One of the greatest overseas business opportunities is technically only over a river.

The U.S.'s second-largest export market lies just across the Rio Grande. Mexico is home to a growing middle class and a burgeoning trillion-dollar economy. From being geographically desirable for companies wanting to keep manufacturing close to home to having a population of over 124 million potential customers — despite some business uncertainty — Mexico is not a country to be overlooked.

Mexico is, however, a country that needs to be understood. From regulations to trade agreements, being a part of the nearly $1.6 billion in cross-border commerce that takes place between the U.S. and Mexico daily can have a bit of a learning curve. As the U.S. administration looks to revisit existing trade deals and forge new agreements, modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a pact between the U.S., Mexico and Canada, is the first priority. NAFTA renegotiation is a chance to modernize an agreement that is now a quarter-century old, and to better reflect the realities of 21st century commerce by taking time, cost and complexity out of trade. UPS is working with the new administration and Congress to highlight the importance of enhanced overseas market access for our customers of all sizes.

UPS is one of the world’s largest customs brokers. We know how to get your products to and from Mexico because we’ve been doing business there for over 25 years. We cover the entire country and can provide supply chain solutions to all of Mexico’s diverse markets. Whether your needs involve customs clearance, trade management or import/export technologies, UPS delivers more than just packages — we deliver logistics.

Let this guide be your playbook for building up or expanding your business into Mexico. You’ll find all the information, resources and compliance expertise you need to eliminate any guesswork from targeting customers south of the border. Best of all, you’ll find that you’re not alone in this endeavor because when you choose UPS, you get a global logistics partner.
UPS scores with the most delivery options to or from any corner of Mexico. And with coverage of every postal code on either side of the border, our true end-to-end service means there’s never been a better time to establish or expand your presence in this vital trade lane. Add to that reliable on-time transport, customs compliance, visibility and the complete protection of your shipments every step of the way, and UPS has the options and logistics to help your business rack up victory upon victory.

How to achieve all your shipping GOOAALLLS.

UPS® Export Services to Mexico (as of June 2018)

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<td>2 days* — end of day</td>
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<td>4–8 days**</td>
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<td>4–8 days**</td>
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Package Transportation

- UPS Worldwide Express Plus®
- UPS Worldwide Express®
- UPS Worldwide Express Freight®
- UPS Worldwide Saver®
- UPS Worldwide Expedited®
- UPS® Standard

Billing Options

- Bill shipper
- Bill receiver
- Bill third party
- Split duty and VAT

Optional Services

- UPS Broker of Choice® — Onsite or Offsite
- UPS Paperless® Invoice
- UPS Returns®
- UPS Trade Direct®
- World Ease®

Freight Transportation

- UPS WorldWide Expedited™ Air Freight
- UPS WorldWide Expedited™ Ground Freight
- UPS® Standard LTL
- UPS® Standard Truckload
- Ocean Freight: Full container, Less-Than-Container load (LCL), Preferred LCL

UPS Import Services from Mexico

- UPS Worldwide Express Plus™
- UPS Worldwide Express®
- UPS Worldwide Express Freight®
- UPS Worldwide Expedited®
- UPS Worldwide Saver®
- UPS® Standard

Package Transportation

- Bill shipper
- Bill receiver
- Bill third party

Optional Services

- UPS Broker of Choice® — Onsite or Offsite
- UPS Import Control®
- UPS Returns®
- UPS Trade Direct®
- World Ease®

Freight Transportation

- UPS Worldwide Expedited™ Air Freight
- UPS Worldwide Expedited™ Ground Freight
- UPS® Standard LTL
- UPS® Standard Truckload
- Ocean Freight: Full container, Less-Than-Container load (LCL)

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Concentration on tariff-free manufacturing for export

Manufacturing: Including refined metals, metal

Agriculture: Known as the “orange belt”

