



## **Timeline for NAFTA2 Renegotiation and Other Major Trade Policy Issues**

(as of 8/29/19)

- January 23, 2017 – President Trump requests USTR to withdraw from TPP
- March 29 – Stephen Vaughn, Acting USTR, issues “draft” announcement that President intends to initiate negotiations on NAFTA
- April 20 – Trump requests Dept. of Commerce to initiate a Section 232 investigation of steel imports
- April 26 – Trump announces he will not pull out of NAFTA
- April 27 - Trump requests Dept. of Commerce to initiate a Section 232 investigation of aluminum imports
- May 18 – Bob Lighthizer, USTR, sends formal notice to Congress
- May 23 – USTR requests comments on negotiating objectives by June 12
- June 12 – USTR extends date of submittals to Midnight June 13
- June 25 – Mexico Secretary of Economy Guajardo announces the authorization and implementation of a website to receive comments regarding the possible modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement; the site is <http://www.economia-snci.gob.mx/tlcan>
- June 27 – USTR formal hearings
- July 17 – USTR releases “Summary of Objectives for the NAFTA Renegotiation”; although not mentioned in the document, it must appear on a publicly available website and be regularly updated thereafter (not yet on their web site)
- July 17 – The Mexican Ministry of Economy indicates they expect the renegotiation talks to get underway “from” August 16; an unnamed Mexico official also said a senior Mexican official said the USTR list of priorities

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was "not as bad as I was expecting" and welcomed that the United States was not pushing to impose punitive tariffs

- July 18 – The House Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing entitled “Modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement” which will analyze whether NAFTA has been successful for the U.S. economy and job creation, with a focus on the U.S. manufacturing, agriculture, and services sectors
- July 19 – Mexican and Canadian officials, not identified, indicated they would work on a “fast track” to conclude negotiations “early next year”; plan is to hold seven rounds of talks at three-week intervals with first round taking place in Washington from August 16-20 and future sites being alternated between countries; this was not yet confirmed by the U.S. side
- July 31 – Mexican government releases its summary of objectives for NAFTA renegotiation
- August 14 – Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland, presents Canada’s core objectives for the NAFTA renegotiation
- August 16-20 – the launch of Round 1 negotiations in Washington based on U.S. 90-day period; first time that the negotiating teams sit with their foreign peers
- September 1-5 – Round 2 in Mexico City
- September 23-27 – Round 3 in Ottawa; seven rounds total being contemplated at this point
- September 27 – Mexican Secretary Guajardo indicates that, in the renegotiation, “process dates will have to be considered, if necessary, for the start of next year”
- October 11-15 – Round 4 in Washington
- November 15-21 – Round 5 in Mexico City
- Fall – Mexican Presidential primaries begin
- Winter – the U.S. and Mexican governments have said that they want negotiations wrapped up by the first quarter of 2018; Secretary of Economy

Ildefonso Guajardo of Mexico was reported to have indicated to private industry initially that Dec. 15 was the date to conclude negotiations (see September 27 above)

- January 23, 2018 – Announcement that the remaining countries of the TPP have reached agreement to establish TPP-11 (or CPTPP) for signature on March 8 in Chile
- January 23-28 – Round Six in Montreal
- February 26-March 6 – Round Seven in Mexico City
- March 6 – President announces plan to place tariffs on steel and aluminum
- March 8 – President signs proclamation on steel and aluminum tariffs exempting Mexico and Canada – temporarily until May 1
- March 20 – President formally requests extension of TPA; request received by Senate Finance Committee on March 30
- April 11-13 – Round Eight initiated in Washington with goal of developing an “Agreement in Principle” that can be announced at the Summit of the Americas on April 13-14 in Peru; not being able to accomplish that, it was announced that the negotiations would continue until such an agreement is reached
- April 20 (or so) – reports that Lighthizer advocates forcing congressional approval by withdrawing from existing pact even before new one is ready
- April 30 – President continues exemption of Mexico, Canada and the EU until June 1
- May 7 – Ministers meet again with goal of either arriving at an “Agreement in Principle” by June 1 with focus on the auto sector or taking a “pause” in activities
- May 9 – Speaker of the House Paul Ryan indicates that, unless a “complete” agreement is reached by Thursday, May 17, Congress will not be able to pass implementing legislation by the end of the Session
- May 11 – Secretary Ildefonso indicates that it was unlikely an agreement could be reached by May 17 due to the number of still unresolved issues

