

Introduction

On January 1, 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United States, Canada, and Mexico entered force to create a trilateral trading bloc in North America. The agreement superseded the original Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement between the U.S. and Canada. NAFTA seeks to liberalize restrictions on trade among the three countries. Since its entry into force, NAFTA has eliminated most tariff and non-tariff barriers for trade and investment between its three member countries. NAFTA aims to promote the conditions of free competition in order to increase market access and investment opportunities within the free trade area.

Number of member countries: 3

Region(s): North America

Headquarters: Ottawa, Canada; Mexico City, Mexico; Washington D.C., United States

Composition: Trilateral

Coverage: Goods & Services

Signed: December 17, 1992

Entry into force: January 1, 1994

Web Site: <http://www.naftanow.org/>

Member Countries

Canada	United States
Mexico	

History

December 17, 1992 - NAFTA is signed by U.S. President George H.W. Bush, Mexican President Carlos Salinas, and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

1994 - NAFTA takes effect.

December 9, 1994 - At the Miami Summit, the three signatories of NAFTA officially invite Chile to become a contractual party of the agreement.

April 1, 2001 - Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, U.S. President George W. Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox agree to establish the North American Energy Working Group (NAEWG) to give regional attention to energy issues and enhance trilateral cooperation. The Group is managed by the three federal Energy secretaries and ministry.

2008 - All tariffs between the three countries are eliminated.

2017 - Canada, the US, and Mexico are working on renegotiating the agreement in an attempt to redefine their economic relationships. The process involves several rounds of negotiation and is expected to take another year until the agreement is rewritten.

