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U.S. MERCHANDISE TRADE: *Related Party Imports from North American Trading Partners; 1991*

The Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, announced today that in 1991 our North American trading partners were the source for one fourth-- \$121.4 billion-- of the total annual value of merchandise imported into the United States and that over half of this --\$62.3 billion-- represented trade between related parties. "Related party trade" includes imports into the United States by U.S. companies from their foreign subsidiaries as well as imports by U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies from their parent company.

Motor vehicles and parts dominated our imports from Canada accounting for over 28 percent of southbound trade. Petroleum/petroleum products and paper/paperboard products were a distant second and third, at about 7 percent each of total imports. Of these top three imports, motor vehicles were \$25.6 billion, petroleum \$6.6 billion, and paper \$6.1 billion. Trade in these products between U.S. and Canadian firms with some common ownership was 80 percent, 34 percent, and 19 percent, respectively.

For imports from Mexico, motor vehicles and parts (\$4.7 billion), electrical machinery,

apparatus and appliances (\$4.7 billion), and petroleum/ petroleum products (\$4.5 billion) each accounted for about 15 percent of total northbound trade. Trade between U.S. and related Mexican firms accounted for 92 percent of motor vehicles, 85 percent of electrical machinery, and 25 percent of petroleum.

Inquiries related to these data or additional commodity or geographic detail may be directed to Bureau of the Census, Foreign Trade Division, Data Analysis and Planning Staff, Washington, D.C. 20233. Contact name: Michael Risha (301) 763-2724.