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- May 17 – “Comes and Goes”
- May 23 – Department of Commerce initiates Section 232 investigation on auto imports; the Department has 270 days to complete the investigation and issue a report
- May 29 – Vice President Pence demands that any new NAFTA agreement contain an automatic expiration after five years
- May 30 – the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations of Congress unanimously recommends that the extension of TPA be approved
- May 31 – Premier Trudeau says Canada will not sign any agreement that contains an automatic five-year sunset
- June 1 – Tariffs on steel and aluminum imports imposed on Mexico, Canada and the EU
- June 5 – Mexico imposes retaliatory tariffs on U.S. imports of certain types of steel, lamps, cheese, pork, apples, grapes and cranberries
- June 1 – Canada announces it will impose tariffs on over 100 U.S. products on July 1
- June 5 – President Trump signals he wants to negotiate separate bilateral trade agreements with Mexico and Canada, likely nullifying NAFTA at some point
- June 7 – “Report” that the White House Council of Economic Advisors concluded that the President’s tariffs will hurt economic growth
- June 22 – The EU imposes retaliatory tariffs on €2.8bn (£2.4bn) worth of U.S. goods such as bourbon whiskey, motorcycles and orange juice
- June 29 – “Report” that President Trump privately suggesting that the U.S. withdraw from the WTO via legislation dubbed "The United States Fair and Reciprocal Tariff Act"
- July 1 – The current U.S. fast-track law (TPA) would have expired although President Trump requested an extension to 2021 which was unanimously recommended by an Advisory Committee of Congress

- July 1 – Mexico holds its Presidential election; AMLO wins by a majority
- July 1 – Canada imposes retaliatory tariffs on \$12 billion of U.S. imports
- July 1 – President Trump indicates that he will delay signing a revised agreement until after the midterm elections
- July 5 and 6 – the U.S. and China impose tariffs on each other; the United States imposed an additional 25% tariff on 818 categories of products from China valued at \$34 billion; tariffs on an additional \$16 billion of Chinese goods also are planned for a later date; the Chinese products include a variety of farm machinery, industrial products, medical devices, some motor vehicles and aircraft parts; China has vowed to immediately respond with equivalent tariffs on U.S. products including soybeans, other farm crops, dairy products and automobiles
- July 6 – USTR publishes process to request exclusions from the tariffs imposed on this date
- July 9 – Trump Administration plans to impose a 10% tariff on an additional \$200 Billion of Chinese imports including finished goods such as refrigerators, electronics and auto parts; two-month review process will begin with hearings in August
- July 18 – Both Mexican and U.S. negotiators allude to the possibility of an “agreement” by the end of August, supported by comments by Mexican President-elect AMLO; Secretary of State Pompeo indicates a desire for to “have a deal” within 45 days; White House comments on doing a deal with Mexico first prior to the inauguration of AMLO on December 1 and then encouraging Canada to come onboard
- July 22 – AMLO sends a letter to President Trump urging a quick end to NAFTA negotiations
- July 25 – The President and EU officials agree to work toward “zero” tariffs, barriers and subsidies
- July 25 – Mexico Minister Guajardo indicates that the bi-lateral talks with the U.S. are “. . . just a method, not a direction. We're not moving in the direction of a bilateral agreement. We still want a trilateral NAFTA"