Growing tech sector with significant government

Oil, natural gas refinery, mining

Agriculture, Food Processing and Tequila

Tourism

Agriculture: Known as Mexico’s breadbasket

Manufacturing: Including electronics, textiles, plastics,

automobile, aerospace and processed foods

One of the richest cities in the world,

Mining: Lead, Zinc, Gold, Silver

Other Industries: Automotive, Aerospace, Agriculture, Fishing

Tourism

Home to 95% of Mexico’s coal reserves

Tourism: Many popular beach resorts

Water Purification (state supplies 35%

Petrochemical: Major industry in south

Handicrafts, especially ceramics

Major oil & gas industry

Manufacturing (maquiladora), including automobile

Manufacturing: Including major automotive and

Cosmopolitan culture and workforce

Agriculture: heavy rainfall and fertile soils

Oil refinery, mining

Mining: One of the biggest producers of minerals

Highly industrialized, with high per-capita GDP

Tourism (Cancún is located here)

Maquiladoras: Primarily in north

Manufacturing: Including automotive, aerospace and processed foods

(Against) includes construction materials, textiles, aerospace, auto parts and beverages

Tourism

(95% of Mexico’s coal reserves)

Tourism

Building Materials

Automotive Parts

Building Materials & Services

- Agribusiness
- Automotive
- Consumer Electronics
- Environmental: Water Purification Plants, Desalination Plants
- Tourism
- Chemicals
- Textiles
- Clothing
- Mining
- Oil & Gas Production
- Metal Products
- Plastic Materials/Resins
- Technology
- Food and Beverage

- Business and Agriculture
- Manufacturing (maquiladora): Electronics, Automobile and Aerospace Components
- Mining: Lead, Zinc, Gold, Silver
- Agriculture, Livestock, Dairy and Wine
- Manufacturing: Including food processing, textiles, aeronautics, machinery, metallic products and chemicals
- Highly industrialized, with high per-capita GDP
- Industries include construction materials, aeronautics, bakery, banking and brewing
- Agriculture: Known as the “orange belt”
- Growing tech sector with significant government involvement to attract investment
- Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry
- Mining: Including calcite, marble, calcium oxide, onyx and lime
- Manufacturing: including major automotive and agribusiness corporations
- Tourism
- High tech: including electronics and cybernetics
- Tech industry and education centered on Guadalajara (see page 4)
- Agriculture, Food Processing and Tequila
- Handicrafts, especially ceramics
- Manufacturing: Including refined metals, metal products, food and paper products, chemicals and beverages
- Other Industries: Finance, Tourism, Construction and Agriculture
- Manufacturing: Including automotive, pharmaceutical, processed food
- Thermonuclear (two plants)
- Oil refining, mining
- Agriculture: Known as Mexico’s breadbasket
- Fishing: Second-largest fleet in country
- Desalination and water purification plants
- Tourism (Cancún is located here)
- Maquiladoras: Apparel, Consumer Goods

Sources:
Wikipedia.com; Encyclopedia Britannica; CIA World Factbook;

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Going over the border.

Knowing what to expect when doing business across the U.S.-Mexico border is the first step in growing a lasting, fruitful relationship with your future customers and colleagues down south. To get you started, here are a few insights on productivity, opportunity and protocol for getting your business in and out of Mexico's diverse markets. To further assist you, UPS has also teamed up with the U.S. Commercial Service (part of the International Trade Administration) to provide assistance in finding the customers and developing the export strategies best suited for your business.

**Duty Savings**

**MAQUILADORA**

Duties made simple. No, seriously.

A foreign company receives special tax breaks from the Mexican government when establishing a factory in Mexico to produce goods for export back to their home country. Also known as a maquiladora or maquila, the term was established in the 1960s when the Maquiladora Program was initiated to enhance the border economy of the U.S. and Mexico. The maquila industry manufactures everything from clothing to automobiles to airplane components.

Maquiladoras have attracted foreign companies because of their various tax benefits, skilled labor, proximity to large markets, and ultimately lower costs. The country has uniquely positioned itself as a prime nearshore destination for organizations that produce consumer goods. Mexico’s rapidly growing workforce maintains the technical skills to produce quality products at a fraction of the cost spent in other countries, such as the U.S.

*Read the full article here. ➔*


**Opportunities**

**CROSS-BORDER**

Major sectors offer major potential.

Almost $1.6 billion in goods and services crosses between the U.S. and Mexico every day for more than $580 billion in trade a year. In addition, Mexico is the 15th-largest economy in the world with a stable, diverse market available for many U.S. products. Key sectors including telecommunications and energy offer new opportunities based on the country’s major economic reforms. With 44 percent of the population considered middle class and the median age in Mexico being 28, great potential for cross-border commerce continues.

