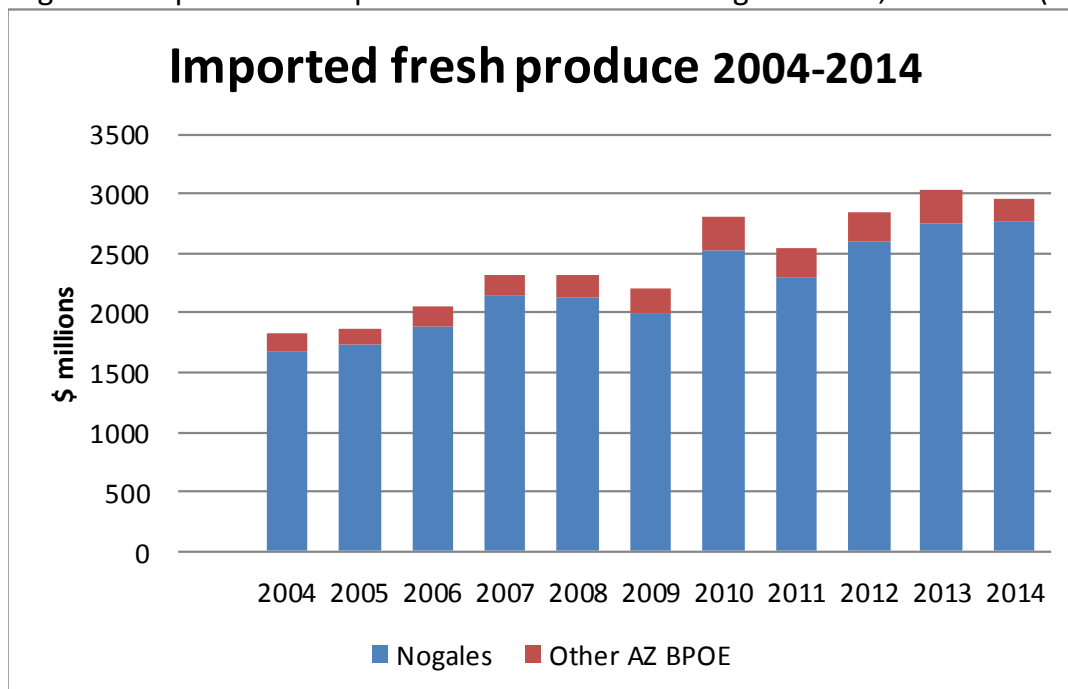


ARIZONA & MEXICO

KEY ECONOMIC FACTS

- Mexico's economy is the 15th largest economy in the world and is projected to become the 6th largest by 2050. It is Arizona's single largest international trading partner.
- Trans-border communities are a very important resource for the United States and Mexico, but particularly for the border states like Arizona and Sonora. These communities are important sources of cross-border cooperation and development. Trans-border communities play an instrumental role in bridging the significant cultural, institutional, and political differences that exist between Mexico and the United States and open the door for numerous opportunities for both nations.
- Historically, Arizona has played a very important role in the trade of fresh produce between Mexico and the United States; particularly in the flow of winter produce. This trade goes back more than 100 years ago when Mexican farmers, mostly from the state of Sinaloa, looked north to export tomatoes and other fresh produce to the thriving U.S. market.
- The level of fresh produce exports from Mexico to the United States rose exponentially with the implementation of NAFTA and displaced some products traditionally coming from Europe and other regions.

Figure 1. Imported fresh produce from Mexico through Arizona, 2004-2014 (dollar value)



Source: AZMEX Economic Indicators, <https://azmex.eller.arizona.edu>

BPOE = Border Points of Entry

- Arizona’s top manufacturing exports to Mexico are: computer and electronic products, electrical equipment, machinery (excluding electrical), transportation equipment, and primary metal manufacturing.
- Travel and tourism continue to be one of the most important export industries driving Arizona’s economy. Spending by Mexican visitors alone ranks among the top five export industries.
- On an average day, 65,000 Mexican residents come to Arizona to work, visit friends and relatives, recreate, and shop.
- Mexican residents spend over \$7,350,000 daily in Arizona’s stores, restaurants, hotels, and other businesses.
- About 55 percent of all visitor parties enter by car across the U.S.-Mexico border and almost 45 percent are walkers. Less than one percent of all Mexican visitor parties to Arizona fly into the state.
- Three Arizona malls – Arizona Mills Mall in Metro Phoenix, Tucson Mall, and Park Place Mall in Tucson – are the most popular shopping destinations. Among the non-mall stores, Wal-Mart is the most popular in every destination city. Casinos in Tucson and Phoenix are the most popular attractions; the zoo and parks are the second most visited attraction.

Exhibit 2: Merchandise Exports to Mexico as a Share of State GDP, 2014