- July 26 – USTR Lighthizer, in remarks before the Senate Appropriations Committee, said "My hope is that we will, before very long, have a conclusion with respect to Mexico and that, as a result of that, Canada will come in and begin to compromise. I don't believe that they've compromised in the same way that the United States has or that Mexico has"
- July 27 – Minister Guajardo and USTR Lighthizer agreed in Mexico City to quicken the pace of talks with the goal of reaching an agreement in principle next month, which will mark one year since the renegotiation process began
- August 3 - Lori Wallach, the director of the Global Trade Watch at Public Citizen, indicates that, for President Peña Nieto to sign an agreement before he leaves office on Nov. 30, the three countries must seal a final deal by Aug. 25
- August 7 – The USTR indicated the U.S. will begin collecting tariffs on another \$16 billion in Chinese goods on Aug. 23 as it published a final tariff list targeting 279 import product lines
- August 8 – The President said he would bump Turkey’s aluminum tariffs to 20 percent and steel tariffs to 50 percent
- August 8 – China’s Ministry of Commerce announced a 25 percent charge on \$16 billion worth of U.S. goods; the 333 goods being targeted by China include vehicles such as large passenger cars and motorcycles; various fuels are on the list, as well as fiber optical cables
- August 15 – Turkey raises tariffs on a wide range of U.S. goods — more than tripling the levies on automobiles, nuts and spirits, and more than doubling them on rice, beauty products and certain types of paper; these increases affect a list of more than 20 goods targeted earlier this summer
- August 16 – USTR Lighthizer expressed hope a breakthrough could be made in coming days on reworking NAFTA, although Mexico’s Economy Minister Guajardo suggested there was still work to be done before agreement could be reached - “Everybody has got to show flexibility”
- August 16 – Auto industry officials said that the administration still has not agreed to remove the threat of “Section 232” tariffs on vehicles built at new

plants nor specified whether passenger vehicles that do not comply with the rules would face a higher tariff than the current 2.5 percent

- August 19 - A senior executive at Mexico's National Agricultural Council (CNA) said the U.S. has dropped a contentious demand in the NAFTA2 talks to impose restrictions on Mexican agricultural exports

- August 22 – At Midnight, the U.S. started collecting duties on another \$16 Billion of imports from China; China immediately retaliated with duties on \$16 Billion of U.S. imports

- August 31 – President Trump informs Congress of his intent to sign a trade agreement with Mexico – and Canada if it is willing – in 90 days

- September 11 – Canada reportedly will allow the U.S. limited access to its dairy market as a negotiating concession

- September 17 – Canada's Freeland will return to Washington this week to continue negotiations after a delay; Premier Trudeau says the two sides are moving toward a “decision point”

- September 17 – President Trump indicates the U.S. will impose tariffs on \$200 Billion worth of Chinese imports on Sept. 24 at a 10% level, increasing to 25% on Jan. 1; also indicates he is preparing to place tariffs on another \$267 Billion of goods if China retaliates

- September 18 – China announces it will impose tariffs varying from 5 to 10% on \$60 Billion of U.S. imports beginning on Sept. 24

- September 22 – Canadian sources say that Canada is seeking assurances from U.S. trade officials that it will be recognized as a special trading partner - as a shield against what the Canadians say are punitive tariffs; similar to what assurances Mexico has received from imposition of any Section 232 tariffs on auto vehicle imports into the U.S.

- September 24 – U.S. imposes new tariff levels on China

- September 24 – The U.S. and Korea sign a revamped free trade agreement called KORUS

- September 24 – The U.S. and Canada will likely hold “informal talks” this week at the occasion of a meeting at the UN
- September 26 – President Trump claimed that he rejected a meeting with Premier Trudeau at the UN; Trudeau says no such meeting as requested; Bob Lighthizer indicated that the text of “The United States – Mexico Trade Agreement” (USM) would be released as early as Friday, September 28, with a framework that would allow Canada to join at a later date
- September 30 – after a contentious week, the three parties agree to a trade agreement titled “The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement”, or USMCA
- October 1 - Official text of the agreement released by USTR
- October 7 – China’s central bank announces steep cut in banks’ reserve requirement – the fourth this year
- October 16 – Senate Leader McConnell rules out any Congressional consideration of USMCA until 2019 due to procedural hurdles
- October 16 – The Trump Administration notifies Congress of its intent to negotiate three separate trade agreements with the EU, Japan and the UK
- October 26 – Third Quarter GDP increased by 3.5 percent according to an advance estimate by the BEA; it would have been higher were it not for a drop in exports from the second quarter
- October 31 – Australia becomes the sixth country to ratify the CPTPP, allowing the agreement to go into effect on Dec. 30
- November 6 - U.S. holds its midterm elections
- November 6 – Trudeau indicates that Canada could ratify the new USMCA even if U.S. tariffs stay put
- November 26 – President Trump says it's "highly unlikely" that he would delay an increase in tariffs on China from 10 percent to 25 percent on Jan. 1 and went on to say that he could slap a 10 percent tariff on iPhones and laptops in addition to new tariffs on \$267 Billion in goods – if the two countries cannot come up with an agreement

