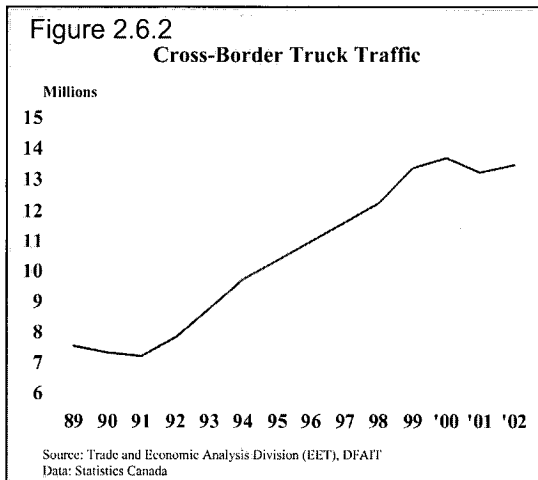
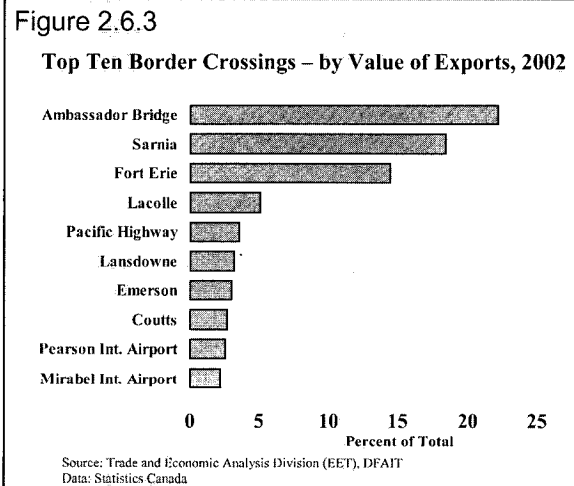


With the value of Canada's trade with the U.S. increasing dramatically over the 1990s and with much of this shipped by truck, there was also an explosion in cross-border truck travel. As can be seen on the accompanying graph, truck traffic increased at Canada-U.S. border crossings by 78.9 percent, from 7.5 million in 1989 to 13.5 million in 2002.



Measured by value, a whopping 63.7 percent of Canadian exports to the U.S. pass through only five border crossings. This represents \$220.5 billion worth of exports – more than \$600 million per day! More trade crosses the Ambassador bridge, between Windsor, Ontario, and Detroit, Michigan, than takes place between Germany and France, the two largest members of the E.U. Measured by the number of trucks, these five border crossings account for 58.5 percent of all border crossings – 21.9 thousand trucks per day.

Transborder truck traffic increased at an annual average rate of 13.3 percent between 1990 and 2000, three times greater than domestic truck traffic.¹⁴ This has put a tremendous strain on border infrastructure which is compounded by the fact that the majority of Canada-U.S. trade by road passes through a relatively small number of border crossings.¹⁵



¹⁴ Measured in tonne-kilometres, Transportation in Canada 2001, Annual Report.

¹⁵ Cross-border car traffic fell substantially over this period and, to some extent, has off-set the increase in truck traffic. Refer to the report on "The Impact of Increased Border Security on Canada's Trade and Investment" for more information on passenger vehicle traffic volumes.