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300 palabras: Encouraging Outlook for Mexico and the U.S.

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Economic data reveal an unprecedented situation that underscores the significance of the current Mexico–United States relationship. Just months ahead of the scheduled review of the USMCA, the United States is exporting more to Mexico than to Canada for the first time, whether as an exporter or an importer, and Mexico has consolidated its position as the United States’ leading trading partner.

As some economists have suggested, this development is likely attributable to the high tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on products originating from Canada, while, as a result of the work of Mexico’s President, Claudia Sheinbaum, a climate of tariff exemptions and deferrals has emerged, triggering this shift in the trade balance.

During the period from January through August, 2025, the United States exported USD 1.4 trillion in goods, of which USD 225.6 billion were destined for Canada, while USD 226.4 billion were shipped to Mexico. In 2024, the figures were different: the United States exported USD 349.4 billion to Canada, whereas Mexico received just USD 334 billion.

The Mexico–United States relationship is neither, nor has it historically been, a smooth or complication-free pairing; nevertheless, both countries have identified institutional and economic mechanisms to facilitate and capitalize on each other’s strengths and opportunities for the benefit of North America as a region.

Mexico contributes to this relationship its geographic proximity, a solid logistics infrastructure, competitive labor costs, and a growing pool of skilled labor, as well as the fact that, contrary to a long-standing pejorative reputation, Mexican men and women are distinguished by their enthusiasm, loyalty, and strong work ethic. It is no coincidence that the widely held belief that Mexicans are hardworking stands in stark contrast to the outdated stereotype of the Mexican resting beside a cactus.

Looking ahead to 2026, there is reason to expect that the bilateral relationship will be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of both countries.