*Learn more here. ➔*


**High Tech**

**GUADALAJARA**

Mexico’s Silicon Valley offers growing opportunities.

One of Mexico’s most important economic centers, Guadalajara is known as the the Mexican Silicon Valley. The region offers 12 universities with an endless supply of talent, and investment in infrastructure continues to grow, attracting both tech start-ups and established enterprises. There are more than 100,000 engineering and manufacturing jobs in Guadalajara, making it ideal for high-tech nearshoring.

*Explore opportunities here. ➔*

Source: [https://www.inc.com/james-paine/should-you-relocate-your-startup-to-mexico.html, June 2018](https://www.inc.com/james-paine/should-you-relocate-your-startup-to-mexico.html, June 2018)
There are few things more gratifying than learning how to pronounce “Oaxaca.”

It’s pronounced “wah-HA-ka,” and as pleasant as it is to say the name of that Mexican state, it’s even more satisfying to do business there. Sometimes it’s the small things that make a difference, which is why we are here to help make logistics easier. Use the information below to get started with things like paperwork and customs information, but know that we are also available to answer any specific questions. After all, when UPS is your shipping partner, our expertise becomes your expertise.

### Essential Paperwork

Select the links below to access the forms you need.

- **U.S. Export Forms: from the U.S. to Mexico**
  - Commercial Invoice — Three signed copies required unless using UPS Paperless® Invoice.
  - NAFTA Certificate of Origin or U.S. Certificate of Origin (when applicable)
  - Electronic Export Information (for any one commodity line level with a value over US $2,500 or for any licensable shipment at any value)
  - U.S. Export Power of Attorney (POA) (when applicable)
  - Packing List

- **U.S. Import Forms: from Mexico to the U.S.**
  - Commercial Invoice — Three signed copies required unless using UPS Paperless™ Invoice.
  - NAFTA Certificate of Origin (when applicable)
  - U.S. Import Power of Attorney and Bond (when applicable)
  - Packing List

To learn more about how to complete these forms, download this detailed reference guide. Find and search all international forms here.

### Prohibited or Restricted Commodities

In addition to the commodities that UPS prohibits to all countries served (listed here), it is prohibited to ship the following commodities to Mexico.

- Bicycles and Bicycle Parts
- Used Electrical Items
- Forged or Counterfeit Items
- Personal Effects/Used Personal Items
- Products Made in Iran

Complete list of prohibited items to Mexico here.

### Special Clearance Requirements

- Charitable Donations
- Consumables
- Other Shipment Types: e.g., powders, liquids or gases
- Samples
- Solid Wood Packing Materials
- Temporary Import
- Toys for Children under Three Years of Age
- USDA Shipments
- Warranty Shipments

For details, search Special Clearance Requirements here.

### Anti-dumping

The Mexican government discourages dumping of goods into their market. To discourage this, they have established anti-dumping duties charged on specific products (e.g., textiles) from a particular country, especially China. You can find a list of commodities from the “diario oficial” (official document). Listed commodities must have an original Certificate of Origin; otherwise, anti-dumping duties will be assessed. The exact duty varies depending on the merchandise.

For details, search Import Documentation here.

### Unique Customs Info

Use the following information to help ensure that your shipments are compliant with Mexico’s customs requirements:

- **Value Added Tax (IVA):** Mexican customs collects a value-added tax (IVA) from the importer on foreign transactions upon entry of the merchandise into Mexico. IVA is 16% countrywide.

- **Import Value Limits to Mexico:**
  - De minimis value: private and commercial shipments — US $50
  - When you know and understand de minimis value, you can plan accordingly (always within the guidelines and regulations). For example, you may want to consider more frequent shipping (every day vs. once a week) if the shipments qualify as de minimis (US $50 and under in value). In this way, you can more quickly respond to your customer while also minimizing duty. Please note that not all commodities are subject to de minimis even though they may be under US $50 in value.
  - Low-value shipments valued at US$300.00 or less are cleared as informal in a consolidated entry.
  - All non-document shipments may be assessed duty, tax or both, regardless of the shipment value.
  - Formal Entry: Goods more than US $1,000 for businesses or more than US $5,000 for individuals require a formal import. The importer must be registered with the Mexican government and additional documentation is required (applies to UPS Worldwide Express®, UPS Worldwide Expedited®, UPS® Standard shipments and freight offerings; see www.sat.gob.mx).

