HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BORDER REGION

We believe that the challenges and opportunities across the Border region demand informed civic participation, strong leadership and cross-border understanding, and collaboration. Our series of Border Briefs highlights issues and offers critical insight to drive new solutions and foster greater action for the Border region. The key takeaways below offer a glimpse into the challenges and opportunities that exist. Scan the QR code below or visit borderpartnership.org to read the full brief.

Key Takeaways:



150 million Most U.S.-Mexican bilateral trade crosses the land Border. In 2022, there were about 150 million northbound crossings of individuals through the Border ports of entry.

- The Border is a unique economic, social, and cultural region with **distinct natural and human subregions** situated along the international boundary.
- Successive Spanish, Mexican, and U.S. colonial regimes sequentially influenced Border development. Remarkably, numerous Native American borderlands cultures survived this combined onslaught and are **redefining their roles in contemporary borderlands society.**
- A succession of **economic booms from the mid-19th century on created the present-day borderlands.** All brought flows of investment and migrants to the region, creating a dynamic economy, rapid population growth, and the emergence of densely populated binational metropolises.
- The North American Free Trade Agreement and its successor the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement provided a **secure framework for bilateral flows of trade and investment** and in early 2023, Mexico became the largest trading partner of the United States.
- Enduring **xenophobia against Latin American immigrants** together with the events of September 11, 2001, shifted U.S. Border policy priorities away from development and toward a security regime imposed by the national government on Border communities.
- The continued inefficiency of ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico Border imposes a huge **economic and social cost on Border communities** and on the two countries.
- Border realities have **evolved beyond the ability of existing federal institutions in both countries** to provide efficient governance for the binational Border region that meets local Border community and national requirements.

U.S.-MEXICO BORDER PHILANTHROPY PARTNERSHIP

The U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership is made up of more than 400 members from academia, business and corporate entities, government, philanthropy, and nonprofit organizations spanning all regions of the U.S. and Mexico. Together, we share a common vision and commitment for a thriving border region. Visit www.borderpartnership.org to learn more.

Read the full brief: