



CAFTA-DR Facts

Office of the United States Trade Representative
CAFTA Policy Brief – July 2007

www.ustr.gov

U.S. TRADE WITH THE CAFTA-DR COUNTRIES

TOTAL TRADE

The total volume of U.S. bilateral trade with our six CAFTA-DR partners increased 9.2 percent from 2005 to 2006, from \$35.0 billion to \$38.2 billion.

The picture on intra-regional trade within Central America is even more remarkable: Intra-regional trade among El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua grew 14.7 percent. Guatemala's trade with El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua grew roughly 12 percent, as did El Salvador's trade with Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Nicaragua's intra-regional trade grew roughly 20 percent, as did Honduras's trade with its respective partners.

OVERALL EXPORTS

- The United States posted a surplus in trade in goods with the CAFTA-DR region in 2006 – over \$1 billion.
- U.S. exports to the four countries that implemented the CAFTA-DR in 2006 (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua) grew 18% from 2005.
- U.S. exports to all six countries were at record levels in 2006: U.S. exports reached \$19.6 billion to all the CAFTA-DR countries in 2006, up 16% from 2005. This outpaced the 14.4 % increase in U.S. exports to the rest of the world.

U.S. Exports Up to CAFTA-DR partners

Overall U.S. exports to its CAFTA-DR partners in 2006 were \$19.6 billion, up 16.0 percent from the previous year.

- U.S. goods exports to El Salvador in 2006 were \$2.2 billion, up 16.1 percent from the previous year.
- U.S. goods exports to Guatemala in 2006 were \$3.5 billion, up 23.8 percent from the previous year.
- U.S. goods exports to Honduras in 2006 were \$3.7 billion, up 13.3 percent from the previous year.
- U.S. goods exports to Nicaragua in 2006 were \$752 million, up 20.2 percent from the previous year.

The CAFTA-DR entered into force on March 1, 2007 for the Dominican Republic and has not yet entered into force for Costa Rica; even so, trade with these countries continued to be strong:

- U.S. goods exports to the Dominican Republic in 2006 were \$5.4 billion, up 13.4 percent from the previous year.
- U.S. goods exports to Costa Rica in 2006 were \$4.1 billion, up 14.8 percent.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

- U.S. agricultural exports to all six countries were at record levels in 2006.
- U.S. agricultural exports reached \$2.2 billion to the CAFTA-DR countries in 2006, up 19% from 2005.
- U.S. agricultural exports were up 31% for Honduras, up 20% to Guatemala, up 16% for El Salvador, and up 11% for Nicaragua in 2006 from 2005.

OVERALL IMPORTS

- U.S. imports were \$18.6 billion from the six CAFTA-DR countries in 2006, up nearly 3% from 2005.
- U.S. imports were up 29% from Nicaragua, but down 1.1% from Guatemala, down 6.7% from El Salvador and down 0.8% from Honduras in 2006 from 2005.

AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS

- U.S. agricultural imports from Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Nicaragua were at record levels in 2006.
- U.S. agricultural imports were \$3.1 billion from the CAFTA-DR countries in 2006, up 13% from 2005.
- U.S. agricultural imports were up 28% from Nicaragua and up 0.4% Guatemala, but down 4% from El Salvador and down 1% from Honduras.