### Prepayment of Duties and Taxes Online

A new service for consignees of cross-border shipments to prepay duties and taxes online prior to delivery for any package that is cleared by UPS brokerage. This service is available from the U.S., or any export country, to Mexico and 15 other destination countries when UPS is the broker.

### UPS Paperless® Invoice

UPS Paperless® Invoice simplifies your paperwork by eliminating the need for paper commercial invoices. It allows you to integrate order and shipment processing electronically, and it reduces customs holds by streamlining the customs clearance process through transmitting information digitally.

Learn more about UPS Paperless® Invoice here.
You prepare your shipment. We’ll deliver to an entire country.

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### Online Tools

Use the convenient links below to help you with your shipping needs.

- Calculate Time and Costs: Find delivery dates, time and shipping costs for UPS® Services.
- Days of Operation: Find UPS-observed holidays in Mexico.
- Import/Export Country Regulations: Find country-specific facts and requirements that may impact your international shipment.
- UPS Import Control®: Take control of your inbound international shipments.
- UPS Paperless® Invoice: Speeds up the customs clearance process and eliminates the need for paper commercial invoices by transmitting data electronically.
- UPS’s Quantum View Manage®: Get up-to-date information about shipments you send or those you’re expecting from one Web-based format.
- UPS Shipping Systems: Compare solutions side-by-side to see which one works best for you.
- UPS TradeAbility®: A suite of Web-based tools to help companies manage and track their international trade.

### UPS Cost Definitions

UPS offers a variety of billing options to fit your business:

**Options**

- Charges can be billed to the shipper, receiver or a third-party payee.
- Charges for international shipping typically include freight, duties and taxes.
- Customers using UPS’s automated shipping systems can choose to have the shipping charges billed to one party and duties and taxes to the other. Or, via the Split Duty VAT (SDV) option, customers can bill the freight and duty to one party and the tax/VAT to another.*

Here are some of the many UPS international billing options you may choose from:

- Shipper pays shipping costs; receiver pays duties and taxes.
- Receiver pays all charges (also referred to as “Freight Collect”).
- Shipper pays all charges (also referred to as “Delivery Duty Paid” or “Free Domicile”).
- Shipper pays shipping charges; a third party (could be in another country) pays the duties and taxes.

Note: A “Duties and Tax Forwarding Surcharge”* is applied whenever the shipper requests that the duties and taxes be billed to a payor outside the destination country. The third party’s UPS account number is required.

Unless otherwise indicated, shipping charges are billed to the shipper’s UPS account number, and the consignee or receiver pays duties and taxes.

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### Customs Clearance Classification

Use this glossary to help you understand how the items you ship are defined by Mexico customs. This will help ensure a speedy clearance process for all your deliveries.

**Document Shipment**

A shipment generally containing written, typed or printed communication of no commercial value. Document shipments are usually considered non-dutiable and generally do not require export documentation (commercial invoice, etc.).

**Personal Effects/Used Personal Items**

Personal effects are used items intended for the consignee’s personal use rather than for distribution, business maintenance or wholesale/retail sale. Examples are clothing, used CDs, personal grooming items, a suitcase etc. Items must be listed in a letter indicating a “home move” to the Ministry of Economy.

**Samples**

A low-value commodity that essentially has no commercial value. For goods to qualify as a sample they must be mutilated or marked to render them not suitable for commercial use.

**Non-Document/Dutiable**

Any commodity not meeting the document qualifications of Mexico. Non-documents cannot be shipped in UPS Letter envelopes.

**Non-Dutiable**

Goods that, due to their nature and/or value, are considered exempt from customs duty, usually based on value, weight or quantity.

**NAFTA Information**

Tariffs and quotas were eliminated on most products made in the U.S., Mexico and Canada under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). If your product qualifies, use the “NAFTA Certificate of Origin” form.

