

MASSACHUSETTS & CANADA

Partners in security & prosperity



The tree for Boston: Allies in times of crisis

Every November, a majestic evergreen makes a 700-mile journey from Nova Scotia to Boston Common, a gift rooted in a history of partnership. In December 1917 during WWI, two ships — one laden with explosives — collided in Halifax Harbor, causing a huge explosion that devastated Halifax.

Approximately 2,000 people were killed and another 9,000 were injured. Boston learned of the explosion by telegraph and immediately sent a train North – travelling through a blizzard to bring doctors, nurses, food, and supplies to Halifax. With the Canadian federal government and military’s resources tied up in War efforts, first responders from Boston were among the first to arrive.

Nova Scotians never forgot that kindness. As a token of gratitude, Halifax gifted a Christmas tree to Boston the next year. Since 1971, the Province of Nova Scotia has delivered the official Christmas tree to Boston Common, an annual reminder of how allies become lifelines for one another in times of crisis.

The Canadian Tree for Boston also boosts Boston's holiday economy, drawing thousands downtown and increasing foot traffic for shops and restaurants. Promoted as part of Boston’s “Holiday Lights Trail,” it attracts visitors from across New England, supporting hotels, dining, and retail during the critical holiday season.



272 Canadian-owned companies employ 31,550 workers in Massachusetts



Canada is the #1 export market for most states

Massachusetts exports **\$3.1 billion** in goods to Canada annually

Massachusetts exports \$3.0 billion in services to Canada, including

Business services.....	\$1.0 billion
Travel (including for education).....	\$623 million
Charges for the use of intellectual property...	\$584 million
Financial services.....	\$498 million
Insurance services.....	\$98 million



Top Massachusetts goods exports to Canada

Optical, medical & precision instruments.....	\$482 million
Computers.....	\$328 million
Plastics & plastic articles.....	\$215 million
Pharmaceutical products.....	\$205 million
Aircraft & parts.....	\$149 million
Paper & paperboard.....	\$132 million
Fish & crustaceans.....	\$92 million
Electricity.....	\$73 million
Telephones & AV recording equipment.....	\$72 million
Nickel & nickel articles.....	\$69 million



Bay State Milling and Saskatchewan oats: A model of North American integration

Founded in Boston in 1899, **Bay State Milling** began with a simple mission: to provide families with flour they could trust. Since then, the company has grown into the largest family-owned, privately held grain miller in the United States, operating 12 facilities nationwide. In 2017, Bay State Milling extended its reach north of the border, acquiring a stake in Saskatchewan-based **MGM Seed & Grain**, adding gluten-free oats to their portfolio of grain-based ingredients. This partnership culminated in the commissioning of a state-of-the-art oat processing facility and the construction of a purity protocol gluten-free oat supply chain in Saskatoon, the heart of Canada's prairie oat belt. By 2025, Bay State Milling had ownership of the facility and invested in an expansion to double the plant's capacity, ensuring Canadian farmers and processors could meet the surging demand for gluten-free foods across North America. Their Saskatoon facility produces identity-preserved, gluten-free oats, sold under the brand name PurelySown® Purity Protocol Oats, with more than 60% exported to the United States. This flow of Canadian oats into American households highlights the agricultural trade ties between the two nations and our work to build sustainable food systems across borders.



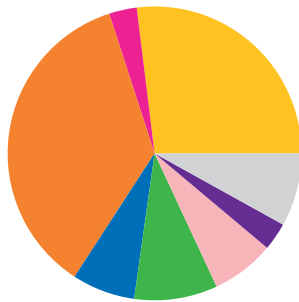
Photo: Hydro-Québec

Connecting Massachusetts to Canadian hydropower

The **New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC)** transmission line began commercial operations in 2026, delivering renewable, reliable Canadian hydropower (from Hydro-Québec) capable of powering one million homes across New England — about 20% of Massachusetts' annual electricity demand. Each year, NECEC will displace 3 million tons of carbon emissions, equivalent to taking 700,000 gas-powered cars off the road. By strengthening connections between U.S. and Canadian electric grids, NECEC enhances North American energy security and grid reliability for communities in Massachusetts and for businesses who rely on affordable energy.

Massachusetts

imports \$10.0 billion
in goods from Canada annually



Goods imports by industry

- Agriculture (27%)
- Chemicals (3%)
- Energy (36%)
- Equipment & machinery (7%)
- Forest products (9%)
- Minerals & metals (7%)
- Plastics & rubbers (3%)
- Other (8%)

Top Massachusetts goods imports from Canada

■ Fuel oil.....	\$2.5 billion
■ Fish & crustaceans.....	\$1.6 billion
■ Natural gas & other gases.....	\$1.0 billion
■ Meat, fish & seafood preparations.....	\$398 million
■ Paper & paperboard.....	\$384 million
■ Plastics & plastic articles.....	\$342 million
■ Pearls, gems, precious metals & jewelry.....	\$303 million
■ Wood & semi-finished wood products.....	\$249 million
■ Softwood lumber.....	\$225 million
■ Furniture & bedding.....	\$159 million

March 2026

Sources: All figures are in U.S. dollars. Unless otherwise specified, all figures are based on 2025 data. **U.S. Census Bureau:** goods trade, Canada's export ranking (2/2026 release). **Trade Partnership Worldwide:** 2024 services exports (2/2026 release). **Dun & Bradstreet:** Canadian-owned businesses operating in the U.S. (2/2026 release). Figures may not add up due to rounding. Produced by the Embassy of Canada in Washington, D.C.

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