- November 26 – the UK and EU reach an agreement on Brexit which has to get approval by Parliament on Dec. 11; President Trump warned that the agreement could threaten an FTA with the U.S.; a Norway-inspired alternative would have the UK joining the EFTA and maintaining a customs arrangement with the EU
- November 27 – President Trump says that there is a “strong possibility” that an agreement can be reached in Buenos Aires on Nov. 30 to lessen trade issues between the U.S. and China
- November 30 – President Pena-Nieto, President Trump, and Premier Trudeau sign the USMCA in Buenos Aires at the G20 Summit; the abbreviation of the agreement for Canada will be CUSMA and for Mexico TMEUC
- December 1 - Inauguration Day for Mexico’s new President
- December 1 – President Trump indicates he will shortly terminate NAFTA, thereby giving Congress only six months to replace it or, if not done in that timeframe, live without a trade agreement between the three countries
- December 1 – President Trump agrees at G20 to leave the 10 percent tariff on \$200 Billion of Chinese imports as of 1/1/19 and not raise it as long as the U.S. and China can negotiate disagreements on technology transfer, intellectual property and agriculture within the next 90 days; China agrees to purchase to be determined amounts of agricultural, energy, industrial and others products from the U.S.
- December 5 – China’s Commerce Ministry acknowledges that they agreed to a 90-day tariff cease fire and are confident they can reach a trade agreement with the U.S.
- December 5 – The trade deficit increased 1.7 percent to \$55.5 Billion, the highest level since October 2008; the trade gap has widened for five straight months
- December 6 – Sen. Pelosi casts doubt on passage of USMCA without changes on labor and environmental provisions

- December 28 – President Trump threatened to “shut down the border” if the Democrats do not provide funding for the proposed wall
- December 30 – CPTPP goes into effect as six countries ratified the agreement by Nov. 1
- January 4, 2019 – Mexican Congress misses the January 1 deadline under USMCA to pass legislation on labor reforms; no action likely until February
- January 5 – President Lopez Obrador announces a “Tax Incentive Decree” for the northern border region to create new investment and jobs and curb migration to the U.S.; the decree took effect January 1 and is valid for calendar years 2019 and 2020
- January 7 – First face-to-face negotiations between lower level officials of the U.S. and China on tariffs truce
- January 8 – Politico reports that government shutdown will affect both USITC and DOC’s efforts to complete USMCA and 232 investigations in timeframe promised
- January 9 – Sen. Chuck Grassley urges President Trump to back out of NAFTA if Democrats force USMCA to be renegotiated
- February 15 – Tentative date for the release of the DOC’s 232 investigation of auto and auto parts imports
- February 17 – DOC releases its 232 report on autos and auto parts to the White House; the President has 90 days to review the report and decide on any action
- March 1 – Current 90-day tariffs truce between the U.S. and China runs out
- March 15 - Tentative date for release of the USITC’s economic analysis of USMCA
- March 29 – Initial scheduled departure of Britain from the EU (Brexit)
- March 29 – President Trump insists that he will shut down all or “large portions” of the US-Mexico border “next week” unless Mexico stops all Central American migration into the US.