For more information on NAFTA rules and regulations specific to Mexico, visit [here](ups.com).
Preparation and success go hand-in-hand. Not to be confused with *mano a mano*. 

“Hand-in-hand” means synergy. *Mano a mano* translates literally to “hand-to-hand,” and those are fighting words. We use these very similar idioms to illustrate a point: There can be a very fine line between being properly prepared and having accidental delays. Fortunately, UPS makes it easy to be prepared. Use the last bit of information below to help gain further insights into doing business in Mexico, but also know that you can count on UPS to help you navigate your way throughout this prolific market.

**LABELING REQUIREMENTS**

Understanding labeling starts with labeling that can be understood.

Mexico has specific package and labeling regulations for all imported goods from textiles to food. By following these labeling regulations, U.S. exports can avoid problems such as delays in entry, monetary penalties or confiscation on entry and removal from the market after entry. Products intended for retail sale in Mexico must bear a label in Spanish prior to their importation to Mexico. Products that must comply with commercial and sanitary Mexican technical regulations (Normas Oficiales Mexicanas, or NOMs) must follow the guidelines as specified in the applicable NOM.

[Learn more](https://www.export.gov/article?id=Mexico-Labeling-Marking-Requirements).

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

U.S. trademarks and patents are not Mexican trademarks and patents.

With Mexico a member of the Madrid Protocol, trademark filings are easier. One trademark registration application with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office allows for simultaneous filings in up to 84 countries, including Mexico.

The Department of Commerce provides small- and medium-sized U.S. companies one hour of free legal advice for the “SME IP Advisory Program” through the American Bar Association.


**COMAU GROUP SUCCESS STORY**

Freight, robotics and complex brokerage. Are we the only ones getting excited here?

Giving business insights on Mexico is one thing. Putting them into practice is another, but that’s just what UPS did for Comau Group. Faced with manufacturing needs that ran from Detroit to Mexico City, this world leader in sustainable automation turned to UPS to help streamline many of its operations from supply chain to logistics. Utilizing UPS Worldwide Expedited™ Ground Freight, Comau Group was able to accelerate its cross-border freight and customs clearance needs.

[Read the success story here](https://www.export.gov/article?id=Mexico-Labeling-Marking-Requirements).

Welcome to the land of oportunidad. Congratulations on all your ventures in the Mexican market. Use the following step-by-step checklist to prepare your shipments for delivery to and from our neighbor to the south. Taking the time to cover all the steps now will help ensure that your items arrive promptly and safely.

1. Select an International Service
   Now that you've familiarized yourself with the regulations in Mexico, choose the UPS international shipping services that best fit your import and export needs, from guaranteed delivery times to destinations and more.
   Choose an international service [here](#).
   Use the following additional links to help you make your decision:
   - Calculate times and costs of specific services
   - Calculate landed costs using UPS TradeAbility® Tool

2. Choose an International Billing Option
   Different businesses have different billing needs. UPS international billing offers a variety of options to best fit the requirements of your specific business model.
   Choose a billing option [here](#).

3. Prepare Your Shipping Label
   You are now ready to prepare your shipping label and fill out any final international forms required for your shipments.
   Fill out necessary forms and labels [here](#).

4. Create Required Documentation
   Now that you've selected your shipping and billing options, let UPS guide you through the process of filling out each of the required export or import forms you'll need to get your shipment to its final destination.

5. Entrust It to Your Worldwide Delivery Partner
   It's time to let UPS handle it from here. You can either drop off your shipment to one of thousands of UPS locations, including at The UPS Store® locations and drop boxes, or you can schedule a pickup using UPS On-Call Pickup® service. We'll gladly pick up all of your ground, air and international shipments for a single fee, regardless of how many packages you have.
   Find a drop-off location [here](#).
   Schedule a pickup [here](#).

6. Check Your Shipment Status
   Your shipment may have left your hands, but it hasn’t left your sight. Use your UPS® tracking number to access information about your shipment at any point in the delivery process. You can receive information online at ups.com, by email or through UPS’s Quantum View® notifications.
   Track your shipment [here](#).
   Learn about more ways to track [here](#).

That’s all there is to it. And it will get easier every time you do it. Keep this guide as a reference, and thank you once again for choosing UPS as your global delivery and logistics partner.