US aid, private investment** & investing in **refugee, border, protection services**.
- Law enforcement cooperation to **reduce smuggling**.
- **Improved US temporary worker programs**: H-2A (seasonal ag workers), H-2B (non-ag)
- **Bolster US asylum system; better infrastructure** to receive and process migrants; reduce backlog.

**Comprehensive US Immigration Reform Unlikely**

# Maintaining a Partnership with Mexico?

# US-Mexico Steps to Regularize Cooperation



## Mexico joins in but asserts independence and lacks capacity

- Vigorous **USMCA** implementation and dispute resolution.
  - Created **High level Economic Dialogue** agreed ( September).
  - Agreed to **High Level Security Dialogue** and **Bicentennial Framework Action Plan (October, Jan.)**.
  - Regular **Migration** dialogue and cooperation.
  - Partner: **missing persons cases, human smuggling and trafficking**.
  - Improve partnership on **health, environment**.
  - **North American Leaders** added 3-way cooperation in 11/21.
- Summit of the Americas:** AMLO skips, but Mexico joins in.

# Key Work Areas for U.S.-Mexico Relations

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## COVID 19 Safe Reopening

- Mitigate, contain and recover from the effects of COVID-19 on trade, tourism & migration.

## Trade and Investment: Implement USMCA, Manage Disputes, Develop HLED.

- **USMCA**: new rules, new mechanisms, new committees; monitor implementation, e.g. labor commitments.
- **Tensions on energy policies** that harm US oil, gas, electricity/renewable energy investors; may violate NAFTA and USMCA.
- Make progress in all four pillars of **HLED, especially resilient supply chains, better border management**

## Border and Migration

- Better manage **migration including away from border**; strengthen migrant services.
- Deepen support for addressing **root causes** of migration; work with Northern Triangle; need help from other countries.

## Drug and other illicit trafficking

- **Strengthen cooperation against cross-border crime** and its deadly effects in both countries.
- **Fentanyl, meth and other seizures up** at border; **drug production & violence up** in Mexico; **Overdose deaths up** in US.
- Overcome negative effects of **new Mexican law greatly restricting anti-drug cooperation**.
- Turn new Framework **dialogue & coordinating mechanism** into a concrete **action plan** with specific, measurable objectives.

## Improve Competitiveness:

- **Enhance economic competitiveness** via **North American Leaders Summit (NALS)** process.

## Rebuild Confidence:

- **Avoid becoming “Distant Neighbors” again; manage domestic politics; rebuild broad, strategic cooperation.**