

## Trump is inventing a conflict with Mexico

### There is no trade and no immigration problem between the US and Mexico

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Based on official US statistics and other US sources this brief document, that simply gathers some data, highlights the following points 0) The US has not an unemployment problem, 1) the US has not a foreign trade problem, 2) the trade deficit with Mexico is minimal, 3) non-us born people living in the US (immigrants) are significantly less likely to be convicted of a crime and finally 4) in recent years there are more US citizens coming to reside in Mexico than Mexican citizens going to reside in the US (the net immigration is now backwards).

The whole “Mexico problem” is an invention of Mr Trump. It remains to see why, for what purposes and who will benefit from this. I will add that, base on these data, this is the most ridiculous time for the US and Mexico to have a conflict.

0) From the New York Times citing official US sources, 06FEB2016:

“Unemployment rate in the US is 4.9% and wages are rising”

([www.nytimes.com/2016/02/06/business/economy/jobs-report-unemployment-january-fed-interest-rates.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/06/business/economy/jobs-report-unemployment-january-fed-interest-rates.html))

This unemployment rate **is near the minimum** of “normal” unemployment rate ranges, according to the federal reserve ([www.federalreserve.gov/faqs/economy\\_14424.htm](http://www.federalreserve.gov/faqs/economy_14424.htm)).

1) A small table I compiled using official US statistics for 2015 (see <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/country/exh19hist.xls>), figures in million USD:

	Balance 2015	B. prop. to US GDP	Exports 2015	Imports 2015	Total trade	% of US trade	Prop. Balance
Brazil	4,182	0.02%	31,651	27,468	59,119	1.58%	7.07%
Canada	-15,547	0.09%	280,609	296,156	576,765	15.38%	-2.70%
China	-367,173	2.16%	116,072	483,245	599,316	15.98%	-61.27%
France	-17,712	0.10%	30,104	47,815	77,919	2.08%	-22.73%
Germany	-74,850	0.44%	49,971	124,820	174,791	4.66%	-42.82%
Hong Kong	30,371	0.18%	37,167	6,796	43,963	1.17%	69.08%
India	-23,340	0.14%	21,452	44,792	66,244	1.77%	-35.23%
Italy	-27,955	0.16%	16,204	44,159	60,363	1.61%	-46.31%
Japan	-68,922	0.41%	62,443	131,364	193,807	5.17%	-35.56%
Korea, South	-28,313	0.17%	43,446	71,759	115,204	3.07%	-24.58%
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>-60,663</b>	<b>0.36%</b>	<b>235,745</b>	<b>296,408</b>	<b>532,153</b>	<b>14.19%</b>	<b>-11.40%</b>
Saudi Arabia	-2,342	0.01%	19,739	22,081	41,820	1.11%	-5.60%
Singapore	10,205	0.06%	28,472	18,267	46,740	1.25%	21.83%
Taiwan	-15,048	0.09%	25,860	40,908	66,768	1.78%	-22.54%
United Kingdom	-1,848	0.01%	56,115	57,962	114,077	3.04%	-1.62%
All other countries	-86,709	0.51%	447,524	534,233	981,757	26.17%	-8.83%
Total:	-745,660	<b>4.39%</b>	1,502,572	2,248,232	3,750,805	100.00%	-19.88%

The foreign trade balance of the US is negative (more imports than exports), however this is only 20% of the total trade (exports + imports) and, more importantly, **is only 4.39% if compared with the US GDP**; I am using a round conservative GDP number of 17,000,000 million USD, that is 17 trillion USD. There not seem to be a substantial foreign trade problem in the US.

2) The trade deficit with Mexico is only 14% of the total trade with that country and, more importantly, **it is only 8% of the total US deficit** ( $100 \times 60,663/745,660 = 8.1\%$ ) **and 0.36% if compared with the US GDP**. The US has a similar trade deficit with Germany and Japan, however the trade deficit with China is 6 times higher than the trade deficit with Mexico. There does not seem to be a particular trade deficit problem with Mexico.

3) A quote from the US chamber of commerce

([www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/documents/files/022851\\_mythsfacts\\_2016\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/documents/files/022851_mythsfacts_2016_report_final.pdf) p. 13):

**“[I]mmigrants are much less likely to be behind bars than native-born Americans.** A study by the American Immigration Council found that, among young men, incarceration rates are lowest for immigrants. This holds true regardless of ethnicity or educational attainment, even for Mexicans, Salvadorans, and Guatemalans who comprise a majority of the undocumented population. In 2010, the incarceration rate for young immigrant men was only 1.6 percent—less than half of the 3.3 percent incarceration rate among young native-born men. [...] A study by the Public Policy Institute of California yielded similar results. The study found that, in 2005, the incarceration rate for foreign-born adults in California was 297 per 100,000—compared to 813 per 100,000 for native-born adults. Moreover, immigrants made up 35 percent of California’s adult population, but only 17 percent of the state prison population.”

Immigrants are not the possible criminal problem in the US. I suggested the reader to look at the full US chamber of commerce report.

4) The net US – Mexico migration **is now backwards**, more Americans are coming to live in Mexico than Mexicans immigrating to the US (legally or illegally). I present two quotes:

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/mexican-immigrants-united-states> :

“Mexico is also no longer the top origin country among the most recent immigrants to the United States. In 2013, China and India overtook Mexico as the most common countries of origin of immigrants who have resided in the United States for one year or less. Furthermore, more Mexican immigrants have returned to Mexico than have migrated to the United States since the end of the 2007-2009 Great Recession, according to a recent report from Pew Research Center [\*]. The decline in Mexican inflows results from a mix of factors including weakened job opportunities in the United States, tougher border enforcement, the long-term decline in Mexico’s birth rates, and the improving Mexican economy.”

[\*] <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2015/11/19/more-mexicans-leaving-than-coming-to-the-u-s/>

[:](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/22/world/americas/for-migrants-new-land-of-opportunity-is-mexico.html?_r=1&)

“More Mexicans Leaving Than Coming to the U.S. Net Loss of 140,000 from 2009 to 2014: **[M]ore Americans have been added to the population of Mexico over the past few years than Mexicans have been added to the population of the United States**, according to government data in both nations. Mexican migration to the United States has reached an equilibrium, with about as many Mexicans moving north from 2005 to 2010 as those returning south.”

Simply, this seems to be the most ridiculous time for the US and Mexico to have a conflict. This seems to be confirmed in the US State department Mexico fact sheet, **dated 27 January 2017**:

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35749.htm> .