- April 1 – CBP indicates that it has not received any word about potential port closings
- April 5 – President Trump said that “the side agreement the administration struck with Mexico on its auto exports won't count if the country fails to stop Central American migrants from illegally crossing the border to enter the United States”; he indicated that auto imports from Mexico could see a duty rate of 25 percent and that “this would supersede USMCA”; he gave Mexico one year to stem the flow of illegal drugs and migrants over the southern border, or he will impose auto tariffs, and if they don't work, he will shut the border
- April 11 – EU agrees to postpone Brexit to October 31 after previously agreeing to June 30
- April 18 – the USTR issues a report on the estimated impact of USMCA on the auto industry
- April 19 – the USITC releases its report on the likely impact of the USMCA on the economy and selected sectors
- April 25 – For the first time in January, February and March, Mexico was the U.S.’s #1 trading partner
- May 8 – Trump Administration gives notice of intent to raise tariffs on \$200 Billion of Chinese imports from 10% to 25% on May 10
- May 15 – Trump Administration issues an Executive Order entitled “Securing the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain”, putting limits on foreign involvement in the nation's carrier networks which effectively restricts Huawei of China from doing business in the U.S.
- May 17 – the U.S. exempts Mexico and Canada from 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum
- May 23 – USTR Bob Lighthizer meets with the trade ministers of Japan and the EU to discuss accelerating trade negotiations

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- May 24 – Teresa May announces stepping down as leader of the U. K’s Conservative Party on June 7 and calling for new elections; reason given was her inability to negotiate Brexit agreement
- May 27 – Canada’s Chrystia Freeland sends “ways and means” motion to the House of Commons on USMCA, moving the legislative process forward
- May 31 – President Trump removes India from GSP program privileges
- June 2 – China announces the release of a white paper titled “China’s Position on the China-U.S. Economic and Trade Consultations”
- June 13 – Speaker Pelosi names House members of key trade working group to overhaul elements of USMCA in areas of drug pricing, labor, environment and enforcement
- June 14 – Several commissions in Mexico’s Senate approve draft law that would ratify the USMCA
- June 16 – India imposes tariffs on several U.S. products, including 70% on apples, in retaliation for U.S. tariffs on Indian steel and aluminum imports into the U.S.
- June 17 – USTR Schedules hearing on proposal to impose tariffs on an additional \$300 billion + of imports from China
- June 19 – The Mexican Senate passes USMCA legislation on a vote of 114-4 after considering text for less than three weeks
- June 20 – Premier Trudeau plans to meet with President Trump and members of Congress to discuss moving USMCA ratification ahead
- June 28-29 – G20 Summit in Osaka; opportunity for Presidents Trump and Xi to meet to discuss trade relations
- July 29 – September 6 – “August” Recess for Congress
- August 1 – the Trump Administration announces a 10 percent tariff on another \$300 Billion of Chinese imports effective September 1 though most goods would be duty free until December 15; the tariffs will affect a larger percentage of consumer goods

- August 5 – China allows yuan to break through 7 against the dollar for the first time since 2008
- August 9 – Despite the summer Congressional break, some progress has been reported between the House Democratic working groups and USTR Bob Lighthizer
- August 9 – President Trump says “the United States will not be doing business with Huawei” and indicates that the licensing system put in place to allow U.S. firms to work with Huawei will be suspended (50+ companies had applied)
- August 14 – China’s National Bureau of Statistics indicated that industrial production grew just 4.8 percent in July, the lowest in 17 years
- August 23 – China retaliates for recent tariff increases by the U.S. and will place additional tariffs of either 5 or 10 percent on 5,078 U.S. products valued at about \$75 Billion starting on Sept. 1; the Finance Ministry also announced plans to resume tariffs of 25 percent on automobiles and 5 percent on parts effective December 15
- August 23 – Following the Chinese announcement, the U.S. indicated it would increase the tariffs on \$250 Billion of Chinese imports from 25 to 30 percent; the remaining \$300 Billion of imports that was to be taxed at 10 percent will now be increased to 15 percent; President Trump also indicated that U.S. companies should move their operations from China
- August 24 – G7 Summit begins in Biarritz, France
- August 25 – President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan agreed on the principles of a trade deal that will be signed in New York next month
- August 28 – U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson asked Queen Elizabeth II for approval to essentially shut down Parliament on Sept. 10 for five weeks to keep Parliamentarians from attempting to stop him from departing Brexit without a formal deal; the Queen approved; the current date for Brexit departure is October 31
- October 21, 2019 – Canada’s next federal election